

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 33, NO. 27 MARCH 21, 2018

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Rep. Juliana Stratton and J.B. Pritzker celebrate their Democratic primary win for Lt. Gov and Gov of Illinois.

Photo by Jim Bennett

Below: Lamont Robinson.

Photo by Matt Simonette



## 'SISTER' ACT:

Yvonne Welbon on new book, *Sisters in the Life*.

Photo courtesy of Welbon

19



## Lamont Robinson makes history in House 5th seat

# PRITZKER WINS PRIMARY

PAGE 6



## VANESSA SHERIDAN

Center's trans director is profiled.

Photo by Molly Sprayregen

8

## HIT 'LIST'

Amy Siskind's new book and democracy's downfall.

Photo by Melanie Acevedo



18



Anish Jethmalani, Madrid St. Angelo in *Merchant on Venice*.

Photo by Joe Mazza, Brave Lux

PAGES 11-17

# SPRING THEATER & DANCE



Kaori Seki and Teita Iwabuchi.

Photo by Kazuyuki Matsumoto



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

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



## Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

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

### Mytesi (crofelemer):

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

### What is Mytesi?

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

### Important Safety Information

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

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

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-23

**Mytesi**<sup>®</sup>  
(crofelemer) 125 mg  
delayed-release tablets

**RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE**

### IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

#### What Is Mytesi?

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

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

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

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

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

#### Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

##### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

##### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

##### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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

#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

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

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

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

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



#### Rx Only

Manufactured by Patheon, Inc.  
for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105  
Copyright © Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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



## WINDY CITY TIMES

## NEWS

Madigan brief; column	4
Primary election results	6
Center on Halsted director Vanessa Sheridan	8
LGBTQ wedding expo	9
Letters	10

## ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

SPRING THEATER PREVIEW	11
------------------------	----

## INDEX

## DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



Theater reviews 12

SPRING THEATER PREVIEW: Musicals	14
SPRING THEATER PREVIEW: Premieres	15
SPRING THEATER PREVIEW: Women stand out	16
SPRING THEATER PREVIEW: Debra Barsha profile	17
Amy Siskind and 'The List'	18
Book spotlights Black lesbian filmmakers	19
NIGHTSPOTS	20
Classifieds; calendar	22

Above: WCT reviews Hang Man.  
Photo of Paul D'Addario and Andy Fleischer by Claire Demos

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



## BETTER THAN EZRA

Bent Nights looks at shows by Ezra Furman and Polica.

Photo of Furman by Vern Hester

## 'RIDDLE' ME THIS



Odd's Bodkins' The Tragedy of Tom Riddle combines elements of Shakespeare—and Harry Potter.

Photo of Odd's Bodkins courtesy of the company

## BLOOM, WITH A VIEW

The Chicago Flower & Garden Show took place at Navy Pier.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about The Village People, Charlie Puth and Kristen Stewart.

plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## This Week's Featured Properties

Lincoln Park



Light-filled single family home—on corner lot in prime location.

1865 N. Maud St  
6 Bed 5.1 Bath  
\$2,650,000

East Lakeview



Large, newer single family home half block from the Lake.

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

Streeterville



Classic elegance abounds in this special residence, lives like a single family house in a pre-war elevator building

210 E. Walton St Unit B  
3 Bed 3 Bath  
\$1,090,000

East Lakeview



Top floor of a classic vintage building on one of East Lakeview's best blocks

440 W. Aldine St #3E  
3 Bed 2 Bath  
\$779,000

East Lakeview



Experience sophistication and high design, in stunning east-facing renovated showplace

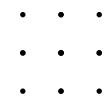
3750 N. Lake Shore Drive #4D  
6 Bed 5.1 Bath  
\$595,000

A proud member and supporter of our community for over 20 years, no real estate broker in the city sells or gives back to our community as much as Brad.



Brad Lippitz

—  
[www.bradlippitz.com](http://www.bradlippitz.com)  
[brad@bradlippitz.com](mailto:brad@bradlippitz.com)  
773.404.1144



COMPASS

Compass Real Estate is a licensed real estate broker with a principal office in New York, NY and is a member of the Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only, is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, and changes without notice. All measurements and square footage are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

## Madigan files brief opposing bias based on sexual orientation

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was among a coalition of 16 attorneys general who filed an amicus brief arguing that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

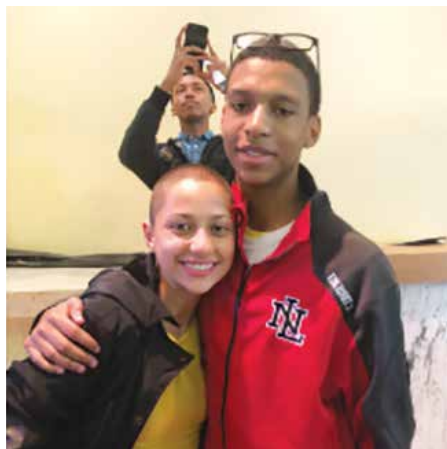
In the brief filed with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Horton v. Midwest Geriatric Management, LLC*, Madigan urged the court to join a growing number of federal appellate courts in recognizing that Title VII's workplace protections extend to sexual orientation.

Madigan and the other attorneys general argued that recent federal appellate-court decisions holding that Title VII bans sexual orientation discrimination are based on three factors: the wording of the statute, decades of U.S. Supreme Court precedent (citing *Loving v. Virginia*, among other cases) and common sense.

In a statement, Madigan said, "While employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is illegal in Illinois and many other states, Title VII plays a critical role in states without this protection. By recognizing that Title VII bans sexual orientation discrimination, the courts can ensure that individuals in every state are protected from the harm caused by this form of discrimination."



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.  
Official head shot



Emma Gonzalez (left).

Photo courtesy of Gonzalez's Twitter account

## Gun-control activists meet with Pflieger

A group of gun-control activists—including outspoken Parkland, Florida, survivor Emma Gonzalez, an out bisexual—met with Chicago's Father Michael Pflieger at Saint Sabina church, 1210 W. 78th Pl.

Her tweet noted, "We met up with some more Chicago Students in Father Pflieger's church St. Sabina yesterday - reps from Oaklawn Community,

North Lawndale, and Brighton Park. It was an emotional and day full of MLK's principles, personal experiences, and exercises in empathy. The strength."

Photos courtesy of Gonzalez's Twitter account

## Corrections and additions

In the March 14 issue, it should have been stated that an event involving LGBTA judges took place March 8. Also, Sergio Tundo was misgendered in an article about a Point Foundation event; the correct pronouns are they/them.

Also, in the Benjamin Thomas Wolf interview that ran last week, he made certain comments about Katarina Coates, who claimed that Wolf had abused her. Wolf claimed that he had taken out a restraining order against Coates due to alleged harassment; however, Windy City Times received documents that showed that the case was dropped—twice—because Wolf failed to appear. In fact, the second dismissal was marked "MSNP" ("motion state nolle prosequi"), "nolle prosequi" denoting a formal abandonment by a plaintiff or prosecutor of a suit or action.

Wolf has been asked to produce evidence that the restraining order has been granted. So far, no documents have been sent.

Windy City Times sincerely regrets the errors.

## GUEST COLUMN

BY SERENA WORTHINGTON



## Illinois: We Must Protect Our LGBT Elders from Housing Discrimination

Many older people who move into a residential care facility may feel a bit hopeless or unmoored as they adjust to a new way of living. Now imagine that in addition to those feelings, you are spat upon, yelled at, and physically attacked for whom you love. That's exactly what happened to Marsha Wetzel, the lead plaintiff in Lambda Legal's appeal in *Wetzel v. Glen St. Andrew Living Community*. Marsha had her day in court last month at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, based in Chicago, where she is fighting to hold Glen St. Andrew accountable for keeping her safe in her own home. The court may now issue a ruling at any time, which could set important precedent for similar cases going forward.

Marsha moved to Glen St. Andrew Living Community in Niles, Illinois in 2014. After disclosing that she had been in a long-term committed relationship with another woman and had raised a son with her, some residents harassed and physically assaulted her, and called her anti-LGBT slurs. When Marsha reported the incidents to administrators, they neglected to take action. With no family to turn to for help, Marsha suffered this harassment for more than 15 months.

The Seventh Circuit heard oral arguments in the case in mid-February, and Lambda Legal, the nation's oldest and largest legal organization advocating for equal treatment for LGBT people, is representing Marsha.

Through my role at SAGE, the country's leading advocacy group for LGBT elders, I know housing discrimination is a particular concern for LGBT older adults. LGBT older people are twice as likely to live alone, twice as likely to be single, and three to four times less likely to have children—and many are estranged from their families. For LGBT older adults, a lifetime of employment discrimination and other factors contribute to disproportionately high poverty rates. These factors, and more, result in LGBT elders who are sometimes unable to provide for themselves, and who rely on caretakers

and residential care facilities as they approach the end of their lives. They are rightly worried and scared about continued discrimination. Through SAGE's Chicago affiliates, I've met personally with a number of LGBT older adults who worry that they cannot be honest about their sexual orientation or gender identity in the place they call home.

No one should have to worry about something as basic as being yourself in your own space—especially as you age. The ability to enjoy a home, live as your authentic self, and feel comfortable and safe is something that matters to all of us. Equal housing opportunity is a basic right that should be available to everyone. Whether you live at home, in independent living like Marsha, or a higher care facility such as an assisted living facility or nursing home, you should feel safe. Sufficient action on the part of staff members to immediately address and resolve discriminatory practices, and proactive prevention of similar situations in the future, is basic human decency.

Happily, Illinois' Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but that doesn't prevent discrimination from happening. Nationwide, there is no federal nondiscrimination law in housing for LGBT people—meaning in 32 states that lack statewide laws, LGBT people have no recourse. This problem is exacerbated for older people who lack the money, energy, and support to navigate potential legal action. In Illinois, we still have work to do to provide trainings, resources, and opportunities for service providers to understand how to best care for LGBT people, especially elders.

By hearing Marsha's case, our circuit court of appeals has an opportunity to send a message of fairness for all in housing. I hope the Seventh Circuit does the right thing in affirming that facilities like Marsha's must treat all people equally, and ensures justice for her. We will stand with Marsha.

Serena Worthington is the Director of National Field Initiatives at SAGE, where she oversees SAGE's national affiliate network, facilitates state-based policy advocacy on LGBT aging issues and, enhances the capacity of partner organizations across the country to work effectively on behalf of LGBT older people. A veteran in aging services and advocacy, she enjoys sharing her passion and expertise on LGBT aging issues.



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com



# AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Our corporate partners help us work toward a day when new HIV infections are rare and people living with HIV and other chronic diseases thrive.

# Thank you!

Many thanks to the following companies that made Corporate Partnership-level contributions to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago in the past year:

abbvie



BMO  Harris Bank

 Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Together we can prevail.®

 GILEAD janssen 

MAC AIDS FUND



  
ViiV  
Healthcare

Walgreens

To learn more about AFC's Corporate Partnership Program, contact Clair Daney, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at 312-334-0948.

# Pritzker wins primary; Robinson makes history

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND MATT SIMONETTE

J.B. Pritzker is getting what he wanted—a shot at the Republican nominee for governor in November.

Meanwhile, Lamont Robinson made history as the first openly gay African-American person to win a primary for the Illinois General Assembly.

Reportedly spending \$70 million of his own money, on March 20, Pritzker (and running mate Juliana Stratton) decisively defeated Democratic primary opponents Chris Kennedy, Daniel Biss and others and outlasted a federal wiretap controversy connected with former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

With just more than 6,500 of more than 10,000 precincts reporting, Pritzker had 46 percent of the vote. The next closest candidate, Biss, garnered 26 percent, followed by Kennedy.

In a statement, Pritzker said, in part, “We are fighting for unions and the families they have so tirelessly defended for so long, Dreamers and immigrants of all kinds seeking a better life, women who deserve their seat at the table and to have their voices heard, and Black and brown communities who deserve fairness in enjoying the wealth this great nation denied them for so long.”

Pritzker’s Republican foe was also determined—and it’s current Gov. Bruce Rauner. However, there was a tighter-than-expected race between Rauner and conservative opponent Jeanne Ives, who raised the ire of many because of an anti-trans ad that aired recently. Ives did not concede until approximately 10:30 p.m. on March 20.

The Democratic primary race for Illinois attorney general saw Kwame Raoul, as of 10 p.m. on March 20, leading former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn in a tight race; other candidates, such as Sharon Fairley, Nancy Rotering and Scott Drury, were far behind. Quinn conceded to Raoul.

In the Republican primary for Illinois attorney general, Erika Harold—who was caught in a controversy of her own after she allegedly said, in 2000, that she would prefer foster children being placed with child abusers rather than a same-sex couple—defeated foe Gary Grasso.

## Illinois General Assembly

There were some interesting results in the primary races for seats in the Illinois General Assembly.

Sexual-harassment allegations may have played a role in Democratic state Sen. Ira Silverstein losing his race—decisively—to Ram Villivalam. (As of 9 p.m. on March 20, Villivalam held a 51-29 percent lead over Silverstein.)

In Democratic primary races for the state House, Delia Ramirez won the 4th District race over Iris Millan, Alyx Pattison and Anne Shaw.

As previously mentioned, openly gay candidate Lamont Robinson won the 5th District seat over foes Dilara Sayeed, Felicia Bullock and Ken Dunkin (who once had this post before losing to Stratton).

Another member of the LGBT demographic, Democratic state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, easily won her 14th District race against Arthur Noah Siegel.



LGBT activists Mary Morten and Jim Bennett at the Pritzker celebration with Sen. Heather Steans (center).

From Bennett’s Facebook page

## LGBTs prevail—in some races

Here are how LGBT candidates performed during the March 20 Illinois primary-election races. (All are Democratic primaries, except for Andy Kirchoff’s race.)

—Gaylon Alcaraz: She came up short in her race for the Cook County Board of Commissioners (4th District).

—Kelly Cassidy: Cassidy decisively won her 14th District race against Arthur Noah Siegel.

—Rev. Marcus Fogliano: Fogliano was a trans/genderqueer candidate for Peoria County precinct committeeman. According to a text sent Windy City Times, Fogliano prevailed.

—Mike Forti: Forti was running in the 8th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Liu Vacancy) race. Forti was defeated, with 32 percent of the vote.

—Daniel Foster: Running in the Cook County Board of Commissioners (13th District) race, Foster finished behind incumbent Larry Suffredin and Bushra Amiwala.

—Marcelino Garcia: Garcia has apparently finished third in the Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner race—allowing Garcia to move on.

—Greg Harris: The incumbent was unopposed in the race for Illinois state representative (13th District)—and he is currently without a foe in the general election.

—Janice Bruce Hightower: Hightower ran for the Kendall County board (District 1). Results had not been finalized as of the press deadline.

—Cecelia Horan: She easily took the seat Cook Circuit judge (Hartigan Vacancy), defeating Keith Spence 78-22 percent.

—Andy Kirchoff: Kirchoff ran for Berwyn Township Republican committeeman. Results had not been finalized as of the press deadline.

—Stephanie Miller: Miller ran for the 6th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Lopez Cepero Vacancy) seat. Miller was defeated, garnering 46.7 percent of the vote.

—Kevin Morrison: Running for Cook County

commissioner (15th District), Morrison was knotted in basically a tie with Ravi Raju as of 10 p.m. on March 20.

—Jill Rose Quinn: Aiming to be the first transgender judge elected in Illinois, Quinn came in fourth out of five contenders in the race for 10th Subcircuit, Cook County judge (Suriano Vacancy), with 11.5 percent of the vote.

—Lamont Robinson: As previously stated, Robinson won his primary race for Illinois state representative (5th District).

—Daniel Roldán-Johnson: Running for U.S. Congress (14th District), Roldán-Johnson came in last in a race that Lauren Underwood won.

—Debra Shore: Shore, an incumbent, was one of the top three Democratic candidates selected for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commission, so they all move on.

—Margaret Trevor: In the race for Illinois state representative (54th District), Trevor, who identifies as lesbian, was unopposed in the Democratic primary—and incumbent Tom Morrison is the sole candidate in the Republican primary.

—Brad Trowbridge: Running again for Cook Circuit judge (McGinnis Vacancy), Trowbridge came up short against Peter Gonzalez and Brian Sexton.

—Ed Underhill: Underhill was running in the 6th Subcircuit, Cook County (Cooke Vacancy) for a judgeship. Underhill was defeated, garnering about 20 percent of the vote.

—Sam Yingling: The Illinois state representative (62nd District) was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

## Congressional Races

Two closely followed races were either too close to call at press time or were behind on tallying votes.

Third Congressional District U.S. Rep. Daniel Lipinski was in an extremely narrow lead in the Dem primary, 50.8 percent, after an aggressive challenge mounted by political newcomer activist





**Other primary winners include Kelly Cassidy (above, pictured with children) Cecilia Horan (left) and Greg Harris (below).**

Cassidy photo courtesy of Citizens for Cassidy; Horan photo from campaign website; Harris photo by Matt Mills.



Marie Newman, who was at 49.2 percent, with 10 percent of the polls yet to report. Lipinski—who has opposed a number of LGBT- and reproductive-rights initiatives, and has the distinction of having the lowest Human Rights Campaign score of LGBT support, zero, of any Congressional Democrat—has been in office since his father left that post in 2004.

Newman, who has a transgender child, maintained in October 2017 that the economic stimulus in the district often attributed to Lipinski is actually the work of other members of Illinois' Congressional delegation. Whoever wins the primary in November faces off against controversial Republican candidate Arthur Jones, a Holocaust denier who has failed several previous attempts to run for office.

Kelly Mazeski (29.2 percent) led the crowded field of Democratic candidates looking to take on incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam in the 6th District. Mazeski's opponents included Sean Casten, Carole Cheney, Amanda Howland, Becky Anderson Wilkins, Ryan Huffman and Jennifer Zordani. Votes were being tallied slowly in the district at press time.

In the 4th Congressional District, Cook County Commissioner and political veteran Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia won 67 percent of the vote for the seat being vacated by longtime Congressman Luis Gutierrez. Housing activist and La Casa Norte Executive Director Sol Flores took 21 percent, while police officer and activist Richard Gonzalez. Garcia faces Republican Mark Lorch in November.

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley won his 5th District seat with just over 62.2 percent of the vote. Opponent Sameena Mustafa took just over 24 percent of the vote, while Benjamin Wolf took 9.6 percent and Steven Schwartzberg took 4.1 percent. Republican Tom Hanson runs against Quigley in November.

Seventh District Democratic U.S. Rep. Danny Davis took nearly 74 percent of the vote to maintain his seat, defeating Anthony Clark who took about 26 percent. Davis will run against Republican Craig Cameron in the general election.

Incumbent Democratic 8th District U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, who ran unopposed, will face off against Republican J.D. Diganvker in November. Unopposed incumbent U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky will similarly defend her 9th District

seat against Republican John Elleson.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider ran unopposed and will defend his 10th District seat against either of the Republicans Douglas Bennett or Jeremy Wynes; those results were too close to call at press time. Unopposed Democrat U.S. Rep. Bill Foster will run against Nick Stella in the general election in November for the 11th District seat.

Other area congressional contests included a victory for incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Post in the 12th District, who will run against Democrat Brendan Kelly. Republican U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis will defend his 13th District seat against Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londigren. Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren seemed likely to face Democrat Lauren Underwood at press time.

Other primary winners included incumbent 15th District U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, who will face Democrat Kevin Gaither; incumbent 16th District Republican U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, who seemed likely to face Democrat Sara Dady at press time; Democrat incumbent U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos who faces Republican Bill Fawell in the 17th District; and Republican 18th District U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood, the incumbent, who will face either Junius Rodriguez or Brian Deters.

#### Cook County Results

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle successfully defended her seat for a third term, winning against a challenge from Bob Fioretti with about 60 percent of the vote.

Embattled incumbent Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios (34 percent) lost to challenger

Fritz Kaegi (45 percent) after numerous questions about Berrios' stewardship of the assessor's office came to a head in recent months; the third candidate in the race, Andrea Raila maintained problems in polling sites, so the contest is not likely to be immediately settled.

Treasurer Maria Pappas won another term, defeating Peter Gariepy 82-18 percent. Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough and Sheriff Thomas Dart, each running uncontested, will serve again in the next term.

Apparent winners of spots on the Cook County Board include Dennis Deer (2nd); Bill Lowry (3rd); Stanley Moore (4th); Deborah Sims (5th); Donna Miller (6th); Alma Anaya (7th); Walter Zarnecki (8th); Bridget Gainer (10th); Bridget Degen (12th); and Larry Suffredin (13th). Contests in the 1st District (Richard Boykin vs. Brandon Johnson), 11th District (Carl Segvich vs. Steven Graves) and 15th District (Kevin Morrison and Ravi Raju) were too close to call at press time.

**Election results reflect information available by press time of midnight, Wednesday, March 21.**  
Please see [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com) for updates.



Let's make his future one that you'll be proud of.

At MassMutual Illinois, we understand the unique financial needs of the LGBTQ community and can help you build financial strategies to ensure your loved ones are protected. For more than 165 years, MassMutual has helped policyowners on their quest for financial freedom.

[www.illinois.massmutual.com](http://www.illinois.massmutual.com)

**Insurance. Retirement. Investments.**

**MassMutual**  
Illinois



A general agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), Springfield, MA 01111-0001. Local sales agencies are not subsidiaries of MassMutual or its affiliated companies. Insurance products issued by MassMutual, Springfield, MA 01111, and its subsidiaries, C.M. Life Insurance Co. and MML Bay State Life Insurance Co., Enfield, CT 06082. Securities offered through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC and a MassMutual subsidiary. Supervisory Office: 2650 Warrenville Road, Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515-1748. 630-441-1000. As of November 2017, the Human Rights Commission announced that MassMutual scored 100 percent on its Corporate Equality Index (CEI), and was named a Best Places to Work. CRN202012-219051

# Vanessa Sheridan helps trans community at Center on Halsted

BY MOLLY SPRAYREGEN

Vanessa Sheridan is a woman of many talents.

She's an author and a musician, a veteran and an advocate. She was a transgender inclusion consultant for businesses like McKinsey and Company, Mayo Clinic, Best Buy and the Human Rights Campaign, and agencies like the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

She was also the first person to write a book on transgender Christian spirituality and have it published by a mainstream publisher. Now, Sheridan is using her talents at Chicago's Center on Halsted, the Midwest's largest LGBTQ community center, as the Center's first-ever director of transgender relations and community engagement.

Sheridan took on the job in February 2016, and since then has been tasked with building a department focused not only on offering resources and support to trans people in need, but also on creating a space where trans people can find and build community.

"It's been wonderful, terrifying, challenging, problematic, fantastic and everything in between," Sheridan said. "When you're doing anything new from scratch, there's always challenges, but then there's always some great opportunities as well, and I like to focus on the opportunities."

Among the events Sheridan has helped spearhead are the annual Transgender Community Ice Cream Social, Trans Military Appreciation Day and the annual Trans Turning Point, a series of presentations by vendors that provide goods and services to the trans community. The Center on

Halsted also offers several transgender support groups as well as specialized counselors equipped to work with trans individuals struggling emotionally or psychologically.

Sheridan is especially excited about a current project: developing a Transgender Leadership Academy. "We want to help train and equip the next generation of trans community leaders," she says, "and this will be a way to help us move in that direction."

Throughout her 26 years working as a trans advocate, Sheridan has placed a major focus on educating people on the realities of transgender life. "People can't begin to change their attitudes or their actions until they're given enough information to make them want to do that or help them to do that," she says, "I see a big part of my role here at Center on Halsted as being one of those folks to educate and to bring some of that into the mainstream, to give people a framework of understanding, so they can make better choices about how they deal with transgender people."

One of the realities about which Sheridan wants to spread awareness is the high transgender suicide rate. Forty percent of respondents to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey said they have attempted suicide. The suicide rate of the general U.S. population is 4.6 percent.

"If that were any other demographic group in this country ... we'd have already declared a national emergency," Sheridan said. "We'd have been calling out FEMA and all that kind of stuff, but that's not happening, and it's not happening because there's a lack of understanding and a lack of respect I think for trans individuals in this



Vanessa Sheridan.

Photo by Molly Sprayregen

culture, and I think we need to do a better job of educating people."

Trans unemployment rates are another big issue. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found trans unemployment to be three times that of the national rate. "I don't think you can have full social equality until you first have economic equality," Sheridan said, "and you can't have economic equality until you have employment opportunities. So we have to try to educate employers, hiring managers, recruiters about the realities of the fact that transgender people have a lot of talent and they're an untapped demographic group to a great degree."

"My hope is the rising tide will lift all the boats: The employers get a better employee, the trans employees have the opportunity to work for a living, companies get better products or services and society wins. Because again, the rising tide lifts all the boats—but that only works if you have a boat. So in this case we have to build the boat around authenticity, around facts and around realities, and that's what I try to share with folks."

Education, however, is not only for cisgender folk attempting to better understand the trans community. Sheridan said she urges those struggling with their gender identity to educate themselves as well. "There's a million things online to look at," she stressed. "There's good books out there to read. Do that. Educate yourself. Find out what your options are. A lot of folks don't think they have any options but I think we find out as we begin to educate and inform ourselves that options begin to appear."

Sheridan said she believes the Center on Halsted has a fantastic opportunity to make an impact not only on the transgender community of Chicago but also on a national level. She hopes, for example, that the Transgender Leadership Academy may become a template other cities can use to develop their own.

"I think this organization is so uniquely positioned to have an opportunity to move forward and to help trans people gain self acceptance, become equipped with skills they need to be successful in life, and to create community that will provide support and resources and reinforcement as people struggle with, again, the realities of life as a trans person," she said.

Sheridan also stated that she wants to help the Center on Halsted remain a safe haven for LGBTQ people. "When disaster strikes for the LGBTQ community in Chicago, this is a place where people come," she said. "They gravitate here, and we want to be prepared to be supportive of the trans community. ... I think that's really important for us on any number of levels, not just on a practical, resource-based level but on a symbolic level too. My hope is that people will look at this organization and say, when things go bad, we know we can depend on Center on Halsted, and I want to be part of that and help create that support that people want to find when they come to a place like this."

Center on Halsted will hold its TDOV Transgender Day of Remembrance program, coming up on March 31. Here is a link to it: <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=15216>

Activism meet-ups,  
personal book recommendations,  
weekly events, Kids Storytime, and more!  
There are so many reasons to support  
Chicago's only feminist bookstore.



**WOMEN &  
CHILDREN FIRST**

5233 N. CLARK  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
(773) 769-9299

[womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://womenandchildrenfirst.com)



## 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](http://HowardBrown.org). RSVP to [Events@HowardBrown.org](mailto:Events@HowardBrown.org) by noon on March 21.

## 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](mailto:anamarytorres@aol.com).



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

[www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)



# LGBTQ couples shop around wedding expo

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

RainbowWeddingNetwork hosted its 10th annual LGBTQ Wedding Expo at the Hotel Chicago on March 18.

RainbowWeddingNetwork launched, in 2000, at the hands of partners Cindy Sproul and Marianne Puechl and, in 2003, expanded to begin producing LGBTQ wedding expos. The group's headquarters are located in Asheville, North Carolina, and is currently operated by a four-person team. RainbowWeddingNetwork does events all over the country with an event almost every month.

This was the 10th annual expo in Chicago, providing a space for people to check out a variety of LGBTQ-friendly vendors, including food, music, wedding venues, photography, floral, wedding officiants and property for future homes, among other areas and services.

"The mission of our expo is to connect LGBT couples with businesses who support equality and support the community," said Lauren Stockard, event planner and marketing assistant of RainbowWeddingNetwork. "We like to have more of a boutique expo. We feel that it's more personal and as you can see, it's a smaller expo, but the vendors and the couples get more one on one

time with each other."

This year's Chicago expo, a free event, welcomed about 30 vendors with over 400 people expected to attend (based on online RSVPs).

"I know sometimes at larger shows, vendors can feel like they're just throwing business cards at people because there are so many people, so this way they can talk and have a conversation and really get to know the couple and get an idea of what they're planning for their wedding and things like that," said Stockard.

RainbowWeddingNetwork holds expos and also has an online directory with all LGBT-friendly, equality-supporting businesses.

"We reach out to businesses and field businesses and really make sure they are supporting equality," said Stockard of how vendors are vetted for RainbowWeddingNetwork expos and the directory.

This year's event raffle had eight prizes including gift cards and gift baskets from different vendors that were present. The grand prize raffle giveaway was a full wedding ceremony valued at more than \$2,500 for 30 guests at Pine Manor, courtesy of GayWeddingChicagoSite.com and Rev. Pam Magnuson's wedding partners.

"I thought it was great," Stockard said of the



The Rev. Pam Magnuson.

Photo by Melissa Wasserman

2018 Chicago expo. "I love doing the events because everyone's just so happy and they're planning such a special day and it's cool to have a little, tiny part in being able to help them meet these vendors and to plan such a big, special moment."

For more information on RainbowWeddingNetwork, visit [RainbowWeddingNetwork.com](http://RainbowWeddingNetwork.com).

## 'March for Our Lives' events March 24

On March 24, Chicago will be among the many cities taking part in the student-led "March for Our Lives" movement—a national day of action organized in response to the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Almost 700 "March for Our Lives" sibling marches are planned across all 50 states, with the flagship event taking place in Washington, D.C.

The official Chicago event will start in Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., at 11 a.m. Other marches are slated to take place in Downers Grove, Glen Ellyn, Frankfort, Huntley, Vernon Hills, Elgin, Schaumburg and Oswego as well as the Indiana cities of Valparaiso and Highland.

In part, the Chicago webpage states, "March for Our Lives Chicago includes the experiences of people of color, women, and LGBT individuals in our fight to make the streets safe for children again. In 2017, 3456 Chicago citizens were victims to gun violence. We cannot have one more."

Visit [MarchforOurLives.com/events](http://MarchforOurLives.com/events) or email [mpianta@gpg.com](mailto:mpianta@gpg.com).

## PUT YOUR BOTTOM AT THE TOP OF THE LIST

To Do!

#1 VISIT [ANCHORSTUDY.ORG](http://ANCHORSTUDY.ORG)

1. DO LAUNDRY
2. GROCERIES
3. CALL BFF
4. WORKOUT
5. BILLS
6. VISIT [ANCHORSTUDY](http://ANCHORSTUDY.ORG)

### ANAL CANCER IS MUCH MORE EASILY TREATED WHEN CAUGHT EARLY, BEFORE SYMPTOMS DEVELOP

WE NEED HIV+ VOLUNTEERS OF ALL GENDERS WHO ARE 35 AND OVER TO TAKE PART IN A NATIONAL ANAL CANCER PREVENTION STUDY.

- THOSE THAT QUALIFY WILL BE PAID \$100 PER STUDY VISIT
- YOU WILL HAVE AT LEAST 2 STUDY VISITS PER YEAR FOR 6 TO 8 YEARS

ANAL DYSPLASIA CLINIC MIDWEST  
DR. GARY BUCHER  
2551 N. CLARK ST., #203  
CHICAGO, IL 60614  
312-623-ANAL (2625)

the  
ANCHOR  
study.org



## letters

*A call for inclusion*

*An open letter to The Legacy Project's Victor Salvo*

*Hello, Victor:*

We have been supporters of the Legacy Project's efforts to memorialize the contributions of LGBTQ citizens. Your inclusion of African-American and Latinx citizens has brought recognition to often marginalized people. It is in this spirit that we urge you to include LGBT Palestinians among those struggling not only for their own rights as a sexual minority within their community but also struggling against Israeli oppression.

The organization A Wider Bridge—which you will soon be teaming with in a forum at the Center on Halsted—has tasked itself with highlighting to the U.S. LGBTQ community how well-treated Israeli LGBTQs are in Israel. Its unstated goal is to divert attention from Israeli crimes against Palestinians. This is “pinkwashing” and you are undoubtedly familiar

with it. (Often forgotten in this celebration of so-called Israeli benevolence is the ongoing struggle required by Israeli LGBTQs to maintain what rights and privileges they have won against the opposition of Orthodox Jews and other ultra-right Israeli reactionaries).

It is disturbing the number of Americans—including those in our own community—who fail to recognize the Palestinians as an oppressed people, a people marginalized in a humanitarian crisis not of their making. Decades of well-financed pro-Israel propaganda casts the Israelis as the victims of Palestinian “terrorism.” To people aware of the decades-long history of Israeli violence against the Palestinians, it is clear who is victim and who is the oppressor.

Increasingly, Jews—especially among the youth—in groups like Jewish Voice for Peace reject the Israeli “victim narrative,” and demand justice for Palestinians. The Chicago Dyke March last summer evidenced many young lesbians and other LGBTQ youth (and older folk who walked with them) refusing to be silent about Israeli crimes against the Palestinians. (For information on Israeli treatment of

Palestians, see <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/israeli-palestinian-conflict-101/>.)

Many outside of the United States see a clear parallel between oppression of Blacks by the former racist South African regime and the oppression of Palestinians by the Zionist government of Israel. Nelson Mandela said so. So does Desmond Tutu. Our politicians, on the other hand, are intimidated by the Zionist lobby into either silence or complicity.

It is all well and good that there are Israeli Jewish LGBTQs who are reaching out to Muslims and Christians. But it is wrong to employ these good deeds to help “pinkwash” the daily atrocities and humiliations the Israeli government commits against Palestinians.

Recently, Gay Liberation Network organized a forum on the need for Americans to support the struggle for Palestinian rights, including those of Palestinian LGBTQs. We would be happy to join you in a similar forum as a part of the Legacy Live Series.

*Truly yours,  
Gay Liberation Network  
gayliberation.net*

*The Legacy Project responds:* We appreciate Gay Liberation Network reaching out and their kind words about the Legacy Project's work to shine a light on multicultural LGBTQ histories.

We admire GLN, and its passion, and we share many of the same views. We take a lot for granted here in the U.S.—and especially in Illinois and Chicago—when it comes to being LGBTQ and being able to learn about, and share, our history. In contrast there are, sadly, too many places in the world where information about LGBTQ history is, at best, hard to come by—if not banned outright or never recorded in the first place.

Indeed, simply existing openly as an LGBTQ person can be deadly. This is especially true in the Middle East. That is why we were interested in doing a program exploring the work of Haifa Communities' House. The very idea that there was an interfaith project attempting to use LGBTQ History to unite Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Middle East seemed too unique an opportunity to pass up. The more we looked into it, the more courageous and groundbreaking it seems to be.

When we approached Center on Halsted (our partners in the Legacy LIVE program series) about hosting a panel, the people there agreed that any institution that was attempting to bring such diverse communities into one safe space through the power of their shared experiences as LGBTQ people in a very troubled part of the world was something we wanted to know more about, even if some of those questions are difficult to ask and answer. Because, if we forego these conversations just because they may be challenging, we miss the opportunity to learn anything new.

We are looking forward to an interesting evening discussing how LGBTQ history can bring people together. We hope it will lead to similar future programs that illustrate how LGBTQ history is a living and relevant thing no matter where in the world it is happening.

*The Legacy Project*

**Grab a coffee,  
take a survey,  
change the world.**

**Making a Difference is Easy.**

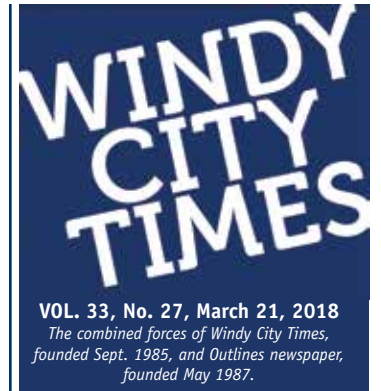
**Take the 12th Annual  
LGBTQ Community Survey®**

**LGBTQsurvey.com**

**CMI Community Marketing & Insights**  
Community Marketing, Inc.

Your information is confidential, used for research purposes only.  
You will not be contacted for marketing purposes.

Proudly LGBTQ-owned and -operated  
A pioneer in LGBTQ research, founded in 1992  
NGLCC-Certified LGBTQ Owned Business Enterprise



**PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tracy Baim

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Andrew Davis  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Matt Simonette  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ripley Caine  
**DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA** Jean Albright  
**ART DIRECTOR** Kirk Williamson  
**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Scott Duff, David Strzpek, Kathy Breit, Andrew Kain Miller, Theresa Santos Volpe  
**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

**SENIOR WRITERS** Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair  
**THEATER COORDINATOR** Catey Sullivan  
**SPORTS WRITER** Ross Forman  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS** Mary Shen Barnidge, Lawrence Ferber, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel, Scott C. Morgan, Lauren Emily Whalen, Karen Topham, Brian Kirst  
**COLUMNISTS/WRITERS:** Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Charlsie Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Angelique Smith  
**SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS** Kat Fitzgerald, Hal Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron  
**WEBSITE LISTINGS VOLUNTEER** Gene Naden  
**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Jean Albright  
**DISTRIBUTION** Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue and Victor  
**WEB HOSTING** LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2018 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group. All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)  
podcast: [WindyCityQueercast.com](http://WindyCityQueercast.com)

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,  
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 U.S.A.  
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

*Windy City Times* Deadline every Wednesday.  
**OUT!** Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide Online  
[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)





# WINDY CITY TIMES

# DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



20

**Veggie Grill.**



20

**St. Paddy's Day at Sidetrack.**



## 'Sea' here

12

WCT reviews the production **Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea.**

Photo of Jalen Gilbert by Evan Hanover

### SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

## Gay take on Shakespeare play has Bollywood flair

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

In all of Shakespeare's writings, there's only one un-coded and undeniably gay man. He's Antonio, titular merchant of *The Merchant of Venice*. Without Antonio's unambiguous pining for his best friend Bassanio, there's no play.

Playwright Shishir Kurup brings the merchant's ardor out of the shadows with his Bollywood-infused, Venice Beach-set adaptation, *Merchant on Venice*. Running through Sunday, April 15, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, the Rasaka and Vitalist Theatres' co-production begins with a declaration of love from Devender (the Antonio character, played by Madrid St. Angelo) to struggling Bollywood film star Jitender (the Bassanio character, played by Kamal Hans). The plot is set into motion when Antonio loans his beloved a huge sum of money, ultimately risking his own life to cover the debt.

"Shishir's script is both bold and subtle," said director Liz Carlin Metz. "The way he points to homophobia and misogyny as well as religious bigotry—it brings out the social issues that our rippling through our nation right now."

Those social issues include violence as well as less obvious bigotry. In Shakespeare's original, Jews and Christians clash with tragic results. *Merchant on Venice* pits Muslims against Hindus. Jitender and Devender are Hindi. The man moneylender (Sharuk, played by Anish Jethmalani) is Muslim.

"I thought the Hindu-Muslim conflict would be a great way to frame the story," said Kurup. "It's a conflict maybe not as known to as many people, but it's there." Kurup has also threaded issues of

caste throughout the piece, adding the tension of economic disparity into the plot.

*Merchant on Venice* made its world premiere a decade ago at Silk Road Theater (now Silk Road Rising), helping to put the then-young company on the map. Both St. Angelo and Jethmalani were in that original production. Kurup has kept the flash and dazzle of Bollywood spectacles (including big song-and-dance numbers) but he's also emphasizing the darker elements of the plot.

"You look at the bigotry and the xenophobia in the original and you realize we're all still doing it," Metz said. "With the peeling back of the pond scum of White Nationalism in this country, religious bigotry and anti-immigration are the major cries," Metz said. "Throughout the Western world, people don't get too excited about pink people moving in. They get much more upset when it's some brown or Black or yellow moving in. To call it 'anti-immigration' is to whitewash it."

St. Angelo was intrigued with the idea of returning to Kurup's world. "I was excited to go back and really explore the deeper sides of the characters," he said. Devender, St. Angelo added, is both victim and peacock. "He's privileged and he carries himself in a grand, flamboyant manner. What interests me is the whole of idea of being somewhat closeted, even if you're outwardly confident. At first, he's not sure how to express his feelings, and when he finally expresses them it send him into a spiral," he said.

Unlike many in the 15-member cast, St. Angelo has not Southeast Asian roots.

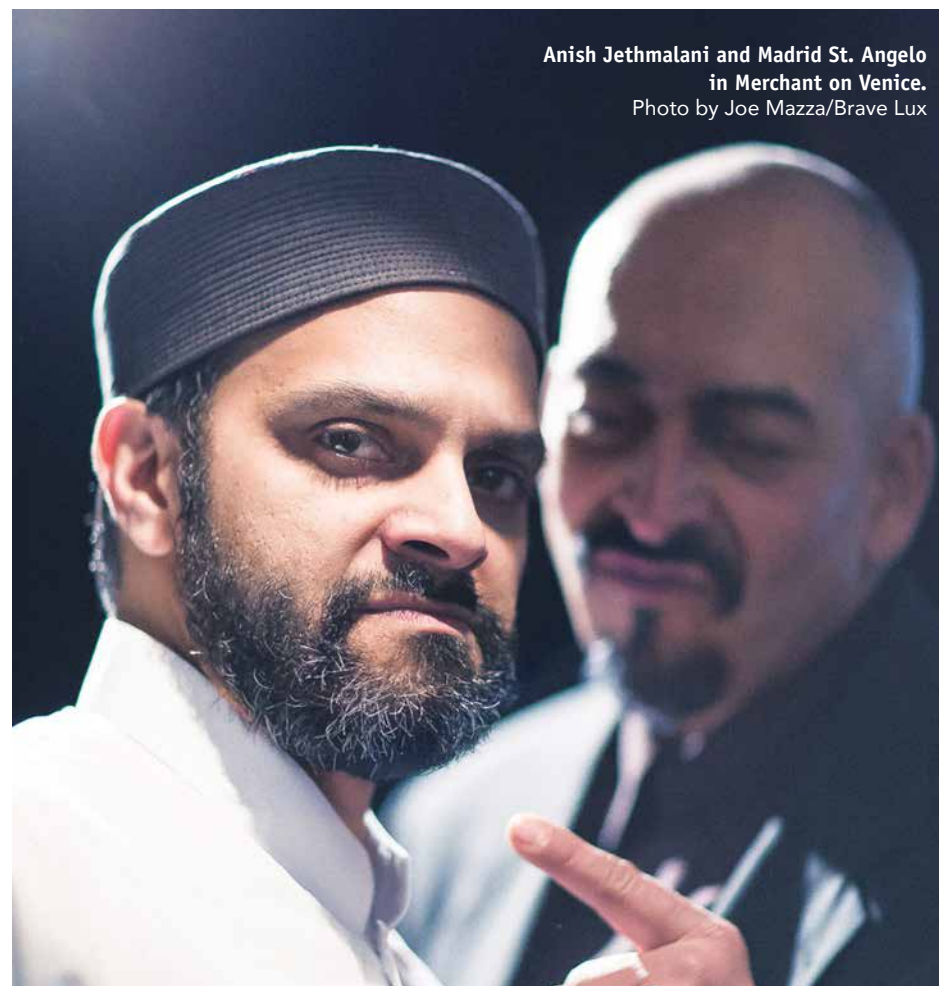
"I'm Spanish and Italian. I asked 10 years ago and I asked for this production, 'Is there any problem casting a non-Southeast Asian in this

role?" St. Angelo said. "Ideally you'd have all ethnically accurate casts all the time. I asked myself if I was hurting anyone by taking the role," said St. Angelo.

For Metz, Kurup's new version allows the flash and dazzle of Bollywood to help heighten the somber tragedy of Shakespeare's original. "The big, happy Bollywood dance numbers are still there," said Metz. "But so is the other side of

that coin. You can't have joy without despair. To love somebody is to also recognize that one day you'll be parted. Every love story is eventually a story of loss."

**Merchant on Venice runs through Sunday, April 15, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are \$25, \$20 (students and seniors) and \$15 (industry); visit [Greenhousetheatre.org](http://Greenhousetheatre.org).**



Anish Jethmalani and Madrid St. Angelo in *Merchant on Venice*.

Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

## THEATER REVIEW

## Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Written by: Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler

At: No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: \$39-69 (higher price includes dinner)

Runs through: April 29

BY KAREN TOPHAM

The tiny theater at No Exit Cafe would seem to be a hindrance to putting on a show like *Sweeney Todd*, but Theo Ubique manages to make it a plus instead—creating a moody, intimate production that works in every conceivable way.

Director Fred Anzevino uses every inch of the space, surrounding the audience with the performance and inviting us to see it in ways we never have before, making the familiar tale of a vengeful barber, a pair of lovers, and a hilariously sociopathic meat pie cook feel fresh and new. We



Jacquelyne Jones and Philip Torre in *Sweeney Todd*. Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

are up close and personal with these people, and the actors therefore are required to make every gesture and facial expression full of meaning.

Perfectly cast, the show shimmers with excellent performances. Philip Torre's imposing, angry Sweeney powers the musical, of course, but Jacquelyne Jones is a revelation as Mrs. Lovett. There may be no real chemistry between the two characters, but the actors blend perfectly, with

her brightness counteracting his darkness. The result is a clearer understanding of both and many subtle; perfect moments. "A Little Priest," for example, is alive with all of the possible nuance this funny and outrageous song offers.

The lovers, too, are brilliant. Nathan Carroll's Anthony is simply the best I've seen, able to hold his own against the ominous Todd and make his Romeo-like infatuation with Cecilia Iole's Joanna

more believable and understandable than is often the case. For her part, Iole's gorgeous soprano voice might have been her finest contribution in another production, but here we more clearly bear witness to her frustration, her joy, and her torment at the hands of John B. Leen's deliciously twisted Judge Turpin. And Kevin Webb's take on the other villain is less broad and thus more defined than most large stage Beadles.

These actors and a crackling ensemble are lighted by a creative, melancholy design by James Kolditz, who keeps the lights dim as befits the darkness of the scenes we are watching. Kolditz mostly chooses to highlight actors as they come into focus, so they become eerie visages in the night, an effect enhanced by Anzevino's decision to use zombielike makeup on practically the entire ensemble.

With Jeremy Ramey's perfectly sized four-piece orchestra providing all of the power of Sondheim's finest score, this *Sweeney Todd* is not to be missed. Theo Ubique's final play in its home of 15 years (they move to a new house in the fall) is indeed a memorable one.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea

Playwright: Nathan Alan Davis

At: First Floor Theater at The Den,

1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: \$10-\$20

Runs through: March 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Tribal histories featuring forced migrations can exacerbate the propensity of young people to speculate on fanciful origin stories beyond those imparted by their immediate kin.

Who knows what secrets may lurk beneath the prosaic (read: boring) lineage promulgated by parents bent on steering adolescent imaginations toward practical considerations? Dontrell Jones III is grateful for the scholarship at Johns Hopkins University awaiting him at the end of this, his 18th summer, but when his ancestors call to him in a dream, a spiritual odyssey is inevitable.

The dream is of a slave ship bound across the Atlantic, and a lone captive identified as a "grandfather" of indeterminate generations past who dives into the sea in a desperate bid for escape—leaving behind his pregnant consort to ensure their legacy in the New World. Upon awakening, Dontrell detects increasing evidence supporting this spectral vision—his own grandsire's fear of water, his father's reluctance to permit

his children swimming lessons. After suffering an inauspicious embarkation involving a humiliating rescue at the city's municipal pool, our pilgrim's journey introduces a lifeguard who also assumes a mythic aura—and, coincidentally, supplies him the marine vessel facilitating his exploration of Chesapeake Bay for signs of his patrimonial inheritance.

According to the publicity for this First Floor Theater production, Dontrell's adventures fall under the taxonomic label of "magic realism," but playwright Nathan Alan Davis' tendency to embrace the magic more than the realism often makes for intellectual dislocation. By setting the action in fantasy realms *before* acquainting us with our hero's earthly circumstances—specifically, a family puzzled and dismayed by his

curious quest—our author provides us no baseline against which to measure the credibility of Dontrell's necrophilic obsession.

The suspense generated during the final confrontation with the ghosts of the Middle Passage is thus eroded by the nagging possibility of our story ending in hackneyed teen-suicide hand-wringing. Until then, however, the ensemble delivers scene after scene of breathtaking pagentry. Chika Ike's direction weaves a tapestry of synchronized movement, *a cappella* chants, orchestrated poetry, acoustical instrumentals and visual effects drawing on global sources to create a subterranean panorama of sensory illusion as fluid and mysterious as the briny ocean deep itself.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Hang Man

Playwright: Stacy Osei-Kuffour

At: Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee

Tickets: 773-283-7071;

TheGiftTheatre.org; \$30-\$40

Runs through: April 29

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Whether it's the play itself, the production or a combination of both, this world premiere of *Hang Man* is not successful. It's performed as relentless tragedy but there's no tragic hero. It has a supernatural element but it's not presented as a horror-thriller, which it might have been. It could be very dark comedy—especially as absurdity piles on top of absurdity—but neither the play nor the direction by Jess McLeod ever gives the audience permission to laugh, which comedy must do.

It's set "Now" in "a shit town in Mississippi" but it might as well be the 1950s. A Black man,

Darnell (Gregory Fenner), hangs from a tree before us the entire play, speaking from the grave to explain his unhappy life—broken home, mother who didn't want him—and how he died. Soon after, we meet Darnell's sister Sage (Jennifer Glasse) and 12-year old niece (Mariah Sidnei Gordon), but not before meeting the three dumbest white folks who ever walked the earth. Darnell hangs in a place where lovers tryst and kids walk to school, and is seen by the white characters and his niece (who supernaturally converses with him), yet no one reports his death to the police. Indeed, one character *is* the police, a rookie cop who knows Darnell.

Almost immediately, *Hang Man* veers towards the white characters: waitress Margarie (Angela Morris), her abusive husband or boyfriend (never made clear) Archie (very scary Paul D'Addario) and Wipp the rookie (Andy Fleischer), with whom Margarie—four weeks pregnant—is twotiming. All three are retrograde racists, Archie profoundly so. Margarie sexually fixates on dead Darnell and seeks Black identity. She reads up on slavery (apparently not taught in school),

and then goes psycho. She dons an Afro wig, smears her cheeks in blackface and claims Darnell fathered her newborn babe (apparently a kidnapped infant), but not before Wipp gives her his service revolver (can you imagine?) with deadly results. A final character, Jahaad (Martel Manning), is a Black Muslim from New York who wants money Darnell owes him. Jahaad woos Sage without success, and has utterly no impact on the story, so why is he there?

The Black and white characters also have little collective impact on each other, as *Hang Man* shifts focus between them, except that Margarie's lunacy is triggered by seeing Darnell. The brutal white storyline is far more active than the Black one, so it easily dominates *Hang Man* to little purpose except, perhaps, shock value. The very good actors perform with plenty of heart and intensity, so *Hang Man*'s inadequacies aren't theirs. Osei-Kuffour must decide what focus and tone she wants to achieve, and revise *Hang Man* accordingly.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Schiller's *Mary Stuart***, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through April 15. Hailed as a clash of queens—Mary of Scots vs. Elizabeth of England—it's far more about the power game behind the throne, and realpolitik hasn't changed much. JA

**Kingdom**, Broken Nose Theatre at the Den, through April 7. It's not easy being gay and African-American in Florida, even when you live next door to Disneyworld, but the old have much to teach the young about romance in Michael Allen Harris' comedy. MSB

**Hail, Hail Chuck: A Tribute to Chuck Berry**, Black Ensemble Theatre, through April 1. It takes six actors to portray the legendary composer whose songs are permanently etched into the rock-and-roll repertoire of our planet and boasts one currently orbiting the galaxies. MSB

**On Your Feet**, Broadway in Chicago, through April 8. The songs of Gloria Estefan's 26-Grammy (so far) career fill the score of this infectiously joyous bio-musical. Be forewarned and prepare to conga: The music is, in fact, gonna get you. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan



## THEATER REVIEW

## The Picture of Dorian Gray

Playwright Adapted by Paul Edwards, from the novel by Oscar Wilde  
At: City Lit Theatre, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Tickets: 773-293-3682, CityLit.org; \$12-\$32  
Runs through: April 15

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

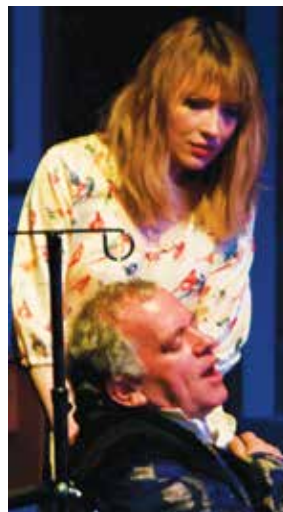
Oscar Wilde's *The Portrait of Dorian Gray* seems like a natural fit for transplant from the 1890s to the 1970s and '80s. Its tale of infinite debauchery and the harrowing price hedonism eventually demands is well-suited to the glorious excess of the era that ushered in the AIDs pandemic.

The story one of the iconic gay author's very best: As Dorian's closeted portrait decays with his every act of cruelty, deception and depravity, Dorian himself remains the picture of glorious, Adonis-like youth.

In moving Dorian's story forward some 80 years, adaptor Paul Edwards has a fabulous idea. It's easy to imagine Dorian immersing himself in pansexual adventures of a seemingly eternal party, snorting coke in VIP lounge at Studio 54 or swallowing poppers and hooking up in the bathrooms of Berlin.

But while the premise is excellent in City Lit's production, the execution needs work.

There are three primary problems here. First, Edwards' adaptation needs editing. It sags where



Alyssa Thordarson and Scott Olson in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Photo by Steve Graue

it should be drum-tight, meandering where laser precision is called for. Second, the cast's pacing is sluggish throughout. Wilde's signature, stinging repartee doesn't trip off the tongue here so much as it droops off, slowly languishing.

Finally, there 's the titular piece of art. Edwards' concept for the magically aging painting is intriguing, but it is not dramatically satisfying. The painting is supposed to be a representation of every grotesque horror humankind can commit—a monstrous, symbolic manifestation of evil. In Edwards' adaption, the portrait is no such thing. Think "Jaws" only you never get to actually see the shark.

Dymond's cast attacks Wilde's text with ear-

## SPOTLIGHT

A quintet of actors play more than two dozen roles in *Bad Girls: The Stylists*, Astrid Saalbach's dark-to-its-roots comedy about stylists and clientele who unload a lot more than hair while getting groomed. As salon scissors snip, secrets spill. (Try saying that five times fast.) Director Breahan Pautsch oversees the coils and the confessions in a play that goes from comedy to tragedy and back again in less time than it takes to get a perm. It runs through April 14 at Akvavit Theatre at Strawdog Theatre, 1802 W. Berenice Ave. \$25, \$15 students/



seniors/industry; visit ChicagoNordic.org  
Caption: Cast of *Bad Girls: The Stylists*. Photo by Karl Clifton-Soderstrom

ness if not authenticity. There's a labored, scripted feel to the production. Theater's greatest illusion—that what happens onstage is spontaneous and of the moment—is absent. That's unfortunate, because Wilde is at his epigrammatic best with *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*. The witticisms are like diamond-studded stilettos, lethal and witty Here, their light is muted, their edge blunted.

Moreover, Edwards' adaption often feels generic rather than firmly rooted in the 1970s. You need more than solid costume design (nice work by Peggy Roeder) and a retro-bar cart to evoke the days of the Limelight, crack, Gordon Gekko and Ronald Ronald Reagan.

Edwards has worked some clever bits into the

text: One character's last words are the same as Wilde's last words. The infamously corrupting "yellow book" is hollowed hiding place for heroin. One of the supporting roles is a View Nam vet dealing with PTSD.

At the corrosive heart of "Dorian" is the title character (Javier Ferreira), who we meet as he's posing for his friend and photographer Basil Hallward (Gabriel Fries).

Edwards has added a narrator to the proceedings, (Alyssa Thordarson), resurrecting one of Dorian's early casualties and having her deliver great swaths of languorous, an element that does the pacing no favors. Dorian should fascinate and repulse. At City Lit, it does neither despite the potential inherent to a marvelous concept.

NOW PLAYING

"A JUICY REGAL SMACKDOWN"  
-VARIETY

SCHILLER'S **MARY STUART**

IN A NEW VERSION BY PETER OSWALD DIRECTED BY JENN THOMPSON

chicago  
shakespeare theater  
on navy pier theater

312.595.5600 • chicagoshakes.com

UNDER 35? A GREAT PRICE FOR STUDENTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS. **CS120**

K.K. Morgan & Kellie Overby photo by Jeff Scortino

## FORBIDDEN LOVE. POLITICAL INTRIGUE. ULTIMATE BETRAYAL.

MARCH 21 | 23 | 25 JUST 3 MORE PERFORMANCES

## FELLOW TRAVELERS

AN OPERA BY GREGORY SPEARS LIBRETTO BY GREG PIERCE  
BASED ON THE NOVEL *FELLOW TRAVELERS*  
BY THOMAS MALLON



Lyric **Unlimited** LYRICOPERA.ORG  
312.827.5600  
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

All performances take place at the  
Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave

Lyric Unlimited presentation of *Fellow Travelers* generously made possible by Lead Sponsor **The Wallace Foundation**, with additional support from the **Lauter McDougal Charitable Fund**, **Mary Patricia Gannon**, **Kenneth R. Norgan**, **Robert Kohl** & **Clark Pellett**, and **Philip G. Lumpkin**. Lyric Unlimited was launched with major catalyst funding from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and receives major support from the **Caerus Foundation, Inc.**

## SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

# Musicals: Fresh flowers and old chestnuts

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

If quantity is your thing, it's a great spring for musical theater; you'll be up to your ears in singers and dancers.

On the other hand, the pickings are sparse if you're looking for originality, innovation or something new as familiar and old-hat rule the roost. They may be great shows, but do we really need yet another Sweeney Todd, another Company, another Oklahoma, another South Pacific and another Jesus Christ Superstar? Jesus Christ, I don't think so ... but we're gonna' get 'em anyway! Look them up online if you want to see them. Here are some fresher possibilities.

—**Pretty Woman the Musical**, Oriental Theatre through April 15—Dominant commercial presenter Broadway In Chicago stands nearly alone as a purveyor of something new: the pre-Broadway world premiere of a musical based on the hit 1990 film romance. Music and lyrics are by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance, with direction and choreography by Jerry Mitchell, so one has high hopes. [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com)

—**A Taste of Things**, Broadway Playhouse through April 29—A new-to-Chicago original with an intentionally-retro sound, this small-scale musical comedy is about four mid-1950s housewives whose limited lives—bound by the PTA, Betty Crocker and homemaking—begin to change under the influence of rock 'n' roll, Freedom Riders and ... the Kinsey Report! [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com)

—**Grand Hotel**, Kokandy Productions at Theater Wit, April 15-May 25—While this isn't a new show, it's not one that's been done to death and Kokandy does reliably good work. It's an evocative adaptation of Vicki Baum's 1929 German novel and MGM's famous 1932 film version, set in a Berlin luxury hotel. Music and lyrics are by Robert Wright, George Forrest and Maury Yeston, with a book by Luther Davis. The Kokandy team is John D. Glover (director), Aaron Benham (musical director, fresh from Merrily We Roll Along at Porchlight) and Brenda Didier (choreographer). [KokandyProductions.com](http://KokandyProductions.com)

—**Memphis**, Porchlight Music Theatre at the Ruth Page Center, April 19-June 3—Still relatively unknown here, this winner of the 2010 Best Musical Tony Award is set against racial attitudes of the 1950s when even music was segregated in many parts of the country (although not in Chicago). In Memphis, a lone white DJ begins to play Black music on his station. The book is by Joe De Pietro with music and lyrics by David Bryan. [PorchlightMusicTheatre.org](http://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org)

—**Once**, Paramount Theatre (Aurora), April 25-June 3—This intimate, romantic musical, based on the 2007 film, took home eight 2012 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Set in Ireland, it concerns a Girl and Guy (that's how they're identified) with baggage who fall in love any-



Bryan Adams, who wrote the music for *Pretty Woman the Musical*.  
PR photo

way. Enda Walsh wrote the book for the musical, with folkloric-sounding music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. Paramount artistic director Jim Corti is the director. [ParamountAurora.com](http://ParamountAurora.com)

—**The Cher Show**, Oriental Theatre, June 12-July 15—Yeah, it's a jukebox musical of familiar 1960s-1990s hits, but it's a Broadway-bound world premiere nonetheless, and it tells the life story of the oft-married singer, dancer, star and all-time gay fave, so why not? The book is by Rick Elise, who did a pretty good job fashioning Jersey Boys into a hit. [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com)

And now for the rest, very briefly, and they include **Sweeney Todd**, Sondheim, Theo Ubique Theatre at No Exit Café through April 29; **On Your Feet!**, the jukebox musical about Emilio and Gloria Estafan, Cadillac Palace through April 8; **Company**, Sondheim again, Venus Stage (new tiny cabaret space) at the Mercury Theater on Southport Avenue, April 5-June 3; **South Pacific**, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, April 4-June 17; **9 to 5: the Musical**, music/lyrics by Dolly Parton, Firebrand Theatre at The Den, April 7-May 20.

Also, there are **The Sound of Music**, Rodgers & Hammerstein's (again) long-touring production, Cadillac Palace, April 10-15; **Oklahoma!**, Rodgers & Hammerstein (again, again) 75th(!)-anniversary production, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, April 11-June 10; **Jesus Christ Superstar**, Rice & Lloyd Webber, the first-ever rock production at Lyric Opera of Chicago, April 27-May 20 (extension possible); **Cinderella**, Rodgers & Hammer-

stein (again, again and again, and not their best work, originally a TV special), Cadillac Palace, April 27-May 6; and **Dirty Dancing**, based on the film, this long-circulating tour comes back to the city where it began, Cadillac Palace, May 29-June 3.

Kary M. Walker, for 21 years the executive producer of the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, ignored frequent requests from his middle-aged-and-up audience for familiar shows. "People who like Rodgers and Hammerstein have one foot in

the grave!" he once said to me. Although he did, eventually, produce Oklahoma, Walker preferred to bring more recent work to his stage and try out world premiere shows. It's not a question of execution—Marriott and Drury Lane Oakbrook and Firebrand and Theo Ubique and the rest almost always do fine work—but of artistic policy and planning. Our local theaters, which build fresh productions rather than present tours, should offer much more diverse fare as Firebrand did it with its first production, Lizzie.



Mary Jo Bolduc, Allison Grischow and Nick Freed in *The Next Big Thing*.  
Photo by Michael Courier Photography

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Next Big Thing

Playwright: Carrie J. Sullivan

At: The Factory Theater, 1623 W. Howard St.

Tickets: [TheFactoryTheater.com](http://TheFactoryTheater.com); \$18-25

Runs through: April 21

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Set in 1997 Chicago, Factory Theater's world premiere of *The Next Big Thing* shows a tacit understanding of the decade, and the city at the time, at best.

Yes, everyone proudly displayed his or her angst alongside flannel shirts and cut-off jeans. Yes, open-mic nights and soulful singer-songwriters reigned supreme, while the resurgence of bubble-gum pop was just around the corner. And, yes, Tamagotchi virtual pets were in vogue. Other than these factors, playwright and Factory ensemble member Carrie J. Sullivan hasn't done her homework on the late '90s or how recording contracts work, nor can she choose a protagonist. Add into that the completely tasteless representation of gay men and *The Next Big Thing*, which starts out fairly promising, soon devolves into a mess of half-baked one-liners, a predictable plot, and half-baked one-liners and cultural references.

*The Next Big Thing* is Sullivan's first full-length play, and it shows. Although it clocks in at a mercifully short one hour and 45 minutes (counting intermission), the action drags and the dialogue is decidedly not compelling.

The play is a standard fish-out-of-water story,

with naive 19-year-old Beth (Allison Grischow) arriving from Michigan with her guitar and a dream, only to find out that the record producer who discovered her has since passed away. When the producer's adult daughter, Alex (Mary Jo Bolduc), and his grandson, Toby (Raj Bond), decide to take a chance on her, they're met with resistance by flashy rival Clive (Tim Newell) and his protegee, hopeful pop princess Monica (Kiayla Ryann). (Never mind that pop stars of the late '90s and early aughts were mostly former child hoofers grown in LA or Orlando, not rich girls from Winnetka who dressed like characters from *Clueless*.)

Although the plot is standard, *The Next Big Thing* could have been a fun nostalgic piece or a twist on a tale as old as time. Instead, only Alex is written with any sort of nuance: a woman struggling to keep her father's dream afloat while still mourning his death. The rest of the characters range from irritatingly predictable to downright insulting. Clive is a Truman Capote parody, flinging around his sparkling scarf and demanding that a dive bartender mix him a Tequila Sunrise.

Even worse, the personal assistant to one of Beth's heroes, played by Jake Szczpaniak, is nasty, high-voiced and limp-wristed, at one point sporting a T-shirt that says "I Love Wiener." It's as if Sullivan's only exposure to the queer population was very early episodes of *Will & Grace*. These offensive characterizations are reason enough to avoid *The Next Big Thing*, which from beginning to end relies on laziness rather than the innovation on which '90s singer-songwriters prided themselves.



## SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

# Premieres reflect global awareness

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Playwrights and the theaters who showcase them are finally catching up with the times. Audiences looking to shake off the inertia of winter boredom will find a diversity of world premiere narratives on display in Chicago.

—**Lettie.** Victory Gardens Theater at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. The struggle of an ex-convict to forge a new life as a welder in her home town, as recounted by an author named Boo Killebrew, is enough to command our attention, even without rising star Carolyn Neff's proletarian charisma. (April 6-May 6; VictoryGardens.org)

—**Hollow/Wave.** Silk Road Rising at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St. Though only playing two weekends, Anu Bhatt's solo show, directed by Barbara Zahora, acquaints us with the plight of South Asian female actors in Chicago attempting to pursue a career based in "empowerment through imperfection." (May 17-27; SilkRoadRising.org)

—**Bad Girls: The Stylists.** Akvavit Theatre at Strawdog Theatre Company, 1802 W. Berenice Ave. Four Danish hairdressers and their customers swap opinions on how tough it is to achieve the everything that society demands of its woman these days. (March 21-April 14; ChicagoNordic.org)

—**The Madres.** Teatro Vista at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. An old woman defies the military juntas in 1979 Argentina to search for her *desaparacida* ("disappeared") granddaughter, despite the obstructive counsel of a compliant chaplain and a vindictive neighbor in this rolling premiere from the National New Play Network. (April 27-May 27; TeatroVista.org)

—**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.** Lookingglass Theatre at the Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. The company that hunted whale on the high seas last year now explores the ocean depths in David Kersner and Althos Low's page-to-stage adaptation of Jules Verne's science-fiction adventure, starring Kareem Bando as the mysterious Captain Nemo. (May 26-Aug. 19; LookingglassTheatre.org)

—**Prometheus Bound.** City Lit Theatre at Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1040 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Nicholas Rudall's translation highlights the hot issues of today to be found in Aeschylus' examination of Western literature's first political prisoner, currently being marketed as a world premiere. (May 6-June 10; CityLit.org)

—**The Doppelganger (an international farce).** Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. Despite our modern high-tech security measures, Nikolai Gogol's reliable government inspector is still capable of wreaking havoc and corporate intrigue in Matthew Lee Erlbach's comedy of mistaken identity. (April 15-May 27; Steppenwolf.org)

—**The Light Fantastic.** Jackalope Theatre at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway. Ike Holter continues his exploration of urban enigma with the fable of a would-be psychic who finds herself in above her necromantic head. (May 15-June 16; JackalopeTheatre.org)

—**To Catch a Fish.** Timeline Theatre at Baird Hall, 615 W. Wellington St. Ron OJ Parson directs Brett Neveu's latest report on a society where even the lowest-paid employee can't get a break from his exploitive bosses. (May 3-July 1; TimelineTheatre.com)

—**Refrigerator.** First Floor Theater at the Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Cryogenicists freeze your body, but IceBox



Lettie's Caroline Neff.  
PR photo

& Co. can freeze your soul for all eternity in Lucas Baisch's dystopian future. (May 16-June 9; FirstFloorTheater.com)

Don't put off your theater excursions too long. Summer will be here sooner than you think, and don't you want to be in shape for wine-and-strawberries-on-the-grass outdoor play viewing?

## American Theater Company closes

Chicago's American Theater Company (ATC)—which was headed by trans Artistic Director Will Davis—has shut down, according to a Chicago Sun-Times item.

Its final production was *We're Gonna Be Okay*, which ended March 4.

A few of ATC's productions over the years included *Picnic*, *Fulfillment*, *The Humans*, *Disgraced* and *Let Me Down Easy*.

ATC's board of directors indicated in a statement that loss of revenue over the past few years—particularly following the death of artistic director PJ Paparelli in 2015—made it impossible for the company to continue operations.

The Sun-Times article is at <https://chicago.sun-times.com/entertainment/american-theater-company-is-closing-its-doors/>.

Windy City Times has its own story on ATC's closing online, at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Board-shutters-ground-breaking-gender-defying-American-Theater-Company/62282.html>. The story broke as WCT went to press.

## CULTURE CLUB

2018 ANNUAL SEASON OF CONCERN BENEFIT

**CABARET FOR CARE**

INFORMATION  
April 9, 2018  
7:00pm  
Goodman Theatre  
170 N Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

HOSTED BY  
Honey West &  
E. Faye Butler

TICKETS  
\$35 General  
\$75 VIP  
[goodmantheatre.org/socbenefit](http://goodmantheatre.org/socbenefit)

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

**SPRING SERIES**

MARCH 23 & 24, 7:30pm

“A steamy, sensual affair”  
—Lauren Warnecke,  
Chicago Tribune

HARRIS THEATER  
MILLENNIUM PARK  
TICKETS 205 E. Randolph Drive | 312.334.7777 | [harristheaterchicago.org](http://harristheaterchicago.org)

Tickets start at \$15

Hershey Felder's newest work comes to Chicago!

HERSHEY FELDER  
**OUR GREAT TCHAIKOVSKY**

STRICTLY LIMITED ENGAGEMENT  
APRIL 11 - MAY 13

“A POWERFUL EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE!”  
—San Diego Union Tribune

STEPPEWOLF UPSTAIRS THEATRE  
CALL 312-335-1650 OR VISIT [WWW.STEPPEWOLF.ORG](http://WWW.STEPPEWOLF.ORG)

Kei Takei, Mary Fitzgerald, Masaka Kitaura and Eileen Standley in *Enmei*.  
Photo by Sean Deckert



## SPRING DANCE PREVIEW

# Women lead the pack this dance season

BY JOANNA FURNANS

Clearly, the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements were needed to raise awareness—yet again—about the inequities, discrimination and harassment that women face in the workplace (at let's face it, everywhere else).

It is common knowledge in the dance field that women make up a majority of the “bodies” seen on stage, not to mention all the teachers, choreographers and directors working behind the scenes. Yet, time and again, it seems to be mostly male choreographers who are heralded, commissioned and chronicled as authorities in the field. In a continued effort to change this narrative, here's a small slice of what women and GNC folks are dancing about in Chicago this spring:

The Dance Center of Columbia College (1306 S. Michigan Ave.; Colum.Edu/Dance-Center) kicks off the spring season with the **Process v. Product Festival**, including performances, panel discussions, workshops, and writing that highlights in equal (or potentially higher) value the process of making dances alongside the finished performance. The deeply investigative **Molly Shahan/Mad Shak**, premieres her latest work “Of Whales, Time, and Your Last Attempt to Reach Me” in an exploration of the body's response, both obvious and hidden, to “a world of perception-altering technology and digitally-dependent relationships.” (Thurs-Sat, March 29-31, 7:30 p.m.).

Second in the festival line-up is the **Bebe Miller Company** with “In a Rhythm.” Revealing, according to press materials, “the syntax of movement,” this work is the result of a rigorous creation process that is documented in a companion project called “The Making Room.” Allowing audiences an in-depth look at how dances are made by both Miller and fellow choreographer Susan Rethorst, “The Making Room” is an experiment in the articulation, both verbal and physical, of performance making. So much of a

“finished” dance exists solely in the rehearsal room, it's about time audiences got a chance to see what they are missing. Watch the online material and then witness the performance live. (Thursday-Saturday, April 5-7, 7:30 p.m.).

Continuing in the spirit of process-oriented experiences, **SET FREE**, a performance series dedicated to providing dance artists with multiple opportunities to share their work throughout the creative process, returns for its third year at Links Hall (3111 N. Western Ave.; LinksHall.org.). Curated by dancer/producer Jessica Marasa, this year's SET FREE includes a powerhouse lineup of dancers: Emma Draves, Keisha Janae, Julia Mayer and Tara Aisha Willis. Don't miss the opportunity to watch these relevant contemporary makers chisel away at something new. (Wed., March 21, 7:30 p.m.; Monday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.; Wed., May 16, 7:30 p.m.).

## DuVernay's film company acquires disco documentary

Array Releasing—which counts filmmaker Ava DuVernay as its founder—announced the film collective's 18th feature film acquisition, *Jewel's Catch One*.

Marking the second feature from female filmmaker C. Fitz, the documentary explores the legacy of America's oldest Black-owned disco club as well as the life of businesswoman and activist, Jewel Thais-Williams, who provided safe spaces for LGBTQ, Black and AIDS-impacted communities in Los Angeles for four decades.

Array has acquired worldwide distribution rights and will debut *Jewel's Catch One* May 1 with a national screening tour and simultaneous release on Netflix.

*Jewel's Catch One* is an electric and melodic

Links Hall is on fire this spring with two additional must-see festivals. First, the **Bridge Dance Festival** presents five unique performances presumably “bridging” the gap between the Midwest and Japan with three works by visiting artists and two from Chicago locals. In particular, check out Kei Takei and Masaka Kitaura's “*Enmei* (long life)” exploring “what it means and what it takes to age as a woman in the field of contemporary dance” (Friday-Saturday, April 6-7, 7 p.m.), renowned butoh artist Yumiko Yoshioka examining solitude in “100 Light Years of Solitude” (Wed., April 25, 7 p.m.) and Kaori Seki as she embarks on a U.S. tour with her much anticipated new work “water and tears.” (Fri-Sat, April 27-28, 7 p.m.)

Later in the season, Links Hall's **Co-MISSION residency program**, now in its second year, brings four artists into an intensive three-month incubation period culminating in a mini-festival

journey highlighted by exclusive interviews with Sharon Stone, Thelma Houston, Evelyn “Champagne” King, Madonna, Sandra Bernhard, Thea Austin, Jenifer Lewis, Representative Maxine Waters and Bonnie Pointer. CCH Pounder narrates this film rich with music from the last 40 years.

## Sweet Honey in the Rock named UChicago ensemble-in-residence

Sweet Honey in the Rock—a Grammy-nominated, female African-American *a cappella* ensemble—has been appointed the Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Chicago (UChicago) for the 2018-19 season.

According to a UChicagoNews, the ensemble

of performances. Exploring feminine and queer identities, questioning hetero-normative narratives, calling out oppression and hierarchy, and “problematizing hyper-verticality,” artists Sojourner Zenobia, Nora Sharp, AJ McClenon and Courtney Mackedanz usher in radical new voices to Chicago's vibrant independent dance scene. (Thursday-Sunday, May 31-June 3, 7 p.m.)

Additional woman-made performances of note: —The Museum of Contemporary Art (220 E. Chicago Ave.; MCAChicago.org) welcomes **Okwui Okpokwasili** with her latest work, “Poor People's TV Room.” This new piece for four brown women of different generations investigates memory-making, what it means to imprint on one another, and the impact of shared and lost histories. (Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.)

—**Ballet Nacional de Cuba** returns to The Auditorium Theatre (50 E. Congress Pkwy.; AuditoriumTheatre.org.) for the first time since 2003 with its renowned production of *Don Quixote* staged by longtime company director Alicia Alonso. Alonso's version of the iconic ballet gives more focus to the character “Dulcinea” making the ballet an arguably more equal-footed love story (dance pun intended). (Friday-Saturday, May 18-19, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 20, 3 p.m.)

—Julia Rhodes' company, **Lucky Plush**, will present two dance theater works in an evening called “Tab Show” at The Harris Theater for Music and Dance (205 E. Randolph St.; HarrisTheater-Chicago.org). “Rink Life” riffs on old-school roller rink culture and “Curb Candy” promises to re-mix repertory from the company's old favorites hodge podged into something new. (Thursday-Friday, April 26-27, 7:30 p.m.)

—Last but not least, the **Chicago Moving Company** presents “Dance Shelter” at the Hamlin Park Fieldhouse (3035 N. Hoyne Ave.; Chicago-MovingCompany.org.) with fresh works from artists in residence Rachel Bunting/The Humans and Ayako Kato, with additional work by guest choreographer Emma Draves. (Thursday-Friday, May 10-11, 7:30 p.m.)

will bring its mission of empowerment, education and entertainment to the University through a wide variety of programs designed to impact the campus, the community and the city of Chicago.

During its three residency weeks in 2018-19, Sweet Honey will work with students in the Department of Music's choral ensembles in a sequence of workshops, coaching sessions and free public performances. The 2018-19 season marks the first time a choral ensemble has served as the Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence.

The current ensemble features core members Louise Robinson, Aisha Kahlil, Nitanju Bolade Casel and Carol Maillard. The ensemble is joined by bassist Romeir Mendez and vocalist Rochelle Rice.

The item is at <https://news.uchicago.edu/article/2018/02/21/sweet-honey-rock-appointed-uchicago-ensemble-residence>.



## SPRING THEATER PREVIEW

# Debra Barsha gives people 'A Taste of Things to Come'

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

How many musicals out there can boast an all-female cast, creative team, orchestra, and a topic that celebrates intersectional feminist stories with humor and catchy songs?

Debra Barsha—the bookwriter, composer and lyricist behind the new musical *A Taste of Things to Come*—spoke with *Windy City Times* about trying to encompass all of the above with co-author Holley Levin. Their new musical is love story to suburban moms like their own, who discovered just how impossible it was to conform to their eras' sexual and racial barriers.

The duo's wildly different backgrounds made for an ideal partnership to bring a society of suburban housewives to life. "Holley is a straight woman, I am a gay woman, she cooks and I don't" Barsha admitted. "I've never turned the oven on in my apartment!"

After the death of Levin's mother, the collaborators found a trove of her prized possessions. "There were books from the '50s by Dr. Spock, Betty Crocker cookbooks, even pocket manuals by Joe Bonomo that would help you improve your personality and find a man that my mother used to have, too," Barsha said. "It was the beginning of the sexual revolution, the Kinsey Report had just come out. Women were starting to realize it's not about getting a rump roast on the table; there's a lot more to life than that."

Barsha and Levin's research led them to a socially acceptable outlet for married women: neighborhood clubs. "Back then, women didn't go out to bars together, unless they were gay," Barsha said. "They had cooking clubs, sewing clubs and book clubs. That's where the gossip and secrets were exchanged." They saw Winnetka, Illinois—the real hometown of Ann-Margret, Burt Lancaster and Rock Hudson—as the ideal setting for their fictional ladies' success stories.

In *A Taste of Things to Come*, we're in Winnetka circa 1957, and Joan is having the ladies over for a cook-off guaranteed them to win them first prize in a Betty Crocker competition! There are the usual snags, like gossip and poor cooking skills, but there are also deep-rooted problems not even their buttoned-up era can suppress.

After a drunken affair, pregnant Connie believes her baby may not be born with her husband's good looks. Agnes is a fame-obsessed single gal discovering there is a



Debra Barsha.  
Photo courtesy of  
*A Taste of Things to  
Come*

lot more to her diverse background than the suburb where she was raised. Joan has fudged some small details (like her name) so her neighbors don't get concerned about her religious traditions, and Dottie would do some unhealthful things to be a size six. Together, these women must redefine what it means to be a woman when society's labels peel away.

Being openly gay throughout her entire career as an arranger, music director and creator has never hindered Barsha, but it has often made her the only queer woman in the orchestra pit. Because of this, Barsha insists on having an all-female show band for each run. "It's worth it," she said. "Assembling an all-female band is a lot of work, but it is possible."

Musical influences for the show range from girl groups to blues, but Barsha is proudest of the music that blurs gender lines: "We rewrote music history and gave music from funky male vocalists to women. We have these housewives singing in gritty male rock/pop styles."

Overall, Barsha hopes her audiences glean something about women's struggles while getting lost in a whirlwind of fun and music. "It's feminist without any man-bashing, and opinionated without being pedantic," Barsha said. "Women's friendships are enduring in any era and when you get invested in these four women, you're getting invested in women everywhere."

**Debra Barsha & Holley Levin's *A Taste of Things to Come* runs through Sunday, April 29, at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut St. For tickets and more information, visit [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.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](http://BroadwayWorld.com).

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

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

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

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

## CULTURE CLUB

*Hell in a Handbag Productions* PRESENTS

*What color is heartache?*

By Ricky Graham with *Running with Scissors*  
Based on an original script by Bruce McNally  
Directed by Stevie Love

**STAGE 773**  
1225 W. Belmont Ave.  
March 31 - May 6 • 7:30pm and 3pm  
PREMIERS: \$18 TICKETS: 773-929-7367  
REGULAR: \$29-\$34 [www.stage773.com](http://www.stage773.com)  
[handbagproductions.org](http://handbagproductions.org)

*Limitation of Life*  
Starring Ed Jones with Robert Williams

**THE DAYS ARE SHORTER**

WRITTEN BY CORINNE J. KAWECKI  
DIRECTED BY IRIS SOWLAT

May 8 - June 3  
The Buena @ Pride Arts Center  
4147 N Broadway  
[pridefilmsandplays.com](http://pridefilmsandplays.com)  
1 866 811 4111

PRIDE FILMS & PLAYS

Other spring theater items are online:  
—Theater roundup  
—A look at 'Tom Riddle'



## BOOKS

# With 'The List,' Amy Siskind documents democracy's downfall

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Like so many others, Amy Siskind was shocked by 2016's presidential outcome, and felt that President Trump's election thrust U.S. democracy into great danger. She wanted to document the signs of the forthcoming societal upheaval so she could remember how it occurred.

After a mid-November walk at Val-Kill Eleanor Roosevelt's historic cottage in New York where Siskind reflected on Roosevelt's admonition that "courage is easier than fear," that night she collected and published the first weekly List, at nine items. The next week, The List doubled in size, and has continued to mushroom ever since.

"I do have a sense of humor, and I posted how the list had grown with a chart showing the size of it. I put a little red circle around the first few weeks and I said 'this is when I thought doing a list was a good idea,'" Siskind said. "I didn't have any vision for doing this, but once we got to about week nine, and it started to really take off, now I feel like it's my patriotic duty to continue doing it."

What Siskind has created is a singular, unusual news record that can either be regarded as a weekly digest or a long-term tracking project. It's been consulted by millions, covered in the Washington Post, and archived in the Library of Congress, and the first 52 weeks of The List—from November 2016 to a year later—publish in book form on March 27.

"I wasn't even planning to do a book. I had no desire to do a book, and starting in the spring of 2017 I started getting incoming emails from agents and editors saying 'do you want to do a book' and I could pretty much cut and paste a response to everybody 'when it's over and when this regime is out of power, then let's talk,'" Siskind remembered.

But over the fall, a persistent Bloomsbury editor informed Siskind that her documentation of the first 52 weeks already topped 400 pages. "That was around the time of net neutrality coming under siege, and it was just like a confluence of events, and I said, 'I should do this,'" Siskind remembered.

She has come to see the paper document, in particular its index, as an unalterable, searchable record to the recent past. "I'm glad I did it because I think, now that I read through it, it's a service for people to see what they've forgotten already and to have it as a reference guide," Siskind said.

It has also turned into a consuming part-time job for Siskind, who is still president of her female-empowerment non-profit The New Agenda. With weekly lists averaging more than 100 items,

assembling The List has crept up from 20 hours a week last summer to around 30 hours a week.

"A lot of people say 'I'll take a week off and come back and see what I've missed by reading your list,'" Siskind said. "I haven't had a day to look away from him. I'm doing what I can to cope and it's not a pleasurable experience." Her personal time, she said, has "evaporated."

Siskind sets The List's parameters from Saturday at noon to Saturday at noon, and immediately after the previous week's completion, she starts excavating Twitter for what will become her next set of items. When curating each document, she aims to provide order and context to a hectic news cycle.

"It gives people the perspective of what they missed—I know that people in the media look at it to know what they missed—and I'm hoping it gives people a certain sense of control," Siskind said of the weekly List. "I feel like people tell me all the time that they feel a loss of control, and when they read this list and they see it all there... first of all they weren't making it up, that they were living in chaos, but also it reminds them of these things that happened. Even when I do the List, I'm always shocked when I'm sorting it. Some of the stuff that happened on Monday will feel like 'oh my god, that happened this week? It felt like it happened 4 weeks ago.'"

The themes also help keep the information in the news more vivid. "It's just me telling the story based on what we already know, the boring, nerdy, factual stuff," Siskind said. "I don't give it a point of view, but I might bring it alive by sorting it with other stories that week. Like the Mexican ambassador leaving right after the call with Trump where he refused to say publicly that Mexico would pay for the wall, so the president of Mexico said 'I'm not coming to Washington,' that to me is a thread, and me telling a little bit of a story without me saying 'he left because he finally was exasperated.' I stick them together and let people draw their own conclusions."

Supporting the media is vital to Siskind. "One of the things that pushed me to start the list was [Trump's] attacks on the media the very first week," she said. Yet sometimes she feels that certain stories over-dominate the national narrative. "The week that Devin Nunes' memo came out, we spent the whole week with them focused on that. That was a list with 140 items and they missed 120 of them in terms of focus. And out of those 120 there were probably 20 to 40 that in normal times would be front page stories for weeks," she pointed out.

An obvious concern in the heyday of "fake news" is how to ensure Siskind's own list is credible. "That's really been a challenge," Siskind ad-



Amy Siskind.

Publicity photo by Melanie Acevedo

mitted. "To me the number one paper of record right now is the Washington Post. I'm pretty critical of the New York Times because some of their content is written with a point of view when it shouldn't be and I see that, because I am reporting on dry facts, I'm not putting my opinions in to the list."

She also casts a wide-ranging net. "I think a lot of the international outlets that have a good reputation are very useful to me because they shine a light back on what is happening here," Siskind said. "A lot of the local stories tend to just come from local outlets, and then I have to just trust that they are getting it right. Especially as it relates to what ICE is doing locally. Or a lot of stories about racism or sexism or homophobia are being reported at a local level."

Overall, Siskind's diligence makes for a lot of reading. "If it's in Wired or if it's in another area where I don't have expertise, I have to read the story sometimes several times to really get the gist of all the points," she said. "I read every story from beginning to end because sometimes the most important things are at the very end of the story."

Siskind's finance background makes certain List items stand out to her. "The things that have always struck me throughout The List are two items: One is Deutsche Bank, and how unusual their relationship to Trump and Kushner was," she said. "As a bank they were fined, and they were called the 'global laundromat of Russian money' by The Guardian. So that to me is a story to be told, and what you can't argue with is the paper trail that loans and money provides."

She also finds Cambridge Analytica, recently revealed to have harvested 50 million Facebook profiles prior to the 2016 U.S. presidential election for political research, a compelling List thread.

"One of their subsidiaries is still getting government contracted work, and they are now being investigated in the UK for their role in Brexit," Siskind said. "But there are several weeks where there are items relating to [voting] anomalies

in certain states, always in democratic districts. Where people went to register to vote in certain states, only their blue districts had issues with voter rolls not being complete. And then one of the Republican consulting firms leaving data on 200 million American voters online. There's all sorts of things that come up in The List."

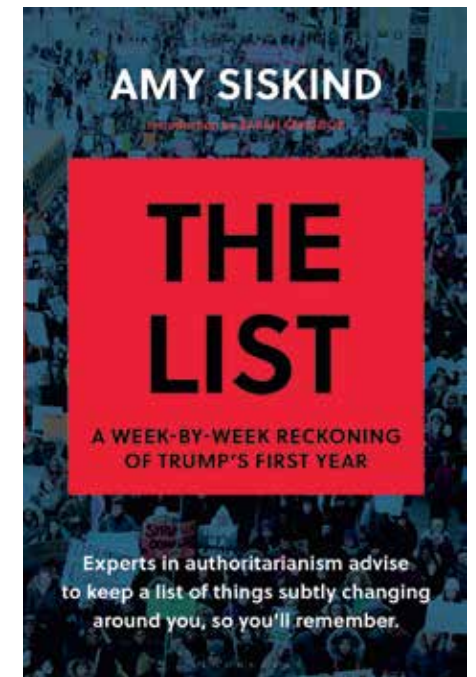
As a lesbian, Siskind feels she can sound the "alarm bell" against LGBTQ community complacency. For her keynote at the ACLU of Illinois's Annual Lunch on March 23, the organization asked her to specifically focus on LGBTQ topics.

"There were so many things that happened in the first 52 weeks and are continuing to happen in our community: making us invisible by having data disappear or taken down from HUD, taken down from the census," Siskind said. "He first makes communities invisible and then he starts to peel away their rights, because if you're invisible, you don't need rights and protections. So that's a theme that I could tell for our community, for Muslim Americans, for immigrants, women, handicapped, the poor. It's a consistent pattern with him."

Already, The List (in book form) could have a huge impact on current events: Siskind is working with billionaire Tom Steyer to deliver copies to members of Congress. Readers often forward the weekly document to their representatives, Siskind said.

"I'm hoping that people can then use [the book] as activism to say, it's sort of the antidote to Fire and Fury in a way—a lot of the stuff there is kind of loose and fast. This has 100 pages of footnotes, triple column, abbreviated, there's no attacking the historical document," Siskind said. "I'm hoping there are uses that I don't even foresee. I didn't have a grand vision for this. I just think in an authoritarian regime, information is power, because information is what's taken away from you."

**ACLU of Illinois's Annual Lunch will be Friday, March 23, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. Signed copies of The List will be available at Women and Children First after the event takes place.**





## BOOKS

# 'Sisters in the Life' spotlights Black lesbian filmmakers

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Anyone who has seen Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* might remember it as a charming, unusual film, a faux documentary set in Philadelphia from a Black filmmaker trying to research a forgotten figure of cinema history. It also plays a pivotal role in the history of Black lesbian filmmaking.

"It is the first time a Black lesbian is making a feature film, and the world of media-making shifts," independent filmmaker Yvonne Welbon told *Windy City Times* about the 1996 movie.

Over time, Welbon has created a database of around 150 films by Black lesbians, and she is the co-editor of the new essay collection *Sisters in the Life*, in which a collection of filmmakers, curators and scholars offer insight into what shaped the contributions of this particular demographic, and what stands out about the work Black lesbians have produced.

Welbon recalled much of the early work, including her own, being autobiographical. "I do think that comes from not having seen oneself in media, and this yearning to see oneself, using the self to tell the story," she explained.

The words of respected director Michelle Parkerson, in an essay first published in the *Advocate* in 1991, open the book. "She was the person that we heard about that existed when we all wanted to become filmmakers," Welbon said of Parkerson. "She had written this seminal piece when all of us were starting off in the '90s: what a great way to start the book, with her words, with her looking and yearning for our future. The book really speaks of this world that she's anticipating."

"I think the early '90s was a very interesting time. Now we have the 'diversity and inclusion moment,' but that was 'multicultural,'" Welbon recalled. "The gay and lesbian film circuit was really gearing up and just growing. The festivals wrote grants to make sure that they had queer people of color at their festivals, and so we would all end up in Los Angeles, or New York or San Francisco. There were these opportunities to keep coming together in spaces that weren't necessarily our home. We're together in these spaces where we're thinking about films, we're seeing each other's work, and we're sharing, and we're all in our 20s or something, so we're all kind of coming of age and growing up together. And that was so amazing and important. And also back then, because there were so few of us, the men and the women, we were together, we would help each other out. I don't see that happening as much right now."

The range of women and work Welbon and her co-editor, film professor Alex Juhasz, includes is fascinating and broad. Obvious standouts like

Pariah Dee Rees, and Angela Robinson, the first Black lesbian to direct a major studio feature film, get their time, but so do local filmmaker Coquie Hughes, adult film director Shine Louise Houston, and multimedia artist Pamela Jennings, in addition to essays on curators and producers.

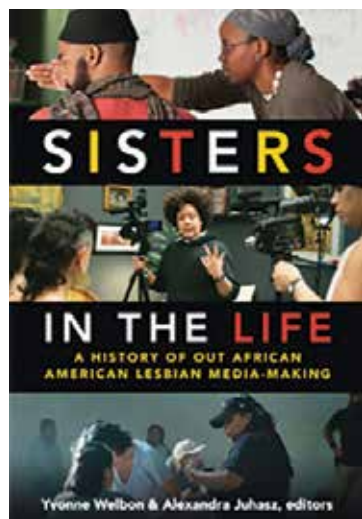
"I thought Pamela Jennings was interesting because when we're all starting off, she was just so out there," Welbon said. "She was like, 'Oh, there's this new software? I'm gonna use it in a project.' We're about the same age, but I'm in film school studying her because she was such an innovator. Even though she was sort of a peer, she also wasn't, and I just felt like that history would be lost if we didn't include her, and it might encourage other people who will read this book to you know think, 'maybe I should do something not along the beaten path.'"

Curator Shari Frilot, who founded Sundance's New Frontier initiative, was another somewhat unique inclusion. "There's a Black lesbian who is at the forefront of looking at new media," Welbon said. "There's filmmaking, but there are all these aspects around filmmaking that make our careers possible, and one of them is, the curator, the programmer at a film festival, and her journey. There are other ways one can be involved in filmmaking, and these other roles are really important to the overall world of Black lesbian media-making."

While the first half of the book showcases the range of the early pioneers, Black lesbian filmmakers found a different objective after *The Watermelon Woman*.

"We don't see as many experimentations or shorts or things of that nature that we explored in the first half of the book," explained Welbon. "And everyone becomes part of the industry of making feature films, that becomes the goal."

Although the shift toward feature-length cre-



Yvonne Welbon.

Photo courtesy of Welbon

ation is clear, beginning around 2008, several factors converged to make webseries another choice medium. In addition to production costs dropping overall and the birth of a now-ubiquitous platform, YouTube, internet service both expanded and gained speed, making uploading and downloading far more possible in more places.

"One of the things I note in the introduction to the second half of the book is the rise of the webseries," Welbon explained. "And those really came out of the South. That is an area that Hollywood's not necessarily looking to, there aren't necessarily film schools down there either. But those women took it into their own hands to tell their stories."

Welbon remembered teaching at a North Carolina college and one of her students—a social work major—telling her she was going to start a webseries, which ended up being relatively successful.

"When you think about work made by directors, we often think about things that we can go to a movie theater to see, or is written about," she explained. "In this book, I focus on a lot of that, feature films that have penetrated and become part of popular culture as we understand it, they had theatrical runs, they were written about, the filmmakers are known among certain circles. But there's also this parallel world that is happening simultaneously, where you're having women who are not going to be part of that popular culture realm, and yet they're creating work that's serving the community, and probably in greater numbers."

*Sisters in the Life* concludes with a brief explanation of the work of the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP). Its impact is obvious to Welbon, who said more than 100 additional films have been made as part of that project.

"One should think about QWOCMAP as a place where one can go to take their first film class," Welbon said.

Welbon said her research shows that gender, rather than race, is perhaps a bigger hurdle to filmmaking success, but Black lesbians are still striving to make their voices heard.

"Independent filmmakers are not trying to be independent," Welbon explained. "They really would like to have a lovely budget to make a film properly. You see that shift happening after *The Watermelon Woman*, when these filmmakers move to that ground, thinking, maybe I can be just like other filmmakers, maybe I can work under a Hollywood model or an industry model, maybe I can get funding to do my work properly. And that takes us to a place where we can become part of popular culture, and join what we understand to be the American movie canon. We understand ourselves a lot through popular culture, so it's really important that the Black lesbian voice is included in that."

*Sisters in the Life: A History of Out African American Lesbian Media-making*, edited by Yvonne Welbon and Alexandra Juhasz, Duke University Press, now available. See <https://www.dukeupress.edu/sisters-in-the-life>.



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Veggie Grill; Baptiste & Bottle brunch

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Fast-casual chain **Veggie Grill** (various locations; <https://www.veggiegrill.com/chicago.html>) may become the new Starbucks.

While a friend and I recently went to the Lake View location at 614 W. Diversey Pkwy., at least three more sites are slated to open by the end of the year, including one that debuted this week in the Loop at 204 W. Lake St. (Overall, it's the brand's 30th location throughout the country.) Other restaurants are also scheduled to open in the River North area (629 N. Wells St.) and the restaurant corridor in the West Loop (911 W. Randolph St.).

And just like Starbucks, Veggie Grill has its devoted fans—and deservedly so.



Masala bowl at Veggie Grill.  
PR photo

I'm not personally a vegetarian or vegan—although I'm beyond declaring the lettuce on a traditional burger as the extent of my consuming of greens. Thankfully, vegan/vegetarian food has evolved in taste over the years, and Veggie Grill is a prime example of that.

At the Lake View location (where we witnessed a constant stream of people entering and ordering items, even during the mid-afternoon), there is an impressive variety of burgers, sandwiches, bowls, tacos and, of course, salads.

Regarding burgers, we tried the very popular VG Beyond Burger and the Buffalo Bomber. Although no one's going to confuse Beyond with, say, a Big

Mac, this sandwich is pretty tasty on its own; I would order it again. As for the Buffalo Bomber (crispy "chickin" tossed with spicy Buffalo sauce, tomato, red onion, lettuce and creamy ranch dressing on a wheat roll), my friend ate it with relish (no pun intended).

Other items also hit high spots while simultaneously convincing me that vegetarian/vegan items might be the way to go—at least occasionally. The tempura green beans are practically addictive, as are the Southeast Asian lettuce wraps (which come unassembled, just so you know). As someone who was raised in the South, Veggie Grill's mac 'n' cheese is not exactly up to snuff—but it still tasted better than I thought it would.

And, believe it or not, manager Denis Luebke said that desserts are particularly popular—and after sampling the carrot cake, I believe him.

Luebke (who's so dedicated to veganism that he has the word "vegan" tattooed on a wrist) also said, "We don't cater to vegetarians and vegans, specifically. We cater to people who want more veggies in their diet." And with the offerings at Veggie Grill, people will certainly want to do so.

And Veggie Grill is closer than you think, as it's on several delivery apps. Enjoy!

#### Baptiste & Bottle brunch

Recently, Windy City Times had an opportunity to sample the new brunch items at **Baptiste &**

**Bottle**, in the Conrad Chicago hotel (85 E. Upper Wacker Dr.; <https://www.baptisteandbottle.com/>)—and the offerings are enticing, indeed. Among the items served were one of the best patty melts this writer has ever had (practically up there with the truffle patty melt at 20 East), along with sweet and savory waffles, biscuits and gravy and other treats.

However, the centerpiece has to be the \$50 chef-driven Bloody Mary, made with Baptiste's new private-label Maker's Mark Bourbon. Reflecting hotel chef Tommy Hines' New Orleans heritage, the drink was served in a large hurricane glass, with toppings like shrimp, caperberries, okra, spicy beans and hush puppies. It's a drink—and a meal.



Brunch dish at Baptiste & Bottle.  
Photos by Andrew Davis



Far left: Marvin Ausby. Above: 2loose. Left: Anthony Genera. Photos from Facebook; Ausby photo by Evgeni Lilyanov



## FULL KIT GEAR

Happy third anniversary! Thursday, January 25.

Photos by Kirk Williamson

## Touche' presents Bear All 8.0

Four sensuous men singing steamy, sweaty songs!

Touché, 6412 N. Clark St. presents Bear All, a night of live music and song, featuring the talent of local gay singers/songwriters on Saturday, March 24. Produced by Scott Free—host of the long running Homolatte music series—Bear All focuses on the passions, lives and sometimes politics of the gay male experience, all in an acoustic setting.

Featured performers in this edition of Bear All include:

—2loose, a solo producer of cyberpunk dance and electric boogie-woogie. He calls his music "grungelectric punk," which combines often quasi-pornographic lyrics with synth-grunge and large doses of humor.

—Marvin Ausby, a multi-disciplinary artist who combines music, spoken word, and dance to tell stories of relationships and intimacy.

—Anthony Gerena, who writes thoughtful and pointed songs using pop, dance and R&B genres. His belting voice propels his songs to highest impact.

Hosting the night's musical program will be local bear comic Bryan Dowling.

A \$10 donation will be requested at the door with all proceeds divided among the featured artists. Showtime is 10 pm and open to all 21 or over.

—From a press release





## BILLY Masters

"Fuck off Caitlyn—you had your chance."—**Kathy Griffin** responds to **Caitlyn Jenner's** sudden realization that "As far as trans issues, this administration has been the worst ever. They've set our community back 20 years, easily." And special kudos to Kathy Griffin—her Carnegie Hall concert sold out in 24 hours! She's back!

According to a recent study, the number-one retirement city in the United States for LGBT seniors is Fort Lauderdale! And I can tell you why. Prior to the '90s, Fort Lauderdale was THE gay vacation spot. Even when South Beach became popular, Ft. Laud never completely lost its appeal. After the motels on the beach were demolished (including the fabled Marlin Beach Resort), the gays moved inland, and Wilton Manors was born. Those people who were partying are now close to being seniors, and they want to live someplace warm. I once read that Fort Lauderdale has more gay businesses per capita than any other U.S. city. All those businessmen and retirees might explain how the city just elected an openly gay mayor! Congrats, Dean Trantalis!

Meanwhile near my other home, **RuPaul** got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The gayla event was hosted by Miss **Jane Fonda!** Ru was also joined by his hubby, Georges LeBar, just days after explaining how their open relationship works: "I know that for him the person he loves the most on this planet is me. I know that; there's no doubt in my mind. So if he needs to do something else somewhere else, I'm fine with that. He would never turn it into something that would make me feel uncomfortable, and I wouldn't do that to him either."

Everyone wants a piece of **Adam Rippon**. When **Justin Sylvester** was interviewing Adam on live TV, the E! host put Adam on the spot and asked him out on a date the next time he's in LA. Of course, Adam said yes ... but not with any enthusiasm. Days later, Rippon finally met Sam Greisman—**Sally Field's** son. It was a chance encounter at the HRC gala where Adam was presenting the Visibility Award. Judging from the pic, I don't believe sparks flew. But they met and I'm sure Sam's happy. It should be noted that the gala took place in LA—sorry Justin!

It was quite a week for **Anderson Cooper**. First, CNN announced that it was slashing his show in half to make room for the inestimable talents of **Chris Cuomo**—who we enjoyed so much during those hurricanes! Days later, Cooper made an announcement: "Benjamin and I separated as boy-friends some time ago. We are still family to each other, and love each other very much. We remain the best of friends, and will continue to share much of our lives together." Before you shed a tear for the Cooper/Maisani breakup, fear not. We hear that Coop is dating a dashing dude from Dallas named Victor Lopez, who is a 33-year-old radiologist. This should not surprise anyone who remembers when Anderson was a guest on Andy Cohen's show in July. When playing a game, Andy was asked what was Anderson's biggest turn-on.



**Adam Rippon has been the apple of at least two guys' eyes.**

PR photo

The answer? "Latinos!"

Last week, I had the great fortune to see **Leslie Jordan** at the Catalina Bar & Grill in Hollywood doing his new show, *Exposed*. In it, he tells tall tales and dishes everyone he's ever met! The show is an absolute delight from beginning to end, and the capacity crowd ate him up. Bravo to producer **Chris Isaacson** for putting together such a swell event. Should you ever get the chance to see Leslie Jordan in person, GO!

As I'm sure you know, **Lorna Luft** recently collapsed backstage in London and has since been diagnosed with a brain tumor. I was told that she's in good shape and has flown back to LA for more tests. I thought back to when Liza had encephalitis and Lorna was pushing her in a wheelchair. Now Lorna's down, and **Liza** (who has moved to LA) might be the one helping out. Who would have ever pegged Liza as the healthy sister?

Speaking of Miss Minnelli, she's auctioning off some memorabilia next month. The auction, called "Love, Liza," will include more than 1,000 lots, including the costume and infamous bowler hat she wore in the film *Cabaret*, her 1971 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow and several items that belonged to her parents. Profiles in History is organizing the auction, and it will take place in Calabasas sometime in late May. In the meantime, Liza is displaying her treasures at the Paley Center in Beverly Hills on April 4-29.

I also went to Rockwell Table & Stage last week to see the divine **Charles Busch** in his intimate cabaret show called *My Kinda 60s*. Accompanied by the solicitous Tom Judson, this pairing works beautifully because the audience loves them both. In fact, love was the theme of the evening—from the songs, to the touching stories Charles shares. Those stories especially stood out. Above all, Charles is a raconteur, so this format works well, and you get just a glimpse of the genius he has to the tips of his glamorous fingers. Speaking of glamour, I was quite taken with Busch's fitted emerald green brocade pant suit, which he described to me as "very Helen Lawson"—and it is!

SIDETRACK PRESENTS

# DRAGAPALOOZA

## LEAD WITH LOVE

TO BENEFIT  
EQUALITY ILLINOIS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

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 POLANCO KHLOE KRISBY FEETFACE THE LADY IVORY MIKKI MIRAJ O'LAYSIA PRIME OPHELIA BULLETT SASHA LOVE SAVANNAH WESTBROOKE SAYA NAOMI TENDERONI AND MORE...

HOSTED BY DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT

9PM SHOWTIME

**ABSOLUT.**

3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM @SIDETRACKBAR NO COVER 21+ W/ID

PREMIERING THURSDAY MARCH 22 7PM/NO COVER

# RuPaul's DRAG RACE

SEASON 10 WATCH & WIN!

WITH DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT & DIDA RITZ

CHICAGO'S OFFICIAL VH1 VIEWING PARTY

This is a particularly prosperous period for Charles Busch. It was just announced that a film is being made of his Broadway smash *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. In a bit of luxury casting, the two female roles will be played by **Bette Midler** and **Sharon Stone**—because when I think of comedy, I think of that wacky Sharon Stone!

In our quick "Ask Billy" question, Kevin in Rhode Island asks, "Who is the hot guy who married Fallon on *Dynasty* last week? He looks like a model."

Because he is a model! His name is **Adam Huber** and he's known for showing off quite a bit of skin, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When Sharon Stone's next project involves a Busch, it's definitely time to end yet another column. As I always say, stick with your strengths! For more than just the bush, check out BillyMasters.com—the site that's certainly not allergic to nudity! Send your questions along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Rippon calls E! to arrange that date! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

WE'RE CHICAGO'S BEST SOURCE FOR  
HAND-MADE & CUSTOM LEATHER CLOTHING

# WE KNOW LEATHER

CUSTOM LEATHER CUSTOM REPAIR FURNITURE RESTORATION

OPEN LATE

**LEATHER64TEN**  
CHICAGO

6410 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 773.508.0900  
WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM



WINDY CITY TIMES

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 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>

**Howard Brown Annual Meeting** Review accomplishments and ongoing work. Awards to The Chicago Community Trust, Kat Fitzgerald. Screening of artist Nick Cave's film, *Up Right*: Detroit, featuring LGBTQ youth from the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit. Refreshments, light bites. RSVP to [events@howardbrown.org](mailto:events@howardbrown.org) by noon, March 21. 6:00pm - 8:00pm The Joffrey Ballet 10 E Randolph Chicago <http://howardbrown.org>

## Thursday, March 22

**Pre-Party for the premiere of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10** See one Queen after another slay the Sidetrack stage. Catch SWAG and SHTICK


**DRAG REEL**  
**Thursday, March 22**

Local events will mark the 10th season debut of 'RuPaul's Drag Race.'  
PR photo of RuPaul

from your hostess with the mostess Dixie Lynn Cartwright. Donations for Equality Illinois will be taken at the door. 3:00pm Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <http://www.facebook.com/>

events/980897905396148/  
**OUT at CHM, Celebrating and Contextualizing Queer Fashion** Panel discussion contextualizes today's queer fashion within fashion history and Chicago's queer past. \$20 or \$15 non-mmembers. 5:30pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark St., <https://www.chicagohistory.org/>

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

## Friday, March 23

**Affinity series on CAN TV** Discussing issues relating to race, gender, sexual orientation, and intersections of marginalized identities. Auestions to Imani at [imani@affinity95.org](mailto:imani@affinity95.org). 6:30pm - 7:30pm CAN-TV, channel 21 <http://affinity95.org>

**Exploring Contemporary Relationships, More Love** Four-session series starts with Kitty Chambliss of the Loving Without Boundaries movement, author

of "Jealousy Survival Guide," and Alternative Relationship Coach with Open Relationship Specialist, Sex Therapist, and Educator Ruby B. Johnson. Free but please RSVP online 7:00pm - 10:00pm Reunion Chicago, 2557 W. North Ave, Chicago <http://couplegoals.club>

## Saturday, March 24

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

**March for Our Lives Chicago Sister March** March for gun control. Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., 11 a.m., <http://www.MarchForOurLives.com/events>

## Sunday, March 25

**PFLAG Meeting** Monthly meeting 3:00pm - 5:00pm First United Church of Oak Park 848 Lake St. Oak Park, IL 60301

## Monday, March 26

**Visit from Haifa Communities' House LGBTQ center** CEO Arnon Allouche, Program Manager Adi Sadaka share experiences building a diverse space in the heart of an integrated Muslim and Jewish neighborhood. (Also see evening event at Center on Halsted.) 12:30pm

DePaul University Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave <http://awiderbridge.org/haifaour/>

**When They Go Low, We Go HAIFA** The Legacy Project presents another in its Legacy LIVE series of programs exploring how history is a living part of our daily lives. Free event. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/LegacyLIVE?erid=7644172&trid=f9db565b-f39d-497b-ba1e-99443c15af47>  
**Meshell Ndegeocello** Out singer-songwriter with a new Prince cover, Ventriloquism. \$28, \$40, \$55, \$75. Tickets on sale soon. 7 and 9:30pm Evanston SPACE 1245 Chicago Ave Evanston, IL 60202 <https://www.ticketweb.com/venue/space-evanston-il/47754?page=3>

## Wed., March 28

**ALMA's LGBTQ Town Hall Meeting** Hosted by ALMA Chicago and Equality Illinois. Discussion on the currents state of the LGBTQ community and pending issues. Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, State Sen. Omar Aquino, State Rep. Will Guzzardi. RSVP to Anamary Torres at [anamarytorres@aol.com](mailto:anamarytorres@aol.com). 6:00pm - 7:30pm Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, 3000 N Elbridge Ave, Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/184870852272110/>

## CLASSIFIEDS

## ADVERTISE HERE

**ADVERTISE HERE:** Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. **To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, [terri@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:terri@windycitymediagroup.com), or go to our website <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/placeclassified.php>.**

## CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES:** We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. [www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com) (11/28/18-52)**

## COUNSELING &amp; PSYCHOTHERAPY

**ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?** Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LPC. Northside location.**

773-404-8161. [Michael@BlandTherapy.com](mailto:Michael@BlandTherapy.com), [www.BlandTherapy.com](http://www.BlandTherapy.com) (9/26/18-52)

## CPA - TAX SERVICES

**CLIENT TAX SAVINGS IS MY PASSION!** Full-service CPA available for tax season individual and business tax filings. Reasonable rates including free year-round unlimited tax consultation. See my website for further money saving info at [www.michaelhinzecca.com](http://www.michaelhinzecca.com). **Michael Hinze, CPA 847-332-2300 [mike@michaelhinzecca.com](mailto:mike@michaelhinzecca.com) (4/4/18-13)**

## HELP WANTED

## ACTIVIST JOBS

Work with Grassroots Campaigns on behalf of one of the nation's leading organizations to stop LGBT bullying.

Fight Hate Groups.  
Teach Tolerance.  
Seek Justice.

Earn \$460-\$620 week

Full-Time / Part-Time  
or Career

Call 312-574-3794

[grassrootscampaigns.com](http://grassrootscampaigns.com)

## HELP WANTED

**ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITS WANTED.** Achieve Personal & Financial FREEDOM. Help us help you help others. It's what we do. Earn while you learn to invest VERY PROFITABLY in Real Estate. **For a brief online overview, call or text your name to 708-292-8778. (3/28/18-4)**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT &amp; PAINTING

**WE MAKE HOLES IN DRYWALL GO AWAY.** We also do Remodeling, Bathrooms, Carpentry, Tile Backsplashes, Painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. **Free Estimates! Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 [www.andyoncallchicago.com](http://www.andyoncallchicago.com) (4/17/19-60)**

## REAL ESTATE

## MORTGAGES

**WWW.LGBTMORTGAGES.COM** 312-539-4271. You can contact EVERY mortgage provider on the planet yourself. OR.....you can let me do it for you. [www.lgbt-mortgages.com](http://www.lgbt-mortgages.com) (3/21/18-1)

**THE LYSTER FIRM**  
ATTORNEYS  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS  
Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years

**TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED**  
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL  
[LysterFirm@aol.com](mailto:LysterFirm@aol.com)  
24/7 Emergency Phone: 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced attorney within minutes who will fight for you

CONNECTIONS



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS! CALL FOR INFO TODAY



**BR** BETANCOURT  
REALTY

(773) 342-7211 [betrealty.com](http://betrealty.com)

## Winning Smile

Dental Group, L.L.C.



Dr. Polly Reese, D.D.S.

Dr. Robert Baima, D.D.S.,  
M.S. Periodontist, Implants

### NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$89 Cleaning, Exam, Cavity Detecting X-Rays  
(unless certain dental condition exist)

2500 Ridge Ave., Ste. 102, Evanston, IL  
847-869-1272 • [winningsmiledentist.com](http://winningsmiledentist.com)

## Ehrlich Dental

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online



Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
(773) 935-0300

[www.EhrlichDental.com](http://www.EhrlichDental.com)



*Serving Lakeview & Beyond!*



ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL  
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUSINESS OWNERS

[www.abd-cpas.com](http://www.abd-cpas.com) • (847) 257-7330

## LOOK YOUNGER WITH A SINGLE VISIT TO YOUR DENTIST

Dr. Sims Dentistry is now offering  
BOTOX®, DERMAL FILLERS, LIP AUGMENTATION  
& PRP WITH MICRONEEDLING

Walk Out of Our Office with a Beautiful Smile:  
Inside and Out



DR. SIMS DENTISTRY  
SMILE BY DESIGN

5503 N. CLARK ST.  
[www.grantsimsdds.com](http://www.grantsimsdds.com)  
Call 773-878-7467  
for a complimentary consultation

Of course, we are still doing our fantastic smile work with  
Teeth Whitening, Veneers & Braces

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

CAR ACCIDENT, WORK INJURY OR ORTHOPAEDIC INJURY

- BACK
- SHOULDER
- ELBOW
- WRIST
- HAND
- HIP
- KNEE
- ANKLE
- FOOT



GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE AND HAND SURGERY  
ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.

Conveniently located at 7200 N. Western Ave., 2nd Floor

312-654-8800

[www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com](http://www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com)

¡Se habla Español!

## The Law Office of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



*When experience counts...  
In service to the community  
for over 35 years.*

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602  
312-263-8800 [RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM](mailto:RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM)

## Alan Sanchez, CPA, P.C.

Accounting Services  
Tax Consultation/Preparation

3418 North Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657-8589

Telephone 773-871-1256  
[www.alansanchezcpa.com](http://www.alansanchezcpa.com)

## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



PROBATE  
TRUSTS  
GUARDIANSHIP  
ESTATE PLANNING  
ELDER LAW

312.985.5938 | [rkoenig@clarkhill.com](mailto:rkoenig@clarkhill.com)

Clark Hill is a multidisciplinary, national law firm that draws on our attorneys' industry and policy knowledge, our deeply held shared values, and a global network of premier firms and advisors to provide innovative legal solutions and client-service excellence worldwide.

CLARK HILL

[clarkhill.com](http://clarkhill.com)

# KATHY GRIFFIN

**LAUGH YOUR HEAD OFF**  
WORLD TOUR



**ON  
SALE  
FRIDAY!**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 28**



Presented by **CHASE**



**THE  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN  
COMPANY**

TICKETS AT [LIVENATION.COM](http://LIVENATION.COM). TICKETMASTER OR CHARGE-BY-PHONE: (800) 745-3000

**LIVE NATION**