

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 33, NO. 36 MAY 23, 2018

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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International Mr. Leather 1983.  
Photo courtesy of Leather Archives & Museum

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## 'Bull in a China Shop' looks at real-life lesbian couple

Kelli Simpkins (sitting) and Emjoy Gavino star in Bull in a China Shop.  
Photo by Anna Gelman

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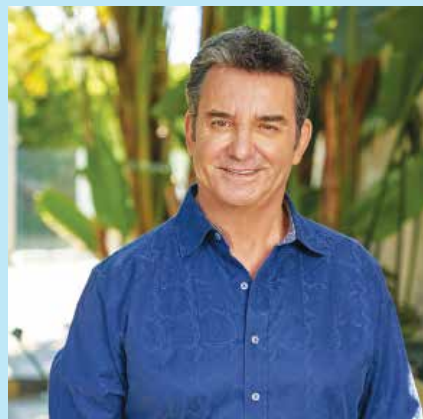
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Above: WCT reviews Mind Reader (on page 24).  
Photo by Sarah Larsononline exclusives at  
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## ROCK STEADY

Bent Nights covers a show from the colorful rocker Andrew W.K..  
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## 'OPPOSITE' ATTRACTS

The Showtime documentary Beyond the Opposite Sex covers the journeys of two transgender individuals.  
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# Advocates launch drive for LGBT senior resources

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The LGBT-advocacy organizations Pride Action Tank and the OUTAging Committee announced the launch of a comprehensive, three-pronged initiative to bring resources to LGBT seniors on May 21.

The initiative was announced by its principal participants at a press conference at AARP's Chicago headquarters. The launch comes a year after the OUTAging Conference gathered LGBT- and aging-related concerns from advocates, service providers and community members in May 2017.

Committee members spent a year "sifting through the information" culled from the two-day conference, said Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt, who added that cultural competency in senior LGBT issues among service providers and accessibility of safe and affordable housing emerged as the most common concerns.

Given that about 146,000 Chicagoans identify as LGBT—and that only the Town Hall apartment complex in Lake View, with 79 units, is the only development aimed at LGBT seniors—"Addressing the needs of LGBT older adults is not something we cannot just build our way out of," said Hunt.

Three major themes emerged from the data and anecdotes compiled by the project's principals, according to a May 17 press release, among them that there is a general lack of knowledge about how to access support and resources for LGBT seniors; that those LGBT seniors want strong social networks and communities; and lastly that there is a strong need for systematic and institutional reform in Illinois to better get resources in place.

As such, a key recommendation emerging from the study is for a comprehensive LGBT Older Adult Competency Training for state funded project participants and service providers working with older adults.

Cultural competency, said activist Donald Bell at the press conference, should be defined as the mark of "a professional community able to serve us as our true selves."

Indeed, Britta Larson, Center on Halsted's senior services director, said that some 80 percent of LGBT seniors must return to the closet in most assisted living facilities because of harassment, bullying and discrimination from providers and peers.

Advocates must strive to make sure that those seniors can be "out and proud," Larson added.



Standing, from left: Britta Larson, Terri Worman, Mona Noriega, Kim Hunt, Imani Rupert-Gordon and Matthew Vail. Seated: Donald Bell.

Photo by Matt Simonette

The initiative's organizers will next hold community meetings mid- to late-summer to get public input on their findings, Hunt said.

The OUTAging Committee includes representatives from AARP, Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, SAGE (Advocacy & Services for Older Adults) and The Care Plan, as well as a number of community members.

Bell praised the organizations that took a role

in the project, adding, "I am delighted that they have decided to be allies to my community."

Also speaking at the press conference were Chicago Commission on Human Rights Commissioner Mona Noriega; AARP Associate Director for Advocacy and Outreach Terri Worman; and Matthew Vail, a social worker at Rush University Medical Center.

The report is available at [prideactiontank.org/projects/outaging/](http://prideactiontank.org/projects/outaging/).

## 'OUT of the Office' June 6 at I/O Godfrey

OUT of the Office 2018 will take place Wed., June 6, 6-8 p.m., at the I/O Godfrey rooftop lounge, 127 W. Huron St.

Event beneficiaries Affinity Chicago and Chicago House will host a special pre-reception at 5-6 p.m. The reception enjoys libations, raffle and early access to lounge seating for the party.

Event founder Andrew Hayes is chairing this year's event with Brad Edwards (CBS 2 Chicago) and Mika Stambaugh (TMI & Susan G. Komen Chicago).

Admission is \$15-\$50 each (no refunds); see "OUT of the Office 2018" on Eventbrite.com.

## Non-binary support group to meet May 23

Two nonbinary community members are facilitating a support group for adults who identify as nonbinary and is interested in attending a two-hour meeting every Wednesday for 10 weeks beginning May 23.

The group will be held Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 1147 S. Wabash Ave. Facilitators are asking for a \$10 suggested donation to pay for snacks.

The group is for nonbinary folks who want to engage in a group dynamic for sharing their gender experiences, discuss successes and difficulties, and share resources with other nonbinary folks. During the first meeting, group members will decide what topics are valuable to their current life circumstances.

This is the second nonbinary group that Mare Fanslow (they/them) and Jes Scheinpflug (they/them) will co-facilitate. The first group ran for eight weeks from January to March in Uptown.

For more information and to access a related application, visit [www.jessss.com/nb-support](http://www.jessss.com/nb-support).

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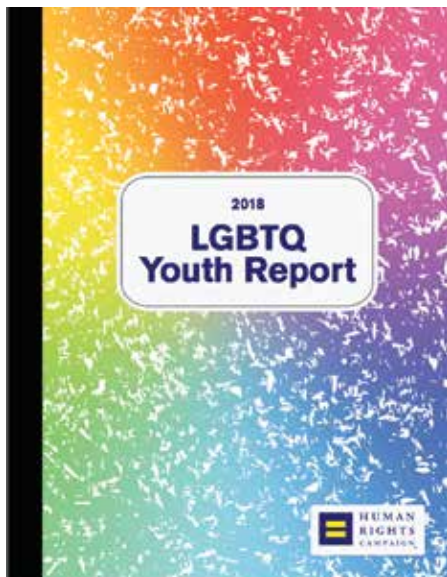
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## Report: Bias hurts LGBTQ teens' health

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation and the University of Connecticut released the largest-of-its-kind survey ever of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teenagers (ages 13-17, in this case) across the nation—revealing the constant challenges they face at home, at school and in their communities.

The participants took place in the 2017 LGBTQ Health Survey.

HRC and researchers at the University of Connecticut found that:

—Seventy-seven percent of LGBTQ teenagers surveyed report feeling depressed or down over the past week;

—Ninety-five percent of LGBTQ youth report trouble sleeping at night;

—LGBTQ youth of color and transgender teenagers experience unique challenges and elevated stress—only 11 percent of youth of color surveyed believe their racial or ethnic group is regarded positively in the United States, and more than 50 percent of trans and gender expansive youth said they can never use school restrooms that align with their gender identity;

—More than 70 percent report feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness in the past week;

—Only 26 percent say they always feel safe in their school classrooms—and just five percent say all of their teachers and school staff are supportive of LGBTQ people; and

—Sixty-seven percent report that they have heard family members make negative comments

about LGBTQ people.

The research also points to some positive trends illuminating the resilience of LGBTQ young people, such as:

—Ninety-one percent of youth report feeling pride in being an LGBTQ person, and 93 percent are proud to be a part of the community; and

—Three out of five LGBTQ students have access to a LGBTQ student club—which has been shown to have a positive impact on the perceptions LGBTQ youth have of their school experiences and can provide support to those who may face hostile environments at home or in their communities.

The 2018 LGBTQ Youth Report is at <https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/2018-Youth-Report-NoVid.pdf>.

## Lesbian scientist Neena Schwartz dies

Northwestern University reproductive biologist Neena Schwartz—who discovered the hormone inhibin and its role in the regulation of reproductive cycles—died April 15, according to *The Scientist*, a magazine for life-science professionals. She was 91.

Among other accomplishments, Schwartz founded the American Women in Science (AWIS) in 1971 and was a president of the Endocrine So-

ciety in the early 1980s.

Schwartz was born in Baltimore; she earned her undergraduate degree from Goucher College, and received her doctorate from Northwestern University in 1953.

She also wrote about being lesbian, telling *BoingBoing* in 2010, “In science, you work in unusually close quarters with other people, and you don’t talk much about your personal life. But if nobody asks you, and you never tell, your sexuality becomes like this elephant in the room.”

The full article is at <https://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/52453/title/Trailblazing-Endocrinologist-Neena-Schwartz-Dies/>.

## Grauer to leave A Wider Bridge

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Laurie Grauer announced May 16 that she was leaving her position as Midwest Manager of the LGBT Israel advocacy organization A Wider Bridge (AWB).

In 2017, Grauer and others were asked to leave the Dyke March when they carried a rainbow flag with a Star of David upon it. A weeks-long controversy subsequently ensued. Grauer had been with AWB since 2015.

In a statement to AWB supporters, Grauer said, “Though I am moving on from this role, and will miss working with you, I know that your continued presence and support will continue to be a key ingredient to A Wider Bridge’s success. Together we’ve helped Midwest LGBTQ communities experience greater understanding and engagement with Israel and its LGBTQ communities, and in less than three years, many of you have had a direct hand in this change.”

Note: Reporter Matt Simonette travelled to Israel with AWB in late 2016.

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# Unprecedented seven LGBT candidates for governor

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Only in recent years, the LGBT community has been able to support one or two openly LGBT candidates for governor.

In 2014, it was two—Mike Michaud in Maine and Heather Mizeur in Maryland—and they lost. In 2016, it was one—Kate Brown in Oregon—and she won. There are currently seven competing in primaries around the country, including an actor in New York, a Congressman in Colorado, a zookeeper in Oklahoma, and the first transgender candidate for governor.

One, Kate Brown in Oregon, is expected to win the Democratic nomination handily this week and win her third term in November. The other six candidates are newcomers on the gubernatorial landscape, all but one are Democrats, and their odds are mixed. Here's a quick primer on who is running, where, and when:

—Oregon, May 15, Kate Brown:

Incumbent Democratic Gov. Kate Brown defeated two opponents in the May 15 primary.

Brown, who is married to a man but identifies as bisexual, was Secretary of State in Oregon before being sworn in as governor when the incumbent resigned in scandal. She's pushed progressive goals on a number of issues, including immigration, access to safe abortions, gun control, and banning "conversion therapy."

Her biggest challenges in seeking re-election are likely to revolve around state laws protecting



**Cynthia Nixon.**  
Photo from official campaign website

immigrants, underfunded state employee pensions, and a controversial tax break she wants to give small businesses. But, as the incumbent, she has the name recognition and a long-standing involvement in state elective politics.

Brown is the first and only openly LGBT person to be elected governor of any state (she was elected to the office in her own right in a 2016 special election). She has won the endorsement of the Human Rights Campaign and a special

"Game Changer" (or high profile) designation from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"Kate Brown is a champion of equality who has fought for the LGBTQ community throughout her career, helping to improve the lives of countless people," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "As the nation's first openly bisexual governor, Kate Brown has worked tirelessly to make the principles of fairness and equality a priority for Oregon."

Campaign site: Kate Brown for Oregon (<https://katebrownfororegon.com/>)

—Texas, May 22, Lupe Valdez:

Polls say Texas' incumbent Republican governor is as "safe" as Oregon's Democrat. But Lupe Valdez has a history of beating the worst of odds. She first earned national attention when she became the first lesbian sheriff anywhere in the nation—in Dallas, Texas. Consider that she started life as the eighth child of migrant workers of Mexican descent in San Antonio, and consider that she won election to sheriff four times as a Hispanic lesbian Democrat (the first time was against a highly favored white Republican 30-year male veteran of the sheriff's department), and it's clear that tough odds don't stop Valdez.

As a young person, Valdez worked her way through college, joined the Army, rising to the rank of captain, then joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Valdez has a lot going for her in the May 22 run-off seeking the Democratic nomination, even though she's running against the son, Andrew White, of a former Texas governor, Mark White. In the initial primary, Valdez won 43 percent of the vote against White and seven other Democrats, and White earned only 27 percent. Valdez's campaign has already attracted attack ads from Republican incumbent Governor Gregory Abbott, calling her too "liberal" for Texas.

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination has an uphill climb to win the governor's seat. Texas hasn't elected a Democrat for governor since 1990. And Governor Abbott reportedly has a \$40 million war chest.

The Victory Fund has designated Valdez as a "Game Changer" or "high profile" candidate. She's also won the endorsement of the political action committee of Equality Texas and five Texas chapters of Stonewall Democrats. (The Houston GLBT Political Caucus backed White. According to Out-Smart magazine, the group believed White would be a more viable challenger to Republican Abbott in November. And White vowed to "fight hard" for LGBTQ equality.)

According to the Texas Tribune, White has almost \$1 million in his campaign coffers, compared to \$57,000 for Valdez.

Campaign site: Lupe Valdez for Governor (<https://www.lupevaldez.com/>)

—Colorado, June 26, Jared Polis:

Jared Polis is best known to the LGBT community as the most senior of six openly LGBT members of the U.S. House. But he was a bit of a superstar long before that. While in college, he created internet-based companies that he sold when he got out of college for hundreds of millions of dollars. He used his wealth to promote

technology education, improved schools, and renewable energy sources, and to run for political office. He's been in Congress for 10 years and, now, he's pouring \$6 million of his fortune into a bid to become governor of Colorado.

Polis has a tough race on his hands, just trying to secure the Democratic nomination. His chief obstacles are the three other Democrats seeking the nomination and one of them, former state treasurer Cary Kennedy, has been snaring many of his supporters in the pro-education crowd. The most recent poll showed Polis in the lead but Kennedy's second place was within the margin of error. In fact, at a statewide Democratic convention April 14, Kennedy trounced Polis, 62 percent to Polis' 33 percent. The Denver Post suggested that Polis lost at least a few votes at the convention because of his sexual orientation. The paper said some participants in the assembly said they were afraid that Polis' being gay could "make Polis a harder sell to more conservative voters in November."

Campaign site: PolisForColorado.com

—Maryland, June 26, Rich Madaleno:

Rich Madaleno looks like a governor Hollywood might generate: tall, well-groomed, graying hair, rimless eyeglasses, serious listener—he could do well in a young FDR look-a-like competition. And though he is a politician—currently a state senator—his campaign photos and videos are anything but political convention.

In one campaign video, Madaleno sits with spouse Mark Hodge, reading out loud some of the hate-filled tweets they've received since Madaleno announced he was running for governor. "Your sexual radicalism is bad for Maryland" and "Homosexuality and gender identity disorder are preventable and treatable. A very good ex-gay clinic is located in Maryland." They also share a video about their family, which includes two adopted children. Their son, Jackson, age 10, says his family is "not that different" just because his dad is a state senator.

Polls suggest Madaleno has an uphill battle to secure the Democratic nomination in Maryland in a field of seven candidates. Dramatically, one of the frontrunners recently collapsed and died of a heart attack. But Madaleno is still in the single digits behind two better known figures: Rushern Baker, executive of the state's second largest county, and Ben Jealous, former president of the NAACP. And incumbent Republican Governor Larry Hogan looks hard to beat.

Campaign site: Madaleno for Maryland (<http://madalenoformaryland.com/>)

—Oklahoma, June 26, Joe Maldonado:

Joe Maldonado is a zookeeper. Since 14, he's been rescuing animals displaced by wild fires and has expanded the practice into the Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation to take in "unwanted" animals, including lions, tigers, and bears. But the business has been cited by the USDA for failure to provide adequate care to the animals, and several animal protection agencies have reported abuses by the facility.

Maldonado's campaign website sports a photo of him, sporting a half-bleached blond hairstyle



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# Chicago street renamed in honor of Chuck Renslow

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Dozens of community members gathered just outside Full Kit Gear, 5021 N. Clark St., the afternoon of May 19 as a portion of Clark Street was renamed in honor of gay businessman Chuck Renslow, who passed away in June 2017.

Renslow, the proprietor of the former Man's Country bathhouse on the same block, owned a number of businesses and was especially active in Chicago Democratic politics in the 1970s and '80s. He also published GayLife newspaper before that folded in 1986, and founded the annual International Mr. Leather competition, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Renslow's longtime partner, Ron Ehemann, emceed the brief unveiling ceremony, noting that, while he obviously knew Renslow as a "family man," it was Renslow's spiritual side that for him left behind the most indelible impression.

"On the most intimate level, I knew him as a spiritual person," Ehemann recalled, noting that Renslow's guiding principle was always, "Do what thou wilt."

As such, Ehemann awarded the first "How Great Thou Art" awards, intended to recognize exemplary service to the local LGBT community. The 2018 recipients were activist Lori Cannon as well Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim, who along with Owen Keehnen authored the Renslow biography *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*. Ehemann also acknowledged Full Kit Gear's Chip Beam for helping him to organize his affairs and priorities following Renslow's death. The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce and 47th Ward Ald. Ameya Pawar helped to get the street dedi-

cation confirmed.

Speaking about the impact Renslow's life and career had on the community, Ehemann said, "Chuck belonged to many more people than me."



Ron Ehemann.

Photo by Matt Simonette



Top: The street-sign reveal. Bottom: Group at Chuck Renslow street dedication. Photos by Tracy Baim



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### 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%).

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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.



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

## GOVERNOR from page 6

and wearing six earrings and an eyebrow piercing. His nickname is "Joe Exotic." On his first day as governor, he wants to pardon all people convicted on non-violent marijuana-related crimes. He also echoes some of President Trump's themes: run the government like a business, slash the number of government regulations and agencies, cut taxes—with one major exception: Maldonado wants "open borders."

Maldonado is one of three candidates for the Libertarian Party nomination for governor in Oklahoma. Polls in the state strongly suggest Oklahoma voters will choose a new Republican governor in November to replace Republican Governor Mary Fallin who is term-limited.

Campaign site: Joe Maldonado for Governor (<http://joexoticforgovernor.com/>)



**Jared Polis.**  
Official head shot

hasn't announced yet but is expected to run. Notably, an incumbent governor has not lost in Vermont since 1962.

Hallquist is making history as the state's first openly transgender candidate for public office. She's a former chief executive of the Vermont Electric Cooperative who was very open with the public about her male-to-female transition in 2015. She's also transitioned from Republican to Democrat. It's a long way to the primary, but

—Vermont, Aug. 14, Christine Hallquist:

Various polls say Vermont will retain a Republican governor in the 2018 general election, but Christine Hallquist is one of three candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to run for that office. Even though Vermont is a progressive state in many ways (it was one of the first to approve marriage for same-sex couples), Republican incumbent Governor Phil Scott is a maverick. He signed three bills to reduce the availability of rapid-fire guns in the state, and he's proposed massive cuts in public education funding. Scott



**Joe Maldonado.**  
Photo from official campaign website

so far, the newspapers and the state Democratic party appear to be warming up to Hallquist as a viable candidate.

Campaign site: Christine for Vermont (<https://www.christineforvermont.com/>)

—New York, Sept. 13, Cynthia Nixon:

The three latest polls in New York show incumbent Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo with a double-digit lead over actor-activist Cynthia Nixon

of "Sex in the City" fame. But the main problem for Nixon, according to one of those polls, is that "only half the electorate knows her."

That's ironic, given she's an Emmy Award-winning actor on the hit HBO series "Sex in the City." The series ended 14 years ago, but Nixon's been busy in films and on stage since then, winning a second Emmy, two Tonys, and a Grammy. And she's gotten very little attention for her years of work promoting better public schools, ousting state legislators who opposed marriage for same-sex couples, and speaking to groups about the importance of screening for breast cancer (she is a survivor).

There is talk that Nixon, if she loses the Democratic primary, will run in November under the Working Families Party banner.

Nixon was born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, graduated from New York public schools and is now a parent to three children attending public schools and married to education organizer Christine Marinoni.

Nixon's Cynthia for New York campaign has begun to bring up rumors that Governor Cuomo, while running his father Mario Cuomo's successful campaigns for governor in the 1970s, used anti-gay tactics to defeat his primary opponent, Mayor Ed Koch.

Campaign site: Cynthia for New York (<https://cynthiafornewyork.com/>)

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## Gay boxer named grand marshal of 2018 Pride Parade

Orlando "El Fenomeno" Cruz, the first openly gay active professional boxer, is scheduled to serve as grand marshal of the Chicago 49th Annual Pride Parade that will kick off Sunday, June 24, at 12 p.m.

According to a press release, when he came out in 2012, Cruz stated, "I want to be true to myself. I want to be the best role model I can be for kids who might look into boxing as a sport and a professional career. I have and will always be a proud Puerto Rican. I have always been and always will be a proud gay man."

His talents enabled him to represent Puerto Rico at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and to win the World Boxing Organization's featherweight title in 2016. He has held four world boxing titles. Cruz currently operates a gym in Puerto Rico where young athletes train to improve and potentially become professional athletes themselves. He will be fighting in the near future again for another world title in boxing.

Also, he was among the first class of inductees into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

On June 16, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center will honor Cruz as "king" of the Chicago Puerto Rican People's Parade.



**Orlando Cruz.**  
Photo from official campaign website

## AFC releases HIV/HCV Drug Guide

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has released its HIV and Hepatitis C Drug Guide.

Each year, AFC conducts a review of the Medicaid Health Plans available to people living with HIV on each of the operating Illinois Medicaid health plans. While this information is updated regularly via plans and the state, it provides a snapshot at the different general levels of coverage and the particular drugs being offered in each plan.

AFC staff collected the information in April to help people with HIV choose a Medicaid health plan.

The guide is at <https://www.aidschicago.org/resources/content/9/3/3/documents/mco-plan-assessment-2.pdf>. In addition, AFC's navigators are at 312-784-9060.

## PFLAG Mother's Day 'Kisses' raise \$3,000

The annual PFLAG "Kisses from Mom" fundraiser at Sidetrack on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, raised about \$3,000.

PFLAGers handed out kisses (both chocolate and real) to patrons and passers-by and asked

for donations. Fifty percent of the money that is raised at this event goes directly to the PFLAG Council and is used primarily for their spot in the Chicago Pride Parade. The other 50% is divided up amongst the chapters that volunteer.

"Kisses from Mom" Coordinator Marcia Prichason, from the Hinsdale PFLAG, said: "Volunteering for the 'Kisses' event is always personally satisfying, as we receive such a warm welcome! There are also so many poignant stories."

One PFLAG mom stated: "A young man said he had called his mom to wish her a happy Mother's Day, but she would not talk to him." Another man said with tears in his eyes that he had sent flowers to his mom and that she actually called him to say, "thank you." Yet another proudly paraded his mother in front of him as he hugged and kissed all, saying, "this is my mom!"

## Queer Prom on June 1

Queer Prom 2018 will take place Friday, June 1, 6:30-11 p.m., at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.

The 13th annual Queer Prom will feature dancing, food and information booths about LG-BTQ youth and allies.

Tickets are \$20-\$30 each; visit "Queer Prom 2018" on Facebook.

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Volunteer information sessions will be held on June 2 at 10 a.m. and June 12 at 7 p.m. at Gompers Park Field House, 4222 West Foster Avenue, in Chicago.

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# Advocates, health providers laud new PrEP approval

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Local HIV/AIDS advocates and health officials hailed a decision by the Food and Drug Administration approving the use of the oral medication Truvada as a PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) intervention for adolescents.

PrEP has been shown to be over 90 percent effective in preventing new infections for at-risk individuals. Truvada was approved for PrEP for adult patients in 2012.

The approval was announced May 15 in a statement from Foster City, California-based Gilead Sciences, the drug's manufacturer.

"By expanding the number of at-risk individuals who can consider Truvada as a prevention option, we have taken another important step toward helping to reduce HIV transmission rates and improve public health in the United States," said Andrew Cheng, MD, chief medical officer for Gilead Sciences. "Gilead is committed to addressing unmet needs in HIV prevention and treatment and we look forward to continuing that work with our research and advocacy partners."

According to Gilead, Truvada for PrEP is now

indicated in combination with safer sex practices to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 in at-risk adults and adolescents weighing at least 35 kilograms. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adolescents and young adults comprise about 21 percent of new HIV infections.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago Senior Director of Prevention Advocacy and Gay Men's Health Jim Pickett called the approval "a huge win." He noted that, though providers could previously prescribe Truvada as PrEP for adolescents previously, it was designated as an off-label prescription, which many physicians are reluctant to write. Furthermore, patients frequently had difficulty receiving financial assistance to help pay for Truvada off-label, which is extremely costly.

"The fact that it is now an on-label prescription provides a lot of reassurance," he said.

Pickett further praised the work of the staff at Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center at Stroger Hospital, which participated in research that ultimately went into the FDA decision, adding, "Now it's up to all of us to make good on it."

Lisa Henry-Reid, MD, who is chair of the di-



Lisa Henry-Reid, MD.

Photo courtesy of Henry-Reid

vision of adolescent medicine and young adult medicine at Stroger Hospital, acknowledged that getting the word out about PrEP and its potential to help youth would be a challenge, but said the intervention could be an "important part of the toolbox" in preventing new infections among that demographic.

"Our Chicago Department of Public Health and

Illinois Department of Public Health need to be a leader in this effort, in particular for our Chicago Public Schools system, to engage around this message," explained Henry-Reid. "This is really a big deal in terms of prevention."

## UIC seeks director of gender/sexuality center

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is seeking applicants for the position of director of the Gender and Sexuality Center.

The director is responsible for the administrative leadership and management of the Center, and oversees all operations of the Center. This includes development and administration of programs and activities that provide faculty, staff and students' knowledge of issues relating to the LGBTQIA+ communities.

This position promotes an inclusive environment that facilitates LGBTQIA+ students' advancement, growth and development through advocacy, policy development and institutional intervention to support diversity on campus.

A minimum of a master's degree in a relevant field is required; Ph.D. candidates should have expertise on issues relating to LGBTQIA+ communities.

For fullest consideration, submit an application at <https://jobs.uic.edu/>, click on the job board and then the job, and upload a resume and cover letter by Wed., Aug. 8.



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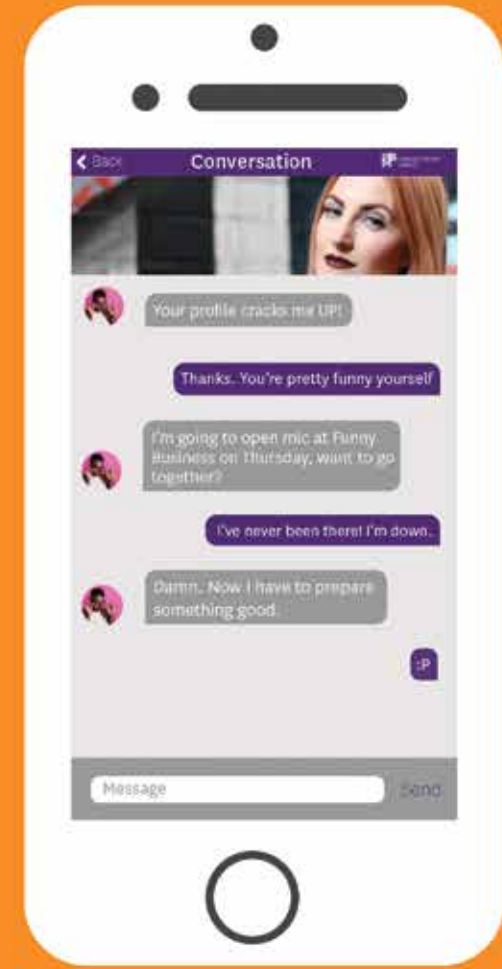
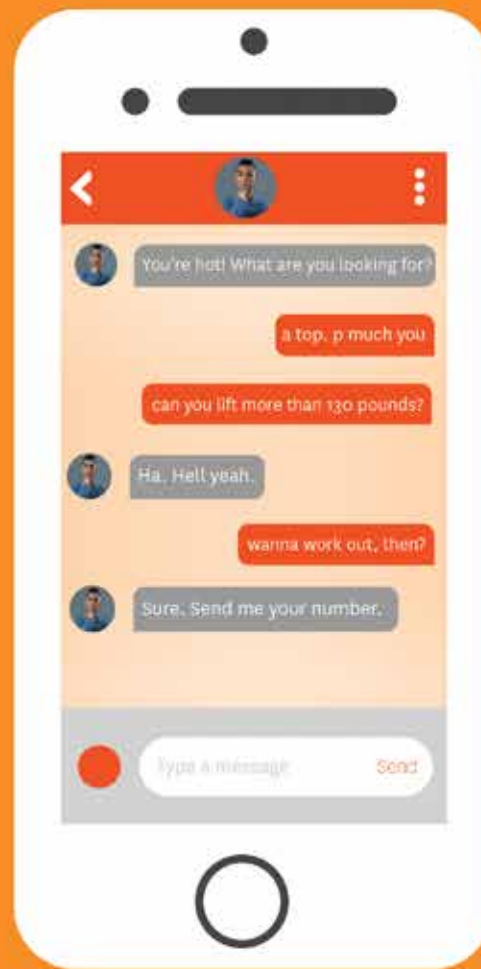
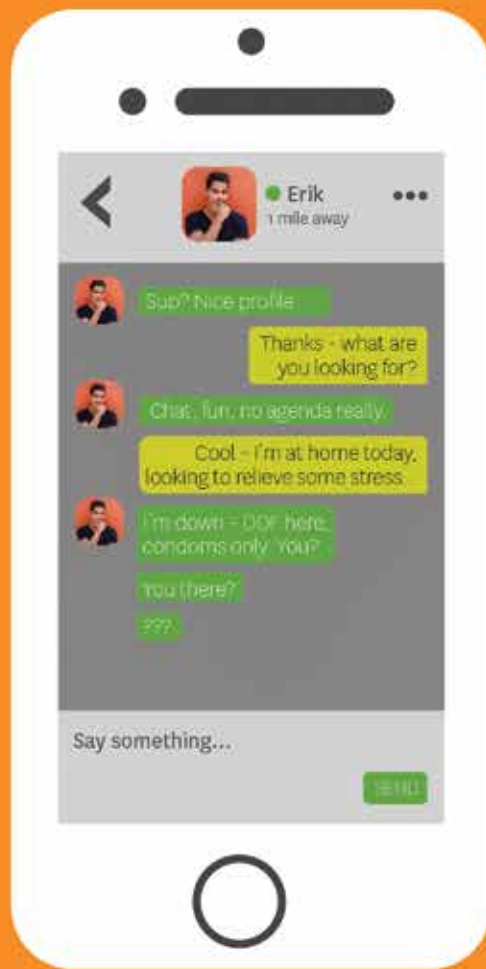
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# LGBTQI-inclusive initiatives at Urban Prairie Waldorf School

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Urban Prairie Waldorf School, on Chicago's South-west Side, began more than a decade ago with the goal of educating students from early childhood to eighth grade in the traditional Waldorf model of engaging the whole child intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

Waldorf students are encouraged to be curious, compassionate and self-reliant. They also use critical thinking skills in every subject area.

The school has also added LGBTQI-affirming policies in recent years. Sexual orientation non-

discrimination language is featured online and in the print handbook, all faculty and staff have pronouns included on the school's website, a transgender and non-binary students and community members gender affirmation policy has been added in the last year, the school's first-floor bathrooms are gender neutral, LGBTQI history representation is being woven into each grade's curriculum and the 8th grade human fertility class includes LGBTQI human reproduction instruction.

Local intersex advocate and speaker Pigeon Pagonis visited the eighth-grade human-fertility

class to share their experience with the students. Staff has also gone through training with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and facilitate Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) seminars monthly where they learn about their own implicit bias when creating their curriculum.

On March 31, Urban Prairie held its first school-wide Trans Day of Visibility event. The day was focused on bringing consciousness and visibility to the trans and gender nonconforming community. Each teacher chose activities that were age-appropriate and would meet the developmental needs of his or her students and the eighth-grade students volunteered to lead many of the day's activities. Younger children heard gender creative fairytales and stories. One grade had older students role-play how to ask someone about their pronouns in a respectful way. The transgender flag was painted in watercolor by some students while others passed out homemade pins in the colors of the flag.

There was pushback from some parents due to the Trans Day of Visibility event. A few students were kept home that day while some other par-



**Mx. Jillian Miller with one of their students.**  
Photo courtesy of Urban Prairie

Join event chairs  
**Brad Edwards**  
**Andrew Hayes**  
& **Mika Stambaugh**  
as they

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ents, whose children were at the school that day, told the school afterward they would not be returning for the 2018-19 school year.

Although there was a small percentage of parents who reacted negatively to the Trans Day of Visibility event, the rest of the school community has been supportive.

"Urban Prairie's value of LGBTQI-inclusivity is based in love—a love and appreciation for each child [and parent] who comes to our school," said Urban Prairie Director of Community Development Heather Berhalter. "We strive to be a school that presents 'mirrors' and 'windows' for every child and their experience. A 'window' is an opportunity within the curriculum to see into and value another person's experience. A 'mirror' is a curricular opportunity to have your own existence reflected back to you in a way that is affirming of your humanity. This method seamlessly interweaves love for the other and self worth into our everyday learning in the classroom. When all of the children feel seen, loved and valued, they are available for the real work of school—learning and growing. Our transgender and non-binary students and community members policy gives the structure to support this basic value of our school."

"The Urban Prairie curriculum is probably one of the most accepting and inclusive environments I have ever experienced," said 8th grade student Siah Berlatsky. "For anybody who is thinking about going to this school, they will have a phenomenal experience. They will be taught to love and respect themselves for who they are."

"It is important that we recognize, honor and accept trans and non-binary people for who they are," said 8th grade student Cecilia Cowen. "Learning more about this community and talking about the issues they face is very helpful for any middle school student."

"Urban Prairie has been the most supportive school I have been a part of," said 8th grade student Elliot Bushell. "I would consider this school

to be a safe space for me. The teachers and community on the whole are very warm and friendly. I do not think I will be able to find a place like Urban Prairie in the future."

"I am excited and happy that the school is striving to be a more inclusive place and that festivals like Trans Day of Visibility allow our students to be more compassionate and understanding," said Movement and Games Teacher and 8th grade math teacher Adriana Kondrat. "It was a bit surprising to see some community members be apprehensive to the festival and the other affirming initiatives that are occurring. As an educator, my highest priority is the safety and well being of the children. When we offer a curriculum that show the breadth and depth of human experiences, we support each student's individuality while developing their capacity to meaningfully engage with the other."

"It is incredible to work in a school with incredible faculty who care so deeply for their students," said 9th grade teacher Meredith Merchant. "It allows the space for developing adolescents to move into their true selves with freedom. Being a teen is hard enough, if we can help clear the path through affirmation and love, then we have done our jobs."

"Having a transgender policy for our school is something I support," said Urban Prairie parent Briana Villarrubia. "In 2016, after a discussion with our pedagogical chair around transgender identity, I offered to have my sister and niece come talk to our faculty, staff and parents about our family's transgender journey. The intention was to support and educate others about transgender issues and start a conversation around acceptance and understanding. Research shows depression and suicides are probable outcomes for transgender individuals. If there is a way to avoid this through education and communication, to encourage acceptance of differences, I am happy to participate and support this conversation."

"I believe the push back in our school around our transgender policy reflects what we see in the world. The Waldorf idea of community and the verse shared at our Parent Council meetings states that, 'A community is healthy only when the whole community takes shape in the mirror of the human soul, and the force of the individual soul lives in the community.' I believe our school wants all people to feel welcome and that our policy is an opportunity to continue a conversation that will strengthen our community and world."

"Our family is very happy with the school," said Urban Prairie parent Sarah Steedman. "The school faculty and staff are progressive and forward thinking in many areas, but particularly of note is they provide a safe place for all students to express their true selves without fear. For the students, this meant receiving age appropriate education on how to be inclusive with everyone in our school community as well as the wider community."

"Our two kids transferred to Urban Prairie from CPS where they were both struggling for different reasons, one with their gender identity and the other academically and socially. They were begging us to find a different kind of school to go to because they were so stressed out. Both of our children are now thriving. I credit a lot of their joy and the rewarding friendships they have found to the exemplary and forward-thinking education they are receiving. The teachers are meeting the challenge of a changing world with grace, compassion and inclusivity toward all."

"We are committed to affirming the identity of all children regardless of age," said special subjects teacher Jillian Miller. "It is our goal to make children, families and staff feel included, celebrated and valued. Each community member should see themselves represented at Urban Prairie Waldorf School."

See [UrbanPrairie.org](http://UrbanPrairie.org) for more information.

## Studs Terkel Radio Archive launches

The Studs Terkel Radio Archive (STRA)—consisting of more than 5,600 programs in various genres created at Terkel's hometown fine arts radio station WFMT in Chicago between 1952 and 1997—has become available to the general public on what would have been Terkel's 106th birthday: Wed., May 16.

The STRA will be a unique resource for educators, journalists, artists, activists, media-makers, scholars and people from all walks of life seeking to connect the voices and ideas of 20th century luminaries with contemporary social issues. The project is managed by the Chicago History Museum and WFMT Radio Network, with major support from the Library of Congress and National Endowment for the Humanities plus supplemental support from numerous other organizations and individuals.

It will consist of five components: a digital platform, Digital Bughouse, Terkel in the Classroom, the Bughouse Square podcast and STRA live events.

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



**Studs Terkel in undated photo.**  
Photo courtesy of Chicago History Museum

## This Week's Featured Properties



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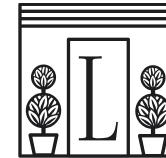
Total gut rehab has created a cool space with amazing direct views of the lake, park and harbor in full-amenity building.

3200 N. Lake Shore Drive #506  
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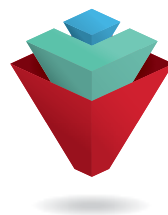


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## Brief Summary of Patient Information about BIKTARVY<sup>®</sup>

### BIKTARVY (bik-TAR-vee) (bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

**Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with BIKTARVY.** For more information, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?”

### What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

**BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. If you have an HBV infection and take BIKTARVY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking BIKTARVY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

- Do not run out of BIKTARVY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your BIKTARVY is all gone.
- Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider. If you stop taking BIKTARVY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking BIKTARVY.

**For more information about side effects, see “What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?”**

### What is BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY is a prescription medicine that is used without other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults:

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HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

BIKTARVY contains the prescription medicines bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide.

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- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

**Before taking BIKTARVY, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:**

- ▶ have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection
- ▶ have kidney problems
- ▶ are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant during treatment with BIKTARVY.

**Pregnancy Registry:** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- ▶ are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take BIKTARVY.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - At least one of the medicines in BIKTARVY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in BIKTARVY can pass into your breast milk.

Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may interact with BIKTARVY. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- ▶ You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with other medicines.

*Continued on next page.*

Continued from previous page.

### How should I take BIKTARVY®?

- ▶ Take BIKTARVY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. BIKTARVY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- ▶ Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.
- ▶ Do not change your dose or stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care during treatment with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take antacids that contain aluminum, magnesium, or calcium, take BIKTARVY on an empty stomach 2 hours before you take these antacids.
- ▶ If you take supplements that contain iron or calcium, take these supplements with food at the same time that you take BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Do not miss a dose of BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take too much BIKTARVY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- ▶ When your BIKTARVY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to BIKTARVY and become harder to treat.

### What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **See “What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?”**
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- ▶ **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys when starting and during treatment with BIKTARVY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Too much lactic acid is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

### What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY? (continued)

- ▶ **Severe liver problems.** In rare cases, severe liver problems can happen that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY are diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### General information about the safe and effective use of BIKTARVY.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use BIKTARVY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give BIKTARVY to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about BIKTARVY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about BIKTARVY that is written for health professionals. For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.BIKTARVY.com**.

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Issued: February 2018



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# Comcast, Out and Equal host forum on adoption

BY LIZ BAUDLER

About 40 people from various organizations attended Comcast's Out and Equal's event, "Ever Thought About Adoption?," on May 16 at 901 W. Weed St, as part of Out and Equal's Citywide Pride Programming.

"We host programs like this that we believe will benefit our LGBTQ employees/OUT members," said Sean Janda-Forner, the co-lead of OUT@Comcast, the company's LGBTQ ERG. "As a service to the community at large, when we can, we include external LGBTQ organizations and members of LGBTQ ERGs from other companies so that they can benefit from our programs as well."

Janda added that the event, about a year and a half in the making, would ideally give attendees, especially LGBTQ ones, an idea of every side of the process.

Comcast Senior Director of Disability and Absence Scott Daniels introduced a panel of Comcast employees plus an adoption professional as being about the expectations, perceptions, myths that might come along with adoption. Daniels also mentioned that Comcast had wanted to change the culture for new parents, including the presumption of gender neutrality. Comcast benefits now include 12 weeks of paid parental leave

for employees of any gender, and reimbursement for up to \$10,000 of adoption related expenses.

"Those four little people have made everything worthwhile," said Comcast employee Violet Digiovanni, who has adopted four children from foster care, the latter two after her husband unexpectedly passed away.

Janda-Forner, who also took part in the panel, remembered feeling like he and his husband didn't know where to go to start the process and being concerned about how stereotypes about gay men might play into both adoption itself and his future child's potential experiences.

"We had no idea what to expect," said Janda-Forner. "Being a gay couple, how will other people react?"

Janda-Forner and his husband adopted their son back in 2012, about a month after he started at Comcast. He remembered feeling supported by his management at the time: when the opportunity to adopt suddenly arose, his manager immediately gave him two weeks paid leave.

Comcast's Jonathan Huber, adopted at birth, described his adoptive parents as "the most loving parents a child could ask for." In what he called a "talk show moment," Huber was able to reconnect with his birth mother and her family in his 30s. "I have two sets of parents that love



OUT@Comcast's Sean Janda-Forner.  
Photo by Liz Baudler

me," Huber said, adding that he never felt different because of being adopted.

Janda-Forner invited Jane Turner, Executive Director of the Illinois Adoption Center, to the panel, as IAC was the agency that helped his family adopted. While Turner helped define different adoption options, she was very open about the "enormous variety" of possibilities when it

came to adoption, including timeframe and cost. Turner defined timeframe possibilities as "quickly to never" and cost from "nothing to \$60,000." Adopting through foster care and DFCS, Turner explained, adoptive parents may even get a subsidy, where private and international adoptions may cost in the tens of thousands of dollars. Yet Turner also added that there are resources for those looking to adopt. "I don't want anyone to say it's too expensive," she said.

Turner said she likes to know the vision prospective families have for their adoption, and she outlined common misconceptions people have about their ability to be adoptive parents, including being single, gay, having student loans, renting vs. owning, on antidepressants, or being in an unmarried couple.

"Most of the barriers are not valid," Turner said, and added that in fact, in the last years, three birth mothers specifically requested same-sex male couples as potential adoptive families, so they could, as Turner put it, "be the only mom."

Both Digiovanni and Janda-Forner described the home visit stage of adoption as "scary," and fraught with potential judgement by outsiders. Janda-Forner also recalled the anxiety he felt between the time his son was born and his adoption was finalized.

"Get ready for an emotional roller-coaster," Janda-Forner said—but, he added, the emotions are not necessarily bad.

And Turner had words for the anxious prospective adoptive parent. "Never feel like you're doing it by yourself," she said.

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# Leather-bound and bigger than ever: IML turns 40



Photo from the 2017 IML contest: International Mr. Leather Ralph Bruneau (second from right); International Mr. Bootblack 2017 Pawlish (second from left); first runner-up Mr. San Francisco Leather 2017 Geoff Millard (right); and second runner-up Mr. Leather Europe Joe King. Photo by Verdell Shannon

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Size matters at the daddy of all leather competitions with a total of 72 contestants—the largest number on record—competing at International Mr. Leather (IML) 2018 in Chicago, IL, surpassing the previous record of 66 contestants from 2002. IML draws an estimated 18,000 attendees from around the globe who will have a boots-on-the-ground presence this year to mark the 40th anniversary of the event.

Those boots will also have the opportunity to receive leather care at the 26th annual International Mr. Bootblack competition, which takes place throughout the IML weekend and features four contestants this year.

IML began as a competition at the Gold Coast, a long-shuttered gay men's leather bar in Chicago owned by iconic businessman and IML founder Chuck Renslow. The contest became so popular it exceeded the pub's capacity, and in 1979, International Mr. Leather was born. Today, IML has evolved into a multiday event featuring fetish workshops, speakers and dance parties, with a Leather Market full of kink wares from chains to chaps.

To honor the enduring heritage of Renslow, who died June 29, 2017 at age 87, an exhibition titled *Chuck Renslow: A Legacy of Leather*—featuring materials from the Leather Archives & Museum—will be on display during IML, including a guest book for visitors to sign that will be added to the Archives' collection.

"In an age of almost overwhelming sexual oppression, Renslow was a key player in provid-

ing the necessary means for liberation," note Chicago journalists and authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen in the opening pages of *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*, a biography of Renslow, published in 2011. "Suddenly there wasn't such overwhelming isolation when it came to exploring sexuality and lifestyles beyond hetero and beyond the borders of 'vanilla.' Renslow had an impact on tens of thousands by helping people recognize their sexual desires, their kinks, and their fantasies."

IML organizers also plan to celebrate Renslow's legacy during the IML contest Sunday evening, although program leaders prefer to keep the specific details of the celebration close to the (leather) vest at this point.

"I can't get into specifics, because the person who manages and makes all of the weekend magic happen, our executive director Bill Stadt, asked me not to, but at the contest Sunday evening at the Auditorium Theatre, there will be a very special, and what we believe to be, powerful and poignant moment that underscores who Chuck was and what he meant and continues to mean to every single one of us to this day," said Jon Krongaard, president IML, Inc. Krongaard also noted that IML attendees can expect a large number of past IML winners to help honor Renslow's memory as part of the evening's program.

In addition to recognizing Renslow's leather legacy, organizers also plan to mark IML's 40th anniversary by updating some of the conference's

content and structure. Opening Ceremonies—which include an introduction to this year's judges, a brief preview of contestants' and their number selection to determine their order for appearances throughout the competition—are being moved back out of the host hotel and into the Auditorium Theatre in a format called "Reversing the Room."

"This year, there's a twist," said Krongaard. "All of the attendees at Opening Ceremonies on Thursday evening will join the contestants on stage—they're actually going to be part of the show. Everybody will be on the stage. It's unbelievable. If you've ever been on that stage, even with just the house lights up, and looking out into that venue, then you know it's mind-boggling, bone-chillingly awesome, and nothing less than amazing."

Another notable change this year is a new Friday event called Flashback. In previous years, outgoing IML titleholders have hosted roasts or given "step-aside speeches," but this year, Flashback will give Ralph Bruneau (IML 2017) and Ryan "Pawlish" Garner-Carpenter (International Mr. Bootblack 2017) the opportunity to engage in a Q&A with attendees to describe their experiences of the past year.

"We're trying to make it a little more of an intimate and conversational setting," explained Krongaard. "This format will allow them to talk about their year and share some stories that may or may not have made it onto Facebook. They may even give some final thoughts as they wind down their year. Ralph and Ryan are actually very excited about it."

Other new and notable IML offerings this year include the following: Puppy Yoga (bring your mat!), a warm-up of sorts to the Off Leash: The Pup and the Handler Romp, which has moved to Friday night and features a much bigger space with a carpeted floor; a screening of the 2017 *Tom of Finland* film on Sunday afternoon, which provides a biographical look at Touko Laaksonen (aka Tom of Finland); *Forever Leather*, a session on preserving leather (hint: there's more to it than keeping it shiny); and four instructional Kink U sessions once again organized by Titans of the Midwest.

Two of the four Kink U sessions feature traditional topic areas including, Stress Relief through BDSM (stress management through play time) and *Leather Through the Lens* (panelists discuss



Entertainment over the years has included The Village People (left) and Judy Tenuta (right). Village People photo courtesy of RJ Chaffin; Tenuta photo courtesy of Leather Archives & Museum





Left: A poster from the first IML in 1979. Above: IML posters from 1987, 1995 and 1997. All posters feature artwork by Etienne.

Courtesy of Leather Archives & Museum

strategies for capturing the modern leather/feish world).

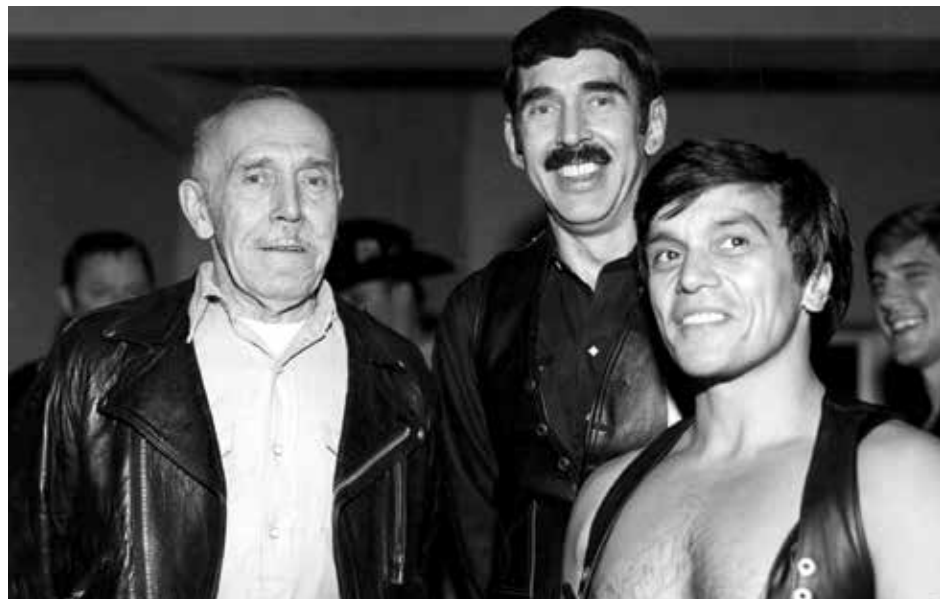
The other two sessions feature especially timely subject matter. The Good Touch Games session is an interactive class that teaches practical approaches to establishing consent aimed at both the experienced player and the rookie. The other well-timed session, especially considering the state of race relations in the U.S. today, is the Fireside Chat with Mufassa, founder of ONYX, which will explore the state of diversity in today's leather and kink communities.

"Remember in 1979, 400 diehard leathermen showed up. Now, we're starting at 18,000 plus, from every walk of life and corner of the universe that you can imagine," said Krongaard, when asked to describe the level of diversity at IML. "Chuck knew that. He saw that. It's always fun to see what the next generation is going to do, what the next evolution is going to be, and this year will be no different."

With all of the new event programming this year highlighting both the legacy of Chuck Renslow, and the 40th anniversary of the pioneering event he founded, at least one pillar of IML weekend remains unchanged: the popularity of the Leather Market. "As we all know, the hotel and the market, especially during the day, are the social hub of the weekend," said Krongaard. "People like it because you can try on gear and play with the toys that the vendors have brought in a non-judgmental, safe space. It's a big deal. And the Leather Market is also popular, because, let's be fair, the sexual energy in the room is certainly ramped up pretty high."

For more information on International Mr. Leather events, which take place, May 24 through May 28, visit: [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com).

Images in this story originally appeared in the book *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow* by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen.



Tom of Finland (Touko Laaksonen), Chuck Renslow and Dom Orejudos (Etienne) at IML.  
Courtesy of Leather Archives & Museum

LEATHER WERKS PRESENTS

**1979 2018**

# IML40

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## viewpoints


**Rev. Irene  
MONROE**

## Pimping King

With 2018 being the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, commemorations honoring the man will be taking place across the country. But who would think a Super Bowl ad with a King voiceover would be used to sell pickup trucks?

The pitch for Dodge Ram trucks' "Built To Serve" Volunteer Program did just that and provoked a fast and furious backlash on Twitter and a rebuke from the King Center.

Adding insult to injury, the commercial's narrative arc from beginning to end misappropriates MLK's essential message in his 1968 speech, "The Drum Major Instinct." The speech rails against materialism, using cars as a classic example.

"Do you ever see people buy cars that they can't even begin to buy in terms of their income? You've seen people riding around in Cadillacs and Chryslers who don't earn enough to have a good T-Model Ford," King said in his sermon.

Misrepresentation in commercial advertising involving Blacks, however, is not new. The exploitation of Black talent and the objectification of Black bodies and images to pad the pockets of profit-making

corporations under the guise of helping underserved populations and communities is also not new.

For example, we all remember the 2017 Pepsi commercial fiasco starring Kendall Jenner. The ad preyed on racial and ethnic stereotypes in its attempt to expand the brand to a multicultural consumer base. Also, it misappropriated the iconic and viral photo of Ieshia Evans, the 28-year-old African-American mother who—in 2016, during a Black Lives Matter protest in Baton Rouge, Louisiana—stunned the nation as well as the world when she silently walked to the front line of heavily armed police and offered her hands to be arrested. Jenner, however, with the re-enactment of the white hero/rescuer trope, thwarts a possible riot in the commercial simply by offering a white cop a Pepsi.

The Dodge Ram trucks commercial is not so egregious. Ram Nation Volunteer Program's mission is "supposedly" not to sell their trucks but rather to highlight how its "Ram Truck owners are a special breed" serving all of humanity "from disaster relief to blood drives or even just cutting a neighbor's grass." Its webpage uses King's quote "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve" to bolster its claim. Although the ad was-tone deaf in mixing King's speech with its product promotion the Ram Nation Volunteer Program's, it didn't, however, undermine its goals—and that's to sell trucks.

The use of revered dead historical figures to pitch products has become a popular advertising strategy to instantly attract consumers' attention, given their high level of recognition—even if there's a backlash. In a 30-to 60-second television spot during an

event like the Super Bowl (which draws annually one of the largest viewerships in the country), revered dead historical figures make the sale for commercial products because their iconic stature in society and the story behind their images easily resonate with viewers. For example, the 2012 Red Bull commercial mocking Jesus' miracle of walking on water received an outcry from Christians across the country, myself included. The energy-drink maker dropped the ad immediately, but its sales soared nonetheless.

While I find the Dodge Ram truck commercial disrespectful and dangerous in this political era of fake news, alternative facts and revisionist history, the commercialization of King suggests that the money that can be made from King is more important than his message. Sadly, the Ram Dodge Truck ad is not the first time King is repackaged to sell a product. In 2001, King's world-renowned "I Have a Dream" speech was used in print and TV for Alcatel Americas, a telecommunications and networking equipment company. Alcatel wanted to co-opt the speech to give it a Forrest Gump-like spin. Can you imagine?

When it comes to pimping a profit from King's legacy, however, the dilemma is aided by King's youngest son, Dexter. He treats his father's speeches as commercial literary works, charging license fees for their use. Regrettably, Dexter runs the intellectual properties management arm of the King Center, which appears not to distinguish between commercializing King from communicating King to younger and wider audiences. Its aim is for revenue maximization, by any means that presents itself. This time, it was the Dodge Ram truck ad.

## letters

### Ban on the run

*The Honorable James N. Mattis Secretary  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000  
Dear Secretary Mattis:*

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our concern about the new policy recently approved by President Trump imposing limits on transgender individuals serving in the military.

This new policy, based on recommendations you made in February to President Trump, states that "transgender persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria—individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment,

including medications and surgery—are disqualified from military service except under certain limited circumstances" (Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security Regarding Military Service by Transgender Individuals, May 23, 2018).

We believe there is no medically valid reason—including a diagnosis of gender dysphoria—to exclude transgender individuals from military service. Transgender individuals have served, and continue to serve, our country with honor, and we believe they should be allowed to continue doing so. We share the concerns recently expressed by former Surgeons General M. Joycelyn Elders and David Satcher that the Defense Department's Feb. 22, 2018, memorandum for the President mischaracterized and rejected the wide body of peer-reviewed research on the effectiveness of transgender medical care. This research, demonstrating that medical care for gen-

der dysphoria is effective, was the rationale for the AMA's adoption of policy by our House of Delegates in 2015, that there is no medically valid reason to exclude transgender individuals from military service.

The AMA also supports public and private health insurance coverage for treatment of gender dysphoria as recommended by the patient's physician. We support the finding of the RAND study conducted for the Department of Defense on the impact of transgender individuals in the military that the financial cost is negligible and a rounding error in the defense budget. It should not be used as a reason to deny patriotic Americans an opportunity to serve their country. We should be honoring their service.

*Sincerely,  
James L. Madara, MD*

**Send columns or letters to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.**



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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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## Good Shepard

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WCT reviews Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, which stars Larry Yando.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

### THEATER

## 'China Shop' looks at influential lesbian couple

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Imagine this: You're at the top of your class. You're off to an Ivy League college, thrilled at the seemingly limitless intellectual pursuits you can follow. And then you're told that since you're a girl, classes in folding laundry and baking are mandatory. Because everyone knows two things for sure: Rigorous intellectual pursuits are damaging to a woman's precious femininity. Also, your primary goal in life is to get an MRS degree. And, it goes without saying, spawn babies.

Such was the state of higher education if you were a woman lucky enough to attend college in 1900, when Mary Woolley became president of the Ivy League's Mount Holyoke College. Flash forwards a century or so. Women who made it through a higher-ed degree program without having to waste hours learning how to properly use a shrimp fork or remove blood stains from petticoats have Mary Woolley to thank. Never heard of her? Not surprising.

"So much queer history and women's history has been forgotten or just never told," said Kelli Simpkins, who plays Woolley in About Face Theatre's upcoming *Bull in a China Shop*. Opening in previews Thursday, May 24, Bryna Turner's 90-minute dramatic comedy puts the high beams on Woolley and her partner of some 50 years, Jeanette Marks.

It's not hyperbole to say that Woolley changed the entire model of higher education for women. Both Woolley and Marks were also staunch suffragettes, peace activists and social justice warriors in a time when activism meant far more than

all-caps clamoring on social media. For director Keira Fromm, you can draw a clear parallel between the early 20th-century issues within *Bull in a China Shop* and the state of the world for women today.

"It's no secret that women's rights are being subverted today, under the current [White House] administration," Fromm said. "And it's no secret that so much of our queer history has been lost. This play takes some of it back. It challenges the white male narrative that dominates history. It's about queer history, and taking ownership of it, and giving it voice."

Even a terse bullet-point list of Marks' and Woolley's accomplishments would fill a book. Woolley was the first woman to be admitted to Brown University. As president of the venerable Mount Holyoke College from 1900 to 1937, she fought with an all-male board of trustees to shut down the classes in handkerchief laundering and reworked the curricula to give women access to a dazzling array of courses in the arts and sciences.

"Basically she changed Mount Holyoke from a finishing school to a true institution of higher learning for women," Fromm said.

Woolley also was vice president of the then-fledgling ACLU, and a crucial voice in creating the League of Nations. She helped lay the framework for the establishment of the NAACP, she advised two presidents (Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt) on pacifism and women's rights. Through it all, she and Marks lived and worked side by side, with Marks (played at About Face by Emjoy Gavino) heading up the theater department at Mount Holyoke.

"Mary Woolley was, like, 'Look: A woman is capable of much more than just being a help mate,'" Fromm said. "She argued that education wasn't detrimental to women. It was their right to pursue academia as much as it was for a man. That was absolutely radical," Fromm said.

So why haven't most of us ever heard of Marks and Woolley?

"I think it's partly the patriarchy. And homophobia. And misogyny and sexism," said Simpkins. "Now we're at the point where people of color and queer people and women—all are demanding that their history be included in the history books

Simpkins—as anyone who has been in Chicago's "theatrosphere" for more than a minute knows—is no stranger to dramas that queer the narrative and reclaim history while also being intensely entertaining. A veteran of 11 years in Chicago preceded by 15 years in New York City working with Tectonic Theatre Company and LC3 (Lincoln Center's new works wing), Simpkins has created many an indelible feminist on stage, from the hyper-articulate, take-no-bull attorney of Steppenwolf's *Fair Use* to a laconic Wild West

explorer of American Theater Company's *Men in Boats*. However, Woolley will be Simpkins' first time onstage in a corset. ("Fortunately, I get to take it off in the second half," she said.)

With *Bull in a China Shop*, she adds another smart, strong wickedly funny woman to her resume. "Mary was described as an effervescent optimist," said Simpkins. "You read her letters and you find them full of poetry and hope and brilliance and joy. She believed in a future for women that was golden and bright.

"When I think of what she did and look at the shit show that is the Trump administration—which is trying to take away everything she accomplished—I see a silver lining," Simpkins added. "The bright spot is that people are finding their footing and finding their voices and creating resistance. Woolley showed how it's possible to change even in the midst of turmoil. She showed what we as queer voices can bring to the revolution

**Bull in a China Shop runs May 24-June 30 at About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. For tickets, go to [AboutFaceTheatre.com](http://AboutFaceTheatre.com) or call 773-975-8150.**

Emjoy Gavino (reclining) and Kelli Simpkins in *Bull in a China Shop*.

Photo by Anna Gelman

## THEATER REVIEW

# A New Attitude: In Tribute to Patti LaBelle

Playwright: Rueben D. Echoles  
At: Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St.  
Tickets: \$55-65;  
BlackEnsemble.org, 773-769-4451  
Runs through: June 17

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Patti LaBelle is known for many things: the hit song “Lady Marmalade,” kicking off her shoes, her epic rendition of the ABC’s on Sesame Street and, most recently, her signature pies.

It’s hard to believe this septuagenarian superstar was once a shy, anxious girl from Philadelphia whose mother bribed her to play outside. Black Ensemble Theater productions are always a rollicking good time, full of flashy costumes, fantastic music and stunning voices. Although it’s

about half an hour too long, *A New Attitude: In Tribute to Patti LaBelle* fits right into the Black Ensemble Theater canon, with a phenomenal house band and two stellar leading ladies (Dawn Bless and Cherise Thomas) sharing the role of LaBelle herself.

Perfectly capturing Patti’s love of sparkle, undulating arm movements and gravity-defying vocals, Bless and Thomas take us through the ups and downs of the legendary singer’s life. Her father chose gambling over his family, leaving young Patti devastated, until respite arrived in the form of church choir. Knowing she had a God-given gift, LaBelle pursued management as a teenager, but had to win over record producers who thought she was “too dark and plain” to sell records. Later, she faced racism while touring in the South, broke off an engagement with The Temptations’ Otis Williams (Christopher Taylor) and initially resisted a more sexual, political sound for her group, LaBelle. Even when she established an acclaimed solo career and married the ever-loyal Armstead (Trequon Tate), life was never completely smooth. Still, LaBelle revels in her well-earned triumph, using her powerful voice for all it’s worth.



Cherise Thomas in *A New Attitude*.  
Photo by Alan Davis

*A New Attitude* writer-director Rueben D. Echoles knows how to captivate an audience, interspersing scenes from Patti’s life with phenomenal

renditions of her hits, such as her glorious cover of “Over the Rainbow” and “On My Own,” her hit duet with Michael McDonald (Mark Yacullo). Echoles also designed the show’s costumes, resulting in a visual feast of feathered headdresses, sequined evening gowns and vibrant colors. (It’s hard to believe Patti wouldn’t enthusiastically approve.) A four-piece onstage band, featuring musical director/arranger Robert Reddrick on drums is one of the strongest I’ve ever heard, supplementing Bless and Thomas’ angelic voices to create a full, rich sound that inspires clapping, cheering and dancing.

Though the production boasts a wonderful ensemble, most playing multiple roles, Bless and Thomas carry the show. As younger Patti (known as Patsy until she started singing professionally), Thomas radiates sass and vulnerability in equal measure, with an incredible vocal range that carries to the back row of the mezzanine. Bless’ commanding presence and take-no-prisoners attitude dares the audience to look away, and her voice is, in a word, awe-inspiring. *A New Attitude* is a fun evening for hard-core fans and Patti newbies alike, a fitting tribute to a true diva who never stops shining bright.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Buried Child

Playwright: Sam Shepard  
At: Writers Theatre, 625 Tudor Ct, Glencoe  
Tickets: \$50-70;  
WritersTheatre.org; 847-242-6000  
Runs through: June 17

BY KAREN TOPHAM

*Buried Child*, the surreal Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Sam Shepard, is a difficult play to watch—not because so much is happening, but because so little is happening.

This one is a slow burn: We are introduced to the world’s most dysfunctional family meticulous-

ly, over the course of the first two acts. The characters are developed deliberately; it takes time to get to know them. Director Kimberly Senior’s languid pace helps to give them the chance to grow as it helps the audience to assimilate into Shepard’s story of an Illinois farm home broken by time, bad luck, modernization and secrets.

The pace is established in the first scene, before there is even any dialogue, as Larry Yando (as the patriarch, Dodge) sits on his couch watching television with the sound off, occasionally taking a drink from a hidden bottle or falling into a coughing fit; if he once was industrious and energetic, he no longer is anything but a carcass waiting to be. Dodge is practically inert, yet Yando is almost always the center of attention. It is a masterful acting job, yet it is easily complemented by the other performances

in the play. Shannon Cochran (as Halie, Dodge’s wife), manages to establish her character in a scene in which she is entirely offstage. The two broken sons, one emotionally and one physically, present different problems for the actors (Mark L. Montgomery as the childlike Tilden and Timothy Edward Kane as the one-legged Bradley), but both men are up for the challenge. Shane Kenyon and Arti Ishak make second-act appearances as Tilden’s son and his girlfriend and each has powerful emotional moments. And there is also a morally compromised preacher, played by Allen Gilmore, who is having an affair with Halie.

Dodge has become what he now is due to the breakdown of his farm and his family. Several times he mentions that he has not planted since 1935, but it’s easy to sense that the rise of the farming industry has a lot to do with his life fall-

ing into the sere. As the farm deteriorated over time, so too his family has fallen apart. Halie now spends all of her time upstairs, away from her husband. His favorite son, Ansel, is dead, the other two are shells, and Dodge has become so disinterested in life that, when his grandson shows up unexpectedly, he can’t even recall having one.

Senior pulls outstanding performances from her cast as she highlights an American Dream that has fallen apart at the seams. The family’s secret is devastating, but one gets the feeling that this family would have been doomed with or without it. Shepard has the audience often laughing at them, but he shows us the utter dissolution of one family’s expectations. It’s a difficult play to love, but a masterful piece of writing. *Buried Child* is infrequently revived due to its difficulty, but Senior and her cast are up to the task and make this a powerful, memorable experience.

since surrendering it to your dance partner at Broadway Sam’s circa 1974.

To be sure, spectators in attendance on opening night encompassed a few volunteers already well-versed in their duties, eagerly offering information more than sufficient for its intended purpose, but their enthusiasm only served to reinforce the nervous-nerd persona adopted by Toland as he struggles with duct-tape blindfolds adhering to facial hair, marking pens wafting aromatic fumes and overly shy assistants vocalizing in whispers. (“Speak up—I’m not *really* a mind-reader.”)

Stage-magic repertoire being finite and a measure of overlap inevitable, our winsome host cannot be faulted for a few of us having seen some of his maneuvers performed elsewhere. In an age when no one is wholly certain of wayward coins and cards ceasing to misbehave after being returned to our custody, the reassurance offered by this weeknight neighborhood entertainment is enough to ensure its welcome.

facilitating disclosure of its secrets, though—now *that’s* disturbing.

Our first glimpse of Mark Toland dispels all preconceived images of extrasensory-empowered oracles, however. Not only does our Kansas-born soothsayer pair brown shoes with a blue suit, but he wears *glasses*—an accessory invoking 1920s-vintage gags involving myopic fortune tellers. Furthermore, only minutes into the show, he reveals to us precisely how the illusion of psychic superpowers is implemented, recounting the story of his own encounter at the airport with a stranger demonstrating a remarkable familiarity with his most intimate personal data—having previously overheard him phoning his wife before reciting his vitals to the car-rental agent.

Having thus disarmed us with his transparency, Toland then proceeds to retrieve dispatches from our consciousness of a provenance so remote as to banish any explanation of its origins lying in simple eavesdropping—the name of your childhood crush, for example, or the astrological sign you haven’t tried to remember

## THEATER REVIEW

# Mind Reader

Playwright: Written and performed by Mark Toland  
At: Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Tickets: \$25; 773-404-7336;  
GreenhouseTheater.org  
Runs through: July 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Mentalism—more commonly called “mind-reading”—may be the most invasive of the bamboozle-based arts. Sleight-of-hand locates its unknown factors securely within the objects undergoing manipulation (a person who disappears from inside a box, for example, is understood to accomplish this feat exclusively in that particular box). Clairvoyant sightings occupy a milieu safely distanced by time, past or future. The prospect of the last boundary protecting your individual privacy dissolving into a portal

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**Buddy**, American Blues Theater at Stage 773, through May 26. Far more concert than story, the short, mostly sweet life of Buddy Holly features 16 rocking vocal and instrumental stars. JA

**The Days Are Shorter**, Pride Films and Plays at the Buena, through June 3. Midlife crisis is never easy, but when you’re an insomniac past-50 lesbian, sometimes it takes visitations by spectral mentors to dispel your fear of aging. MSB

**The Light Fantastic**, Jackalope Theatre, through June 16. Ike Holter has written a horror story that’ll make you scream out loud. It’s scary, funny, thought-provoking and all-around diabolically good. I swear by St. Rufus you’ll be but good and creeped out by the time the 90-minute thriller comes to a close. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan





Ella Joyce (left) and Marie Thomas in *Having Our Say*. Photo by Liz Lauren

## THEATER REVIEW

### Having Our Say

Playwright: Ellen Mann, adapted from the book by Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth  
 At: Goodman Theatre, 170 W. Dearborn St.  
 Tickets: \$35-75;  
 GoodmanTheatre.org; 312-443-3800  
 Runs through: June 19

BY KAREN TOPHAM

My mother always said that there is a lot we can learn from our elders, and an evening spent with “the Delany Sisters,” a pair of centenarians whose life story is the subject of *Having Our Say*: The Delany Sisters’ First 100 Years, now at the Goodman Theatre, certainly illustrates the point. Ella Joyce and Marie Thomas play Bessie and Sadie Delany, respectively, two sisters who tell of their century as Black women in America.

Framed as the gregarious sisters visiting with a new friend (Bessie speaks of how bored she gets talking to people she’s known forever—at least the ones who are still alive), the play spends time with them just chatting in their Mount Vernon living room as well as preparing a meal in their kitchen: normal activities that, we can easily imagine, fill their days. But it is the substance of the conversation that attracted director Chuck Smith to the project, the stories of life in the post-Civil War days and the memories of life in the Jazz Age and under Jim Crow. Though these women were, by their own admission, exceptionally lucky for African-Americans in the 20th century, spending a couple of hours with the Delanys

is like getting a lesson on Black history from the most personal teachers in the world.

Joyce and Thomas are perfect as the sisters. Their every interaction renders the idea that they have known each other for a century entirely believable. They finish each other’s sentences. They pass narratives off so easily that you know they have told these stories a billion times. They instinctively comfort each other as they need it. But these are not merely interchangeable parts. Joyce, as Bessie, is taller and built solidly. She moves and speaks deliberately and slowly, whereas the more wiry Thomas throws her whole body into her movement and all of her energy into her narratives. They are both remarkable performances.

Remarkable, too, is Linda Buchanan’s set, which takes full advantage of the Goodman’s turntable and features picture frames and projected images by Mike Tutaj of the sisters’ family photos and films and stills from the eras of which they speak. All aspects of this show shine, but that doesn’t go far enough. Smith has made the show into an entirely personal experience, far more like visiting with a couple of favorite aunts than watching a play at all. From the start, when the sisters invite us into their home and their lives, to the end, when they say good night to us as if we were good friends, Smith has crafted a remarkably intimate production on the Albert stage. The two women led fulfilling, impressive lives, and in *Having Our Say* we get to share their century of life, if only for two hours. My mother would say that it’s two hours very well spent, and I’d agree with her. If you’ve never had the pleasure of getting to know the Delanys, don’t miss this opportunity.

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that makes them two of the most gay friendly small towns in the country. LGBTQ tourists all find something difficult to define but easy to recognize, like magic, it is everywhere you look.



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## SPOTLIGHT

You won’t see any reviews of Anu Bhatt’s emotionally gripping one-woman show *Hollow/Wave*. But you will get a harrowing and ultimately triumphant 90-minute deep dive into her struggles and ultimate triumph. As a woman of Southeast Asian descent and a longtime student of dance, she combines movement, poetry and humor with her sometimes harrowing narrative. Directed by lesbian Barbara Zahora, *Hollow/Wave* isn’t here for long; put it at the top of your list. It’s June 10 at Silk Road Rising, Pierce Hall at the Chicago Temple, 77 W.



Washington St.; \$20 general admission, \$12.50 students; SilkRoadRising.org.

Caption: Photo of Anu Bhatt by Joe Mazza

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## 'Out and Proud' June 3 at Pride Arts Center

Melissa Young and Nick Sula are returning to Chicago with "Out and Proud: A Rainbow Celebration" on Sunday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway.

Nine years ago, Young performed the music of LGBTQ icons to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which took place June 28, 1969—and now returns to celebrate the progress the country has made. Daryl Nitz, Jeannie Tanner and Dan Riley join Young and Sula this time around, with proceeds benefiting Pride Films and Plays.

Admission is \$25 each and reservations are recommended; visit <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10266304>.

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## Rivendell extends 'The Cake' to June 2

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (RTE)—Chicago's only Equity theatre dedicated to producing new work with women at the core—will add four performances to the run *The Cake*.

Eight performances have been added to the run, which must close June 2 at RTE, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.

The plot is as follows: Jen lives in New York but has always dreamed of getting married in her small North Carolina hometown, so she heads down south with her partner to ask Della, her late mother's best friend, to do the honors of making the wedding cake at her bakery. Della's cakes are legendary, even earning her a spot as a contestant on the "Great American Baking Show." She is overjoyed at Jen's request until she realizes there's not just one bride, but two, forcing her to re-examine some of her deeply held beliefs, as well as her own marriage

in this timely play.

Admission is \$28-\$38 each; call 773-334-7728 or visit [RivendellTheatre.org](http://RivendellTheatre.org).

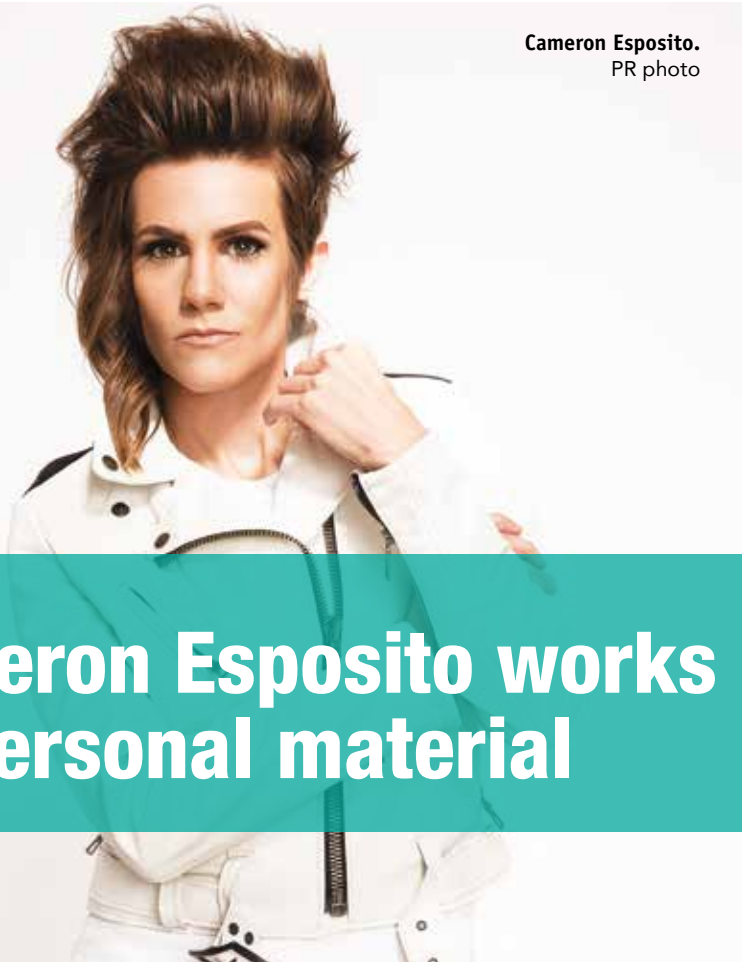
## 'Opera Idol' winners announced

The 2018 Opera Idol competition recently took place in Evanston, as young singers from around the country competed for top awards.

The 2018 Opera Idol winner, Ana Collado, was awarded a full \$3,000 scholarship plus travel to Savannah, Georgia, to attend the nationally recognized two-week VOICE-Experience training program, the "Milnes VOICE Studio," in August.

Claire Galloway won the People's Choice Award.

For more information on Opera Idol or VOICE-Experience, call 855-76-OPERA or visit [VOICE-ExperienceFoundation.org](http://VOICE-ExperienceFoundation.org).



Cameron Esposito.  
PR photo

## COMEDY

## Cameron Esposito works on personal material

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Lesbian comic and Windy City Times 30 Under 30 alum Cameron Esposito returned to Chicago for two weeks at the end of March, performing 14 shows at the Den Theatre.

Esposito was here working on new material and said the smaller venue and Chicago audience was the perfect setting to test out the more personal material she's been developing, which includes the topics of sexual assault and sex education.

"I'm working on a new hour and usually when I've done that in the past it's meant going on a giant tour in as many cities as possible over eight months, but this material is very personal, so I've decided to try and do it in a different way," she said.

As women across the country join the #MeToo movement by sharing their personal experiences, Esposito said it was important for her to do so

as well. Her new material includes discussing her own experience of sexual assault while in college.

"It feels important right now to talk about my history with sexual assault," she said. "This is a topic that has been in the news for the last year. To me it feels like comedy is a great place to deal with any topic that actually creates harm and trauma. I think that is what humor is for, but what I usually see is standup that has thrown out the idea of assault but not talked about the realities of assault or even the people involved."

Esposito said taking this more personal approach will hopefully help create a greater sense of immediacy and a stronger understanding of what victims experience.

"If I start talking about it maybe other folks will too, and talking about it in this way, from the perspective of a survivor," she said.

Esposito is also taking on the topic of sex education in the United States—or rather the lack,

thereof. Using her Catholic school upbringing as a springboard for the topic, Esposito discussed the fact that even public school children aren't provided with much useful information.

"The spectrum is nothing to [putting a condom on] a banana—that's it," she said.

For the tour, Esposito is drawing on her unique experiences in an effort to actually connect to the universal experience. "I'm trying to move individual experience into the larger experience that we all share," she said. "So, my cultural background is Catholicism, but sub in your own, that is what I want."

"I think the specificity of my experience is actually pretty universal. I didn't have sex ed because I went to Catholic school, but it turns out we don't offer sex ed in this country. Sex ed is not something that is part of anyone's education. ... The most you get is the condom on a banana, that is someone who has had a lot of sex ed."

Esposito said while the shows pretty much went as expected, being in Chicago for two weeks gave her a chance to connect with the city's up-and-coming comics. She booked 14 local comics (one for each night) as openers.

"I'm from Chicago and it's where I started doing standup, but usually when I come to town I hang out with my family or I go do the one night of shows. I don't really hang out in the scene. So it was really cool to connect for the first time with folks that are a couple of generations below me that I don't know at all and hear what material they are doing."

She was also impressed with the growing diversity, having started standup when the Chicago comedy scene was limited to only a few queer

and female comics.

"There are so many queer folks and that was awesome, because that was my goal working in Chicago, to try to effect the scene," she said. "And a lot of those folks started through a stand-up class I created in Chicago called the Feminine Comique, and a lot of them started at Cole's Bar, where I had an open mic and where I met Rhea (Butcher)"

Esposito said her audience has also changed substantially as she's garnered more accolades and recognition nationally. Where once she played to rooms of mostly straight people, her audiences today lean LGBTQ, which she said brings it's own set of challenges.

"Maria Bamford talked about this before, once you start drawing your own audience it's very interesting. Before you had to convince people to be on your side, but now people come in and they know your viewpoint, and so you are trying to up your game to continue to entertain and surprise and present new information."

"When you are someone's favorite band, you can play their favorite song and it can be like a greatest hits and the audience will be jazzed; when you are somebody's favorite comic, it should be the exact opposite experience. You should be on the message they vaguely know you to be, but blowing their minds with the new shit, but it's hard to do that."

Esposito is currently taking her set to the East Coast, but people can catch new episodes of her podcast, "Queery," every week throughout the summer. Seasons one and two of Take my Wife, Esposito's show with wife Rhea Butcher, are also available on iTunes.

## 'Falsettos' in Chicago in spring 2019

Broadway in Chicago has announced that the 2019 national tour of the Lincoln Center Theater Broadway Production of Falsettos—William Finn and James Lapine's Tony Award-winning musical—will play at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., on May 28-June 9, 2019. Lapine is directing the North American tour.

Falsettos will join the line-up of performances at the annual Broadway In Chicago Summer Concert on Monday, Aug. 13, 2018, at 6:15 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park, 201 E Randolph St.

The production is a comedy that revolves around the life of a gay man named Marvin as well as his wife, lover, about-to-be-bar-mitzvahed son, their psychiatrist and the lesbians next door.

See BroadwayInChicago.com and Falsettos-Broadway.com.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**What You Want To See**

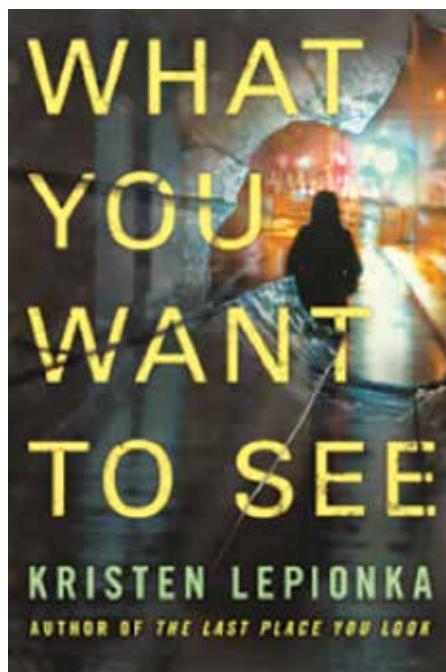
By Kristen Lepionka

**\$25.99; Minotaur; 336 pages**

REVIEW BY LIZ BAUDLER

Kristen Lepionka writes a trying-to-be hard-boiled yet oh-so-relatable bisexual PI in the Roxane Weary mysteries, of which *What You Want To See* is the second. Roxane's tropes are going with her gut and sexually/romantically jockeying between the very solid, nice and unavailable cop Tom Heitker and the wild artist and slightly bitchy tease Catherine Walsh. Oh—and there's a bachelorette apartment complete with an empty refrigerator and quickly emptying bottles of Crown Royal.

Mere days after he contracts Roxane to follow his possibly deceitful fiancée, Arthur Ungless is accused of murdering her. The detective's instinct Roxane inherited from her late police detective father says despite the suspicious circumstances—they were seen arguing at dinner—Arthur didn't kill her. But the fiancée, Marin, is an enigmatic woman with little in the way of a paper trail. And the cops just want Roxane to stop prying. And soon, a car will get wrecked and a lot of people will get shot. So it's got all the elements of a thriller in place, and Lepionka's voice is gritty and nimble and funny where it needs to be. Whether it's the details of the peanut butter,



carrot and sriracha sandwich on bread that might be about to go stale, or the portrait of gentifying Columbus, Ohio, that forms the backdrop to crime and intrigue, it's a delightfully recognizable world-Roxane Weary inhabits.

While *What You Want To See* will definitely stand on its own, it's even better when paired

with its progenitor, *The Last Place You Look*, in which we get to meet the cast of characters that will bolster Roxane or lift her out of the scrapes an often-broke, headstrong lady private detective might find herself in. In that book, we meet Shelby, a teenager whose queer identity is starting to blossom, and the scene in which Roxane realizes Shelby's yearning for her missing best friend is one of the more touching realizations of identity ever written—particularly in a book of this genre. In *What You Want to See*, Shelby's trying to move out from under her overprotective's father's eye and is prepared to do it: she has the life management skills of a working 35-year-old mother of three. Another strong point in Lepionka's narratives is the interplay of family dynamics, whether between Shelby and her father, or in revealing the gaping hole Roxane's father left in their own family when he died, to the point where Roxane's mother hasn't opened his study in nearly a year, and how Roxane's very different siblings handle her grief.

Overall, even if the plot ratchets exponentially at the last minute, the quality of creation far exceeds the average dime-store crime novel. Throw in the bisexual angle—which is done perhaps a smidge predictably but definitely not artificially—and you've got one hell of an appealing beach read. The only slight flaw is that *What You Want To See*, by dint of its being second in the list, cannot equal the magic *The Last Place You Look* casts, as it introduces all of its appealing,

**Cinema/Chicago  
CEO Kutza  
to step down**

Michael Kutza—founder and CEO of Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival—will be retiring from his role at the end of 2018.

The governing board of directors will pay tribute to Kutza's remarkable career at a special gala, "Celebrating Michael," Saturday, July 14, at Loews Hotel Chicago, 455 N. Park Dr.

Kutza founded the Chicago International Film Festival at age 22 in 1964, with silent-screen star Colleen Moore; the Festival made its debut at the Carnegie Theatre at Rush and Oak streets on Nov. 9, 1965. Kutza was artistic director through 2017, and then passed the baton to Mimi Plauché; Kutza was promoted to CEO.

For more about the gala, see [ChicagoFilmFestival.com](http://ChicagoFilmFestival.com).

hilarious, entirely real people and their relationships. But it's definitely got enough to keep you reading and wanting to know what will happen in a third book. Third book, please?

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# PRIDE MONTH CALENDAR

as of Mon., May 21

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**JUNE (all month) - EXHIBITION** - “The Library is Open” exhibit at Harold Washington Library (3rd floor), 400 S. State St., in Chicago. Every community defines itself through its terms and this exhibit offers a glimpse into the vocabulary of the LGBT community. Through a selection of 15 terms, this exhibition invites patrons to learn the lingo that many queer people use to show their pride. Info.: Kevin Whiteneir: [kwhiteneir@chipublib.org](mailto:kwhiteneir@chipublib.org)

**JUNE (entire month) - PLAY** - “Bull In A China Shop” by About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont. Midwest premiere of Bryna Turner’s comedy, based on a true story of revolutionary academics and lovers Mary Wooley and Jeannette Marks. The play explores the fascinating lives of the couple who re-imagined and revolutionized women’s education at the turn of the 20th century. This fast-moving feminist comedy chronicles the growth of the women’s suffrage movement, as well as Mary and Jeannette’s romantic relationship. It examines the strength it takes to find your voice, be brave and find yourself at odds with the world. Tickets at box office or at [www.aboutface theatre.com](http://www.aboutface theatre.com); or by calling 773-975-8150.

**JUNE (various dates, TBA) - CENTER ON HALSTED** - During Pride Month, the center will be hosting a variety of different LGBTQ events. 3656 N. Halsted in Chicago. [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**JUNE (now through June 16) - MUSICAL** - “Striking Out: A Gay Baseball Musical” by/at the Annoyance Theater Main Stage, 851 W. Belmont Ave. 8 pm every Saturday through June 16. Various ticket prices. [www.theannoyance.com](http://www.theannoyance.com); 773-697-9693.

**JUNE (various dates) - SKETCH SHOW** - “The Second City’s Make It Perfectly Queer: A Salute To Pride” performed by an all LGBTQIA cast. Proceeds from merchandise sales and audience donations will benefit local LGBTQ-focused non-profit organizations. This will be Second City’s first foray into celebrating all things Pride with a rainbow of classic and original sketches. Various days, times and ticket prices. [www.secondcity.com](http://www.secondcity.com)

**JUNE (varies) - EXHIBIT** - “Gay is Good” at Gerber Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark in Chicago. Details the homophile movement from the 1920s through Stonewall. Days and hours on web site: [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org)

org; [info@gerberhart.org](mailto:info@gerberhart.org); 773-381-8030

**JUNE (various dates) - THE CHER SHOW by Broadway in Chicago** - at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph in Chicago. Various dates from June 12 - July 15. Time: varies. Tickets range from \$33-\$110. [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com); 800-775-2000.

**JUNE (through Sept. 23) - EXHIBITION** - “Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural Exhibition” at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington in Chicago. Celebrates the monumental mural created by Haring and Chicago Public School students in 1989. 10 am to 7 pm. Free admission. [www.chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org)

**JUNE 2 - CRUISE** - “Rock the Boat” Party Cruise with Back Lot Bash & TaTa Tops. Featuring DJ Nixon. Proceeds benefiting Chicago Women’s Health Center. Noon to 3 pm. Tickets at: [tatatop.brownpapertickets.com](http://tatatop.brownpapertickets.com)

**JUNE 2 - NORTH SHORE PRIDE FEST** - 6th annual event in Downtown Highwood, IL. Located within walking distance of the Highwood Metra Train station. This family-friendly, all-ages, day-long event includes a full day of activities that features a Pride Family Picnic in the Park (Everts Park, 130 Highwood Ave. from 11 am to 3 pm) followed by the Taste the Rainbow (adult only) Pub Crawl throughout Downtown Highwood restaurants and bars from 5 pm to bar close). [www.ripplepublicrelations.com](http://www.ripplepublicrelations.com); 847-432-6000.

**JUNE 2 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - “Drag Story Time” at the Albany Park Branch Library, 3401 W. Foster in Chicago. 11 am. Drag queens read stories to kids. Stories, songs, boas and glitter will excite everyone! Info: Sarah Holtcamp: [sholtcamp@chipublib.org](mailto:sholtcamp@chipublib.org); 773-539-5450.

**JUNE 3 - CABARET** - “Out and Proud: A Rainbow Celebration” (PAC Cabaret event) by Melissa Young (& friends), benefit for Pride Films and Plays at the Broadway Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 7:30 pm. The cabaret is a tour of the LGBTQ movement through song and comedy that connects various momentous events in LGBTQ history with popular songs at the time. Tickets: \$30. Reservations recommended: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com)

**JUNE 3 - PLAY & CELEBRATION** - “Late Nite Catechism” - Special 25th Anniversary

Performance & Celebration, featuring food, drinks and assorted sweets. Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted. Celebration at 1 pm. Performance at 2 pm. Tickets: \$30 (Limited number of 25 tickets will be sold at 1993 prices: \$8). Tickets available at Royal George box office, call 312-988-9000 or at Ticketmaster using code 25TH). Information: [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com)

**JUNE 3 - PRIDE BRUNCH** - Benefit for Equality Illinois w/ guest speaker, Annise Parker (former Houston Mayor and current CEO of the Victory Fund) at Venue West, 221 N. Paulina in Chicago. 11 am to 1 pm. Includes brunch station and Bloody Mary, Coffee and Mimosa bars. Beats by local DJ; entertainment. \$35. [www.equalityillinois.org](http://www.equalityillinois.org) info@eqil.org; 773-477-7173.

**JUNE 3 - TELEVISION SHOW** - Independent Lens # 1617: “Limited Partnership” at 10 pm on 11.2 WTTW Prime. Encore presentation chronicles the 40-year love story between Filipino-American Richard Adams and his Australian husband Tony Sullivan who, in 1975, were one of the first same-sex couples in the world to be legally married (thanks to a courageous county clerk in Boulder, Colorado). After that, Richard was denied a green card and the Immigration and Naturalization Service sent him a letter stating, “You have failed to establish that a bona fide relationship can exist between two faggots.” Outraged at the tone, tenor and politics of the letter—and to prevent Tony’s deportation—they embarked on a journey that included bringing a lawsuit against the federal government. This is one of many LGBTQ shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 3 - TELEVISION SHOW** - Independent Lens #1820: “Real Boy” at 11 pm on 11.2 WTTW Prime. Encore presentation that is a moving and intimate story of a family in transition that follows the transition of trans teen Bennett as he navigates adolescence, sobriety and the physical and emotional ramifications of his changing gender identity. Through the process, his mother Suzy makes her own transformation, traveling a difficult road toward accepting that the daughter she raised as Rachael is now her son Bennett. Filmed over the course of four years, “Real Boy” is a love story about a mother and son who rediscover connection with each other and find support from their communities. This

is one of several LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 4 - FILM SCREENING** - “Puzzles: When Hate Came to Town” at Beverly Branch Library, 1962 W. 95th St. in Chicago. 6 pm. Puzzles tells the story of a hate crime when a teenager entered and brutally attacked the patrons of a gay bar called Puzzles Lounge in New Bedford, Mass. As a result, two different worlds collide: a homophobic hate crime offender and his victims. Puzzles explores the correlation between American economic desperation and homophobia, intolerance and, ultimately, violence. Info.: Arlene Gottardo: [abadillo@chipublib.org](mailto:abadillo@chipublib.org); 312-747-9673.

**JUNE 4 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - At Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln in Chicago. 10 am. Stories, songs and a craft will focus on the rainbow of families and children in our community. All little ones and their families are welcome. Info: Alex Falck: [afalck@chipublib.org](mailto:afalck@chipublib.org); 312-744-7616.

**JUNE 5 - DANCE PARTY** - “Silent Disco featuring Ariel Zetina” at the Harold Washington Library Rotunda. 1 to 5 pm. The silent atmosphere that you may expect at the library is transformed into a high-energy dance party as soon as the headphones go on. Enjoy original music by local superstar Ariel Zetina while learning about the Chicago Public Library’s Pride Month offerings. Info.: Alexis Cantu: [acantu@chipublib.org](mailto:acantu@chipublib.org) or Abbey Muzatko: [amuzatko@chipublib.org](mailto:amuzatko@chipublib.org)

**JUNE 5 - TELEVISION SHOW** - We’ll Meet Again # 106: “Coming Out” at 9 pm on 11.2 WTTW Prime. Encore presentation which is part of the PBS series, “We’ll Meet Again.” This episode is about when those whose lives were changed by the early days of the gay rights movement reunite. Tom wants to find the childhood friend who urged him to come out, while Paul seeks a fellow student who inspired him to stand up for his beliefs. Part of a series which takes viewers on a journey of hope to reunite those separated by time and distance. The series features dramatic reunions of people whose lives crossed at pivotal moments. View history through their eyes and hear stories of heroism, hope and the forging of unbreakable bonds. Executive produced and reported by Ann Curry. This is one of several shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 6 (through July 7) - PLAY-** “Pink Orchids” by Patrick Cash at Buena Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway in Chicago. Various times and prices. In five eloquently interwoven and often funny monologues, Patrick Cash invites you to explore the emotions of living with a virus (HIV) that attacks the emotions as well as the body. The presentation, while full of optimism, does not shy away from the prejudices that are still aimed at People with HIV to this very day. Times & tickets: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or by phone: 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222.

**JUNE 6 - BENEFIT PARTY** - “Out of the Office, 2018:- 7th annual Pride Month fundraiser for Affinity Chicago and Chicago House sponsored by the Godfrey Hotel and I/O Godfrey; Dream Town Realty; Fifth Third Bank; the Paterno Group; and Windy City Times at the I/O rooftop lounge of the Godfrey Hotel, 127 W. Huron in Chicago. 6 to 8 pm. Tickets: \$15-\$50. (a pre-party from 5-6 pm will feature libations, raffle and early access to lounge seating for the party). [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

**JUNE 6 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - “Drag Story Time” at the Pullman Branch Library, 11001 S. Indiana Ave. in Chicago. 10:30 am. Drag queens read stories to kids. Stories, songs, boas and glitter will excite everyone! Info: Katie Booher: [kbooher@chipublib.org](mailto:kbooher@chipublib.org); 312-747-2033.

**JUNE 6 - TELEVISION SERIES** - “Vicious” Marathon at 7 pm on 11.2 WTTW Prime. Encore presentation of the series that tells the story of partners Freddie (Ian McKellen) and Stuart (Derek Jacobi), who have lived together in a London flat for nearly 50 years. Constantly picking each other apart, cracking snide remarks aimed at the other’s age, appearance and flaws. However, underneath their vicious co-dependent fighting, they have a deep love for one another. Their feisty best friends include Violet (Francis LaTour of Harry Potter fame) and Ash (Iwan Rheon of Game of Thrones). This is one of several shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 7 - FILM SCREENING** - “Straightlaced: How Gender’s Got Us All Tied Up” at Edgewater Branch Library, 6000 N. Broadway in Chicago. 4 pm. With a fearless look at a highly charged subject, Straightlaced unearths how pressures around gender and sexuality are confining American teens. These stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender-role expectations and homophobia are interwoven; and illustrate the different ways these expectations connect with culture, race and class. Info: Shira Belenke: [abelenke@chipublib.org](mailto:abelenke@chipublib.org); 312-742-1945.

**JUNE 7 - PLAY** - “Looking Out/Looking

In: Performance and Talk-Back” presented by About Face Theatre at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., in Chicago. 6 pm. Hilarious, relevant and poignant, this play is a collection of stories that connects issues around race, class, sexuality, age, gender and self-esteem. It features the true stories of the performers and the audience is encouraged to ask the actors about their stories and share experience. The play speaks specifically to queer/trans identities and allyship. After the performance, there will be an interactive talk-back. Info.: Amanda Zagloba: [azagloba@chipublib.org](mailto:azagloba@chipublib.org); 312-747-4300.

**JUNE 7 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - “Drag Story Time” at Rogers Park Branch Library, 6907 N. Clark in Chicago. 10:30 am. Drag queens read stories to kids. Stories, songs, boas and glitter will excite everyone! Info: Jessie Hotaling: [jhotaling@chipublib.org](mailto:jhotaling@chipublib.org); 312-744-0156.

**JUNE 8 (repeated June 9) - CABARET** - “Fabulous Divas of Hollywood” (PAC Cabaret event) starring and Created by Alan Palmer at Broadway Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 10:30 pm both nights. Cabaret performance featuring parodies of 22 of the biggest and best Hollywood stars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Audrey Hepburn, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli, plus a few surprises. The production features fast-paced changes of beautiful costumes, wigs, thematic projections and a bevy of satirical songs. Beyond mimicry and drag, the performance is both reverent and irreverent. It is a loving and hysterical tribute to the Prima Performers of Hollywood. Tickets: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222.

**JUNE 8 - LIP SYNC BATTLE & RECEPTION BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN** - Coordinated by the Center on Halsted’s Women’s Action Committee at 3656 N. Halsted in Chicago. Features teams vying for championship and a reception. 6 pm. [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**JUNE 8 - TEEN BOOK CLUB** - At Dunning Branch Library, 7455 W. Cornelia in Chicago. 3 pm. Teens will read Vito Russo’s “Why We Fight” speech from 1988 (read a stirring account of LGBTQ activism at the height of the AIDS crisis.) Info: Daniel Williams: [dwilliams@chipublib.org](mailto:dwilliams@chipublib.org); 312-743-0480.

**JUNE 9 - BBQ** - “Flag Day Beer Bust & BBQ” - Annual fundraiser for American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Replay Bar, 3439 N. Halsted in Chicago. 3 to 7 pm. \$10. [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org); [jamesdarby@aol.com](mailto:jamesdarby@aol.com); 773-752-0058.

**JUNE 9 - COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE** - “SchlipShlops” at the King Branch Library, 3426 S. King Dr. in

Chicago. 1 pm. The duo uses dance, dialogue and movement in a silly, somewhat confusing piece about sharing and difference. These two friends, Izah and Charley, pull inspiration from animals, food and camaraderie for their mirth-filled performances, which explore making space for themselves, their bodies and their queer identities. All Ages. Info: Arnette Hill: [ahill@chipublib.org](mailto:ahill@chipublib.org); 312-747-7543.

**JUNE 9 - PRIDE CONCERT & DANCE** - By the Artemis Singers, Chicago’s Lesbian feminist chorus at First Unitarian Church of Chicago, 5650 S. Woodlawn in Chicago. 7 to 10 pm. Ticket Prices: TBA. [www.artemissingers.org](http://www.artemissingers.org); [info@artemissingers.org](mailto:info@artemissingers.org); 773-764-4465.

**JUNE 10 - TELEVISION SHOW** - “Out & Proud in Chicago.” 10 pm on 11.2 WTTW Prime. Encore presentation of the critically acclaimed show featuring historical coverage of LGBTQs in Chicago. Narrated by actress and Chicago native Jane Lynch. This is one of several LGBTQ shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 11 (through July 8)- PLAY** - “The Green Bay Tree” by Mordaunt Shairp at Buena Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway in Chicago. Various times and prices. The play is about a charming young man who is forced to choose between the love of his fiancée, lifestyle of his male mentor and the prescription of his upbringing. This is the infamous comedy of manipulation that, in 1933, made a leading Broadway star of Laurence Olivier, opposite his then-wife Jill Esmond. The play was a scandalous hit in the West End and on Broadway. It was a torrid British drama of homosexual lust, that through clever use of of unspoken implications, avoided censorship from the Lord Chamberlain’s office in an era when any depiction of gay love was banned from public performance. Featuring Kristen Alexia, Alexander McRae, Bradley Halverson and Buzz Leer. [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or by phone: 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222.

**JUNE 11 - PRIDE OPEN MIC** - Annual event hosted by Sappho’s Salon at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark in Chicago. 7 to 9:30 pm. Cost: Pay what you can, w/ all proceeds going to the featured performers and the bookstore’s Women’s Voices Fund. BYOB and a Mediterranean spread will be provided. Event has three featured performers and an open mic wherein each individual has a 5-minute spot, first come, first served. Open mic participants will receive a coupon to the bookstore. More information: [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com); [wcfbooks@gmail.com](mailto:wcfbooks@gmail.com); 773-769-9299.

**JUNE 11 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - at Kelly Branch Library, 6151 S. Normal Blvd. in Chicago. 10:30 am. Stories, songs and craft will focus on the rainbow of families and children in our community. All little ones and

their families are welcome. Info: Mary Gen Davies: [mdavies@chipublib.org](mailto:mdavies@chipublib.org)

**JUNE 12 - FILM FESTIVAL** - “Pride Film Festival- Summer Shorts” (PAC Film Event) at Broadway Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 7:30 pm. Various prices. The festival includes a series of sexy and fun upbeat films for summer. (This will conclude PAC’s first year of monthly short film fests, which will return in November.). Tickets at: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222.

**JUNE 12 - FILM SCREENING** - “The Year We Thought About Love” at the Richard M. Daley Branch Library, 733 N. Kedzie in Chicago. 6 pm. What happens when a diverse group of LGBTQ youth dares to be “out” on stage talking truthfully about their lives? As they create a play about love, a theater troupe of Queer youth celebrates the fullness of their lives as young artists and activists. Info: Jacob Cleary: [jcleary@chipublib.org](mailto:jcleary@chipublib.org); 312-743-0555.

**JUNE 12 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - “Drag Story Time” at the Garfield Ridge Branch Library, 6348 S. Archer in Chicago. 5:30 pm. Drag queens read stories to kids. Stories, songs, boas and glitter will excite everyone! Info: Victoria Smirnova: [vsmirnova@chipublib.org](mailto:vsmirnova@chipublib.org) 312-747-6094.

**JUNE 13 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - At West Chicago Branch Library, 4856 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago. 11:30 am. Stories, songs and craft will focus on the rainbow of families and children in our community. All little ones and their families are welcome. Info: Keeshana Clark: [kelly@chipublib.org](mailto:kelly@chipublib.org); 312-743-0260.

**JUNE 13 - SALUTE TO LGBT VETERANS** - By American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago. Noon to 1 pm. Free. [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org); [jamesdarby@aol.com](mailto:jamesdarby@aol.com); 773-752-0058.

**JUNE 13 - VARIETY SHOW** - “WeFest” (PAC Special Event) at the Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 7:30 pm. Pride Arts Center’s semi-annual celebration of Chicago’s queer female, non-binary and trans artists. WeFest is an inclusive, intersectional variety show celebrating the work of female, non-binary and trans artists. Times & Tickets: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or by phone: 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222.

**JUNE 13 - WALKING TOUR** - “A Brief Visual History of Queer Linguistics” at the Harold Washington Library (3rd floor), 400 S. State St., in Chicago. 5:30 pm. In honor of Pride Month, Kevin Whiteneir of the Library’s LGBT Pride Committee will lead a walking tour of their heritage exhibit. Kevin Whiteneir: [kwhiteneir@chipublib.org](mailto:kwhiteneir@chipublib.org); 312-747-4300.

**JUNE 13 - TRANS COMMUNITY ICE CREAMSOCIAL**- 3rd annual event on Center on Halsted's rooftop deck, 3656 N. Halsted in Chicago. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Celebrate Pride Month, meet new friends, listen to the sweet sounds of DJ X-tasy and enjoy complimentary Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream. Free. No RSVP required. [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**JUNE 14 - CORONATION** - of the 2018 Puerto Rican Parade King and Queen, by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (Vida/SIDA) at Segundo Ruiz Bevis Cultural Center, 4046 W. Armitage in Chicago. 7 pm to 1 am. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) will crown the King and Queen for the Puerto Rican People's Parade on June 16. The King will be Orlando Cruz, the first openly gay professional boxer in the history of boxing. They will also crown a transgender woman to be the Queen. Cruz will also be the Grand Marshal of the LGBTQ Pride Parade on June 24. [www.prcc-chgo.org](http://www.prcc-chgo.org); [ricardoj@prcc-chgo.org](mailto:ricardoj@prcc-chgo.org); 773-698-7438.

**JUNE 14 - COMPETITION** - "Pride Trivia" at West Town Library Branch, 1625 W. Chicago Ave., in Chicago. 4 pm. In what year did the Stonewall Uprising begin? What colors are in the Transgender Pride Flag? What term is defined by "experiencing little or no sexual attraction to others and/or lack of interest in sexual relationships/behavior?" Show off your knowledge, win prizes and have fun at this friendly competition for all teens. Info.: Alexis Cantu: [acantu@chipublib.org](mailto:acantu@chipublib.org); 312-743-0450.

**JUNE 14 - FILM SCREENING** - "Mind/ Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw, a superstar athlete's battle with mental illness" at Uptown Branch Library, 929 W. Buena in Chicago. 6:30 pm. Mind/ Games's portrait of "the female Michael Jordan," from troubled family life to basketball superstardom, reveals a long-hidden battle with mental illness. But even as Holdsclaw begins to embrace her emotional challenges and emerge as an outspoken mental health advocate, she encounters new obstacles to her own recovery. Narrated by Glenn Close. Info: Mary Clark: [mclark@chipublib.org](mailto:mclark@chipublib.org); 312-744-8400.

**JUNE 14 - LGBTQIA ROUNDTABLE** - "Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging: Advocating For LGBTQIA Equality in the Workplace" coordinated by the Illinois Diversity Council and the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois at the chamber offices, 3179 N. Clark in Chicago. 8 am to Noon. The roundtable is aimed at creating awareness and advocacy for workplace equality. This forum connects the LGBTQIA community, D&I allies, corporate and business resource group leaders to collaborate on strategies that strengthen workplace cultures. [www.IllinoisDiversityCouncil.org](http://www.IllinoisDiversityCouncil.org)

**JUNE 14 - OPEN TELEVISION** - "Opening TV: Innovation, Identity, and Inclusion in

Television" at Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln in Chicago. 6 pm. Open Television present pilots and music videos from local queer artists, showcasing how performance by queer people of color brings innovation to the screen. Local artists will be present to talk about their work and perform live, and OTV founder Dr. Aymar Jean Christian will share insights about the web TV market and the possibilities and challenges of bringing Chicago stories to Hollywood. Dana Revilla: [drevilla@chipublib.org](mailto:drevilla@chipublib.org); 312-744-7616.

**JUNE 14 - PANEL DISCUSSION** - "Out at CHM: Queer Expression in Public Spaces" at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted in Chicago. Discussion on evolution and documentation of LGBTQ sexuality over the decades, how public spaces have provided opportunities for intimacy while documentation provides powerful messages about politics, sexuality and love. 6:30 pm. \$20. [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)

**JUNE 15 - SCIENCE EXPERIMENT** - "Rainbow Roses" at Albany Park Branch Library, 3401 W. Foster in Chicago. 2 pm. Celebrate Pride Month at YOUmedia. Dye white rose/carnations and then turn them rainbow in the fun science experiment. Info: Maggie Miller; [mpaddock@chipublib.org](mailto:mpaddock@chipublib.org); 773-539-5450.

**JUNE 16 - CHICAGO PRIDE FEST** - A street festival with vendors and entertainers by the Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA). 11 am to 10 pm. Location: Halsted (from Addison to Grace.) \$10 suggested donation, all ages. Two-day festival continues on June 17. [www.northalsted.com](http://www.northalsted.com)

**JUNE 16 - DANCE WITH PRIDE** - By Women2Women at EvolveHer, 358 W. Ontario in Chicago. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. An evening of connecting and engaging with other great women. Tickets at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/dance-with-pride-community-dance-and-body-movement-tickets-45873974292](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/dance-with-pride-community-dance-and-body-movement-tickets-45873974292)

**JUNE 16 - IMPROV COMEDY** - "Cards Against Humanity Live" (PAC Special Event) at the Broadway Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 10 pm. Tickets: \$10. The irreverent night of improv comedy is inspired by the popular and politically incorrect card game, Cards Against Humanity. After audience members pitch their ideas, the best suggestions are acted out by the Cards Against Humanity writers and a team of improvisers. The worst suggestions will be mercilessly ridiculed. Recommended for ages 18+. Tickets at: [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); or at 866-811-4111.

**JUNE 16- LGBTQIA STORY TELLING SHOW** - "You're Being Ridiculous" curated and hosted by Jeremy Owens at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N.

Clark in Chicago. 7 pm. Ticket and other information: [www.youarebeingridiculous.com](http://www.youarebeingridiculous.com); [youarebeingridiculous@gmail.com](mailto:youarebeingridiculous@gmail.com)

**JUNE 16 - PRIDE BRUNCH** - "Sharing Light, Sharing Faith in Divided Times" by the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC) at Irving Park United Methodist Church, 3801 N. Keeler in Chicago. 10 am to 2 pm. Consisting of 80+ Open and Affirming congregations in the Chicagoland area, the CCWC's brunch celebrates Pride Month and provides an opportunity for reflection, fellowship and building solidarity. No cost to members of coalition congregations. Any donation appreciated for members of the public. [www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org](http://www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org); [info@welcomingchurches.org](mailto:info@welcomingchurches.org)

**JUNE 16 - PRIDE CHORAL CONCERT** - "MyLife: A Mix Tape" by the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire at St. James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron in Chicago. 7 pm. The concert will take the audience through a memorable journey of songs connected to significant moments in the lives of choral members woven together to tell a story of diversity, humanity and pride. Tickets at Brown Paper Tickets. [www.windycitysings.org](http://www.windycitysings.org); [info@windycitysings.org](mailto:info@windycitysings.org); 773-661-0928.

**JUNE 17 - AURORA PRIDE PARADE** - Inaugural parade in downtown Aurora, Illinois. Noon. Family-friendly, all ages welcome. For information: [www.facebook.com/auroraprideparade](http://www.facebook.com/auroraprideparade) or [www.aurorapride.org](http://www.aurorapride.org)

**JUNE 17 - CHICAGO PRIDE FEST** - A street festival with vendors and entertainers by the Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA). 11 am to 10 pm. Location: Halsted (from Addison to Grace.) \$10 suggested donation, all ages. [www.northalsted.com](http://www.northalsted.com)

**JUNE 17 - LITURGY & CELEBRATION** - 46th Anniversary of Dignity/ Chicago at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway in Chicago. 5 pm. Inclusive Roman Catholic Liturgy followed by light refreshments during Social Hour. Come celebrate 46 years of welcoming and affirming ministry to the LGBT community, our families and friends. [www.dignity-chicago.org](http://www.dignity-chicago.org); [dignityChicago@gmail.com](mailto:dignityChicago@gmail.com); 312-458-9438.

**JUNE 17 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Man in an Orange Shirt" on Masterpiece at 8 pm. on Channel 11.1 WTTW HD. Two love stories, sixty years apart, chart the changes and challenges in gay lives in England—from the era of jail terms to the onset of dating apps. Stars include Vanessa Redgrave, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, James McArdle, Joanna Vanderham, Laura Carmichael, Julian Morris, Julian Sands and David Gyasi. This is one of many LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 19 - BOOK READING, SIGNING and Q&A** - With Roxanne Gay, bestselling author at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph in Chicago. 7:30 pm. Ticket prices: [www.citywinery.com/chicago](http://www.citywinery.com/chicago)

**JUNE 19 - FILM SCREENING** - "Straightlaced- How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up" at Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th St. in Chicago. 5:30 pm. Info.: Natalie Bromann: [nbromann@chipublib.org](mailto:nbromann@chipublib.org) 312-747-9595.

**JUNE 19 - WORKSHOP** - "What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?"- Maybe you aren't sure what your dream job is. This workshop could help you identify your special skills and define your new direction, allowing you freedom to explore. Facilitated by Judi Lansky of Lansky Career Consultants. Loop location. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Reservations required, no cost. [www.lanskycareerconsultants.com](http://www.lanskycareerconsultants.com); [jlansky@lanskycareerconsultants.com](mailto:jlansky@lanskycareerconsultants.com); 312-494-0022.

**JUNE 20 - AWARDS CEREMONY** - "30 Under 30 Awards" by Windy City Media Group at Polo Cafe and Catering, 3322 S. Morgan in Chicago. Reception: 5:30 pm; Program: 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The awards honor 30 outstanding young (under 30 years old) LGBT individuals and allies who have made substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT communities. Information: [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com); [andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:andrew@windycitymediagroup.com); 773-871-7610.

**JUNE 21 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Coming Out: A 50 Year History" 8 pm on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. Transgender teen Jazz Jennings narrates this one-hour documentary exploring the history of public gay identity in the LGBTQ community, from the '50s through today. (This show is repeated on June 24 and at other days and times on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month.) Also, this is one of many other LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 21 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" on American Masters" 9 pm on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. The first black woman to author a play on Broadway, the award-winning Raisin in the Sun. The documentary is the first in-depth presentation of Hansberry's complex life, using her personal papers and archives, including home movies and rare photos as source materials. The film explores the influences that shaped her childhood, future art and activism. Family, friends and colleagues share their memories of her, including Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Harry Belafonte, Louis Gossett Jr., her sister Mamie Hansberry, Lloyd Richards, Amiri Baraka and others. The documentary shows her lifetime commitment to fighting injustice



and also explores her concealed identity as a lesbian and the themes of sexual orientation and societal norms in her works. Narrated by actress LaTanya Richardson with actress Anika Noni Rose as the voice of Lorraine Hansberry. (This show is repeated on June 24 at 10 pm on channel 11.2 WTTW Prime and at other days and times on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month). This is one of many LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 22 - IMPROVISATION** - "Pride Comedy Party" by GayCo Productions at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted in Chicago. 10:30 pm. (Also on June 23) Tickets \$15 (door) or in advance at: [www.gaycopride.eventbrite.com](http://www.gaycopride.eventbrite.com); For more Info: [www.GayCo.com](http://www.GayCo.com)

**JUNE 22 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL** - "Backlot Bash 2018." The 15th annual festival is produced by Spotevents, LLC. Today (only) is the "Whiskey, Wine & Women: A Pride Tasting Event." The festival continues on June 23 & 24. Information: [www.backlotbashchicago.com](http://www.backlotbashchicago.com); [backlotbash@yahoo.com](mailto:backlotbash@yahoo.com); 773-368-6225.

**JUNE 22 (through July 14) - PLAY** - "The Maids" by Jean Genet, produced by The Artistic Home at their theater at 1376 W. Grand in Chicago. 9 pm. The presentation will be performed with drag artists in the title roles. Tickets \$25 will be available at [www.theartistichome.org](http://www.theartistichome.org) or at 866-811-4111.

**JUNE 22 (through July 22) - PLAY** - "The View Upstairs," book, music and lyrics by Max Vernon. Chicago premiere presented by Circle Theatre Chicago at Broadway Theater: Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. Various days and times. When Wes, a young fashion designer from 2017, buys an abandoned building in the French Quarter of New Orleans, he finds himself transported to the Upstairs Lounge, a vibrant '70s gay bar. As this forgotten community comes to life, Wes embarks on an exhilarating journey of self-exploration that spans two generations of queer history. "The View Upstairs" asks what has been gained and lost in the fight for equality, and how the past can help guide all of us through an uncertain future. Times & Tickets: [www.circletheatrechicago.com](http://www.circletheatrechicago.com)

**JUNE 23 - IMPROVISATION** - "Pride Comedy Party" by GayCo Productions at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted in Chicago. 10:30 pm. Tickets \$15 (door) or in advance at: [www.gaycopride.eventbrite.com](http://www.gaycopride.eventbrite.com). For more Info: [www.GayCo.com](http://www.GayCo.com)

**JUNE 23 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL** - "Backlot Bash 2018." The 15th annual festival is produced by Spotevents, LLC. Today (only) is the "Pride Family Fest" from 11 am to 2 pm. Afterwards: All-day bash. The festival continues on June 24. Information: [www.backlotbashchicago.com](http://www.backlotbashchicago.com); [backlotbash@yahoo.com](mailto:backlotbash@yahoo.com) 773-368-6225.

**JUNE 23 - PIER PRIDE** - "Navy Pier's 3rd Annual Pier Pride". Location: 600 E. Grand Ave. Noon (all day). Free and open to the public. Family-friendly. Performers and events to be announced. [www.navy pier.org](http://www.navy pier.org)

**JUNE 23 - PRIDE LITURGY** - By Dignity/Chicago at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway in Chicago. 5 pm. Inclusive Roman Catholic Liturgy. All welcome. [www.dignity-chicago.org](http://www.dignity-chicago.org); [dignitychicago@gmail.com](mailto:dignitychicago@gmail.com); 312-458-9438.

**JUNE 23 - RUN & WALK** - "Proud To Run"-37th annual event includes 5 K and 10 K race/walk. 8:04 am from Montrose Harbor. Benefit for community organizations, including Care2Prevent (University of Chicago); Illinois Safe School Alliance; Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI); and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN). The event is USA Track and Field-certified, CARA-certified and presented in association with Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago. For fees, exact location and registration information: [www.proudtorun.org](http://www.proudtorun.org)

**JUNE 23 - THEATRE/SOLO PERFORMANCE** - "You Only Live Once More: Pride Spectacular! (3rd Annual)" by Solo Crowd at The Frontier, 1106 W. Thorndale in Chicago. 11 pm (doors open at 10:45 pm). FREE & BYOB. Solo Crowd returns with their LGBTQIA+ Pride-themed installment of their bi-monthly salon, where a dozen performers, writers and artists create autobiographical solo performances. We are us, you are you, and there is no fourth wall—so come live with us once more! [www.facebook.com/SoloCrowdChicago](http://www.facebook.com/SoloCrowdChicago); [SoloCrowdChicago@gmail.com](mailto:SoloCrowdChicago@gmail.com)

**JUNE 24 - FESTIVAL** - "Pride North"- DJs/dancing. Noon to 2 am on Glenwood Ave. between Morse and Lunt in Chicago. Updated information to be announced. [www.facebook.com/pridenorth626](http://www.facebook.com/pridenorth626)

**JUNE 24 - PRIDE PARADE** - "Chicago 49th Annual Pride Parade" coordinated by PRIDEChicago. Noon. [www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org](http://www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org); [PrideChgo@aol.com](mailto:PrideChgo@aol.com); 773-348-8243.

**JUNE 24 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL** - "Backlot Bash 2018." 15th annual festival is produced by Spotevents, LLC. "Post-Parade Outdoor Music Fest/Post Parade Bash" Information: [www.backlotbashchicago.com](http://www.backlotbashchicago.com); [backlotbash@yahoo.com](mailto:backlotbash@yahoo.com); 773-368-6225.

**JUNE 24 - TELEVISION PARADE COVERAGE** - Every year, ABC 7 Chicago tapes and shows the first hour (of the two and one-half hour) Pride Parade. The one hour show is televised each year on the day of the parade, later that night. Also, it streams on the ABC 7 Chicago web site. Check local listings for time.

**JUNE 24 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Coming Out: A 50 Year History" 9:30 pm on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. This is one of many other LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 24 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" on American Masters. 10 pm on channel 11.2 WTTW Prime. This is one of many other LGBTQ-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 26 - BOOK LAUNCH PARTY** - "The Great Believers" by Rebecca Makkai at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark in Chicago. 7 pm. Free event. The "Great Believers" is a new novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss in 1980s Chicago (during the AIDS epidemic) and also a related story in contemporary Paris. To register for this free event: [www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-party-the-great-believers-by-rebecca-makkai-tickets-44963008569](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-party-the-great-believers-by-rebecca-makkai-tickets-44963008569); More information: [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com); [wcfbooks@gmail.com](mailto:wcfbooks@gmail.com); 773-769-9299.

**JUNE 26 - FILM SCREENING** - "Puzzles: When Hate Came To Town" at West Town Branch Library, 1625 W. Chicago Ave, in Chicago. 6 pm. Info: Alexis Cantu: [acantu@chipublib.org](mailto:acantu@chipublib.org) 312-743-0450.

**JUNE 26 - PRIDE STORY TIME** - At Scottsdale Branch Library, 4101 W. 79th St. in Chicago. 1:30 pm. Stories, songs and craft will focus on the rainbow of families and children in our community. All little ones and their families are welcome. Info.: Patricia Schroader: [pschroader@chipublib.org](mailto:pschroader@chipublib.org)

**JUNE 27 - FILM SCREENING** - "The Year We Thought About Love" at Humboldt Park Branch Library, 1605 N. Troy in Chicago. 6:30 pm. Info: Amber Proksa: [aproksa@chipublib.org](mailto:aproksa@chipublib.org) 312-744-2244.

**JUNE 28 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Out & Proud in Chicago" 8 pm on 11.1 WTTW HD. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 28 - TELEVISION SHOW** - Independent Lens #1904: The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin" at 10:30 pm on 11.1 WTTW HD. The film examines Armistead Maupin's life and work following his evolution from a conservative son of the Old South into a gay rights pioneer whose "Tales of the City" novels inspired millions to claim their own truth. Besides Maupin, other contributors to the documentary include some of his friends such as Neil Gaiman, Laura Linney, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen and Amy Tan. It offers a disarmingly frank look at Maupin, who served as a Naval officer in the Mediterranean and in the jungles of Vietnam (with the River Patrol Force) to the bathhouses of '70s San Francisco to the frontlines of America's ongoing culture war. This is one of several shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. [www.wttw.com/programs](http://www.wttw.com/programs)

**JUNE 29 (through July 3) - CHICAGO BLACK PRIDE** - There will be various events for the LGBTQ Black communities and allies. [www.windycityblackpride.info](http://www.windycityblackpride.info)

**JUNE 30 - FILM SCREENING** - "Mind/ Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdscrow, a superstar athlete's battle with mental illness" at West Pullman Branch Library, 830 W. 119th St, in Chicago. 1 pm. Info: Dewana Dorsey: [ddorsey@chipublib.org](mailto:ddorsey@chipublib.org); 312-747-1425.



For travel to the parade and other pride events

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# 'Queer Eye' co-host helps Lowe's, GE roll out product line

BY VERNON HESTER

Design specialist and Queer Eye for the Straight Guy star Bobby Berk pulled into Chicago on May 16 to help Lowe's Home Improvement/Hardware and General Electric rollout a new product line and retail format.

The invitation-only event took place at Lowe's

flagship store at 1360 N. Ashland Ave., and featured refreshments, goodie bags, and a short presentation from Berk, General Electric Director of Communications Alicia Gauer and Lowe's Business Development Consultant Tom Koestring.

As guests dined on mini-tacos, sirloin sliders and freshly squeezed fruit and vegetable juice, Berk, Gauer and Koestring talked about General



Electric's new line of home use light bulbs and Lowe's new retail display section. Berk spoke on how when he designs a space, the lighting plays as integral a part as the furnishings; he then provided a humorous anecdote about a client who changed the lighting from his specifications.

Gauer spoke at length about General Electric's new line of lighting with an emphasis on packaging while Koestring spoke about the new customer-friendly display section that is designed to help the customer choose the appropriate bulb for the right space and use.

The new lighting and displays will be featured nationwide in Lowe's Home Improvement and Hardware stores.

**Bobby Berk.**

Photo by Vern Hester

## House-music fest May 26 in Chicago

The Chicago House Music Festival will take place Saturday, May 26, 1-9 p.m., at the Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

Throughout the day, DJs and live performances will showcase the various sounds and styles of house music. This event is running alongside the Chicago House Music Conference and Dance Summit, taking place May 24-26 in the Chicago Cultural Center.

The festival (which has free admission) will include such acts as Louie Vega and Elements of Life, Adam Gibbons, Sabine Blaizin (Oyasound), Ron Carroll, DJ Deon, Celeste Alexander and more.

See [https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/hlp.html](https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/hlp.html).

## Bingham Cup in Amsterdam in June

The Bingham Cup program—the world championship of LGBT-inclusive men's and women's rugby—will take place in Amsterdam June 2-11.

The tournament, taking place June 8-10, will be the centerpiece of the program.

The Chicago Dragons is the only area team slated to compete. Dozens of other teams (totaling more than 1,600 players) will take part, and they are from such cities as Madrid, Nashville, Liverpool, Stockholm, Dallas and Toronto.

First held in 2002, the Bingham Cup is named in memory of 9/11 hero and rugby player Mark Bingham, who was instrumental in establishing two leading LGBT rugby clubs: the San Francisco Fog and the Gotham Knights.

Visit <https://binghamcup.com/>.

## 'Get Out,' 'Hairspray' part of movie series

Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Affairs announced its lineup for the Millennium Park Summer Film Series that will take place every Tuesday on June 5-Aug. 21, with each screening starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Gene Siskel Film Center's Black Harvest Film Festival was chosen as one of 14 of more than 40 annual film festivals presented citywide to be included in this year's Millennium Park Summer Film Series. The movie representing Black Harvest will be the Oscar-winner for Best Screenplay—Get Out—to be shown July 24.

Some of the other movies that are part of this year's series include the John Waters film Hairspray (June 5), Mad Max: Fury Road (June 12), Groundhog Day (June 26), an intriguing double feature of Wall-E and Crash (July 31), Coco (Aug. 14) and Slumdog Millionaire (Aug. 21).

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

## CAKE Expo on June 2-3 at Center

The Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE)—a weekend-long celebration of independent comics—will take place June 2-3 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The event is free to enter, and will take place 11 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. Special guests will include Tony Breed, Nicole Hollander, Audrey Niffenegger, Eddie Campbell, Jim Woodring, Bianca Xunise, Fiona Smyth and more.

Also, on June 2, there will be an after-party at GMan Tavern, 3740 N. Clark St., 8-11 p.m. In addition, on Friday, June 1, Quimby's, 1854 W. North Ave., will host a kickoff event at 7 p.m. that will spotlight the Midwestern comics press Uncivilized Books.

Featuring comics for sale, workshops, exhibitions, panel discussions and more, CAKE aims to foster community and dialogue amongst independent artists, small presses, publishers and readers.

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

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## BILLY Masters

"All men, if they are normal, go with women, women like that accost them on the street and then they go together. In Paris they have big houses for that. Papa has been there. Uncle Walter is not normal."—Anne Frank seems to out her maternal uncle Walter as gay, in previously suppressed pages from her diary. Interestingly enough, he's one of the few family members who survived and made it to the United States.

The wedding went off without a hitch—at least as far as the bride and groom, who actually got hitched. Since I know you're interested, we hear that **Prince Harry** lost about 10 pounds leading up to wedding. Apparently, **Meghan** eschews many of Harry's primary indulgences, including pizza, beer and BBQ. She wanted her hubby to look fit and trim on the day, which **David Muir** certainly noted. This begs the question: Is it possible that Mrs. Muir has never heard of Givenchy? And would it kill **Victoria Beckham** to crack a smile? Becks was posing with people walking into Windsor Palace, and Posh looked like she'd rather be getting an enema. Well, who wouldn't?

Most people appeared to be having a good time—even that crazy old woman in the green coat carrying her everyday black purse! And I like Meghan. She appears to be lovely and charming. But let's not get carried away. People are talking about how she's giving up this big, successful acting career. Get a grip. She's not Grace Kelly walking away from Hollywood with an Oscar; she's Meghan Markle, walking away from Suits on basic cable!

By the by, we hear that **Her Majesty** offered to babysit Meghan's rescue beagle, Guy, during all the hoopla in Windsor. Yes, QEII—dog sitter! Not only that, but Lizzie actually let the dog ride with her in the back of her chauffeur-driven car. It's been noted that Meghan hasn't even gotten to do that!

During my travels, gossip continued outside of the United Kingdom. I heard lots about **Pauley Perrette's** tearful farewell to NCIS. Days later came word that her departure had been precipitated by "multiple physical assaults." "I refuse to go low, that's why I've never told publicly what happened," she added, "Maybe I'm wrong for not 'spilling the beans'. Telling the story, THE TRUTH. I feel I have to protect my crew, jobs and so many people. But at what cost. I don't know. Just know, I'm trying to do the right thing, but maybe silence isn't the right thing about crime." On Twitter, she added, "There is a 'machine' keeping me silent, and feeding FALSE stories about me. A very rich, very powerful publicity 'machine'. No morals, no obligations to truth, and I'm just left here, reading the lies, trying to protect my crew. Trying to remain calm. He did it. I've been supporting anti-bullying programs forever. But now I KNOW because it was ME! If it's school or work, that you're required to go to? It's horrifying. I left. Multiple Physical Assaults. I REALLY get it now. Stay safe. Nothing is worth your safety. Tell someone."



### Billy has the dish on Harry and Meghan.

We did a bit of digging and our sources say that the physical abuse happened at the hands of **Mark Harmon's** DOG! Allegedly, Harmon brought the dog to the set, a crew member was playing with him, got bit and required 15 stitches. After that, many people were unhappy that Harmon continued to bring the dog to the set, but since he's also a producer on the show, they didn't feel comfortable criticizing him. We hear that Pauley had no such trepidation, which led to a schism between the two. Ever since then, Harmon and Perrette have refused to work together, and any scenes including them both were the result of editing magic! Here's my two cents: I do know Pauley Perrette. Each of the seven years I hosted LA Pride, Pauley was a member of our team. She showed up, she did what she could, she was great. I know firsthand she's a terrific, genuine, real person with a heart of gold, and I'm inclined to believe everything she says—and doesn't say.

Bombshell allegations are coming out from the new documentary about **Whitney Houston**. Kevin Macdonald's flick premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and includes allegations from Gary Houston that both he and Nippy were sexually molested by Dee Dee Warwick—sister of **Dionne Warwick!** In case you don't know, Dee Dee and Dionne are Cissy Houston's nieces, so that makes them Whitney and Gary's first cousins. According to Gary, the sexual assault took place when he was between the ages of 7 and 9. Since he was 6 years older than Whitney, that would mean the assault on Whitney took place when she was a toddler up until she was 3 years old! The allegations are corroborated by Whitney's longtime assistant Mary Jones. "Mary, I was molested at a young age, too. But it wasn't by a man—it was by a woman," said Whitney. While this isn't a salient point, not only was the late Dee Dee Warwick one helluva singer, but she was also a lesbian! Whitney will be released in the States on July 6.

Rumors about another deceased star have surfaced. Gay-porn actor **Rafael Alencar** has quite a tale to tell—even if it is being told in broken English. In an interview with director Marc MacNamara, Rafael said he had sex with lots of ce-

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lebrities: "I can tell dead ones. They cannot sue me. I did 'Mommy Hilfinger'. I did 'Malvin Klein'. I did a lot of celebrities. Dead ones like 'Matrick Swayze'. 'Matrick' was very nice. All the famous people that you know they are gay they have called me because they cannot be seen in public, they cannot go to clubs, bars, restaurants, they cannot have hookup apps. So they call 1-800-Me. Help me. Stop there." Gladly.

When the queen has a new granddaughter-in-law (and her little dog, too), it's time for me to end yet another column. There's nothing like time abroad to make you appreciate home. Make no mistake—the United States is a mess. But I'll take the mess I know, thank you very much. Even abroad, there were never any delays updating BillyMasters.com—the site that's always au courant. Now that I'm heading home, I'll be ready to answer all of your questions. So if you have something on your mind, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I pet anything belonging to Mark Harmon! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### The Florentine; Cafe Robey

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Sure, it's good to sometimes shake up things—but consistency can be a good thing as well.

Example one is **The Florentine** (in the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 151 W. Adams St.; <https://the-florentine.net/>). It's still warm and welcoming—and the quality of the dishes is still quite high.

Chef Zachary Walrath recently unveiled the menu for spring/midsummer (three menu alterations annually instead of four), with many dishes changed to reflect fruits and vegetables that are currently in season.

Regarding antipasti, it's hard to go wrong with the burrata di campana, which features cream-filled mozzarella, peperonata, olives, capers, basil and polenta bread (the latter courtesy of a new bakery); and polpo (octopus with saffron aioli, butter beans, snow peas, nduja and salsa verde).

An enticing insalata di carciofi incorporates



The crostini at The Florentine.

Photo by Andrew Davis

baby artichokes, golden raisins, currants, marcona almonds, lemon and parmesan. A favorite dish, bucatini carbonara, has the requisite ingredients (pancetta, sweet peas, pecorino, egg yolk and black pepper) done in a most pristine manner. Lastly, lamb chops (or agnello) are sizeable and tasty, accompanied with charred eggplant, ceci beans, peperonata and mint.

And, if you have the room, don't miss out on dessert. The crostata (warm apple pie with bourbon gelato) is divine, but there are other options, including bomboloni (warm

May 23, 2018

ricotta doughnuts with Nutella and cinnamon), strawberry mousse and panna cotta.

Also, The Florentine still has an exhaustive drink menu that could be a nightmare for indecisive people. Specialty cocktails (\$16 each) include items such as The Wayfarer and The Turn of the Tide. (As last look, these items were not in the online drink menu, which would present a problem for those who like to plan ahead.)

There is one major difference now, though: Sommelier Alexandria Sarovich is no longer there, having moved half a world away to Australia. Fidelma Cunniffe (who's here by way of Dublin, Ireland) is the new beverage director.

#### Cafe Robey

The second example of desired consistency (incidentally, connected to a hotel as well) involves the quality of the dishes at **Cafe Robey** (in The Robey hotel, at 1616 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://www.therobey.com/>), which, too, has an updated seasonal menu.

The spot's offerings (some which are "deconstructed") can best be described as contemporary American, with a global twist. One of the "small" dishes (the category printed on the menu) is simply called "Grains," and it sports a Middle Eastern flair; it consists of the ancient grain bulgur as well as cucumber, roasted peppers and onions, watermelon radish and avocado mousse, and it's accompanied with sesame lavash and sumac vinaigrette.

The Japanese-inspired egg dish simply called "Egg" (one of my faves) has a five-minute egg as well as blackened asparagus, basil custard, miso butter, chicken battarga and bonito flakes. The

WINDY CITY TIMES

pork-belly appetizer has a Mexican influence, as the braised meat has elements such as mole and charred pineapple gel and corn fritters, along with spiced cabbage and pickled radishes.

The main dishes are just as complex—and, thankfully, tasty. The pan-roasted lamb chops come with snap pea-and-mint puree, roasted carrots, black rice and aleppo vinaigrette. Pork loin is coffee-crust, and comes with lentils, pork-and-lentil empanadas, chimichurri, kale salad and fresh radish. (Other entrees cover a wide variety of proteins, such as chicken, duck, cod, beef and salmon, although the browned potato gnocchi is one of the best pasta dishes I've had in a while.)

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



Lamb chops and black rice at Cafe Robey.

Photo by Andrew Davis

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., May 23

**LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Young Professional Mixer** Networking event and workshop on productivity 5:30pm - 7:30pm Chicago Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 3179 N Clark Chicago [http://business.lgbtcc.com/events/details/young-professionals-mixer-3543?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=169253cfb2-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_05\\_06&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a616fce7f8-169253cfb2-184605701](http://business.lgbtcc.com/events/details/young-professionals-mixer-3543?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=169253cfb2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a616fce7f8-169253cfb2-184605701)

**LGBTQ+ Cancer Support** LGBTQI+ Cancer Support is a drop-in group for LGBTQI+ folk who have been impacted by cancer, including those who are living with cancer, family members, and friends. These drop-in nights occur on the fourth Wednesday of the month. 6:00pm - 7:00pm Howard Brown Health Sheridan, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago <http://howardbrown.org/event/lgbtqi-cancer-support/2018-03-28/>

**IML: Best of Chicago Welcome Party** Meet and greet the IML contestants at this annual party, hosted by Mr. Chicago Leather 2018 Stitch Leatherdandy. 9 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., [www.touchechicago.com](http://www.touchechicago.com)

**Trans Talk T-FEM** Peer-led discussion group for anyone assigned male at birth and identifying as female, feminine of center, or questioning gender. Topics are relevant to trans feminine identity and experiences. Occasional unique activities, guest speakers and events outside Center on Halsted. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=15397>

**Queens of Adventure: Chicago Edition!** Three fabulous queens embark on a Dungeons & Dragons quest beyond your wildest fantasies. Live comedy sells out in Seattle and San Francisco 7:00pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago Tickets: <http://DungeonDrag.com>

**Dungeons & Dragons & Drag Queens** Three local drag queens playing a real Dungeons and Dragons adventure for a live audience. Lucy Stoolie, Fox E. Kim, Jo McQueen, Dustin Diggory as the Dice Boy, Matt Baume as the Dungeon Master. Doors 6pm 7:00pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago <http://qoachicago.brownpapertickets.com/>

**Special Edition Men's Room Wednesday** Hosted by Men's Room Chicago and Sidetrack The Video Bar. Naughty games to win prizes with Dixie Lynn. No Cover. 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

## Thursday, May 24

**Circuit Mom Takeover** A true Chicago



## LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

## Thursday, May 24

Janet Hardy discusses sexual freedom in "Ethical Sluthood" at Center on Halsted.

Publicity photo

original and producer of the Victory Party and the Black & Blue Ball takes over Chicago's largest gay bar. RuPaul's Drag Race 7-9 p.m. Takeover begins after the show. 7:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

**Ethical Sluthood COUP/3 GOALS** series creates a dialogue around contemporary relationships and the power of self-revelation through sexual freedom and exploration tsepp@centeronhalsted.org 7:00pm - 9:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**IML Opening Ceremonies** Ticket Packages available Ticket Sales Desk at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor. Event includes the introduction of judges, contestants and number selection. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. 8:00pm - 10:30pm Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave. <http://www.imrl.com>

**Cram Fashion IML Kickoff Party** Hot models, complimentary cocktails, sexy bartenders, raffles and a live DJ. Meet David Lauterstein, CEO and founder of Nasty Pig. 10% of sales will benefit Test Positive Aware Network. 8-10 pm, Cram Fashion, 3331 N Broadway

**NSFW Benefit for TPAN** Chicago's naughty Polaroid party, benefit for Test Positive Aware Network. 9:00pm - 2:00am The Sofo Tap 4923 N Clark Chicago <http://www.thesofotap.com>

## Friday, May 25

**Brut: IML 40** IML weekend gets in full swing with DJs Peter Napoli, Ted Eiel and Dan Darlington. Brought to you by Hedonic Productions. Fantasy Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL, (312) 697-3811 10:00pm - 4:00am Fantasy Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL, (312) 697-3811 <http://www.brut-party.com>

**IML: San Francisco Party** Ticket Packages

available Ticket Sales Desk at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor. 10:00pm - 2:00am Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave. <http://www.imrl.com>

## Saturday, May 26

**Gay Is Good exhibit** Details the homophile movement 1920s through Stonewall. See days and hours on site. 12:00pm - 4:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago 773-381-8030 <http://www.gerberhart.org/>

**LGBTQ Chicagoland field day** University of Chicago Booth Rugby, Soccer, OUTreach are teaming up with Chicago women's professional soccer team, the Chicago Red Stars, for a day full of sport and merrymaking to celebrate the LGBT community. \$10-15. Ticket purchase information to come. 11:00am Toyota Park 7000 S Harlem Ave Bridgeview, IL 60455 <http://groups.chicagobooth.edu/click?uid=2f25ce84-46fb-11e8-97c4-0a25fd5e4565&r=http%3a%2f%2fchicagoredstars.com%2f>

**Bears, Baths & Beyond: IML Edition XXX** live 3-way with Titan Men Dirk Caber, Jesse Jackman and Lorenzo Flex. 6:00pm - 4:00am Steamworks 3246 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.steamworksbaths.com>

**"Striking Out: A Gay Baseball Musical"** Every Saturday through June 16. \$20 and \$15 for students. \$20/\$15 for students 8:00pm MainStage at the Annoyance Theater 851 W. Belmont Ave. 773-697-9693 <http://theannoyance.com>

**IML: Pecs and Personality** Ticket Packages available Ticket Sales Desk at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor. IML contestants are judged on their appearance and stage presence. Doors open at 7 p.m., contest begins at 8 p.m. 8:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago <http://www.imrl.com>



## SIMPLY THE VEST

## May 24-28

IML (International Mr. Leather) will have the Congress Hotel as this year's headquarters.

Photo by Andrew Davis

**DILF: IML Edition** The party for mature men and the men who want them. 9:00pm - 3:00am The Sofo Tap 4923 N Clark Chicago <http://www.thesofotap.com>

**Chicago Bearfest contest** See who will be chosen as the second annual Mr. Chicago Bear. Bears in Boxers party to follow. 10 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., [www.touchechicago.com](http://www.touchechicago.com)

**Furball Chicago** Grind with the boys of IML to the music of DJs Ralphi Rosario and Ale Maes (Brazil). Event hosted by Daddy Ersin. \$16 in advance; \$20 at the door. 11:30pm - 4:00am Metro Chicago 3730 N Clark, tickets: <http://metrochicago.com/event/furball-chicago/>

## Sunday, May 27

**GROWLr BBQ/Patio Beef Munch** on some meat with the men of GROWLr until 3. Then, Patio Beef goes until 8. 12:00pm - 8:00pm The Sofo Tap 4923 N Clark Chicago <http://www.thesofotap.com>

**PFLAG Meeting** Use side entrance. 3:00pm - 5:00pm First United Church of Oak Park 848 Lake St. Oak Park, IL 60301 <http://www.pflagillinois.org/>

**IML: International Mr. Leather Contest** Ticket Packages available Ticket Sales Desk at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor. Doors open at 5 p.m., contest begins at 6 p.m. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago <http://www.imrl.com>

**IML: The Victory Party** Celebrate the new IML and IMBB with DJ/producers Tony Moran & Morabito. Presented by (and featuring a special performance by) Circuit Mom. Tickets available at [imrl.com](http://imrl.com) and The Men's Room Chicago. 9:00pm - 3:45am House of Blues 329 N Dearborn Chicago <http://www.imrl.com>

## Monday, May 28

**Memorial Day BBQ/Best Worst Drag Show** Get some eats at 2 p.m. If you're still awake, catch Chicago's Best Worst Drag Show at 2 a.m. 2:00pm - 4:00am Jackhammer 6406 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/chijackhammer>

**IML: The Black & Blue Ball** Keep the party going at IML's official closing party. DJs/producers Tom Stephan and Karsten Solors. Tickets available at [imrl.com](http://imrl.com) and The Men's Room Chicago. 9:00pm - 3:45am House of Blues 329 N Dearborn Chicago <http://www.imrl.com>

## Tuesday, May 29

**Entrepreneur Bootcamp: Ambition to Action** Expert interactive workshops with 360 insights and actionable strategies. Register online. 9:00am - 3:00pm Chicago Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 3179 N Clark St.; <http://lgbtcc.com>

## Wed., May 30

**L Lounge** Informal, social space for lesbians to come together for friendship and support. Snacks and soft drinks in-

cluded 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://centeronhalsted.org>

**You Joke Like a Girl, All-Women's Open Mic and Showcase** Once monthly all-women's comedy night, 7pm sign up, 7:15pm open mic and 8:45pm showcase. Beer or coffee drinks at the in-house cafe at Volumes Bookcafe. Donations are split amongst the showcase members. Find You Joke Like a Girl on Facebook 7:00pm Volumes Bookcafe, 1474 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

## Friday, June 1

**Speak Truth to Power** Major touring exhibition based on the book, Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World, about activists working tirelessly to defend justice in political rights, freedom of expression, honor killings, demilitarization, environmental activism, mental health, children's rights, and national self-determination. 10:00pm - 8:00pm Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center 9603 Woods Dr. Skokie, IL 60077 <http://ILHolocaustMuseum.org/speak-truthstopower>

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

**Flannel Forever Pride Kickoff** LezBe is all about queer women and femmes but welcomes all friends, family, allies and identities. Special guest DJ Zel 10:00pm - 2:00am Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago <http://www.lezbeevents.com>

## Saturday, June 2

**Chicago Undy RunWalk to fight colorectal cancer.** 7:30 am registration. \$30 advance. \$35 race day. E-mail special-events@ccliance.org for registration code 9:00am Lincoln Park South Fields, 1627 N. Stockton Dr., Chicago

**North Shore Pride Fest** Family friendly/all ages day-long event includes Pride Family Picnic in the Park (Everts Park, 130 Highwood Ave. from 11 AM to 3 PM) followed by the Taste the Rainbow (adult only) Pub Crawl through restaurants and bars. 11:00am - 2:00am Downtown Highwood, IL 847-432-6000 <http://www.ripplepublicrelations.com>

## Sunday, June 3

**Equality Illinois Pride Kickoff Brunch** Guest speaker Anise Parker, former Houston Mayor and current CEO of the Victory Fund. Celebrating leaders advancing LG-BTQ equality all year. 11am-1pm brunch program and party continues as Brunch Remixed 1-4pm with drag show, DJ, and specialty cocktail bars. \$35 11:00pm - 4:00pm Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St. <https://tinyurl.com/yaavnk23>



Robbie Rogers, who's in *Alone in the Game*.  
PR photo

## LGBTQ sports movie premiering June 28

The documentary *Alone in the Game* will premiere Thursday, June 28, on the AT&T AUDIENCE Network, according to a press release.

The AT&T original feature-length documentary follows a group of athletes and sports figures from the biggest stages in American sports, including the NFL, NBA,

MLS, and NCAA, among others, to explore the ongoing struggles LGBTQ athletes are facing at the professional, collegiate and Olympic levels.

Among those profiled are NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, Olympic medalists Megan Rapinoe (women's soccer) and Gus Kenworthy (men's slopestyle), former ESPN President John Skipper, former NBA center Jason Collins, ex-NFL lineman Ryan O'Callaghan and MLS Cup champion Robbie Rogers.

People can also watch via streaming services on DIRECTV NOW, DIRECTV and AT&T U-verse apps.

## 'P.O.W.E.R. Project' to run in June

The Art Leaders of Color Network (ALCN) and the Comfort Station join forces to present the P.O.W.E.R. Project during June.

In lieu of traditional arts programming, the Logan Square multidisciplinary art space known as Comfort Station (2579 N. Milwaukee Ave.) will be transformed into an "empowerment hub" with a series of lectures, discussions, happenings, self-care exercises and more led by artists and members from the community.

The P.O.W.E.R. Project's programmers include darien r wendell & Bonita Africana, Jose Luis Benavides, Lakshmi Ramgopal, Mev Luna and Mike Strode. Programs include, but are not limited to, the "Which Ancestors Do We Run Towards?" workshop series; "Empathic Economies: A Black Lives Matter Listening Session;" a screening of *Female Gaze, Death & Queerness*; "I'ma Read, I'ma Read, I'ma Read": collecting a hip hop archive; an "Underground: Black QT Freedom Spaces" panel and more. Visit [ComfortStationLoganSquare.org/the-power-project/](http://ComfortStationLoganSquare.org/the-power-project/).



All smiles at the PFLAG Mother's Day 'Kisses' event at Sidetrack, which raised \$3,000.

Photo courtesy of Marcia Prichason

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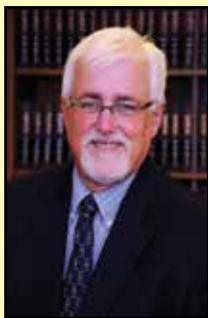
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