

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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ON THE MOVE

Proud to Run sports inaugural theme.

Photo of Proud To Run emcee and WGN-TV reporter Mike Lowe by Carrie Maxwell

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A LOT OF FUN

Back Lot Bash brings the fun to Andersonville.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)

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STRIDES OF MARCH

Dyke March returns after 2017 controversy.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

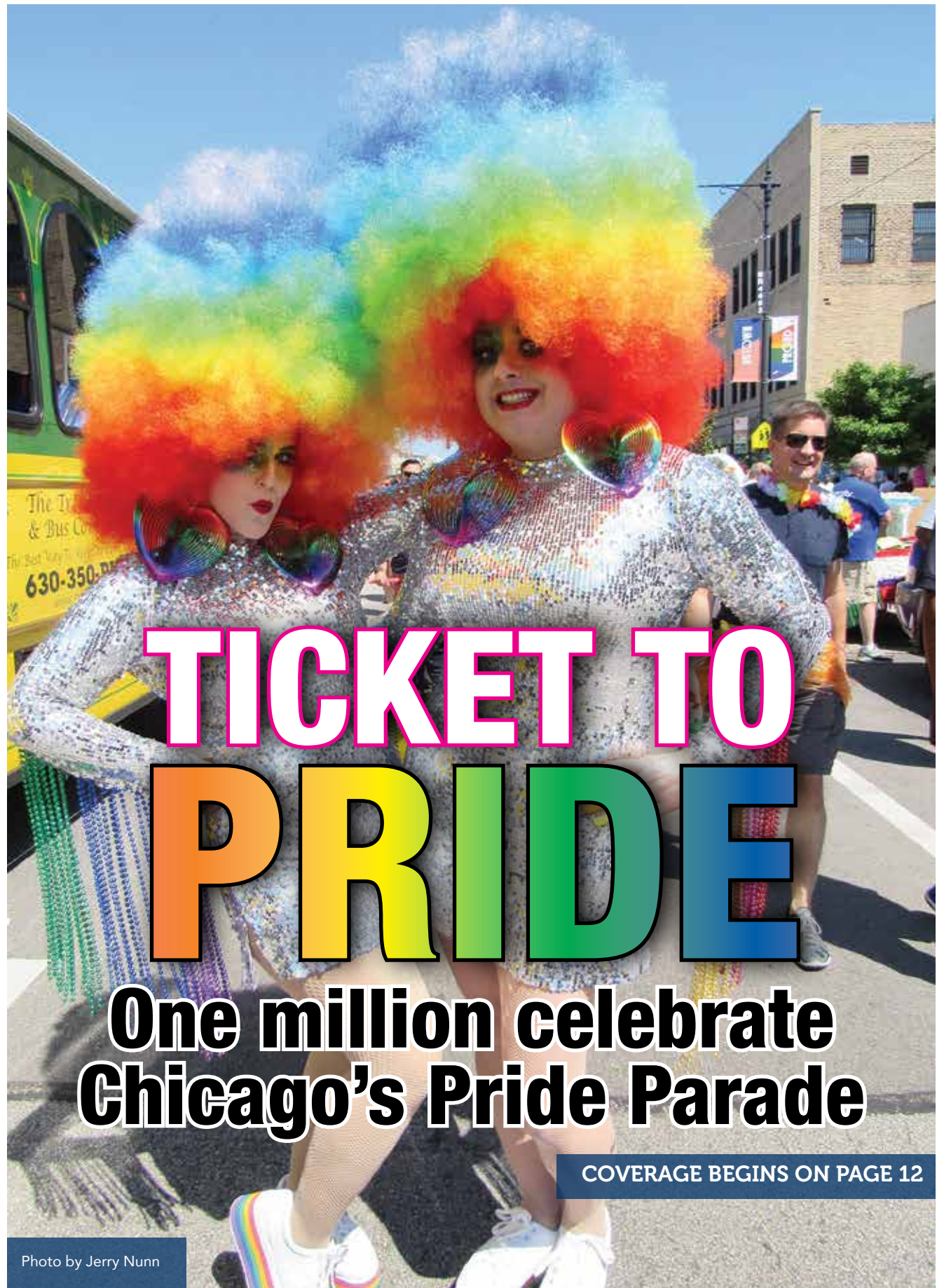
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ROCK STEADY

Hundreds back at Montrose after Rocks' 2016 closing.

Photo by Vern Hester

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TICKET TO PRIDE

One million celebrate Chicago's Pride Parade

COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 12

Photo by Jerry Nunn



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Above: WCT reviews You Can't Take It With You.
Photo by Jhenai Mootz

online exclusives at
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'MAID' TO ORDER

Windy City Times reviews the theatrical production The Maids (left).

Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

BRIT FOR TAT



Out British activist Kevin Ovenden talks political endeavors, U.S. speaking tour.

Photo by Chris Geovanis

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME

Former President Bill Clinton stopped by Chicago to promote his new book—a mystery with James Patterson co-writing.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Tom Holland, Violet Chachki and Nina Simone.

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Out at CHM discusses history of queer PDAs

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Inside the Center on Halsted's auditorium, while queer community vendors tabled their wares over a DJ, an open bar, and plates of hors d'oeuvres, Chicago History Museum board member Matt Blakely called queer history and Chicago history "inextricably linked." Blakely introduced "Queer Expression In Public Spaces" as part of Out at CHM's series of events focused on seeing and hearing queer history; this event focused on feel and the documentation of public touch.

Local historian and event moderator Owen Keehnen defined queer PDA, saying it was a direct challenge to social norms and carried some degree of personal risk. "What does our willingness to engage in this behavior say about us?" Keehnen asked.

Each of the panel of local image-makers brought three or four representative images from their work, while Keehnen shared photos he found in the course of his research on the history of the former undeveloped shoreline of Belmont Harbor, known as the Belmont Rocks.

"We claimed these uneven slabs of limestone," he said, speaking of the "expanded sense of freedom" the rocks gave their pre-AIDS clientele even if they were outside in the middle of a city. "We did it in the sunshine when our bars still had blacked out windows. The straights just had to deal with it or take their picnic elsewhere."

Keehnen credited the Rocks with creating a sense of community and being a place you could find lovers or best friends. An image of six men in the same exaggerated pose prompted Keehnen to point out the freedom of the Rocks' denizens to be campy.

"I cannot imagine a group of straight men doing this," he joked, and urged the audience to pass along any photos or scrapbooks of the Rocks to him.

When she arrived in Boystown from rural Maryland, queer femme photographer Andie Meadows remembered thinking it was the epicenter of the LGBTQ community, like every travel guide said. But she realized it lacked the femme-queer energy she craved.

"It's called Boystown, what do you expect?" Meadows said she was told. One of her images was of the faded remnants of "Lesbian Love" painted on a neighborhood building. Though she knew it was graffiti, Meadows called it "the most beautiful mural I'd ever seen." It's whitewashed now, and Meadows wondered, "What else has been whitewashed?" She currently takes photos of drag queens in her bathtub for her aptly titled series, "Queers Who Bathe," which she calls a "living snapshot of Chicago's queer scene."

Patric McCoy disabused the notion that he set out to be a photographer. He was, instead, "an inadvertent documentarian" of the undercover black gay scene. McCoy lived in South Shore and commuted to his EPA job in the Loop via bicycle. He'd been teaching himself photography and often biked camera in tow. Whenever someone said,

"take my picture," McCoy would do it.

"Thousands of people did that," he said. His journey took him through multiple parks, always a meeting ground for gay men looking to hook up. One of his images shows a man sitting on the top rail of a park bench, code for "I'm available." Many of his photos were taken in front of The Rialto Tap downtown, which closed at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. and reopening at 6 a.m., and an excellent mixing ground for all walks of life, became the epicenter for Black gay life.

"Everyone went but no one said they went there," said McCoy about the Rialto. His travels resulted in thousands of pictures, whose significance he only realized years later.

Michelle Citron's work—including a documentary "Visible Lives" shown after the panel—focused on photos taken by a lesbian couple from Rogers Park, Norma Roos and Virginia Kaitchuck. After they passed away, their caretaker found over 2,000 Kodak snapshots, many taken pre-Stonewall, in their apartment. One showed a group of people at a banquet hall likely rented out for a gay holiday party for those in the community estranged from their families. Another showed a 1950s lesbian house party.

Citron's favorite image was of a butch with her head in the lap of her femme partner. "Women shared physical affection on the front porches and parks of Chicago," Citron said, no matter if they were gay or straight.

Keehnen first asked panelists was if mainstream acceptance of LGBTQ culture affected PDA. Both the older McCoy and Citron felt that if anything, acceptance lessened PDA.

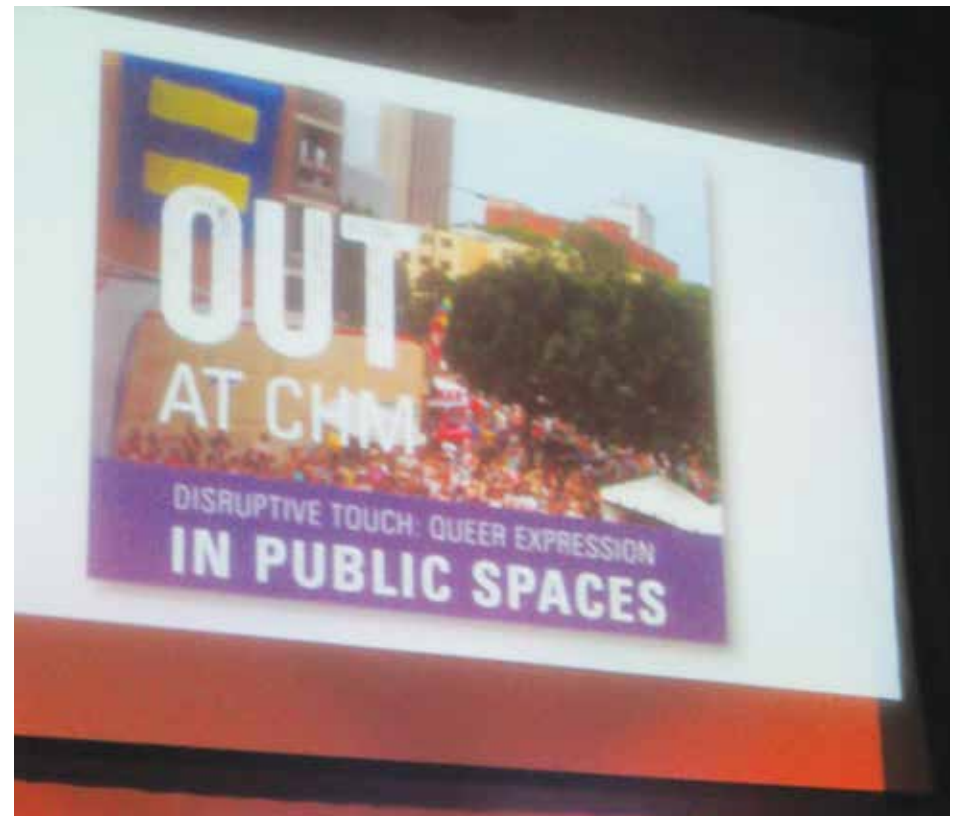
"When you become mainstream, you lose your identity," said Citron, who felt that flaunting identity in public was part of the pleasure. Meadows pointed out that platforms had moved online, relevant to Keehnen's next question about preservation.

"Inadvertent images go away," said McCoy, thinking about his own work and how someone today would have to purposely go about documenting the things he saw. He added that people are no longer as willing to be photographed in compromising positions.

Meadows brought up the challenge of organizing the many images that exist online and have proliferated with the help of technology. Was the impulse to document more prevalent in queer people? Keehnen asked.

"Everyone takes photos: what motivates them is different," Citron replied, saying that 2 billion snapshots were taken every year in the '40s and '50s. "It's the way most of us write our autobiographies," she said.

But Meadows described an urgency to queer images, the feeling that photos "needed to happen." Keehnen agreed, wondering if the need to document queer lives stemmed from LGBTQ people not seeing their lives reflected. He asked about images that focused on more obvious trappings of queerness, such as camp, leather, and butch/femme dynamics.



One of the slides at the Out at CHM event.

Photo by Liz Baudler

"I didn't see people wanting to be photographed like that," McCoy responded, saying he was always more interested in the audience than the stage. Citron described Norma, her photographer muse, as becoming butcher overtime because of community pressure, which Meadows likened to how social media makes us brand ourselves.

When Keehnen asked about the effect of media representation of LGBTQ people and if LGBTQ expression will ever be accepted, Citron likened this representation to that of women, saying popular culture has an "oppressive" quality and that women have struggled with trying to fit the given images. She also pointed out that LGBTQ progress is questionable these days, which prompted Keehnen to answer his own question, saying that a need for expression outweighs the risk factors. He then asked if areas like Boystown and Andersonville provide security for PDA to take place without fear.

Meadows responded by critiquing Boystown as a capitalist enterprise, and that capitalism comes with sexism, racism, and transphobia. Yet, she admitted, "I don't know if you can have visibility without commercial influence."

Keehnen closed the formal part of the panel by asking the imagemakers if they could point to one image that was exactly what they wanted to convey, which Citron felt was impossible. Life was too complicated for one image.

"That's why I'm a filmmaker," she joked, and expressed a desire for people to see history. Meadows added that queer history is not written down in linear ways; the best way to access it is by talking to people.

Audience inquiries included curiosity about the

future of documentation in a queer-youth based culture. McCoy responded by pointing out that AIDS wiped out a generation and a half, obliterating vital connections and history, and that prior to AIDS, old people used to be at parties. Meadows agreed that with drinking, dancing and nightlife preoccupying her internet generation, there were so few chances for generations to mix—though this event was an exception.

She also wanted her work to create icons, to counteract how the LGBTQ community has been pigeonholed by capturing the essence of her subjects.

"Be your own gay icon!" she told the crowd, echoing what Keehnen had concluded earlier: with an uncertain future, the LGBTQ community is "politicized by making our presence known."

'Foster and Adopt' June 29 at Center

The town-hall event "Foster and Adopt Our Children: Recruiting Within the LGBTQ Community and for LGBTQ Children" will take place Friday, June 29, 5-9 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The event will include representatives from licensing agencies as well as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The guest speaker will be foster and adoption-in-process parents.

Attendees will also see the Illinois Heart Gallery—a photography exhibit of children available for adoption created by professional photographers from this state.

See <https://letitbeus.org/events/>.

Gay-rights pioneer Dick Leitsch dies at 83

Gay-rights icon Dick Leitsch, who led so-called "sip-in" protests during the 1960s, died in New York City on June 24, according to NBC News. He was 83.

Born in Kentucky, Leitsch became a cornerstone of the movement after moving to New York City and leading protests that pre-dated the Stonewall Inn uprising. He eventually led that city's branch of the Mattachine Society, one of the oldest gay-rights groups in the country.

In February 2018, Leitsch learned he had terminal liver cancer. Following his diagnosis, he received letters from admirers, including President Barack Obama, who thanked Leitsch for "decades of work to help drive our nation forward on the path toward L.G.B.T. equality."

Leitsch's partner, Timothy Scofield, died in 1989 from AIDS-related complications.

In 2015, Windy City Times ran a profile that the LGBT History Project's Perry Brass wrote (during LGBT History Month). In part, Brass wrote, "[H]istory is unavoidable. We are now starting to see what huge courage and sacrifices these gay pioneers went through—Frank Kameny, who was jobless after a federal witchhunt deprived him of a position as an astronomer; Nick Nichols, whose own father, an FBI agent, plotted to have him murdered as a teenager; and Dick Leitsch, who took his role in it with such gallantry, never try-

ing to re-invent history to try to concoct a place himself. He went from being America's most famous, if only, homosexual, to almost forgotten."

The NBC News item is at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/gay-rights-pioneer-dick-leitsch-who-held-sip-protest-dies-n885996>. The Windy City Times profile is at <http://www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/LGBT-HISTORY-MONTH-Dick-Leitsch-History-is-unavoidable/53225.html>.

CTU President Karen Lewis retires

In the wake of health concerns, Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) President Karen Lewis is retiring.

A statement from Lewis read, "Given my health challenges, it is unlikely that I will return to my beloved classroom. In light of that, and after much consideration, I recently submitted a retirement request to the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, ending my tenure as an educator with Chicago Public Schools.

"For nearly three decades, I have worked to educate our city's children and provide them with a foundation for learning that will follow them throughout their lives. In the coming weeks, I will make a determination regarding my role as president of the Chicago Teachers Union and our path forward in fighting for the schools our children deserve.

"I am nearing the end of my third term. I remain president today, with a strong leadership team that includes our Vice President, Jesse Sharkey. I will be engaging with my fellow CTU



Karen Lewis in 2016.

Photo by WCT

officers and members about our direction forward over the months ahead and will be communicating with our members, allies and the public in the coming days."

Media reports stated that Lewis recently underwent brain surgery in the midst of a cancer battle.

NU revokes Cosby's honorary degree

Northwestern University has revoked the honorary degree it awarded Bill Cosby in 1997—and it is the first time the school has taken such a step in its 167-year history, the State Journal-Herald noted.

The Evanston university announced its board of trustees discussed revoking the honorary degree it awarded to the actor-comedian during his trial on sexual-assault charges. The board decided to wait until the end of the trial before making a decision.

In April, Cosby was convicted on three counts of aggravated indecent assault for drugging and assaulting Andrea Constand in 2004. (Several media outlets have reported that Constand is lesbian.)

NBC News reported that Constand recently said on the NBC show Dateline of Cosby, "He needs help and he needs to repent for what he did, not only to me but for a lot of women. He's a convicted sex assaulter, but I forgive him for what he did to me."

The article is at <http://www.sj-r.com/news/20180618/northwestern-revokes-honorary-degree-to-cosby>. The NBC News item is at <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/bill-cosby-scandal/andrea-constand-says-bill-cosby-sick-she-forgives-him-n878756>.

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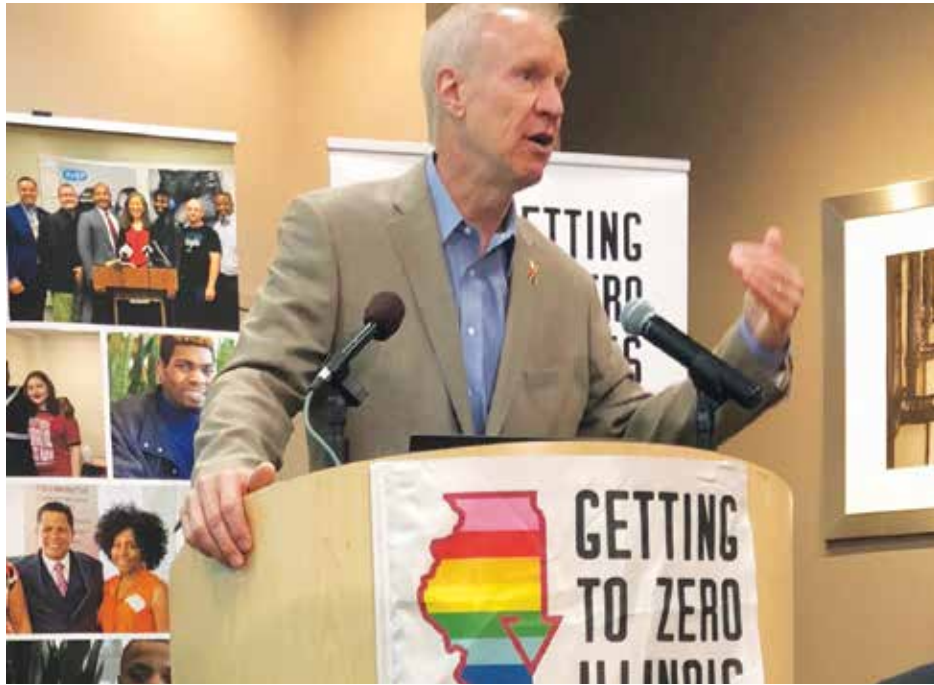
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Gov. Rauner joins 'Getting to Zero' session

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner joined public officials and service providers the morning of June 20 as they kicked off a daylong working session laying out the logistics of the state's Getting to Zero initiative.

The goal for that initiative, announced in late 2017, is the elimination of new HIV infections in Illinois by the year 2030. Elimination would be signified by reaching what stakeholders called "functional zero," which is about 100 or fewer new infections each year, and is the point at

which the disease could not sustain itself.

During opening remarks, Rauner spoke about PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and the need for expanded mental health services in the state. The governor noted that the state is the sixth nationwide in HIV infections, and ninth in the nation in number of people with full-blown AIDS.

"We can do much better than that, and we will do better than that," Rauner said, noting that he was fully committed to the goals of Getting to Zero.

Illinois Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Chief Eduardo Alvarado reiterated the commitments Rauner spoke of, adding that, "There is no one who is going to be denied access to PrEP based on inability to pay."

Alvarado further spoke of the how Treatment as Prevention (TasP) strategies would factor into the initiative; TasP interventions aim to reduce the viral load of HIV-positive persons to undetectable levels. A challenge, Alvarado added, would be determining a "humanistic approach" that does not perpetuate pre-existing stigmas against persons with HIV/AIDS.

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) officials also spoke at the event, including Commissioner Julie Morita and Deputy Commissioner Dave Kern of the HIV/STI Bureau. Kern acknowledged the difficulties that loomed as providers and advocates advanced into a relatively unprecedented project.

"Now is a righteous time for us," Kern said. "... Morally, we are obligated to put these tools to use."

After the governor left, one audience member questioned how accountable officials would be towards these commitments, noting that millions in approved HIV/AIDS funding was never spent. AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) CEO and President John Peller said that a letter would be drafted and sent to Rauner outlining commitments he had made for the project in the years ahead.

Rauner faces an aggressive challenge from Democrat J.B. Pritzker in the 2018 election. Pritzker spokesman Jordan Abudayyeh told Windy City Times that, "Bruce Rauner's 736-day budget crisis devastated health clinics, slashing the number of HIV tests performed and, even after state legislators passed a budget and appropriated funding for HIV prevention, Rauner unilaterally refused to spend \$10 million of it. J.B. supports the Getting to Zero initiative, and unlike Rauner's empty promises, J.B. will pass budgets that reflect his support."

Among those also speaking at the June 20 session were researcher Greg Millett, who co-wrote President Barack Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy, and emcee Sanford Gaylord of the Department of Health and Human Services.

'Getting to Zero' aims for no new HIV cases by 2030

BY NOAH MCCARTHY

Getting to Zero is an Illinois community engagement initiative that aims to eliminate new cases of HIV by 2030.

The initiative held a kickoff event June 20 that featured multiple government representatives and HIV researchers who outlined a path toward this goal. One such speaker was state Rep. Camille Lilly, a Democrat representing the 78th District in the Illinois General Assembly and Vice-Chairperson of the Health and Healthcare Disparities Committee. Lilly emphasized that this initiative will improve quality of life for all society, not just those affected by the virus, and warned that programs like Getting to Zero only receive funding when legislators hear loudly from all of their constituents. Specifically, Lilly cited the large disparity between the Chicago rates of HIV infections versus the statewide rates as the result of preventable political stalemates.

Around 62 percent of HIV positive people live in Chicago, despite the city only representing 21 percent of the state population. Later in her talk, she addressed the racial issues at play in combating HIV, noting that people must face the reality sooner than they might realize that since certain communities will reach zero faster than others. She also said it is the responsibility of those communities with superior health services to recognize HIV as a societal problem which transcends personal concerns.

Dr. Aditya Khanna, director of network modeling at the University of Chicago, acknowledged some of the same challenges which lie between activists and their goal. He began on a positive note, stating that for the first time in more than two decades, there are now fewer than 1,000 new cases of HIV annually. Khanna's work centers on



Dr. George Greene.

Photo by Liz Thomson

Black men who have sex with men (MSM) aged 18 to 34. This demographic is of particular importance because of the increased prevalence of HIV in the Black community, where more than 40 percent of new cases occur.

Khanna's work predicts the effects of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) on reducing the number of new HIV cases after the 10th year of a certain treatment program. The model's preliminary data suggests that with an increase of 20 percent in both ART and PrEP use, new cases of HIV in the young Black MSM demographic would drop substantially.

Dr. George Greene, from the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, followed Khanna's presentation with a talk on the impor-

ance of evaluation in the goal of getting to zero by 2030. The Evaluation Center at Northwestern ("Center") works with HIV-prevention agencies in Chicago to improve their outcomes. The Center has also worked with Chicago's Project PrIDE to collect data on areas of potential intervention in the HIV treatment process. Physicians hope to understand the points in patient's journeys, for example, between being tested and receiving a positive result, where patients fall off the recovery wagon. Currently, the largest area for improvement is between the prescription of PrEP and the filling of that prescription. Additionally, this data can be analyzed across demographics, and shows comprehensively more positive results for white than for Black patients.

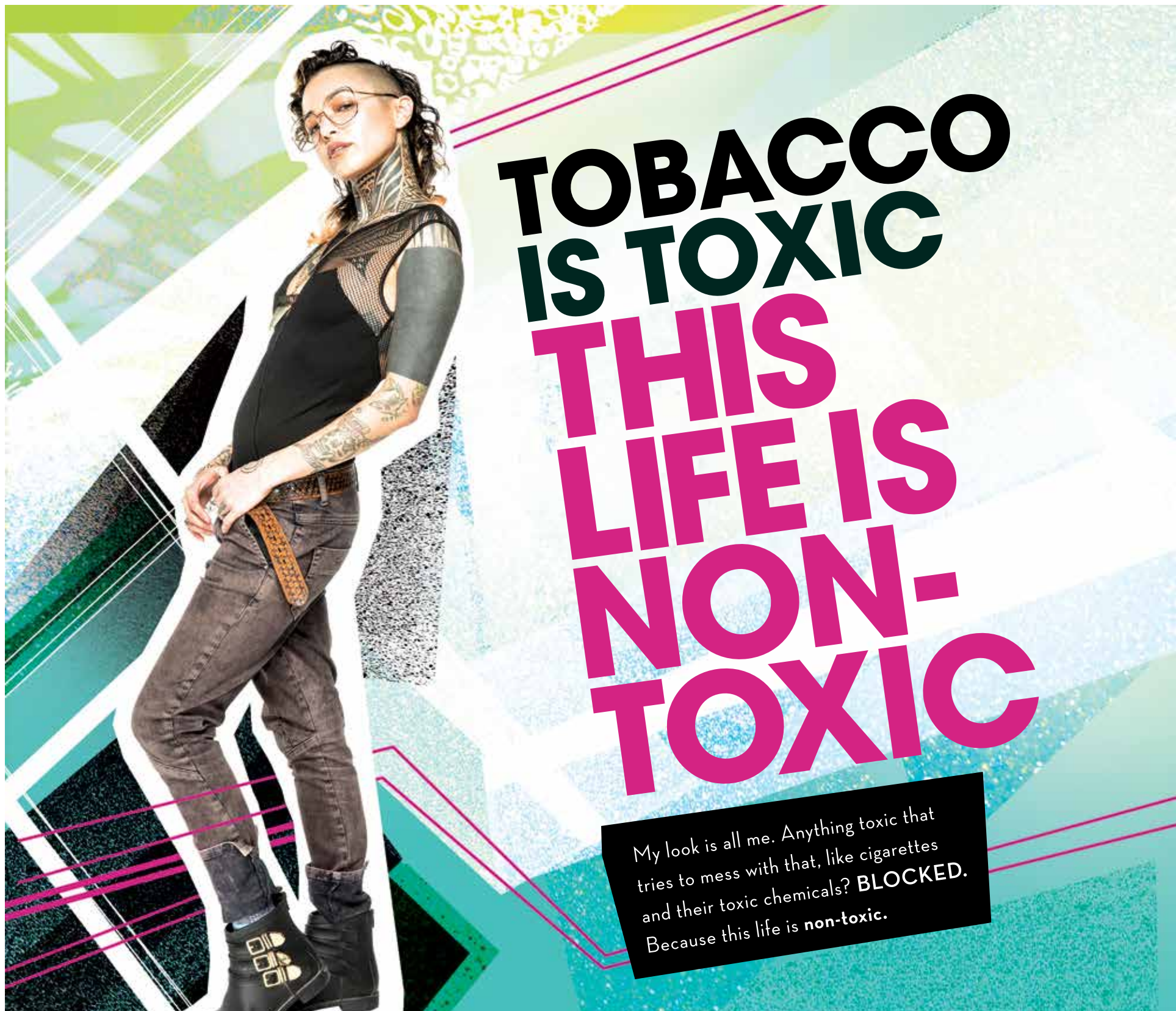
According to Greene and the Center's team, evaluation is crucial in the movement toward zero new cases of HIV by 2030.

'Queer Narratives' July 15 at MCA

"Queer Narratives with Zach Stafford and Jack Halberstam" will take place Sunday, July 15, at 3 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), 220 E. Chicago Ave.

Stafford—editor-in-chief of Grindr and INTO, the app's recent foray into publishing—will appear along with scholar/author Halberstam for a frank conversation about the role that technology can play in collecting and disseminating queer narratives in a media landscape that some have seen as traditionally devaluing these stories.

Admission is \$8-\$15 each; visit <https://mcachicago.org/Calendar/2018/07/Talk-Queer-Narratives-With-Zach-Stafford-And-Jack-Halberstam>.



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For the first time, City Club invites Pride inside

BY LIZ BAUDLER

The first time the City Club of Chicago held an LGBTQ event, it did so with what panel moderator and Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson called “leaders” of the LGBTQ community. City Club chairman Edward Mazur began the June 19 luncheon, held at Maggiano’s, 111 W. Grand Ave., by invoking the name of a member from long ago—legendary social worker and lesbian Jane Addams.

“I think Jane would really look down and appreciate this program,” Mazur said about the event, called “Taking Pride in Our Story: Chicago and Its LGBTQ Community.”

Others concurred. “I never thought I’d see the day we’d be having a Pride Panel,” said Kim Hunt, executive director of Pride Action Tank, a frequent attendee of other City Club events because of her background in transportation planning. She was joined by Howard Brown CEO David Munar, transgender rights advocate Reyna Ortiz, and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Johnson began by turning to Baim for an overview of Chicago’s LGBTQ history. Joking that she only had four minutes, Baim listed Henry Gerber, Addams and Lorraine Hansberry among notable LGBTQ Chicagoans. She also told the tale of a pre-Stonewall Chicago bar raid, that of the Trip bar in 1968. While most bars were forced to close for months after a raid for investigation, The Trip fought for the right to stay open during the process, and won.

“LGBTQ people have been part of Chicago” since this city began, said Baim, who added that LGBTQ history hasn’t been taught in schools. “Even LGBTQ people don’t know our history, and if we don’t know it, we don’t know our place in the world.”

Johnson asked Ortiz to discuss the role of trans women of color in past and future movements.

“We fight the ugly battle,” Ortiz said. “We don’t have the luxury of concealing our identities.” She called Chicago “very trans-affirming” and said the goal of fighting for her community’s rights was to make it easier for the next generation.

“It’s very important for us to instill pride on our youth, so they don’t have to encounter all the things we encountered in the past,” Ortiz said.

Munar shared his perspective on the AIDS crisis, which he called “a natural disaster.” According to Munar, more than 300,000 gay men died in the 1980s and ‘90s, and the lifetime odds of becoming HIV-positive remain high for gay men of all races, most of all African Americans. He explained how HIV/AIDS shaped institutions like Howard Brown, which had to move from being an STI clinic into providing all levels of care, including palliative, for HIV/AIDS patients. He illustrated HIV/AIDS’s impact on modern healthcare through the Denver Principles, which dictate that treatment must include the voice of the people affected by the disease.

Munar also recalled moments from his time working with AIDS Foundation of Chicago; how the foundation’s switchboard lit up the night

Magic Johnson came out as HIV+ in 1991, and a woman who called up after her 23-year-old son and his partner had both been diagnosed to ask, “I’ve already kicked them out of the house. Do I burn the bed?”

Kim Hunt related the series of legislative victories the Illinois LGBTQ community has won, starting with the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance in 1988, and updated multiple times since. Other victories Hunt mentioned included civil unions and marriage before the 2015 Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, the Youth Mental Health protection act, and the Vital Records Modernization Act, which lets people change the gender markers on birth certificates.

Hunt also highlighted the work of the activist community, crediting a sit-in by queer immigrant activists in Sen. Dick Durbin’s office with helping lead to the DREAM Act.

“While we can thankfully point to many wins, the struggle is real for many LGBTQ+ communities in Chicago and beyond,” Hunt said.

Johnson asked the panelists what ways LGBTQ people still remain unequal, and in particular, what populations within the LGBTQ community are the most challenged. In her response, Baim talked about how familial homophobia, unique to the LGBTQ community, may lead to increased physical and mental health care needs. She added that while Chicago is “a bubble,” it attracts people from all over the Midwest who may bring their prejudices with them.

“We all know that laws don’t change behavior or opinions,” Baim said. “The progress we’ve made is not permanent.”

She also alluded to her work with Hunt on both LGBTQ homeless youth and seniors.

“We have very vulnerable populations within the LGBTQ community, you just don’t hear about them,” Baim said. “Mainstream media often just covers the glamour and success and the Pride parades.”

Hunt added that while LGBTQ youth account for 7 percent of the population, they comprise up to 40 percent of homeless youth, and 20 percent of youth in the criminal justice system. Since there are not more LGBTQ senior centers, older adults end up in mainstream nursing facilities often after a lifetime of discrimination leaves them in poverty. There, they are subject to bullying from staff and other residents and they may choose to go back into the closet.

Munar called rates of trauma across the LGBTQ population “enormously high,” and said that two issues stand out across Howard Brown’s mental health practice: shame, perhaps from unresolved issues, and toxic shame, “the idea that you are bad.” He echoed the fact that LGBTQs have higher rates of health issues, in addition to higher rates of poor health outcomes and uninsurance.

“It’s not that LGBTQ people aren’t taking care of their health, it’s back to trauma, and shame, and toxic shame. It’s in our bodies, how we absorb societal pressure,” Munar said.

Ortiz, who runs multiple drop-in clinics, re-



Above: David Munar and Reyna Ortiz. Below: Brian Johnson

Photos by Hal Baim



membered an undocumented trans woman using the DREAM act. Despite being very well-versed in options for the trans community, Ortiz called this woman’s options “slim to none.”

Johnson closed by asking panelists to uplift a few efforts within the community. Hunt discussed her work with tiny homes as a solution to LGBTQ homelessness, and mentioned that Chicago is one of two cities looking at tiny homes for homeless youth. Munar felt Chicago excelled at reframing the sexual health conversation, particularly with PrEP and PEP efforts.

Baim wanted better resourcing for the LGBTQ

community, and more support from foundations.

“Being here today gives me hope,” she said. “The LGBTQ community has a tremendous amount of assets and brainpower that are [providing] solutions on healthcare and housing and all sorts of things. And everything we do is meant to lift all boats, for all ages, all races. There needs to be more inclusion of these amazing people within our community in the fabric of Chicago.”

Video of the event is at <https://www.cityclub-chicago.org/video/2306/taking-pride-in-our-story-chicago-and-its-lgbtq-community>.

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Trans at Northern Trust: At Citywide Pride, employee tells her story

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Northern Trust—which hosted a Citywide Pride event about trans employees on June 13 at their offices at 50 S. LaSalle St.—had an ideal representative in Denise Bowker, a longtime employee who had transitioned on the job within the past two years. With a Powerpoint full of graphs showing the timeline of her gender dysphoria, Bowker held the room spellbound for about an hour as she shared her life story.

After explaining the significant symmetry of the trans pride flag draped over the podium—"no matter which way you hang it, it's right," Bowker explained--she began her presentation with a photograph of a mixed-gender group of people.

"How many men and how many women were in this photo?" she asked the audience as it flashed off the screen. No one ventured a correct guess. "5 and 2," Bowker revealed, explaining that trans people "are always thinking about gender" because of safety and other personal motivations.

Bowker defined both gender identity and gender dysphoria, calling the latter "a constant, long term issue with your gender." She listed depression, anger, and anxiety as some of the symptoms of dysphoria, but called her own "way down low background noise" for decades, even if she also recalled later on feeling jealous of 50 percent of the population as she walked down the street. She remembered, at age four, standing in the kitchen as her mother emptied the dishwasher and asking her, "am I supposed to be a girl?." When her mother replied, "don't be silly," the young Bowker concluded, "I'll never mention this again."

Throughout the next decades, Bowker had a career, and raised a family. There were blips, like when she became aware of trans tennis star Renee Richards, or when on a trip to Hawaii, she realized how uncomfortable she felt with her body. She resolved to lose weight, knowing the back of her mind it would be if she ever decided to transition. Finally, in 2015, the inevitable weight of her identity and dysphoria caught up with her. After coming out to her sister, Bowker knew she had to address the dysphoria. The next logical step was coming out her wife, who, though they were divorced in the wake of Bowker's revelation, Bowker still called "my best friend."

In addition to her sister, Bowker credited a therapist, a book by Jennifer Finney Boylan, and a movie called *Normal*, about someone who transitions while working on the John Deere assembly line, with helping her face her transition. Hormones, she said, made her feel like "the clouds were parting." While she definitely faced challenges during her transition, including rejection from a close friend that made her temporarily stop her hormones, she said she encountered no obstacles in the workplace. Calling Northern Trust "awesome," she said she realized every obstacle she perceived was in her head.

"Northern is a totally accepting organization," she said. Gender identity is part of their company's employment equal opportunity guidelines, and insurance covered 100 percent of her needs. Northern Trust also had a transition guide, 10 pages long, that Bowker outlined in handouts for the audience. She described it as "9 pages for HR and managers, 1 page for the transitioner."

"Everyone's transitioning with you," Bowker



Denise Bowker.

Photo by Liz Baudler

said, saying that while the situation may seem like a lot of work for managers and HR, it's their job, it's work they like doing, and it doesn't happen every day. She also recommends that C-level management be the ones who set the pace for comfort around trans issues. In response to an audience question about how to target trans-affirming companies, Bowker recommended checking both the HRC corporate equality index and the company's EEO statement.

Bowker never reveals her deadname, because she's found it gets her misgendered much more after people know it. Her tips for being a good ally include believing a trans person's narrative and using the correct pronouns, but also advocating for them when they cannot.

"Be their voice when they're not in the room," Bowker said. "If I'm not in the meeting, and if someone deadnames me or uses the wrong pronouns, correct them. Correct them if I am in the meeting: I don't want to be the bitch and bring it up." She was quick to add that her team has been great, rarely misgendering her since her transition.

On a more personal level, Bowker recommended just being a trans person's friend, talking with rather than at them in their initial stages of the coming out process, inviting them to social events, and even, if you share a gender, taking them shopping so they feel more comfortable in the store. Bowker said she knew she was lucky to live in an accepting place--she used to live in Indiana--and have great friends. And she has learned firsthand that the female tendency to desire lots of clothing options is no joke. She told the crowd that she last gave this a year ago, in a dress that she hadn't worn since, but she just couldn't bring herself to recycle it this time.

"I had to go out and get a new one," Bowker explained. "I didn't want to wear the same dress."

Gay Indiana mayor marries husband

Pete Buttigieg—the mayor of South Bend, Indiana—recently married Chasten Glezman, *The Huffington Post* noted.

They had been dating for three years. Approximately 200 guests attended the ceremony, which was held at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James in South Bend. Right after the wedding, the couple appeared at the South Bend Gay Pride Week block party.

Buttigieg, 36, first publicly discussed his sexuality in a 2015 *South Bend Tribune* essay that we wrote in response to Indiana's controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The *Huffington Post* article is at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/gay-mayor-pete-buttigieg-indiana-wedding_us_5b2ba8eae4b00295f159da00.

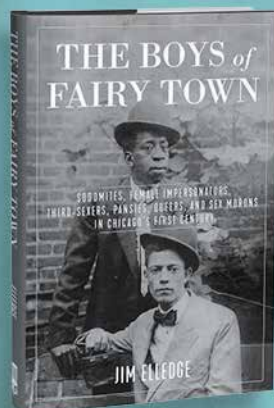
'Stigma Stops with Me' event June 27

The "Stigma Stops with Me" campaign will hold an event Wed., June 27, at Sankofa Cultural Center, 5820 W. Chicago Ave.

There will be a press conference at 9:30 a.m., with the event (commemorating National HIV Testing Day) taking place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Scheduled activities include health screenings, face-painting, giveaways, free food, entertainment and more.

RSVP to Kimberly Wallace at wallace_V3@yahoo.com.

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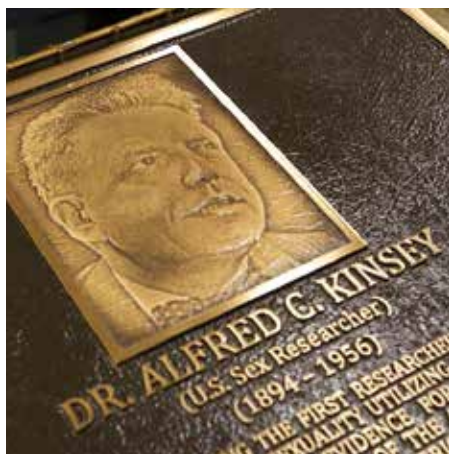
City to pursue landmark status for Legacy Walk

BY MATT SIMONETTE

On June 22, as Chicago's Pride weekend kicked off, city officials announced that they'd be pursuing landmark status for the Legacy Walk in Boystown.

"The Legacy Walk is not only a historically significant legacy of the LGBT community of Chicago, but a signal that the entire city is a safe and welcoming place for everyone," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel in a statement. "As we celebrate Pride Month, let's recognize the countless contributions made by LGBTQ Chicagoans and reaffirm our unwavering belief in equality for all."

According to the city's statement, "Landmark Status will protect the steel pylons and outdoor museum that define the Boystown streetscape. It is being considered for its unique cultural, historical and social heritage, its celebration of individuals who significantly contributed to the development of Chicago, and its distinctive physical presence as a visual feature of the Boystown



Alfred Kinsey plaque on Legacy Walk pylon.

Photo courtesy of Impact Signs

neighborhood, among other criteria."

The Planning, Historic Preservation & Sustainability Bureau of the Department of Planning and Development will handle the matter. After several months, it will make a recommendation to the Chicago Landmarks Commission; after a public review, the commission would then forward a recommendation to the City Council.

In a statement he sent to Windy City Times, Legacy Project Co-Founder and Executive Director Victor Salvo said, "We are humbled and thrilled by the mayor's history-making decision to pursue landmark status for the Legacy Walk and the world-famous Northalsted Rainbow Pylons. The Legacy Walk was conceived to provide a place where LGBT youth could come to learn about the historic achievements of people like themselves—role models whose contributions to the world we share have been so redacted that we

have been rendered invisible even to ourselves.

"Today, the Rainbow Pylons and the bronze memorials of the Legacy Walk are the realization of that vision. Safe and affirming places are vitally important to LGBTQ people. They always have been. And always will be. In an era when historically 'gay' places like San Francisco's Castro Street and the Village in New York are rapidly disappearing, it is truly remarkable to have Mayor Emanuel pursue the Chicago Landmarks Commission to officially recognize the Legacy Walk/Rainbow Pylon Streetscape as the only installation of its kind on earth. It is the only way to make sure there will always be a place for us."



Victor Salvo, Tovi Khali and Mona Noriega at a 2017 Legacy Walk dedication.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Mother Nature shines on 49th Pride Parade

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans and out-of-towners lined the streets of Lakeview and Uptown for the 49th annual Chicago Pride Parade the afternoon of June 24.

Police officials did not yet have attendance figures at the time of publication, but estimates have suggested the crowd measured about one million spectators for the last several years,

Those spectators could not have asked for better weather on June 24; after several days of rain and clouds in Chicago, sunny skies returned for Pride weekend and temperatures remained in the 70s for the afternoon of the parade.

Community organizations, city agencies, educational and religious institutions, labor unions and LGBT groups from major corporations were among those taking part. Organizers were limited to 150 parade entries, and kicked off from the corner of Broadway and Montrose Avenue shortly after noon. The final float crossed the starting point at about 2:45 p.m.

The parade was headed up by members of Scouts for Equality, an organization working to ensure that precepts of equality are carried out within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), which, at least in units not affiliated with non-affirming faith-based organizations, no longer discriminates against LGBT adults. Cate Readling, vice-president of membership of the BSA's Pathway to Adventure Council, noted that BSA had recently begun admitting girls as well.

"We're all official now," Readling said.

The Scouts were followed up by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who briefly spoke alongside Aids. Tom Tunny (44th Ward) and James Cappleman (46th). In his remarks, Emanuel spoke of the city's "inclusivity" and "belief in equality and tolerance."

With both federal midterm and state gubernatorial elections in November, and a city election in early 2019, politicians were out in full force.

J.B. Pritzker (D), who is challenging incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner (R) in November, said, "We're [at] a time when Donald Trump has put rights at risk. He has stood up against trans rights and LGBTQ rights, and he stood against children by putting them in detention, children who are here emigrating with their families, separating

them. At a time when it feels like government has become an instrument of immorality, I think we need a governor who will stand up for the LGBTQ community and the immigrant community and not be silent in the face of Donald Trump's attacks."

"We've got to stand together so we can all stand for the planet," said Cameron Davis, formerly President Barack Obama's "Great Lakes czar," who is running for a commissioner's post for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). "It doesn't get any simpler than that."

Sean Casten, a Democrat who is running against incumbent Peter Roskam (R) in the 6th Congressional District, added, "We are going to come through this horrible time, because there is more love in the world than there is hate, and today we can stay focused on that."

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said, "I think it's important in these times that those of us who are despised minorities in our own country stick together. So I always try to come to this parade and I'm encouraged by the warm reception that I get."

Ald. Raymond Lopez (15th Ward) said that the parade is "not just a celebration but our annual call to arms to defend all required acceptances in our own communities. So I'm glad to be here with our brothers and sisters, making that call for acceptance one more time."

State Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago) said, "LGBT people got their rights when we stood up and fought up and fought back against oppression at Stonewall. This country, under Trump, is seeing oppression unlike what we've seen before, not only for LGBT people, but for our immigrant communities and people of color [as well]. We need to stand together in solidarity."

Other politicians who either attended and/or sent delegations included U.S. Reps. Mike Quigley (D-6th), Robin Kelly (D-2nd) and Jan Schakowsky (D-9th); Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs; state Comptroller Susana Mendoza; Democratic state Reps. Kelly Cassidy, Sara Feigenholtz and Juliana Stratton (running with Pritzker); City Clerk Anna Valencia; and Deb Mell was among several other aldermen marching. Mayoral candidates included Lori Lightfoot (marching with her wife), Paul Val-

las, Dorothy Brown, Garry McCarthy and Ja'Mal Green. MWRD Board President Maryana Spyropoulos and MWRD Commissioners Debra Shore and Kari Steele also attended, as did Cook County Commission candidate Kevin Morrison and Berwyn School Board Member Julia McAleer-Forte. Orlando "El Fenomeno" Cruz, the first openly gay active professional boxer, was grand marshal.

Educational institutions participating included Nettelhorst School; Chicago Waldorf School; Francis W. Parker School & Catherine Cook School; Elmhurst College; Rush University; Truman College and other City Colleges; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Chicago; and Northwestern University. Among local consulates participating were Australia (for the first time), Ireland, Great Britain, Canada and Israel.

Advocacy organizations and agencies included American Veterans for Equal Rights (carrying their large American flag), ACLU of Illinois, Asians and Friends Chicago, La Casa Norte, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, PFLAG, Night Ministry, Lambda Legal, Equality Illinois, Planned Parenthood, Chicago Gender Society (marching with Heels & Hardhats), The Legacy Project, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Howard Brown Health, TPAN, Project VIDA; Thresholds, About Face Theatre, Windy City Performing Arts, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Center on Halsted, ForeskinPride.org, AARP of Illinois, the National Gay Pilots Association, Human Rights Campaign, Mercy for Animals and the Obama Foundation.

Lakeside Pride had dozens of its members performing during the parade. Also working hard were ROTC, Chicago Spirit Brigade and the Second City Outlaws dancing cowboys.

Gay Liberation Network's large contingent was largely focused on Palestinian rights for their entry.

Both professional and amateur sports teams and organizations were represented, among them Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bulls, Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Fire, Chicago Dragons, Chicago Smelts, Chicago Gay Hockey Association and Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association. Local businesses included Sidetrack, Roscoe's, Balloons by Tommy,





Photos on these two pages by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com), Tim Carroll Photography, Jerry Nunn and Tracy Baim. Turn to page 30 for extensive Pride weekend coverage. See many more from the parade and other events online at www.WindyCityTimes.com

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Illinois Diversity Council holds initial roundtable event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Illinois Diversity Council (ILDC) held its first-ever LGBTQIA roundtable event—"Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging: Advocating for LGBTQIA Equality in the Workplace"—June 14 at the LGBT Chamber of Commerce Illinois offices in Lake View.

ILDC began in 2012 to foster learning opportunities around diversity with the mission to, according to its website, "enhance appreciation for and understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion. We will achieve success through the efforts and activities which: advance corporate leadership education/awareness of the varied dimensions of diversity, commit leaders to discuss issues and challenge attitudes and promote organizational changes that support diversity and promote outreach efforts to our youth that inspire mutual respect and understanding."

Kivvit Principal and Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Board of Governors member and Chicago Corporate Chair (and straight ally) Anne Klingeberger's keynote address focused on HRC's Cor-

porate Equality Index (CEI). She noted that despite what is occurring politically around LGBTQ rights nationally, workplace equality is on the rise. Klingeberger said embracing LGBTQ equality in the workplace drives talent and retention and people look to the CEI when they are considering where to work. She explained that the CEI is in its 16th year and over time the criteria to achieve a 100 percent score has expanded to include more factors such as comprehensive healthcare coverage for transgender employees and increased community engagement. Klingeberger said in 2017 there were 609 businesses that got a 100 percent compared to 2002 when there were 13.

Following Klingeberger's remarks, Northern Trust Vice President and Senior Technical Consultant Denise Bowker spoke about her experience as a transgender person in the workplace. She explained that in order for LGBT employees to feel comfortable at work the support has to come from the top which is the case at Northern Trust. Bowker said there is a ten page document called "How to transition at Northern Trust." She explained this document was created because the



From left: Dr. Margo Jacquot, Dylan Torpov, Dr. Mo Deslande, Tamara Fletcher and Bill Hinele.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

company made mistakes in the past and did not want that to happen again. Bowker noted that everyone at work has been great throughout her transition process. She said one way companies can do better is by hiring more transgender employees and a great place to find talented people is at the LGBTQ job fair at the Center on Halsted.

The event also featured a panel discussion, "Coaching to Create LGBTQIA Equality in the Workplace," which LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Director Jerome' Holston moderated.

The Juniper Center Founder/Owner/Director Dr. Margo Jacquot talked primarily about intersectionality and pronouns. She said that—as a cisgender, white, lesbian mom and wife—she crosses multiple intersections and can only speak about specific identities since she has many privileges due how she identifies. Jacquot explained that, as a mom of two adopted mixed-race kids, people view her differently when they go out into the world together and this has been a learning experience for her. She noted her kids have more challenging intersections than she does.

Saying that Kimberle Crenshaw coined the term "intersectionality," Jacquot spoke about the importance of knowing people's intersectional identities and how those intersections can sometimes create barriers to entry for individuals. She said everyone wants to be respected and the best way to do that is to use people's chosen name and the correct pronouns and if one makes a mistake apologize and move on.

About Face Theatre Individual and Major Giving and Special Events Director Dylan Torpov (who uses they/them pronouns) spoke about why words matter. They said they have always been more comfortable with women and gender nonconforming people due to how they identify themselves. Torpov explained that gender is a language. They noted that it is up to individuals to use the correct language to convey the message they want to get across. Torpov explained that it is important to be open to new information and helpful when others have questions.

The Juniper Center Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Mo Deslande's (who uses they/them pronouns) remarks centered on unconscious bias and the way microaggressions affect people's lives. They said this includes how people of color, LGBTQ people and other marginalized groups are treated by the

rest of the population in small and large ways. Deslande noted that they can only speak to their non-binary microaggressions and when they occur.

Both CDW Inclusion Senior Manager Tamara Fletcher and United Airlines Applications Performance Management Director Bill Hinele's talks focused on the business case for including LGBTQIA practices and procedures for employees and consumers respectively.

Fletcher explained that because she grew up in the church so she lived a double life and this includes staying closeted at work for four years. When she realized this was a difficult way to live she decided to come out and at the same time CDW was starting their LGBTQ employee group that she quickly joined. She said coming out was pivotal to the way she lives her life because she has become more engaged with the world. Fletcher noted that being out has also helped her professionally.

Hinele (who is also the vice president of the LGBTQ business resource group EQUAL) noted how important real inclusion and diversity is to United and that includes the LGBTQ community. He said that in his role at EQUAL, he works to make United a better place to work for its LGBTQ community. Hinele explained that having BRG's for specific employee groups is one of the ways companies can show consumers that they are committed to inclusion and diversity but they have to do more. He said that does not mean just being visible during Pride month.

Ahead of the presentations; ILDC Membership Co-Chair and Dream Town Realty Residential Consultant Sophie Todd, ILDC Board of Directors Vice President and Greeley and Hansen Human Resources Director Bethany Florek and Holston spoke about the work the ILDC and chamber do for the LGBTQIA community respectively.

Equality Institute CEO Bernadette Smith outlined a road map on best practices while ILDC Activities and Events Co-Chair HUB International Talent Acquisition Program Manager Charles Lilly closed the event.

For more on the HRC CEI, visit <https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/corporate-equality-index>.

See [illinoisdiversitycouncil.org](https://www.illinoisdiversitycouncil.org) for more information.

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Affinity's leadership events during July

Affinity Community Services is hosting a virtual leadership series, "The Blackprint: A Plan for Building the Leadership Capacity of Black LGBTQ+ Women Leaders," each Thursday in July:

—July 5: noon-1 p.m.: Building Organizing Power

—July 12: noon-1 p.m.: Building Economic Power

—July 19: noon-1 p.m.: Building Political Power

—July 26: noon-1 p.m.: Building Executive

Power

"Affinity Community Services is thrilled to be actively working to develop the capacity of Black LGBTQ+ women leaders," said Affinity Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon in a press release. "Black LGBTQ+ women, communities of color, and individuals from underrepresented identities are less likely to be in positions of leadership across all fields. There are currently no Black women at the helm of Fortune 500 companies.

The Blackprint will consist of a webinar series

that will allow leaders in these fields to share what has made them successful in their line of work, and explore the challenges they have had to overcome. Participants in the series will have an opportunity to pose specific questions to these experts during the webinar to their own leadership development.

Following the speaker series, Affinity will produce a toolkit that will help organizations recruit and retain Black LGBTQ+ women and people from underrepresented identities.

This virtual leadership series is free of charge, and will take place entirely online. Participants can register for the series at <http://bit.ly/AffinityTheBlackprint>; for more information, visit Affinity95.org.

WCT looking for stories from 1968

Windy City Times plans to examine what happened precisely 50 years ago—in 1968—and is looking for stories from LGBT individuals who were in Chicago at that time to shed light on what the climate was during that pivotal year.

WCT plans to run 100-200-word reminiscences.

Please submit items to Andrew Davis or Tracy Baim at, respectively, Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or Editor@WindyCityMediaGroup.com. The deadline is Friday, July 15.

Walgreens, AIDS group offering free testing

Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS, a national public-information response to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic, are working with 220 health departments, AIDS-service organizations and other community organizations to help provide free HIV testing and information at participating Walgreens stores in more than 180 cities on National HIV Testing Day on Wed., June 27, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Counselors will be on hand to answer questions about HIV prevention and treatment options, including PrEP, a medication that offers another effective means of protection for those testing negative for HIV.

Visit GreaterThan.org/walgreens.

Victory Fund backs local candidate Kevin B. Morrison

The Victory Fund—the only national political action committee dedicated to electing LGBTQ people to all levels of government—has endorsed Cook County Commissioner Democratic nominee Kevin B. Morrison, who is running against the chair of the Illinois Republican Party, 15th District Cook County Commissioner Tim Schneider.

"We are pleased to endorse Kevin B. Morrison

for Cook County Commissioner," said Mayor Anise Parker, who is president/CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund, in a statement. "Kevin is running a history-making race as the first openly LGBTQ person running for Cook County commissioner—which is especially significant given he's running against Trump ally Tim Schneider. We are confident that as Cook County Commissioner, Kevin will be a strong voice for the LGBTQ community and for all his constituents."

Should he prevail in November, Morrison (who recently held a Pride fundraiser) will make history as the first openly LGBTQ person to serve on the Cook County board.



15th District Cook County Commissioner candidate Kevin B. Morrison.

Photo by AJ Kane Photography



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PRIDE MONTH

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To learn more about Rush's commitment to the LGBTQ community, please visit www.rush.edu/lgbtq.



What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:

- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

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

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- ▶ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ▶ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- ▶ **If you 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 while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.



Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Get HIV support by
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BIKTARVY is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for adults who are either new to treatment or whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with BIKTARVY.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

BIKTARVY.COM



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tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY[®] and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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Version date: February 2018

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PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Chicago Dyke March returns to Little Village

The 22nd annual Chicago Dyke March returned to Little Village on Chicago's Southwest Side this year. Front and center was the message of the event: It was pro-Palestinian, with inclusion up front of Little Village residents and representation from the Queer, Ill and Okay group.

Attendance appeared to be similar to last year's, between 1,500 and 2,000 people marching west on 26th Street and ending on 31st Street at Piotrowski Park for a rally with speakers, music and more.

Last year, a problem arose when three lesbians with a Jewish pride flag were asked to leave, causing an outcry alleging anti-semitism by the Dyke March. This year, there did not appear to be any confrontations, but march organizers made it clear this would be a very pro-Palestinian event, and some people who attended last year stayed away from the event this time.

Chants during the march included, "No pride in occupation, no pride in deportation!," "Viva el barrio, viva La Villita!" and "Policia, la migra, la misma porqueria!"

See <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Dyke-March-back-focuses-on-pro-Palestinian-agenda/63219.html>.



Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com), Vern Hester and Tracy Baim. See many more online.



Left: Amada performing with band Fior y Lianto. Right: Clarissa Bitar.



Pennycuff apartments groundbreaking held in Logan Square

BY TRACY BAIM

A groundbreaking was held for the John Pennycuff Memorial Apartments at Robert Castillo Plaza—2031 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Logan Square—on June 23.

The special guests were Castillo, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Ald. Joe Moreno (alderman in the ward the apartments are in), Ald. Raymond Lopez, Ald. Deb Mell, Chicago Housing Authority CEO Eugene James, Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation President Richard Gonzalez

and Department of Planning and Development Commissioner David L. Reifman.

The building will house more than 80 affordable rentals that will be inclusive of the LGBTQ community.

Pennycuff and Castillo were longtime partners who worked for LGBTQ rights for many years. Pennycuff died in 2012 at age 47, and Castillo lives on in his activism.

A video of the groundbreaking accompanies the online version of this story,



Robert Castillo at groundbreaking.
Photos by Tracy Baim



Eugene James, Ald. Lopez, Ald. Mell, Ald. Moreno, Mayor Emanuel, Robert Castillo, Richard Gonzalez and David Reifman (from left).

LGBT-education bill vote pushed back to fall in House

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Legislation that would have specified the inclusion of LGBT-history instruction in Illinois classrooms will not be voted on until at least this fall.

The spring session ended May 31 without the House voting on the bill, which passed the state Senate 34-18 in May.

"While there is much to celebrate, we leave the spring session disappointed that the Inclusive Curriculum Bill to include the teaching of LGBTQ people in U.S. history is not yet headed to the Governor's desk," said Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson in a June 1 statement to supporters. "Rep. Anna Moeller [D-Elgin], the bill's fearless sponsor in the House, decided to move the floor vote to the fall to allow her more time to secure the necessary votes to guarantee passage.

"Rep. Moeller, Sen. Heather Steans [D-Chicago] (our chief sponsor in the Senate), and our partners in this work have much to be proud of ... It has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives."

In the same statement, Johnson lauded the recent passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the General Assembly as well as other progressive accomplishments in the spring session. Johnson further noted that the education legislation was written to go into effect in mid-2019, so a delay in the vote until the fall would not delay its implementation.

"This delay is an important reminder that our full equality is not guaranteed," he added.

Mental-health exhibit at Center ends June 29

A body of work from photographer Ryan Bakerink is being show at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., through Friday, June 29.

According to Bakerink, "The project is focused on mental health in the LGBT community. This body of work pairs a portrait of someone with a handwritten letter to their younger self, providing their younger self with advice, encouragement, information, etc., ultimately serving as the words of wisdom so many of us needed when we were young."

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



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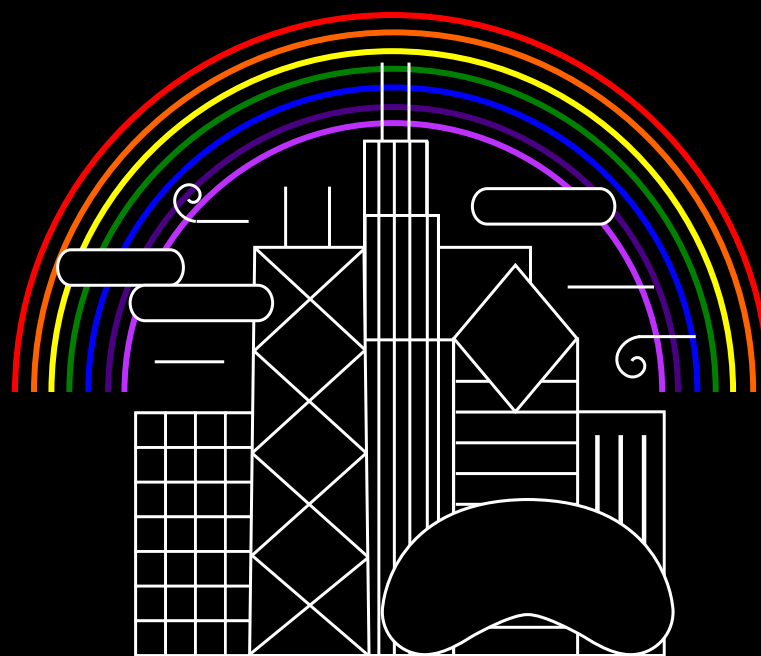
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COMPASS

BOOKS

Jim Elledge spills 'Fairy Town' secrets at Unabridged

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Gay history descended upon Lake View's Unabridged Bookstore June 20, when Unabridged employee and local historian Owen Keehnen interviewed Jim Elledge, the author of the recently released *Boys of Fairy Town*.

The book is a comprehensive look at the lives of Chicago's gay men from the 1860s to just before World War II, and contains both little-known tales of gay life as well as in-depth portraits of seminal figures in Chicago's gay history.

As Keehnen pointed out, gay stories were often "sensational," and therefore covered in great depth in more "scandal-sheet" style newspapers rather than the Tribune. Elledge said his primary means of research were the copious microfilm archives at the public library, as well as the Burgess papers at the University of Chicago.

One of Elledge's research discoveries was the nightclub performer and female impersonator Frances Carrick, who ended up legally marrying a man with Indiana government officials none the wiser. In her time in Chicago, things took a turn when Carrick was accused of murdering an insurance agent who had recently had dealings with Al Capone's mobsters. According to Elledge, Carrick was likely innocent and the police were not pursuing the real killer with any real passion. But as for the trial, "you'll have to read to find out the rest," Elledge teased. As Keehnen said, Carrick's adventures could be a plausible TV mini-series. (People can find out more by checking out a recent *Windy City Times* interview with Elledge

about his book.)

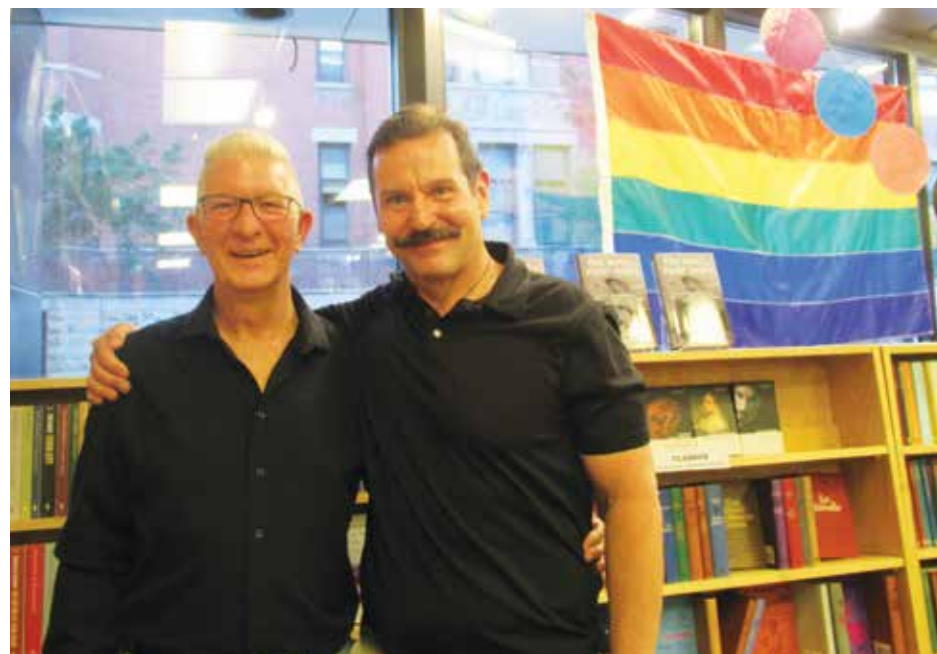
Sadly, Elledge found there was very little information on any actual girls of Fairy Town. "I couldn't even find enough to fill a chapter," he admitted.

Keehnen observed that many of Elledge's source materials were written accounts, including many firsthand narratives, and that printed material is harder to historically eradicate. An early for Elledge was the diaries of John Wing, a Chicago newspaperman who had chronicled his gay life in diaries since he was 13, including actual names of men he shared a bed with. Although, as Elledge explained, sharing a bed was a much more common back then, and less suspicious. In fact, sharing a bed with a "less fortunate man" was considered "a Good Christian act."

As Keehnen described, Chicago's gay culture took a huge hit after the Great Depression. While the '20s featured a "pansy craze," when overtly gay men were popular entertainers and a drag queen in Bronzeville could make enough money to buy respect, the gay scene was forced underground in the '30s, when ferreting out vice became a public preoccupation. Keehnen asked Elledge if the same societal reversal was possible today.

"It only takes a few laws," Elledge replied.

To the delight of all, Elledge also revealed secret histories of Chicago places. Apparently, Museum Campus used to be a notorious gay hobo camp, and if you wore a red tie down State Street by the former Marshall Fields, you were in the market for men. The same was true of Randolph



Jim Elledge (left) and Owen Keehnen at Unabridged Bookstore.

Photo by Liz Baudler

and State under the clock—if you crossed your arms.

The well-informed and curious audience wanted to know how exactly Elledge determined who was really gay in an era where the word "odd" in a newspaper may have multiple implications. Elledge described a process of looking for corroborating evidence of a person's sexuality through Ancestry.com and in census records. Did they live with a man for several years? Were they both artists? This was often the best he could do. "Most people didn't leave much behind," he said.

Issues of social class came up in response to other inquiries. Elledge agreed with an audience member that the material he found mostly applied to lower and working class men, who had less income to pay off the police or media if they

should be caught in a gay scandal. Races and classes would mingle in Bronzeville cabarets, the home of pianist Tony Jackson, who wrote "Pretty Baby" about one of his male lovers, and where popular jazz acts like Cab Calloway were often backed up by female impersonators. And in general, Elledge explained, class and money struggles created a climate where boys as young as 6 were abandoned on the street or sent to asylums when their families could no longer take care of them. Asylums were also a place where people who had been arrested for masturbating—the act then code for gay behavior—could be sent for the rest of their lives.

Chicago in the 1800s, Elledge concluded, was "a real rough place to live."

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From 2017's PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards.
Photo by Tarina Hargrays

PrideIndex.com's Esteem Awards June 30

PrideIndex.com announced the seven organizations and 12 individuals that have been selected to be honored at the 11th Annual Esteem Awards. This year's cocktail reception will take place Saturday, June 30, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 1-4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

A committee of past honorees selected this year's award recipients.

Local honorees will include Illinois state rep candidate Lamont Robinson, Our City Our Voice Executive Director (and 2019 aldermanic candidate) Maria Hadden, Center on Halsted Director of Transgender Relations and Community Engagement Vanessa Sheridan, journalist/consultant Derrick Clifton, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, eta Creative Arts Foundation, Reeling: The Chicago LGBT Film Fest and the podcast The Sip.

National awardees will include author/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign English professor Dr. Eric Prichard, activist Dr. Wilhemenia Perry, writer/activist Christina Kahl, activist/philanthropist D'Ontace Keyes, The National LGBTQ Task Force, ONE Archive Foundation and the National Gay & Lesbian Archives, My True Colours Festival, activist/orator Jessica Holter, web series Brown Girls and journalist Gerren Keith Gaynor.

See PrideIndex.com.

Investigation urged regarding trans woman in ICE custody

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) called on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to conduct a thorough investigation into the death of Roxsana Hernandez, a transgender woman who died while in the custody of ICE, an HRC press release noted.

Hernandez recently petitioned for asylum after traveling as part of a caravan of migrants fleeing violence in Central America.

HRC President Chad Griffin said, "LGBTQ migrants, especially transgender women, face higher rates of abuse in immigration detention facilities. Hernandez's death raises serious questions regarding the treatment she received while in ICE custody, and we expect ICE to provide answers to those questions. As HRC mourns the loss of Roxsana Hernandez, we continue to stand in solidarity with those seeking asylum from violence and prosecution in their home countries."

BSA conducting needs assessment

Brave Space Alliance (BSA) is doing a "Dedicated Trans Needs Assessment" this month.

This will be inclusive to the trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) community in the Chicago area. Stated LaSaia Wade, BSA executive director: "This will show our numbers and needs, so please fill out and let your voice be heard even if you don't want to be seen."

For an English version of the assessment, visit <https://bravespacealliance.typeform.com/to/E4RMa2>. The Spanish version is at <https://bravespacealliance.typeform.com/to/CsDcR0>.

Point scholarship recipients named

Point Foundation (Point) announced its 2018 scholarship recipients.

The 20 LGBTQ students were chosen to be Point Scholars from more than 2,000 applicants. Point



Brave Space Alliance's LaSaia Wade.
Photo by Liz Baudler

is also welcoming 25 LGBTQ students to its Community College Scholarship Program.

This year's scholarship recipients include advocates for LGBTQ rights and social justice, scientists, medical students and people who aim to impact professions from law to business and the arts.

For 2018-19, there will be 98 LGBTQ students receiving financial assistance and programmatic support from Point as they pursue their associate, bachelor's, or advanced degrees.

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letters

Being human

To whom it may concern:

Every day at Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, we teach about the dangers of intolerance and indifference through the lens of the horrific history of World War II and the Holocaust. Our museum was founded by Holocaust survivors who keenly felt the confusion, pain, anxiety and fear of being separated from their families, a trauma that haunts them even today.

While the current immigration situation is not comparable to the Holocaust, when we see forcible separation of families at our own nation's border, we must speak out. America was founded on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights, the importance of family, and compassion. The separation policy did not reflect these values. Today President Trump responded to public pressure and signed an executive order to end this troubling policy.

History shows us that when we identify, ostracize and cast as "other" our fellow human beings, we begin a process of dehumanization. We do not believe we are heading down the road of the atrocities we saw in the 20th century because of the rights we hold dear—free speech, holding officials accountable, and having a system of checks and balances. We are proud of these structures and institutions and must work to maintain them. And sometimes this requires speaking out.

As Rabbi Joachim Prinz said at the March on Washington in 1963, "When I was the rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime, I learned many things. The most important thing that I learned under those tragic circumstances was that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence. A great people which had created a great civilization had become a nation of silent onlookers. They remained silent in the face of hate, in the face of brutality and in the face of mass murder. America must not become a nation of onlookers. America must not remain silent."

Today, peoples' voices have been heard. The pressure of citizen constituents was felt all the way to the oval office. Going forward, we must continue to be upstanders and remain diligent in defending our common humanity.

Fritzie Fritzshall, Holocaust Survivor and Museum President;
Susan Abrams, Museum CEO;
Marcy Larson, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development,
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
Skokie

Child care

To whom it may concern:

Dear Gov. Rauner, Speaker Madigan, Senate President Cullerton and Minority Leaders Durkin and Brady:

You are the parents of 17,000 children who receive protective services from the state, as well as another 3,000 who are at risk of being removed from their homes. These children have experienced significant abuse, neglect and trauma, wounds that will heal only with the expertise of dedicated professionals.

As Illinois' elected leadership, you have the moral, legal and financial obligation to ensure the well-being of these children. But their care is in crisis. You are the only ones who can fix it.

We represent the private social service agencies in Illinois; we are responsible for more than 80 percent of the day-to-day parenting of these children for you. We provide intact family services, foster care and therapeutic foster care, permanent placement into adoptive families, and residential services.

These children only have us to care for them. Our work is complex and important but its sustainability is threatened because the state of Illinois does not want to pay for it.

Only twice in the last 17 years have we received an increase in our reimbursement rate. We are encumbered from paying livable wages to our experienced professional staff; someone with a bachelor's degree receives an average salary of \$13.88/hour, which hovers just above minimum wage.

Our highly trained, skilled employees have had enough, and they are leaving. Turnover averages about 42 percent across the state as our social workers seek out jobs that pay far more competitive wages. The loss of veteran social workers erodes our clinical expertise and harms your children in many different ways. Long-term relationships that are critical to providing successful child welfare services are at risk. Children are spending too much time in foster care before being moved to adoptive homes. Young adults are aging out of residential services with few skills and little or no path to success.

Illinois—previously an innovator in child welfare services—now performs worst in the nation on key statistics related to safety and timely permanency.

This crisis will only worsen as the opioid addiction epidemic spreads. Based on current trends, the number of children requiring protective services could jump by as much as 20 percent in the next year as their parents undergo medical treatment or even enter the criminal justice system.

Our work is not sustainable if we cannot invest in the training, support and supervision of our social workers and pay them the salaries they deserve.

We know Illinois can, once again, succeed at child welfare. We believe a strong public/private partner-

ship can create systemic improvement so Illinois can re-emerge as a leader in protecting children.

We can't do it without you. We are asking you for an immediate rate increase and a long-term financial aid.

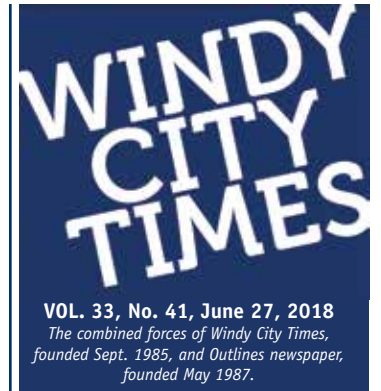
We ask you to ensure the well-being of your 20,000 children. We ask you to sustain our work and improve child well-being. Without your help, these children are at risk, and they will suffer.

Signed by the following providers:

Jason Keeler, Allendale Association
Gary Huelsmann, Caritas Family Solutions
Rev. Msgr. Michael Boland, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Debbie Reed, Chaddock
Matt George, Children's Home Association of Illinois
Cathy Krieger, Children's Place Association
Nancy Ronquillo, Children's Home & Aid
Dan Kotowski, ChildServ
Marlin Livingston, Cunningham Children's Home
Ken Withrow, Evangelical Child and Family Agency
Merry Beth Sheets, Hephzibah Children's Association
Christopher L. Cox, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services
Andrea Durbin, Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Mary Ann Berg, Indian Oaks Academy
Howard Sitron, Jewish Child and Family Services
Kathy Grzelak, Kaleidoscope
Ron Little, Kemmerer Village
Kara Teeple, Lawrence Hall
Tina Maraccini, Little City Foundation
Mike Bertrand, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
Mark Stutrud, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Toleda Hart, MYSI Corporation
Doryce McCarthy, OMNI Youth Services
Dennis Wiley, Onarga Academy
Todd Schultz, One Hope United
Annetta Wilson, Sankofa Safe Child Initiative
John Shadowens, Spero Family Services
Dianne Schultz, The Baby Fold
Patricia Fox, The Center for Youth and Family Solutions
Marc Fagan, Thresholds
Zack Schrantz, UCAN
Rea Hobbs, Volunteers of America of Illinois
Rick Velasquez, Youth Outreach Services
Kathleen M. Wright, Youth Service Bureau

Organizations in support of the coalition's request:

ACLU of Illinois
Civitas ChildLaw Center
April Curtis, Foster Care Alumni of America National
James McIntyre, Foster Care Alumni of America Illinois Chapter
Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
Voices for Illinois Children



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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Homestead on the Roof.



Queen! at Metro.



'Bay' dreaming

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WCT reviews *The Green Bay Tree*

Photo by David Zak

THEATER

Higher ground: 'The View Upstairs' at Pride Arts Center

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A port city whose coastal elevation mandates cemetery repositories above the ground surface is almost guaranteed to have a rich necrology, but the legacy of the 1973 UpStairs Lounge holocaust remained buried until 2016, when the torching of a gay club in Orlando, Florida, spurred two playwrights to initiate investigation into the long-forgotten atrocity.

One of these was Wayne Self's *Upstairs: The Musical*, based on journalist Clayton Deleny's *The Up Stairs Lounge Arson*. The other, by Max Vernon, is *The View UpStairs*, currently in previews at the Pride Arts Center Broadway, produced by Circle Theatre and directed by Derek Van Barham.

Windy City Times: Both plays are fictionalized accounts, but Self's chronicle begins amid the charred ruins of the crime scene with the survivors confronting the ghosts of the victims, so we know from the outset that our story will not end happily.

The View UpStairs, however, opens in the present day, with New York expat and would-be fashion designer Wes surveying his newly purchased property in the Crescent City's venerated French Quarter, only to suddenly find himself catapulted a near half-century back to the site's glory days.

Max Vernon: The audience can interpret this narrative device as restless spirits haunting the place they called home, or as a bit of New Orleans voodoo, or—as Wes, himself, suggests—the re-

sidual effects of hallucinogenics in the cocaine he ingested earlier. My intent was for the location to illustrate two disparate eras of Queer life that can then talk to one another.

WCT: So Wes, in his capacity as a time-traveler, is not so much like Marty McFly as he is like Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankee—a naive "our guide" whose point of view reflects that of the audience.

MV: Yes! Without that inter-generational contrast, we would have a whole different play.

WCT: What made you decide that this play needed a musical score?

MV: The actual UpStairs Lounge had a full-time piano player for sing-alongs, besides staging its own drag shows and amateur theatricals ("Nellydramas")—so the music was always part of the ambience. From the standpoint of our musical, though, it allows us to go on a deeper emotional journey with the characters and community.

Derek Van Barham: Music is also such a key element for this time period. Even if this hadn't been a musical, I would have insisted on a jukebox underscore of period hits.

WCT: What do you think we—both those of us with first-hand memories of that time, as well as those not yet born—can learn today from the world portrayed in the play?

MV: What cruising was like before smartphones and social media, for one, and the serious dangers of being gay in the south not so very long ago, for another—and the courageous people who fought oppression to make our path a little

easier. The importance of community, too, and how far we've come in the 35 years since that now almost-forgotten moment in our history.

WCT: What do you hope the audience will take away from the show?

MV: *The UpStairs Lounge* was a sanctuary, where people could be their own authentic selves. The way for us to honor their loss is by creating new places for connection—because there will *never*

be a perfect time to be alive. Things will always be both wonderful and horrible. Socially and culturally, we are in a constant state of evolution and crisis, progress and backlash. This means that we can't sit around waiting for utopia to come to us, but have to make it ourselves

The View UpStairs plays through July 22 at the Pride Arts Center at The Broadway, 4139 N. Broadway. Visit CircleTheatreChicago.org.



Roy Samra (left), Juwon Tyrel Perry (right) and the ensemble in *The View UpStairs*. Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

THEATER REVIEW

The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes, Volume 2

Playwright: David Cerda

At: Hell In A Handbag Productions at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Tickets: \$15-\$27; handbagproductions.org; 800-838-3006

Runs through: Sept. 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In the annals of North American comedy, the television series providing the source material for this camp-drag parody was conceptually daring in its own right—not only did its central characters consist exclusively of elderly single women living apart from their families in an era of economic

prosperity that saw the rise of single-generation ghettos dubbed “retirement villages,” but the cessation of childrearing duties also conferred on these matriarchs a license to speak their minds on issues of the day with a candor often shocking their sheltered offspring.

Audiences in the years between 1985 and 1992 were charmed by the novelty of AARP-eligible ladies calmly discussing bodily functions in euphemism-free parlance, and now in 2018—when grannies’ nostalgic recollections may involve protest marches, banana-peel smokables or fake wedding rings aiding in securing contraceptives—dowagers talking dirty are especially funny when played by males (who have always enjoyed the privileges of the uncensored). Hell In A Handbag Productions, Chicago’s foremost champions of this illusion, now proposes to repeat the success of its twice-extended 2016 gynecentric-geriatric spoof with a “Volume 2” sequel.

For those unfamiliar with the original premise, it’s enough to know that flirty Blanche, dumb-



Ed Jones and Michael Rashid (right) in *The Golden Girls ... Volume 2*.

Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

bunny Rose, acerbic Sophia and no-nonsense Dorothy share a house in Miami, where assorted visitors arrive with problems resolved through

mature sororal wisdom—a plot formula burlesqued in David Cerda’s script by such quirky complications as Sophia taking a job as a leather-club stripper and Rose adopting a talented but short-tempered barnyard fowl as a pet. Oh, and for playgoers geek-versed in GG lore, hostess/house manager Lori Lee leads us in trivia games during the “commercial breaks.”

Drag humor dates from antiquity and can be found in every culture practicing gender-role differentiation. While some theatergoers in 2018 might advocate its mockery going the way of Panto and Minstrel shows, there is no denying its enduring popularity or the artistry (affirmed by a Special Award Jeff in 2017) bestowed upon the venerable genre by director Becca Holloway and the Hell In A Handbag ensemble. The text may indulge in gratuitously juvenile potty-mouth at times, but when the biggest laugh of the evening goes to a magistrate in a Minnesota courtroom declaring “We respect gender identity!” who can say *that’s* not progress?

THEATER REVIEW

The Green Bay Tree

Author: Mordaunt Shairp

At: Pride Arts Center- Buena Theater, 4147 N Broadway

Tickets: 866-811-4111;

PrideFilmAndPlays.com; \$15-30

Runs through: July 8

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

It’s hard out there for a straight-faced read on a melodrama like Mordaunt Shairp’s *The Green Bay Tree*. Pride Films and Plays cracks the spine on this subversive look at how gayness was unspokenly permitted on depression era stages, but there’s something missing: The why. Director Amy

Sarno has provided a distinctly Chicago take on this British comic drama, and while it’s a lovely Pride-ready history lesson, it doesn’t have a modern opinion to express on some old views.

Think of it this way: What would you rather see—an unironic retread of the 1936 anti-drug propaganda film *Reefer Madness* or the 1996 satirical musical that uses the same plot and subject matter to reveal how harmful and ridiculous the original film was?

Written in 1933, *The Green Bay Tree* brings us into the idyllic world of Mr. Dulcimer (Alexander McRae), a wealthy Chicagoan with a penthouse view, devoted butler Trump (Buzz Leer) and nothing more important to see to than vacations and flower arrangements. If you decent, God-fearing theater goers haven’t caught on, Dulcimer—a fussy, lifelong bachelor—is coded as gay. When

his young ward, Julian (Bradley Halverson), comes home with a new love, Leonora (Kristen Alexia), it throws a wrench into Dulcimer’s meticulously planned future. Dulcimer decides to cut Julian off financially as soon as he weds, and the lovers scheme to make Julian a—gulp!—working man. It’s a battle of wills, gender norms and, ultimately (because 1933’s views on homosexuality were harsh and uncompromising), a battle of good versus evil.

The cast is game to break down the civility of their stuffy drawing room, and get to the dirty fun of snide remarks and name calling. Alexander McRae makes quick work of everyone as Dulcimer, either with a silent size-up, or barbs that sound sweet, but were never intended as compliments. He’d like us to know that we all fall short of his immaculacy. Bradley Halverson’s Julian is too

trusting to suspect anything nefarious about his mentor; he mentions a newly acquired dog we never see, but Julian is the true pup, ready to show his belly to conflicting alpha dogs. Kristen Alexia steps in as Leonora to assert herself for all put-upon women trying to fix an imperfect man. The only thing I want to know is why such a striking Leonora would waste her time on a feckless guy.

The play puts a heavy price on Dulcimer’s lifestyle, that may have acted as a deterrent to sexually curious audience members in 1933, but is frankly overwrought and laughable for Pride Film’s open and out audiences. The outdated mores of *The Green Bay Tree* would serve us better by being skewered.

THEATER REVIEW

You Can’t Take It With You

Playwright: George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

At: Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave., Oak Park

Tickets: OakParkFestival.com; \$32

Runs through: July 22

BY JAMES WILKE

A collection of dream-chasing free spirits, some related by blood and others merely by the bonds of friendship, gather in one communal house to face the realities of an economically challenging United States together.

No, this isn’t the millennials next door; it’s the cast of Oak Park Festival Theatre’s *You Can’t Take It With You*—a play so topically modern, it’s hard to believe this Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway comedy-turned-Academy Award-winning Best Picture was written in 1936! With themes like accepting others’ quirks and accept-

ing your own, mistrust in governments and Wall Street, and not letting a job and money take precedence over your relationships, dreams and health, the messages in *You Can’t Take It With You* feel as relevant in today’s post-Great Recession era as they were at the height of the Great Depression when it was written.

The story takes place in a madcap home shared by three generations of the artsy, whimsical Sycamore family, along with a host of unique friends. The drama pivots on the engagement of two young lovers, Alice and Tony, sweetly played by Tyler Meredith and Debo Balogun. While Alice struggles with shame, coming from a financially-strapped family of eccentrics, Tony struggles with the expectations and prejudices of his wealthy parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, exquisitely rendered by Charls Sedgwick Hall and Jeri Marshall. Refreshingly, director Jason Gerace has cast the young lovers as inter-racial, with Alice and the Sycamores as Caucasian while Tony and the Kirbys of Wall Street are African-American.

While the entire cast pulses with outland-

ish vigor, other standout performances include Jerry Bloom as Mr. Henderson, a believable strong arm of government come to punish the Sycamore family for tax evasion and rebellious leanings. Also notable, actor Jack Hickey brings a heart-warming presence as Martin “Grandpa” Vanderhof, endearing the audience with his sage wisdom about work-life balance. And actress Eleanor “Eli” Katz as the Grand Duchess Olga Katrina exudes such a zest for living that one feels uplifted as her jovial presence transcends her predicament, having been displaced from a life of luxury in Russia to wait tables in a New York restaurant.

All this is made even more enjoyable as the play is presented outdoors at the intimate, lush Austin Gardens, in the heart of downtown Oak Park. Hence, one can enjoy both the show and lovely summer weather in outdoor chairs or bring a blanket and picnic. With such a romantic setting, it is easy to see why Oak Park Festival Theatre, founded in 1975, is the Midwest’s oldest professional live outdoor theater.

CRITICS’ PICKS

The Light Fantastic, Jackalope Theatre at the Broadway Armory, extended through June 30. You have just *one* more weekend to see Ike Holter’s exorcist-scary outsmart-the-devil parable whose playbill credits include a “ghost wrangler.” MSB

Bat-Hamlet, Corn Productions at the Conservatory, through July 14. Balmy summer nights welcome the return of the Dark Knight, back to reclaim Gothick from the murderous usurpations of the effete Jester and his henchmen. MSB

Guards at the Taj, Steppenwolf Theatre, through July 22. Rajiv Joseph’s beautiful and brutal tale centers on two guards assigned to stand sentry over the grand unveiling of the Taj Mahal. Set in 1648, the two-hander explores the haunting intersection between the sacred and the barbarous. CES

From the Mississippi Delta, Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, through July 1. Dr. Endesha Mae Holland’s captivating and moving drama is filled with steel and grit. From impoverished rural Mississippi to the halls of academia, Holland’s autobiographical drama spins out like a rich tapestry. It will make your heart happy. CES

—By Barnidge and Sullivan



**Bridget Adams-King
and Erik Pearson
in Haymarket.**
Photo by
Juli Del Prete

THEATER REVIEW Haymarket

Playwright: Alex Higgin-Houser (book, lyrics),
David Kornfeld (music)

At: Underscore Theatre at the Den
Theatre's Heath Mainstage,
1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: UnderscoreTheatre.com;
\$30-\$35, \$15 students, industry.
Runs through: July 22

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

If you're not on the clock 16 hours of every 24 and didn't have to quit elementary school to go work in a factory, you owe a debt to the labor activists of the Haymarket Affair.

Most Haymarket histories focus on Albert Parsons and the other men condemned to death for their alleged role in a May 4, 1886 labor rally that turned deadly. But it's not Albert Parsons at the center of Underscore Theatre's delightfully raucous musical Haymarket. It is, instead, Lucy Gonzalez Parsons—Albert's wife.

In Alex Higgin-Houser (book and lyrics) and composer David Kornfeld's new musical, Lucy (Bridget Adams-King) embodies the power and the enduring legacy of Haymarket-era activism. Like Hamilton's Eliza Hamilton, Lucy Parsons effected lasting change long after her husband's death. In her fight to change the world and control her own narrative, she prevailed. In Lucy's orbit, director Nick Thornton has crafted a wonderful hullabaloo.

Haymarket is a showpiece for an ensemble of terrifically skilled musicians. Music director Robert Ollis has the cast playing guitars, banjos, mouth organs, washboards, drums, horns, violins, lutes, ukuleles, electric basses and keyboards

throughout. This is a group that has its way with double-jointed barchords, athletically demanding strums and delicate plucking. Their a cappella work will give you the shivers: When the instruments cut out and all that remains are the vocals, all seems right with the world.

The Haymarket story remains upsettingly relevant. On May 3, 1886 police opened fire on an unarmed gathering of laborers striking for an 8-hour workday at the McCormick Reaper Works. Several strikers were killed. The next day, workers rallied in Haymarket Square. The police showed. Someone threw a bomb. Eight cops died. To this day, no one knows who threw the bomb. As Haymarket shows with a circus metaphor that's both whacky and alarming, the trial that condemned Parsons and his cohorts was a travesty.

Haymarket skims over some of the facts, but doesn't skimp on the music. There is an honesty and a fierceness to the ensemble's multi-faceted sounds, whether they're stomping the floorboards with boots that double as percussion instruments or raising the rafters with their soaring harmonies.

The characters aren't always deep, but they've got shine to spare. As bomb expert Louis Lingg, Joey Herbert smolders like a fuse ready to blow. Erik Pearson's Albert Parsons is both maddening (in his insistence that his wife take a distant back seat in a movement she's more than capable of leading) and loving (there's no doubt but Albert and Lucy are devoted to each other, even when they are frustrated with each other). The "pick chorus" of Eric Loughlin, Elleon Dobias and Kelsey Smith create a barn-burning hootenanny on their varied instruments.

If you're able to take any kind of work holiday this summer—weekend or otherwise—tip your hat to Lucy Parsons.

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SPOTLIGHT

In the Gift Theatre's memorable staging of **Hamlet**, the titular Danish prince (Daniel Kyri) is mercurial, conflicted and contemporary. As a troubled young man in a state rotten with secrets, Hamlet has fire in his eyes and rage and sorrow in his heart. With Monty Cole directing, it's a fascinating performance capable of bringing the Bard to a whole new generation. Get there before Shakespeare's sweet prince shuffles off his mortal coil for good. It runs through July 29 at the Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave.; \$35-\$40; thegifttheatre.org.



Caption: Photo by Claire Demos

Bob Mackie.
Photo by Harry Langdon



NUNN ON ONE: THEATER Bob Mackie sews a 'Cher Show'

BY JERRY NUNN

Fashion designer Bob Mackie has dressed a multitude of Hollywood icons over the years and is now bringing his costumes to life on the Chicago stage for The Cher Show.

He has worked with Cher for decades in TV specials and performances, taking home an Emmy for the Believe concert tour. He designed the costumes for the 60th Annual Academy Awards, which earned him another Emmy nomination, and designed the gown Cher wore to accept her Best

Actress Oscar for Moonstruck.

He worked was on television for 20 straight years and was vital to The Carol Burnett Show during its 11 year old run. He also handled the costumes on the spinoff Mama's Family afterwards. This is not his first stint in a Broadway show as he worked with Burnett for Moon Over Buffalo and Putting It Together on those past productions.

He won nine Emmy Awards for his designs and was nominated 32 times. Mackie was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 2002. He wrote a book called Unmistakably Mackie in 1999. His empire expanded to furniture, dinnerware, Barbie dolls and more.

Not only involved as the costume designer, the out and proud talent is also portrayed as a character in The Cher Show, along with Cher's late ex-husbands Sonny Bono and Gregg Allman. Tony nominee Emily Skinner plays Cher's mom, Georgia Holt. With six decades of work it takes three women, Stephanie J. Block, Teal Weak, and Micaela Diamond, to portray the icon over the course of the brand-new jukebox musical with her life shown in a variety show style format. After a major Chicago debut and retooling, the plan is to move to New York's Neil Simon Theatre in the fall.

The "sultan of sequins" sat down during a press conference briefly to discuss the show.

Windy City Times: Where did you first meet Cher?

Bob Mackie: When she was a guest on The Carol Burnett Show in 1967. She was 21 years old.

WCT: Did you two just hit it off?

BM: We did! I was kind of dreading it because in all of those pictures with Sonny she looked sullen being next to him. Turns out she was 5'6" and a skinny little gorgeous girl.

WCT: Was she ever difficult to work with?

BM: No. She was always late to her fittings, but she wasn't difficult.

WCT: How did you decide what costumes would go in to The Cher Show?

BM: It depended on the script really. We cover a lot of territory. We started before I knew her as a little girl, like a 5 or 6 year old. It doesn't last very long and gets right into teen years. She was a teenager when her and Sonny became an act.

WCT: So, you are also designing for her in the show when she wasn't glamorous?

BM: Yeah, but she always had style and ideas about what she thought was really cool.

WCT: I went downstairs and there are seamstresses working feverishly working on sewing machines everywhere. Are the designs completed?

BM: Yes. They are already designed, it just has to get finished.

WCT: It's crunch time!

BM: There are a lot of costumes in the show.

WCT: The Oscar outfit will be included in The Cher Show?

BM: Yes, the Oscar outfits that she wore are exactly how they were then, so that will be interesting.

WCT: I heard Cher has been very involved with the process.

BM: She has been very involved, although she hasn't seen what I am going to be doing yet, so we shall see...

WCT: The pressure is on. You are here for the

entire run?

BM: Pretty much the entire run at least until a few days after opening.

WCT: The Cher Show is going on to New York?

BM: That is the plan. I think it gets there by November in New York.

WCT: The list of people you have designed for is long such as Bette Midler, Liza Minnelli, Tina Turner and RuPaul.

BM: It is crazy, isn't it? I'm really old. I have been doing it forever.

WCT: Has there been any divas?

BM: Sure, but I'm not telling you. When you are with someone and they don't look good in the clothes sometimes they aren't easy, but I won't mention any names.

With a celebrity you have to design them in what people want to see, especially if it is on-stage. I just try to enhance what has already been established. You don't try to make them into someone else, unless it's a character.

WCT: Speaking of characters, is Carol Burnett coming to see The Cher Show while she's in Chicago?

BM: Yes. She is lovely, lovely, lovely. I was really lucky to be in the room with her all of those years. I've had some really good clients, but that is a special one for sure.

WCT: You designed a Bob Mackie cologne?

BM: I think it's still out there. It was hot for awhile, then the company closed, and they sold it. I don't know who owns it now.

WCT: I saw you designed rugs, also.

BM: I did rugs for a while, then lamps. I have an evening separates line that is about to come out. We haven't announced it yet, but it's happening.

WCT: Was there anyone that you wanted to design for but didn't get a chance to? Maybe Audrey Hepburn?

BM: Audrey Hepburn, exactly, but maybe an easy choice because she looked good in everything; She was so beautiful and gorgeous. As a young boy I always thought Marilyn Monroe was so beautiful and so sexy. I would then look over at Audrey Hepburn and think, "I like her too!" I couldn't figure out who I liked more because, between the two, they were two opposites, like they came from different planets almost. Then I realized it was perfectly fine and what made them special. They were unique in their own way and successful. Everyone tried to be Marilyn, but no one succeeded.

WCT: I was made fun of for playing with dolls as a child, but aren't these your dolls to dress up?

BM: Cher always said, "I'm Bob's Barbie doll."

WCT: Did she ever say it was too much?

BM: She said, "Less fabric, more beads!" It is just the way she is. Halloween is her favorite holiday.

WCT: Anything else you want to say about The Cher Show?

BM: If you are a Cher fan you will have a good time. The singing is amazing. Their voices are just breathtaking. When you hear those three young women you won't believe that they can open their mouths and sing like that.

The Cher Show turns back time now through Sunday, July 15, at Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.; visit BroadwayInChicago.com.

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Roxane Gay.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

BOOKS Roxane Gay talks sexual violence, writing advice in Chicago visit

BY JERRY NUNN

Author Roxane Gay made an appearance at City Winery June 19 to promote her paperback releases of *Not That Bad: Dispatches from Rape Culture* and *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*. The event, which The Book Cellar presented, covered a variety of topics, including Gay's writing process.

Megan Stielstra, who has written three collections herself and is currently an artist in residence at Northwestern University, hosted the evening with a casual conversation that led into Gay's outspoken opinions.

Gay has penned the best-selling essay collection *Bad Feminist* as well as the short-story collection *Ayiti*. Her writing has appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Time* magazine and *The Nation*, among other publications. Her novel *An Untamed State* was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Notably, Gay and poet Yona Harvey were writers for *Black Panther: World of Wakanda* for Marvel Comics. Within the superhero story two female lovers, Aneka and Ayo, were shown as former members of Black Panther's security force.

Her cultural criticism work *Not That Bad* features 29 writers discussing how sexual violence can affect lives. This had her approaching a few key people in its creation and also opening it up for outside submissions eventually. While many people sent their testimonies, she admitted that there was an absence of queer sexual violence and plans on addressing it the next time. "The reality is I only got one submission that focused on woman on woman sexual violence," Gay said. "It wasn't appropriate for the anthology. The writing wasn't where it needed to be."

She is working on an advice book on writing currently to help with this. Gay said, "All writing advice is terrible!"

It worked for them, but so what?" She suggested having a day job so a person's writing is not influenced by paying the bills.

Stielstra asked the bisexual Haitian-American writer if she had seen the *Mister Rogers* documentary yet. While she had not, she reminisced about reading short stories in the past about him where she was married to him and they had sex together. The crowd roared with laughter as she said, "It was basically erotic fiction about famous men. Fred was fucking me and his Brylcreem dripped on me!"

Gay mentioned that people telling her stories can be exhausting at these signings at times. While she honors their experiences she has to take time for self care. She doesn't want to discourage people, but said she finds the process challenging.

She described social media as dangerous and "people are overindulging in the news, because so much of it is available. When you go on Twitter, it seems like the world is coming to an end, but when you walk down the street things are fine. The truth is somewhere between those extremes."

The day before, she had commented on social media about "When Children Say They're Trans," an article in *The Atlantic's* July/August issue that Jesse Singal wrote. "I basically said it was a travesty and written in bad faith. I realize that was intense, but it was the extent of my thoughts," Gay said of the article. "It had some good parts, but was this the right person to be writing about these issues?"

When someone on social media questioned her, she felt that person put words in her mouth and disagreed. "This is what happens now. People make weird assumptions. Nothing productive is happening with online spaces right now," she explained. She warned not to engage with her tweets, but instead with her op-ed pieces for *The New York Times*. The packed room agreed with applause that night.

Guests stayed after for a book-signing and to ask Gay questions.

For further information on Gay's work and tour, visit RoxaneGay.com.

CULTURE CLUB



PAC PRIDE FEST



Pink Orchids

By Patrick Cash. Directed by Brennan T. Jones
June 6 - July 7

The Green Bay Tree

By Mordaunt Shairp. Directed by Amy Sarno
June 11 - July 8

Fucking Men

By Joe DiPietro. Directed by David Zak
July 1 - August 25

Hurricane Damage

By Kevin Brofsky. Directed by Paul J Cook
August 1 - August 26

Holding The Man

By Tommy Murphy. Directed by Michael Graham
August 5 - August 26

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PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Proud to Run marks 37 years with theme: 'Run Forward'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Proud To Run celebrated 37 years with its annual 5K run/walk and 10K run June 23 at The Grove just north of Montrose Harbor.

This year marked the first time the event has a theme, "Run Forward," as well as ads on CTA trains. Also for the first time, race results were immediately available at the event for the approximately 2,000 participants.

Proud To Run has raised more than \$550,000 for a number of local LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS nonprofits since its inception.

"This event is a great and healthy celebration of LGBTQ pride," said Proud To Run co-director Corbin Woodling. "It is an amazing day."

"It is so much fun to watch people come across the finish line and celebrate after they finish their race," said Proud To Run co-director Courtney O'Connell. "People are happy and cheering each other on. This race is a really fun event during Pride Month."

Local singer/composer/musician Kyra Leigh performed the national anthem during the opening ceremony.

"I am really proud to be able to represent my community," said Leigh. "Especially during this current political climate. What better statement to make than to have an openly transgender person sing the National Anthem and represent our country in the way I think it should be represented."

Among the 5K racers were two women and two men (Dawn Mueller, Heather Yang, Scott Plummer and Jim Snyder) who ran with the International Memorial Rainbow Flag from the Gay Games. Bank of America Chicago Marathon Executive Race Director Carey Pinkowski surprised Proud To Run race organizers with his appearance at the race and spontaneously decided to help carry the flag.

Award-winning WGN-TV reporter Mike Lowe emceed the event. Lowe announced the first, second and third place winners in each race category. He also interviewed representatives from the nonprofits (Care2Prevent- Dr. Julia Rosbush, Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative-Anne Statton, Test Positive Aware Network-Lorraine Hayes and The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance-Mary Morten) that will be receiving proceeds from the event.

Lowe spoke about the history of the event and how inclusive it is. He explained that the LGBTQ community has made many advances, although he added there are still challenges to overcome. Lowe said while there is marriage equality, the recent Masterpiece Cakeshop Supreme Court case decision shows that gay and lesbian couples might not be able to buy the cake for their wedding.

"Proud To Run is all about celebrating Pride in a healthy and productive way," said Lowe. "Running this race actually helps fund a handful of organizations in our community that advocates for the health and safety of all Chicagoans. I love this year's motto, Run Forward. What it says to me is there is no standing still, no giving up, no matter what. We are on a path of progress."

First-place winners in the 5K race were Vanessa Righeimer (women), Chris Wolf (men) and Dalton Traina (non-binary) while the 10K race winners were Alana Kopelson (women), Eric Seelback (men) and Dennis Carl (non-binary).

The 5K men's team winner was The Amazingish Racers and the 5K mixed team winner was Team JKMP; the 10K men's team winner was Proud Rice and Potatoes; and the 10K mixed team winner was from United Airlines. There were no 5K or 10K women's teams.

A specially made quilt was also available for participants to write names or statements. This quilt will be added to the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Lakeshore Fitness' Jenny Terlinden led participants in warm-up exercises and Urban Pooch Head Trainer Jim Bahr and his dogs performed an agility demonstration ahead of the race while the Chicago Spirit Brigade cheered on participants at the start and finish lines and performed during the post-race festivities.

Sponsors included Urban Pooch, PepsiCo, Thorek Memorial Hospital, United Airlines, Fleet Feet, CNA, Jewel-Osco, Redfin, Lakeshore Illinois Shelter, Running to the Beat, MB Financial, Neil Hackler Group, Bistro 750, USG, Avila Creative Inc., William Blair, CMSA, ZS, Cushman Wakefield, Factset, Hope Enrichment Center, Sapphire Nail Salon, Fitness Formula Clubs and Pond Ripple Media.

See ProudToRun.org for more information.



The Little Theater on the Square, after a 2004 renovation.

Photos by Carrie Maxwell



Proud to Run race co-directors Courtney O'Connell and Corbin Woodling.



Left: Dawn Mueller, Scott Plummer, Heather Yang and Jim Snyder holding the International Memorial Rainbow Flag. Right: Chicago Spirit Brigade.





Photo by Joseph Stevens Photography

PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

'Queer the Pier,' Cece Peniston part of Navy Pier Pride

BY NOAH MCCARTHY

On the evening of June 23, hundreds of people gathered on Navy Pier to watch musicians and models walk through the history of queer clubs.

"Queer the Pier"—an event from Kristen Kaza, the co-producer of *Reunion Chicago* and co-founder of *Slo 'Mo Party*—was part of a full day of Navy Pier's pride programming.

Local R&B vocalist Adam Ness owned the stage

as he, along with guests, gave stunning homages to many disco classics. In a short hour and a half, Ness and other performers sang tunes such as Cheryl Lynn's "Got to Be Real," Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out" and ABBA's "Dancing Queen," among others.

Next, the fashion show hit the runway as performers modeled looks running the gamut of queer-club couture. Models emerged in items such as '80s-inspired tank-top ringers; full-bod-

ied gold sequin suits; and BDSM-inspired leather ensembles. A model's walk was accompanied by a history lesson, as the audience was reminded that queer clubs often served as a testing ground for new hits, and that voguers organized HIV testing in the underserved South Side.

Lastly, the infectiously joyous Cece Peniston took the stage on the 20th anniversary of her queer anthem, "Finally." She jokingly confronted the reality of her age (48), saying she didn't want

anyone to accuse her of being 60 after the show. However, she held the crowd with every bit of energy possible, inviting crowd members to dance onstage, and having the crowd to belt the chorus to another hit, "We Got a Love Thang," back at her.

Queer the Pier ended with a fireworks show over the lake, and the host urged audience members to take the positive energy of Queer the Pier back into their communities.



'Queer the Pier' event.
Photos by Ashley Collins



Richard Jousef Mondragon, Berwyn Ald. Scott Lennon, Berwyn Mayor Robert Lovero, Berwyn Ald. Cesar Santoy and Chicago Ald. Raymond Lopez at Lavergne's following the pride march.

Photo by Tracy Baim. See more photos online.



Photo by Gary Lennon

PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Berwyn hosts 2nd Pride celebration

West suburban Berwyn hosted their second annual Pride celebration June 23, with a short march, gathering with speakers, and a closing party at Lavergne's bar. The first event last year was the idea of Gary Lennon, brother of openly gay Berwyn Ald. Scott Lennon. While it attracted 40 people, this year's had more than 200 celebrating, with LGBTQs joined by many allies, including Mayor Robert Lovero.



Left: Berwyn Ald. Scott Lennon.

Photo by Gary Lennon

Above: Berwyn residents Martie Marro, Lisa Hernandez and Katie Jacobson.

Photo by Tracy Baim

PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Montrose gathering

Photos by Vern Hester. See more photos online.



PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Back Lot Bash marks 15 years

Photos from Saturday, June 23.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com).
See more photos online.)



PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Center on Halsted celebrates Pride

The Lake View LGBT community space Center on Halsted continued a long tradition of kickoff parties for Pride weekend.

On June 22, the festivities began with international DJ Deanne. Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams served treats with sprinkles on top and appetizers were offered throughout the evening.

Guests enjoyed the outdoor rooftop patio and took pictures in the ShutterBox photo booth. Saugatuck Brewing Company offered beer samples at the fundraiser for the center.

American Idol finalist Ada Vox and RuPaul's Drag Racer Nina Bonina Brown performed in the Hoover-Leppen Theater toward the end of the night.

Center on Halsted is the largest LGBT community center in the Midwest, with more than 1,000 people walking through its doors each day. For more information about the diverse programs offered, visit CenteronHalsted.org.

Photos and text by Jerry Nunn



PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards

The 19th annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards were held June 20 at Polo Cafe in Bridgeport. A diverse group of people from 18 to 30 were honored for their activism, cultural work, entrepreneurship, promotional work and more. The awards were co-hosted by Windy City Times art director Kirk Williamson and Ashley Collins.

Windy City Times welcomed co-sponsors AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown

Health and Polo Catering.

See full list of honorees and their stories here: www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/30-Under-30-to-be-honored-June-20-in-19th-annual-award-ceremony/63255.html.

And the Windy City Times Pride issue has a full review of honorees in PDF form here: www.windy-citymediagroup.com/images/publications/wct/2018-06-20/current.pdf.

Photos by Hal Baim. See more photos online.



Above: Co-host Ashley Collins with recipient Aaron-Raheim White.
Below: Co-host Kirk Williamson with recipient Mia Vivens.



PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Pride North in Rogers Park

Hundreds flocked to this annual Northside Pride party, which unfolded on Sunday, June 24, after the parade. Two stages of DJs (including Sandra Suave, Eric Daly, The Byrne Twins, Ron Geronimo, Laura Bee, Jerry Featherston and more) kept the crowd dancing in the sun.

Photos by Kirk Williamson. See more photos online.



PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

More from

Chicago Pride Parade

Photos on these two pages by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com), Tim Carroll Photography, Jerry Nunn and Tracy Baim. Turn to page 38 for more from the parade and see many more online at www.WindyCityTimes.com





PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

More from

Chicago Pride Parade

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com), Tim Carroll Photography, Jerry Nunn and Tracy Baim. See many more online at www.WindyCityTimes.com





Lilly Wachowski (left) and Antonio King
in front of some of Wachowski's art.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Wachowski exhibit featured at Rush's Pride reception

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Filmmaker, writer and artist Lilly Wachowski's "Say Our Names" exhibit was featured at the Rush University Medical Center's 5th annual Pride Month reception June 20 on the Medical Center's West Side campus.

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) LGBTQ Community Liaison Antonio King was the featured speaker. He invoked luminaries and trailblazers in the LGBTQ community such as Harvey Milk, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde, Jane Addams, Rock Hudson, Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera and Willi Ninja who made it possible for the many Pride Month celebrations that take place in Chicago.

King said he is charged with "enhancing the well-being of LGBTQ residents in Chicago, including equitable health care delivery."

"The LGBTQ Health and Outreach program addresses related quality of life issues, such as: unemployment, housing, safety, bullying, domestic and intimate partner violence and other quality of life challenges that ultimately affect the health of the LGBTQ community," said King. "We also address high rates of smoking and obesity, challenges that LGBTQ persons have in accessing care and other direct health concerns."

King said the CDPH is honored to be in a relationship with Rush, citing what he said was the important work the medical center does as well as its continued commitment to LGBTQ-inclusive policies for patients and employees. He said the CDPH is, for the first time, presenting sexual and gender minority health status data for LGBT youth and adults in Chicago in a report: The LGBT Health Databook.

This data is vital for Chicago's health improvement plan Healthy Chicago 2.0 because sexual and gender minorities are a priority population for a number of the plan's goals, said King. Addi-

tionally, King explained that Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the CDPH have committed to decreasing HIV infection rates with the Getting to Zero campaign. King said the campaign wants to have zero new infections and zero people living with HIV who are not receiving treatment by 2027.

Among the other speakers were; Rush University Medical Center and Rush System (Medical Center, Rush Oak Park Hospital and Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora) President Michael Dandorh, Rush University Medical Center LGBTQ Leadership Council Co-chairs Brandy Hatcher and Christopher Nolan, Rush University Medical Center LGBTQ Employee Resource Group leader and LGBTQ Leadership Council member Billy Dishuk and Rush University Student Diversity and Multi-cultural Affairs Director Kate Webster.

Webster spoke about how great it is to be able to have a picture of her and her wife in her office because of Rush's LGBTQ-inclusive policies.

"When we have to cover parts of our identity we are not able to produce our best work," said Webster.

Dishuk said being gay has never been a barrier to him working at Rush.

Dandorh explained that Rush's commitment to diversity has a positive impact on the entire system and each year this event has grown in attendance (approximately 150 people this year). He also mentioned the steady increase in people from Rush marching in Chicago's Pride Parade over the past few years.

In terms of creating an environment that values diversity, Dandorh said the key is to include it in everything they do in the Rush system. One of the ways Rush does this is by having diverse patient and student populations. Dandorh explained that for ten years Rush in Chicago has held a leadership status with the Human Rights



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SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN



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Turn to page 40

PRIDE COVERAGE 2018

Teams compete at Pride Bowl XI

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association's Pride Bowl XI took place June 22-23 on Chicago's Montrose Lakeside Fields.

The results were as follows:

—**"A" Division**

Winner: Los Angeles Express Black

Runner-Up: New York United

—**"B" Division**

Winner: Boston Bulldogs

Runner-Up: Denver Summit Gold

—**"C" Division**

Winner: New York Warriors Gold

Runner-up: Phoenix Blast

—**Women's division**

Winner: DC Senators

Runner-Up: South Florida Cat-5

—**All-Pride Bowl team:**

Jeremy Moss (Boston)

Jason Buniger (Denver)

Nikki Kasperek (DC)

Belinda Alfonso (South Florida)

Matt Billman (New York)

Adam Forbes-King (Phoenix)

Kristoff Faubert (Los Angeles)

Wade Davis (New York)

Josh Lewis (Chicago)

AJ Canzolino (Chicago)



Photos by Anthony Meade



RUSH from page 39

Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) with a 100 percent score each year. He said Rush Oak Park has had a 100 percent score for the past five years while Rush Copley is on its way to achieving a 100 percent score.

Hatcher spoke about Rush's collaboration with Project Fierce, the existence of all gender bathrooms at the Chicago and Oak Park locations (they are working on having them at the Copley location) and the hospital's participation in this year's LGBTQ job fair at the Center on Halsted.

Nolan said the LGBTQ Leadership Council was created to move Rush to the next level. He explained that there is still more work to be done, especially in today's political climate where the Affordable Care Act is under attack, including the 1557 guidance that helps the LGBTQ community.

Speaking with Windy City Times, Wachowski explained that her family's history with the hospital goes back to when her mom worked there and has continued to this day, including her exhibit being displayed in Rush's Searle Conference Center until July 6.

To read about the HEI, visit <https://www.rush.edu/news/press-releases/rush-again-leads-lgbtq-health-equality>.

See <https://www.rush.edu/about-us/commitment-lgbtq-health-care> and https://www.cityof-chicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/healthy-communities/lgbt_health.html for more information.

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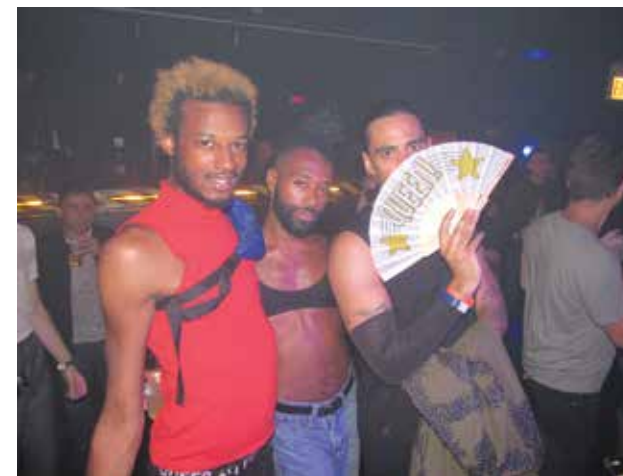
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QUEEN!

Finally! A special Pride Queen! upstairs at the Metro with CeCe Peniston.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



BILLY Masters

"I'm someone you can't put a label on. I'm much like a sponge. You can squeeze me and get everything out of me. But you'll never know unless you try."—More pearls of wisdom from self-proclaimed male model **Jordan Kimball** on *The Bachelorette*. Don't try to figure it out—you'll hurt yourself.

The summer is supposed to be my slow season. That's when all the films are shooting on location, all the TV shows are on hiatus, and all the producers are doing perp walks. And yet here we are, with oodles of news. First and least surprising—ABC has picked up the Roseanne spinoff, tentatively titled *The Conners*. Hmm, where on Earth did I first read about that? I am confounded. I'm also double-jointed, which may not be relevant ... yet.

Then there's the *Dynasty* reboot. As the first season limped to a close, two things were clear: 1) This version was deviating from the original's storyline, and 2) None of you were watching. Now comes word that *Cristal* is dead! Yes, one of the main characters has been written off. Remember the fire? Well, of course you don't—you weren't watching. But there was a fire that threatened to kill Alexis and Cristal. Actress *Nathalie Kelley* has announced that she will not be returning to the show next season. So, *Cristal* is dead? Perhaps—perhaps not. Maybe she'll come back as a twin (*Raquel* instead of *Rita*). Maybe she'll have plastic surgery and look completely different. Maybe she'll be played by *Linda Evans*! Who knows? Who cares. Eh, I'll still probably watch.

Broadway Bares has been raising funds (and other things) for *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS* since 1992. And how better to do that than feature some of the hottest bodies on Broadway in as little clothing as possible? Last week, the annual event brought in more than \$1.9 million, but enough about that—let's get to the real story.

Featured in the show was the cast of *The Boys in the Band*—well, most of the cast. **Jim Parsons**, **Zachary Quinto** and **Brian Hutchison** were no-shows. That left **Matt Bomer**, **Charlie Carver**, **Robin de Jesús**, **Andrew Rannells**, **Michael Benjamin Washington** and **Tuc Watkins** to fill the necessary gaps—although the youthful Mr. Carver was saddled with most of the heavy lifting. Since the theme for this installment of *Bares* was "Game Night," the "Boys" played a version of *Trivial Pursuit* where each wrong answer meant Carver took off another article of clothing. When he lost the final round, his G-string was pulled off and he was left holding his cowboy hat in front of his nether regions. (His character in the play is a hustler named *Cowboy*.) However, for the midnight show—oh, yes, there are two *Broadway Bares* shows—**Zachary Quinto** surprised the audience with a special appearance and pulled off the G-string. And **Charlie** cheekily showed off his cheeks, as you can see on *BillyMasters.com*.

I was surprised that **Carver** was the only member of his cast to show any skin. After all, **Matt**



Adam Rippon is feeling quite liberated, Billy says.

PR photo

Bomer has played a male stripper ... twice. Not only that, but *The Boys in the Band* opens with him taking a shower and walking around in a towel for the first scene. Customers thought at the very least he'd join in for "Rotation," the finale of *Broadway Bares*, where all of the participants hit the stage for the audience to gang tip their favorites. Someone in the know said that **Bomer** could have easily made five figures—or was it that he could have easily taken five fingers? I have to start paying better attention. Either way, **Bomer** demurred.

One of my favorite issues of "ESPN The Magazine" is its annual *Body Issue*. Who am I kidding—it's the only issue I've even seen, and that's because they celebrate the human form by capturing athletic icons out of their gear—something which typically makes readers pull out their gear. Last year, **Gus Kenworthy** was featured skiing in the nude, which is only against Olympic rules because they didn't have snow in ancient Greece. This year, the magazine got **Adam Rippon** to slip off the Spandex. The photos were taken shortly after he came back from the Olympics. He said, "I couldn't have done this while I was in the closet. I think that, with my experience of coming out, I felt so liberated in so many ways." Adam also had an ulterior motive: "I don't want to say I'll never be in this shape again, but I'll never be in this shape. I'll be in another shape." With his delicious derriere, I'm guessing he may be inching toward pear-shaped. For a peek at his peak, check out *BillyMasters.com*.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Justin in Chicago: "Do you know that hot, short gay guy who is going to be on *Big Brother*? His bio says he's a go-go dancer in West Hollywood."

Big Brother announces the casting of **JC Moun-dux**, touted as the 1st contestant in the show's history who has dwarfism. "I say I'm 5'0, but I'm only 4'8," says JC. Yes, he is gay and a go-go dancer in West Hollywood. I don't know him personally, but I did hear he has—or had—a hot boyfriend who also "dances." It should go without saying that JC is attractive and has an amazing body.

If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com. And remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Homestead on the Roof; Big Gay Ice Cream at Nico

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Have you ever seen one of those print ads or commercials where people dine in a picturesque outdoor setting—while eating perfect-looking dishes and laughing?

Well, that can happen to you, courtesy of **Homestead on the Roof** (1924 W. Chicago Ave.; HomesteadOnTheRoof.com), which looks like it's straight from one of those advertisements—complete with the strings of lights that crisscross the spot.

Homestead, which sits atop Roots Homemade Pizza (which has some pretty nice fare itself), has reopened for spring and summer. Moreover, Executive Chef Jesse Badger is presenting items that are mash-ups of American and global



Homestead on the Roof's five-way beets.

Photos by Andrew Davis

influences.

And the indelible impressions start with a bread basket that's second to none. (Even if you're carb-phobic, you're going to be tempted.) Current selections include pain rustic, cumin pretzel, buttermilk sourdough, honey pecan and mini-challah—that's all that needs to be said (or typed).

From there, it's a gustatory adventure,

complete with items like "Caprazy" (tomato sushi, chrysanthemum pesto, blistered tomato salad, Genovese basil); five-way beet (with spiced pistachios and goat cheese); coal-charred asparagus topped with balls of deep-fried hollandaise; Italian beef tartare (a novel twist on Chicago's traditional Italian beef, complete with duck egg yolk); and pork chop and pie (complete with a savory pie of rhubarb, bacon and sausage). And please don't miss out on the mashed potatoes, which come in such varieties as classic, roasted garlic, brown butter, miso (yes, miso) and black truffle.

Lastly, dessert ensures the meal ends on a high note, thanks to items like tiramisu; strawberry shortcake creme brulee; and deconstructed S'mores (topped with chocolate Pop-Rocks). All of this is enjoyed in a setting that allows views of the wonderful rooftop garden that's the source of many of Homestead's ingredients. If the weather's agreeable, it's an unforgettable experience.

Big Gay Ice Cream social

With Chicago celebrating Pride Month (culminating in last weekend's Pride Parade), it made perfect sense for New York City-based **Big Gay Ice Cream** to make an appearance in the city.

On June 22, Big Gay Ice Cream stopped by Nico Osteria, 1015 N. Rush St., collaborating with Nico Pastry Chef Leigh Omilinsky to create several dishes, including Dirty Banana (caramelized



Big Gay Ice Cream's Doug Quint, Nico Pastry Chef Leigh Omilinsky.

Photos by Andrew Davis

banana and brown sugar ice cream and a cacao-nib biscotti), Apricot Gobbler (a mini-pie crust filled with a scoop of roasted vanilla ice cream, topped with a spot of bourbon and apricot-infused whipped cream) and Out & Proud Pops (raspberry-, coconut- or mango-flavored freeze pops, submerged in a shot of tequila), among others.

Nico offered the dishes all of Pride Weekend, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Howard Brown Health.

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



SIDETRACK

Cirque de Sidetrack: The 36th anniversary party.
Photos by Joseph Stevens Photography

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TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THIS THING CALLED LIFE CAN BE COMPLICATED And there's not always "an app for that." Whether you are struggling with issues of identity, sexuality, relationship, or any combination of the above, I can help with that. Together we will pose relevant questions and sort through possible answers. **Marvin Evans, LCPC. Loop location. 312-508-9200. scylle.me@gmail.com** (7/18/18-4)

HELP WANTED

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO is seeking applicants for the position of Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center. View position details and apply online at <https://jobs.uic.edu/>. For fullest consideration, please upload a resume and cover letter by August 8, 2018 (8/8/18-13)

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PRIDE from page 12

Evanston Subaru in Skokie, Broadway in Chicago, GRAB and Goose Island Beer.

Dozens of area churches took part in Chicago Welcoming Churches' entry, shouting, "God is love" as they traversed the parade route. Persons from Chicago-area synagogues also marched together.

Labor Unions and trade organizations included

Chicago Women in Trades, Local 881 United Food and Commercial Workers, Chicago Teachers Union, United Here Local 1 and SEIU Illinois.

Among corporations represented by their LGBT groups were MB Financial Bank, Discover Financial Services, Bank of America, ComEd, Anheuser-Busch, Gap, Bloomingdale's, Salesforce, Macy's, Boeing, American Airlines, United Airlines, Hyatt Hotels, Hilton Hotels, Facebook, Google, Johnson & Johnson, Chipotle, WGN, Fox 32, ABC 7, NBC 5, Univision, Deloitte, Blue Cross Blue Shield of

Illinois, AT&T, Comcast, T-Mobile and Pepsico.

MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, shortly before the parade started, commented on how the LGBT community cuts across every sector of society, especially in terms of "race, class and gender," adding, "That's why it's so important for us to stand up for others and for them to see us stand together in all our diversity."

For the full parade lineup see: <http://www.chicagopridecalendar.org/lineup.html>.

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WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., June 27

Walgreens offers testing for National HIV Testing Day List of participating Walgreens locations and additional information about HIV testing, including year-round testing sites at the link. 10:00am - 7:00pm Participating Walgreens stores <http://www.greaterthan.org/walgreens>

Climb w/Coors Light Maggie Daley Park Coors Light, Brooklyn Boulders Chicago and Maggie Daley Park to provide climbing enthusiasts 21+ with free climbs with free Coors Light and food. Bring valid ID 4:00pm - 8:00pm Maggie Daley Park

LGBTQ Pride Jazzin at the Shedd Aquarium Cocktails, pride-themed treats-for purchase, live music, access to the aquarium. Part of Wednesday evening event series Jazzin' at the Shedd. \$25 online or, for \$15 more, end the night with a Shoreline cruise. 5:00pm - 10:00pm Shedd Aquarium Tickets: <http://www.sheddaqarium.org/jazzin>

LGBTQ+ Cancer Support LGBTQ+ Cancer Support is a drop-in group for LGBTQ+ 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/>

Thursday, June 28

Hines Veterans Hospital Pride event Theme "Remember the Past, Create the Future." Mid-day gathering, information tables. On the Hines campus in Building 1, Room E471 11:00am - 1:00pm Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, 5000 S. 5th Ave, Hines, IL

Screening, Alone in the Game The AT&T original feature-length documentary follows sports figures from NFL, NBA, MLS, and NCAA on struggles LGBTQ athletes face. Time:TBA Screening documentary Alone in the Game

Black Same Gender Loving Writer Series Meet those keeping SGL-LGBT literature alive. A program of Ubuntu Center of Chicago, Windy City Black Pride 6:00pm - 10:00pm The Village, 1525 East 55th St. #205, Chicago 773-599-0051 <http://www.windyblackpride.info/>

Play Out! Celebration of LGBTQ composers Cellist David Sands "Raise Your Voice and Let It Shine" The People's Music School instructor David Sands will performe works by some of classical music's most celebrated LGBT com-



SEPP BY SEPP

Thursday, June 28

A farewell party
for Chicago entertainer
Tamale Sepp will
be at the Holiday Club.
Photo by Elizabeth McQuern
Photography

posers. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/playout-tickets-45248912716>

Send off party for Tamale Sepp Well-wishers gather to say goodbye to long time Chicago entertainer and organizer soon to leave Chicago. 6:00pm - 2:00am Holiday Club 4000 N Sheridan Rd Chicago

Queer Pride and Stardust Stardust is a queer nightlife Thursday night event at Berlin Nightclub for the past 9.5 years with intersectional and immersive events 10:00pm - 4:00pm Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago <http://do312.com/stardust>

Friday, June 29

Foster and Adopt Our Children: Recruiting Within the LGBTQ Community Town-hall event with representatives from licensing agencies and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and foster and adoption-in-process parents speaking. 5:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://letitbeus.org/events>

SexuWellness For women and TGNC individuals, a wide variety of sexual and reproductive health-related services like chest/breast exams, mammogram referrals, pap tests including HPV screening and pelvic exams, STI testing, birth control prescription, IUD placements. Fourth Friday of every month. whs@howardbrown.org 5:00pm - 8:00pm Howard Brown, 6500 N. Clark, Chicago 773-572-8359 <http://howardbrown.org/womens-health/>

LGBT Mental Health Themed Photo Exhibit closing Pairs portraits of someone with a handwritten letter to their

younger self, providing the younger self with advice, encouragement, information Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=15423>

Chicago Black Pride cocktail party Meet and greet sexy male models Gary and Jimmy 6:00pm - 10:00pm Holiday Inn, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago <http://www.windyblackpride.info/>

Black Same Gender Loving Art IV in the Village A program of Ubuntu Center of Chicago with the University of Chicago. Free. Chrles@UbuntuChicago.org 6:00pm - 10:00pm The Village, 1525 East 55th St. #205, Chicago 773-599-0051 <http://www.windyblackpride.info/>

Chicago Black Pride Opening Day Party Mix and mingle with Chicago's tastemakers and welcome guests from around the country! Cocktails, Food, Outdoor patio till midnight. Free. RSVP at link. Also related events through July 2. 7:00pm - 2:00am Municipal Bar + Dining Co. 216 W. Ohio St, Chicago <http://cbpfridayparty.eventbrite.com>

"Pink Orchids" with post-show discussion, The HIV Crisis Today Discussions follow performances of British play in which five eloquently interwoven and often funny monologues explore the experience of living with HIV 7:30pm The Buena, Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway 866-411-4111 or 773-857-0222. <http://pridefilmsandplays.com>

You're Being Ridiculous celebrates PRIDE at Steppenwolf LookOut Series, a performance series that presents the work of artists, writers, storytellers and companies across genre and form. Seating limited so buy early. 8:00pm Steppenwolf Theatre 1650 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <https://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/seasons/2017-18/youre-being-ridiculous/>

Saturday, June 30

Gay is Good: Homophile Activism before Stonewall Detailing the beginning of the homophile movement in the U.S., its peak during the ECHO and NACHO conferences, and eventual decline after the Stonewall Riots. Through September 10:00am - 4:00am Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Peach Presents Series: Water (Pride Edition) ALL LGBTQ+ women & femme family presents 'The Elements' (Air, Water, Earth, & Fire) Dripping art installations, music, sips. B2B set from DJ Gemini Jones & DJ Cut Cuz! All 21+ 12:00pm - 5:00pm Whiskey Business, 1367 N Milwaukee Ave, <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/peach-presentswater-the-elements-series-2018-tickets-46134186594>

Esteem Awards reception PrideIndex.com will honor AIDS Foundation of Chicago, eta Creative Arts Foundation, Reeling The Chicago LGBT Film Fest, The Sip

show and individuals Lamont Robinson, Jr., Maria Hadden, Vanessa Sheridan and Derrick Clifton. Free and open to the public. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.windyblackpride.com/lgbt/11th-Annual-Esteem-Awards-to-honor-Chicagoans/62714.html>

The Cher Show By Broadway in Chicago. Through July 15. \$33-\$110. 8:00pm Ford Center Oriental Theatre 24 W Randolph St Chicago 800-775-2000 <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>

You're Being Ridiculous celebrates PRIDE at Steppenwolf LookOut Series, a performance series that presents the work of artists, writers, storytellers and companies across genre and form. Seating limited so buy early. 8:00pm Steppenwolf Theatre 1650 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <https://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/seasons/2017-18/youre-being-ridiculous/>

Side Eye for the Straight Guy. Wig Bullies, an LGBT-themed comedy group, dedicates this show to straight guys. The ones that feel uncomfortable around gays. The ones afraid of female presidents. 8:30pm Maat Theater Tickets: <http://www.secondcity.com/shows/chicago/wig-bullies-presents-side-eye-for-the-straight-guy/>

Sunday, July 1

Black Gay Pride Worship Experience & Free Chicken & Waffle Brunch Launch of "The Gospel According To Beyonce," sermon series in July. See The Lighthouse Church of Chicago on Facebook. 11:00am - 12:30pm Lighthouse Church, Uptown Underground, 4713 N. Broadway

The White Party, Chicago Black LGBT Pride Weekend Mega Party Hosted by The Queen, TS Madison. Attire White. House, top 40, old school, r&b and hiphop. Dj's Easy Kutz (Ohio) and Gucci Roxx. Sexy dancers, models. VIP tables, booths and bottle packages reservations in advance, limited that night. 8:00pm - 2:00am Alhambra Palace Restaurant 1240 W. Randolph St., 312-609-9739 <http://www.highsocietychi.com>

Tuesday, July 3

Panel discussion Black Lesbian Archives Exhibit 6:00pm - 8:00pm Affinity Community Services 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108 Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

Friday, July 6

"Pink Orchids" with post-show discussion, PrEP - Myth vs. Fact Discussions follow performances of British play in which five eloquently interwoven and often funny monologues explore the experience of living with HIV 7:30pm , 866-811-4111 or 773-857-0222 <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Steamworks: The Musical Singing and dancing extravaganza tells of a wide-

eyed young man who moves to the Windy City seeking love ... and ... every Friday through Aug. 10. \$20/\$15 Students 8:00pm - 9:30pm Annoyance Theater Mainstage, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago <http://theannoyance.com/>

Laramie Project A community's deeply-moving response to the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, written by Moises Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project. Through Sunday, July 8. 8:00pm The Raven Theatre, West Stage , 6157 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.astonrep.com>

Saturday, July 7

Gay is Good: Homophile Activism before Stonewall Detailing the beginning of the homophile movement in the U.S., its peak during the ECHO and NACHO conferences, and eventual decline after the Stonewall Riots. Through September 10:00am - 4:00am Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Wed., July 11

Taste of Chicago Seventy-three restaurants will participate in the world's largest food festival. Through July 15. 11:00am - 9:00am Grant Park 337 E. Randolph St Chicago <http://TasteOfChicago.us>

It's Raining Femme Sex Positive Dance Party Monthly event showcases artists who identify as femme or outside of traditional gender vectors focusing on removing stigma from sexual choices and experiences. Doors 6pm. 21+. \$5 7:00pm Gman Tavern, 3740 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://gmantavern.com/event/audio-jack-alex-white-dj-set-impulsive-hearts-jen-dots/>

Thursday, July 12

Queer Genre Fiction Book Group Each second Friday 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Friday, July 13

Black Lesbian Archives Exhibit closing reception Mix and mingle. Bring food or drinks if you can or just bring yourself and a good time 6:00pm - 8:00pm Affinity Community Services 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108 Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

Queer Genre Fiction 2nd Fridays 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org/>

Steamworks: The Musical Singing and dancing extravaganza tells of a wide-eyed young man who moves to the Windy City seeking love ... and ... every Friday through Aug. 10. \$20/\$15 Students 8:00pm - 9:30pm Annoyance Theater Mainstage, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago <http://theannoyance.com/>

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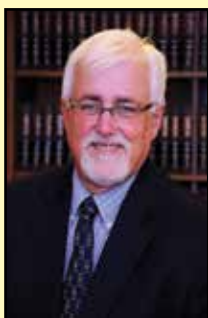
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