

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 33, NO. 42

JULY 4, 2018

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



## GAMES ON

Gay Games to take place in Paris next month.  
Logo from Gay Games

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Photo by Vern Hester

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# HALL OF FAME

Choreographer Joel Hall looks back at iconic career; successor Jacqueline Sinclair looks ahead



Joel Hall and Jacqueline Sinclair.  
Photo by Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth

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# ESTEEM ROOM

PrideIndex's Esteem Awards at Sidetrack

Left to right: AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Brian Solem, Center on Halsted's Vanessa Sheridan, state rep candidate Lamont Robinson, aldermanic candidate Maria Hadden, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's D'Ontace Keyes, journalist Derrick Clifton, and The Sip's Isaac King and Lenox Magee.  
Photo by Emagin Tanaschuk

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Above: WCT reviews *The View UpStairs*.  
Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

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## DODGE CALL

The 2018 Dodge Durango R/T (left) is a Challenger for the sensible driver.

Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

## 'DANCE' FEVER



Miss Estranja has gone from RuPaul's Drag Race to the Academy on *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Photo courtesy of Fox

## 'STRANGE' DAYS

Windy City Times talks with Craig Johnson, who directed the Netflix LGBT film *Alex Strangelove*.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Brendon Urie, Serena Williams and Bette Midler.

plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## This Week's Featured Properties



Centered on an open steel stairwell with a shimmering three-story water feature running against a subway slate backdrop, the residence is reminiscent of a Parisian garden court with an abundance of natural light reflecting off an array of stones, metals, woods, and glass - all artfully integrated into every inch of its construction.

1457 W. Addison St.  
\$2,249,000



Rare opportunity to live among significant historic estates on fabled Hawthorne Place for an amazing price-point. Set amid landscaped gardens and bluestone patios, the home's extra-wide interior creates a refreshing dynamic. Best East Lakeview location in Nettlehorst school district and down the block from City Day School - steps to the Lake, park, and Broadway boutiques and cafes.

593 W. Hawthorne Pl.  
\$1,950,000



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530 W. Hawthorne Pl.  
\$3,795,000



Rock-star architectural transformation! A modern space with seamless outdoor/indoor living which maximizes light, utility and design. Amazing!

820 W. Wolfram St. #F  
\$795,000



Enjoy jaw-dropping views of the harbor, lake, and park from a series of huge triple-hung windows spanning 45' in this front-facing residence on a high floor in this premier Beaux Arts vintage building with 2 parking spaces included.

3400 N. Lake Shore Dr. #6A  
\$615,000



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# Chicago Youth Storage Initiative celebrates success

Chicago Youth Storage Initiative (CYSI)—a project that was sparked by a poem by youth activist Breezy Connor at the close of the 2014 Windy City Times summit on LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness—celebrated its wind-down June 26 at The Godfrey Hotel Chicago.

When CYSI started installing storage lockers and other devices into shelters in 2015, there were just 40 storage options for youth across the entire city. At the completion of CYSI three years later, there are 755 additional safe storage options across 22 shelters, drop-ins and schools in all regions of the city, and in some suburbs.

CYSI is passing its work and future manage-

possessions, as Connor had passionately spoken about in her poem.

Debbie Reznick of Polk Bros. Foundation and Becky Knight of the Knight Family Foundation soon joined the team, along with Jeanne Kracher of Crossroads Fund, Julie Owens of Owens Family Foundation, Mignon Stewart from Prince Charitable Trusts and community activist Michael Mock to create a Steering Committee.

Pierce Family Foundation committed to pulling the team together to first hire Lara Brooks to coordinate a short-term study, with youth, to look to a range of solutions. Next, several kinds of storage devices started to be purchased and



**WCT Publisher Tracy Baim with Breezy Connor, whose poem inspired the creation of the Chicago Youth Storage Initiative.**

Photo by Hal Baim

so they could experience less stress about their belongings, less theft and less violence. The mission also included providing low-barrier ways for youth experiencing housing instability to enter into support services and get additional help they



**Pictured are CYSI steering committee members, staff and supporters. In Front are Jeanne Kracher, Tracy Baim and Heather Parish. Back row, from left: Megan Wickman, Marianne Philbin, Lester and Becky Knight, Michael Mock, Lara Brooks, Mignon Stewart and Debbie Reznick.**

Photo by Hal Baim

ment of the project to Lyte Collective, a grassroots program now renovating a building complex in Grand Crossing on Chicago's South Side. They will have 200 lockers in addition to many other services for youth experiencing housing instability and poverty.

After the Windy City Times summit, Marianne Philbin and Heather Parish from the Pierce Family Foundation called WCT Publisher Tracy Baim into a meeting to discuss the need for safe storage of

installed at agencies. When Brooks took a new position in San Francisco, Megan Wickman was hired to seamlessly continue the tasks.

In addition to 755 storage devices (ranging from full-size lockers to locking phone-charging stations), the project also worked with Google to create safe access to online storage for important documents and photos.

CYSI's mission was not just about storage—although safe storage was what youth asked for

## PASSAGES

### Nancy Crane

Nancy Wynne Crane passed away June 24. She was 74.

She was born Jan. 22, 1944. Nancy left us far too soon, and it was in the presence of her beloved partner.



**Nancy Crane.**

Photo from Cremation Society of Illinois

She was born in Chicago to Benjamin & Helene Crane and was the older sister to Marsha. They all preceded her in death.

Nancy was fortunate and grateful to share nearly three decades with the love of her life, Cathy Nurmela. She would greet Cathy each morning with a steaming cup of coffee and a throaty, slightly off key, rendition of "You are My Sunshine"—inging each time as it were the first.

Nancy, the consummate "city girl," grew to

needed. In some cases, CYSI also helped provide laundry machines at facilities that were able to utilize them.

Although the project started out of the LGBTQ summit, CYSI has always been about lifting up all youth, inclusive of LGBTQs, who make up anywhere from 20-40 percent of the youth homeless population. Agencies receiving storage support included Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, Teen Living Programs, Broadway Youth Center, El Rescate, La Casa Norte, Center on Halsted, The Night Ministry, Brave Space Alliance and Northwest Compass.

The CYSI Storage Toolkit will be made available free through Lyte Collective, for agencies locally and nationally that serve any population facing housing instability. The report will be listed soon here: [www.lytecollective.org/lyte-lounge/](http://www.lytecollective.org/lyte-lounge/).

Also, see the original needs assessment done with youth at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/pdf/CYSI-Report-Digital-05-15-15.pdf](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com/pdf/CYSI-Report-Digital-05-15-15.pdf). In addition, visit [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/pdf/YouthStorageWrap-UpFinal.pdf](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com/pdf/YouthStorageWrap-UpFinal.pdf).

love her time and life in the bucolic Harbor Country area of southwest Michigan. It was there that she and Cathy planned to spend the next chapter of their lives surrounded by their devoted and close knit circle of friends.

Nancy was a quiet, but keen, observer of the world and those around her. She always had the scoop on what was occurring with businesses in her Andersonville/Edgewater neighborhood—who was moving in and who was moving out. She had a near-encyclopedic knowledge of what was *not to be* missed on Netflix and "advised" friends on what they absolutely *must* watch. Her acerbic wit carried with it a profound and unvarnished wisdom. She was grace personified.

She was the proprietor of Wynn Corey Florist on Oak Street and Clark Street in Chicago for many years. In later years, she worked in sales. Since retiring in 2013, she became the devoted "PERSON" to her equally devoted Havanese, Hannah.

Nancy is survived by her partner in life and all things great and small, Catherine (Cathy) Nurmela; the Nurmela family, who joyfully embraced her as one of their own; many nieces and nephews, especially Erica Nurmela, with whom she had a special bond; Amit Sahrawat; many great-nieces and -nephews, especially Meera and Devin Sahrawat; cousin Neil Spinner; and countless friends.

"The other night dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms; but when I woke dear, I was mistaken so I hang my head and cry. You'll never know dear how much I love you, please don't take my sunshine away...."

A memorial gathering will take place Sunday, July 22, at 4 p.m. (service begins 4:30 p.m.) at Unity in Chicago Church, 1925 W. Thome Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or [Cremation-Society.com](http://Cremation-Society.com)



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## Activist Arthur Gursch dies at 72

Longtime LGBTQ activist Arthur Gursch died June 22. He was 72.

He was born on April 23, 1946.

Art was an LGBTQ activist for nearly 50 years. He also identified with the struggles of other oppressed people and felt it in no way compromised his commitment to the LGBT movement. In fact, it was just the opposite; early on, he identified the need to replace capitalist inequality with the socialist system of equality and became a Marxist revolutionary.

A member of the Chicago Gay Liberation Front (GLF), Art met his partner-to-be, Ortez Alderson in the GLF in 1970. Art joined the Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) when the GLF dissolved in 1971. He joined the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in 1971 and the next year wrote an article in a party discussion bulletin advocating for the party's intervention in the burgeoning gay and lesbian liberation movement. Art and other comrades were disappointed when the party refused to adopt this intervention, apparently out of a patronizing fear that many working women and men would be alienated from a political party supporting gay liberation. Art subsequently left the SWP.

Art lived in New York from 1973 to 1989, when he and Ortez returned to Chicago. Ortez died in Chicago in 1990.

Involved in the 1979 LGBTQ March on Washington, Art was also active in the New York chapter of Black and White Men Together.

Another organization that captured Art's dedication was ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), both in New York and in Chicago. In May of that year he participated in a bus-disrupting protest when the CTA refused to install AIDS-countering ads on its vehicles. He also supported the efforts of ACT-Up members who saw a need to reach out to communities of color and attack the homophobia and racism that fueled the medical crisis.

Active for years in the LGBTQ outdoors group "Take a Hike," he enjoyed getting outside and having fun.

Art Gursch was a member of Gay Liberation Network (GLN) from its inception, attending planning meetings and events promoting LGBTQ rights. But, just as he had done at the beginning and throughout his political career, he supported our group's solidarity perspective and tirelessly promoted struggles for the rights of women, workers, immigrants, Palestinians, and the anti-war movement.

A memorial meeting will be organized for a later date.

—Gay Liberation Network, with assistance from Darrell Gordon

## Affinity's leadership events in 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](http://Affinity95.org).

## 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/CsDcRo>.

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# State's attorney's office honors community members

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Staff from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office wrapped up Pride Month June 26 with its Ninth Annual Pride Recognition & Awards Ceremony, which was held at Center on Halsted.

State's Attorney Kim Foxx was ill and could not attend, but Chief of Staff and Chief Diversity Officer Jennifer Ballard Croft spoke in her place, reiterating the office's commitment to diversity, noting that both providing an inclusive and affirming workplace for LGBT staff and engagement with the LGBT community at large were of paramount importance.

Krista Peterson, an assistant state's attorney who is vice-president of the Office's LGBT+ Employee Resource Group, said that, with the current resources, she and other employees have mentorship and communication.

"That's something that wasn't there back when I became an assistant state's attorney," she added.

Award recipients included Aaron Kreider, a De-

Paul law student who was given the LGBT Pride Celebration Scholarship Award, as well Judge Mary Colleen Roberts and The Night Ministry, both awarded the Pride Community Service Award.

Activist Julio Rodriguez, co-founder and Board President of Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA) was given the Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gray was for many years a victim's advocate in the Office. Rodriguez spoke warmly of her mentorship and advice, noting that Gray was a person who could "talk the talk, but, more importantly, walk the walk."

He added that, in the long struggle for securing rights and freedoms, "We have to remember that the fight is never over."

Among those also speaking were State's Attorney's Office LGBTQ & Hate Crimes Specialist Angelica D'Souza; John Litchfield, secretary of the Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago; and Thomas Sondergeld, vice-president of Global HRIS Health & Mobility at Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. WGN-TV's Mike Lowe emceed.



From left: Award recipients Paul Hamann (president, The Night Ministry), Julio Rodriguez, Aaron Kreider, Judge Mary Colleen Roberts and Jennifer Ballard-Croft.

Photo courtesy of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office

# Mayor Emanuel hosts annual Pride reception

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel welcomed dozens of LGBT leaders, business owners, activists and politicians to Roscoe's bar on Halsted Street June 27 for his annual LGBTQ Pride reception.

Jim Ludwig, who co-owns Roscoe's with partner Patrick Maloney, welcomed the crowd.

Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt introduced the mayor. She mentioned his record on LGBT issues, including the recent push to have the Halsted Street rainbow pylons, adorned with LGBT history plaques from The Legacy Project, named as a historic landmark.

Emanuel spoke about the news of the day, the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy and said now more than ever it was important to show the city as welcoming to all people. Emanuel also spoke about the push to get Chicago to zero new HIV infections.

Openly gay Chicago Ald. Tom Tunney spoke next, passionately recalling what the LGBT community went through during the early years of the AIDS crisis. He said his ward is working on an AIDS memorial garden located by the Belmont Rocks at Lake Michigan, and he will have announcements soon on the progress for that project.

Several city commissioners were in attendance, including Mona Noriega of the Commission on Human Relations, who joined Emanuel on stage. Politicians at the event included openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, openly gay Ald. Raymond Lopez and Ald. James Cappleman, along with allies Ald. Pat Dowell, Ald. Sophia King and Ald. John Arena. Lamont Robinson, an openly gay candidate for state representative, was also at the event.



Above: Ald. Sophia King, Kim Hunt, Ald. Raymond Lopez, Mayor Emanuel, Commissioner Mona Noriega and Ald. James Cappleman. Right: Ald. Pat Dowell, Kim Hunt, Ald. Raymond Lopez behind the mayor, Mayor Emanuel, Ald. Tom Tunney and Commissioner Mona Noriega.

Photos by Tracy Baim



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



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

### Important Safety Information

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

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#### What Is Mytesi?

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

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

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
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- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
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#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

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

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

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

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

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

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.



# Same-sex adoption focus of Center seminar

BY VERNON HESTER

Let it Be Us and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hosted a seminar on foster care and adoption at Center on Halsted on June 29.

The event was aimed at the LGBTQ community, Let it Be Us Board Chair Bob Noonan said as his organizations aim is to court communities that have been discriminated against or excluded. The event featured a short introductory video; a testimonial from Stephen Westman, a single out father who is currently fostering three small boys; a panel discussion; a testimonial from a young gay man who has graduated out of foster care; and a Q&A segment that featured several speakers from organizations involved in the process of foster care and adoption.

After Noonan opened the presentation with introductions of the speakers, he introduced Westman, who spoke about his experiences fostering three young brothers (with the oldest being 6 years old). As the brothers giggled and frolicked in front of him, Westman spoke about his decision to include the birth mother in the process, although he had doubts at first: "I made a commitment to have my heart fully open to the birth parents but at first it was hard. With time I came to respect her and she has given me full guardianship. The one thing I can suggest is to keep

your heart open..."

Later, several representatives from various organizations spoke about the processes involved in foster care and adoption. A major facet of the seminar was the presence of DCFS whose representatives painted a seldom seen picture of what the organization does. Anika Todd, the statewide recruitment and resource administrator for DCFS, spoke about the difficulty of making the right decisions for children on such a large scale. Maria Nonos of The Center for Law and Social Work spoke about the Heart Gallery, which features a photographic display of every child in the state of Illinois who is available for adoption, while Michael Ann Wiley of Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN) and Renee Lehocky spoke about specialized care.

A major part of the seminar was Naheige Lewis, a 22-year-old gay man who had been in the foster care system for roughly half of his life. Starting his segment off by thanking everyone in attendance "from all the children looking to be loved," he spoke about being moved around in foster care seven different times by the time he was eight years old. When he was adopted at the age of 13, he said the experience changed his life. He now works at UCAN as a counselor. During the Q&A, he spoke about his coming out, saying, "So I had to deal with [my sexuality] and that creates a level of difficulty because you

Stephen Westman and one of his foster sons. Photo by Vern Hester



don't know how that will be accepted." He spoke about the trend of gay children who are thrown out of their homes for being LGBTQ and about how one prospective foster parent had a problem with his sexuality.

Before and after the panel discussion and question and answer segment, members of the audience were given the chance to speak with

adoption organizations and agencies including Lawrence Hall, UCAN, Camelot Care Centers, Kaleidoscope, Let it Be Us, Center for Law and Social Work, Chile Serv, DCFS and Child Serv.

The next seminar with Let it Be Us is scheduled for Saturday, July 28, at St. Theres of Avila Church, 1037 W. Armitage Ave.



Victor Salvo (from left), Bryce Gilchrist, Andris Antons and Jim Huberty, Photo by Matt Simonette

## Legacy Project head talks LGBT history

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Legacy Project Executive Director Victor Salvo spoke about his organization's work at a Pride month gathering for LGBT professionals held June 28 at the Marriott Residence Inn in downtown Chicago.

Out & Equal Chicagoland, Marriott International and PwC organized the event.

Salvo discussed the importance of the Legacy Project, especially with regards to educating young people, in highlighting societal achievements and contributions from LGBT individuals. He noted that Legacy Project's traveling exhibition was also often especially "eye-opening" for

straight audiences and spoke of its value in settings like corporate lobbies and public libraries.

The exhibition has traveled to about 20 different sites and has been viewed by about 175,000 people, Salvo said.

He also examined historical contributions from various LGBT individuals, some of whom have already been memorialized on Legacy Project plaques on the rainbow pylons on Halsted Street, among them Alan Turing, Jane Addams and Bayard Rustin, and others he hopes can be added to the History Walk in the future.

Those pylons, Salvo noted, "are likely the only places where the words lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender are cast in bronze."

Jim Huberty of Out & Equal, Bryce Gilchrist of PwC and Andris Antons of Marriott International also gave remarks at the event.

## SmithAmundsen hosts Pride event

On June 20, the Diversity Committee of law firm SmithAmundsen hosted its fifth annual celebration in honor of Chicago's Pride week.

The event was held at Navy Pier, and drew close to 100 attendees from around the Chicago community, including attorneys, judges, law-school students, LGBTQ business owners and many more. Many local businesses sponsored prizes that were raffled to attendees; sponsors included My Buddy's, Bobby Love's, Derno's, Reverie Salon and the Playground Theater.

SmithAmundsen is composed of more than 180 attorneys providing business and litigation services to organizations throughout the United States and abroad. During 2014-17, Equality Illinois recognized SmithAmundsen as a law firm leading the way to LGBTQ equality. For more information, visit Salawus.com.

Photo courtesy of SmithAmundsen





# Jackhammer, Leather64TEN owners search for new building owner

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Two prominent North Side LGBT businesses have just under a month to find a new owner for the building they've long called home, or their businesses are in danger of closing.

The building at Clark Street and Devon Avenue that Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., and Leather 64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St., partially occupied went into foreclosure earlier in 2018. The current owner—a company that buys and sells foreclosed properties that is not revealing its identity—has given the current occupants about a month to find a new owner who will honor the current leases.

Asking price for the property was set at about \$2.2 million, according to Laura Rahilly of Coldwell Banker, who was engaged by the current owner's management company to find a buyer. She added that the principals involved in the matter recognize the importances of the building to the LGBT community.

The company "contacted me because they understood the legacy of Jackhammer. They are willing to work with the new buyer in order to make sure that those businesses stay around,"

said Rahilly, who added that there had been several prospective buyers. "But now it's just a matter of finding the right owner who will make sure that the businesses can still stand."

The situation is particularly grave for Jackhammer, which has a 4 a.m. liquor license that is specific to its location, meaning that the bar cannot relocate elsewhere.

"In the city of Chicago, liquor licenses are tied to the address, and they are non-transferable," said owner Jimmy Keup, who has had Jackhammer since it replaced the previous bar, Numbers, in 2001. "Once we close the doors, the place is just gone."

Leather64TEN owners Eric Kugelman and Michael Syrjanen also reside in the building besides having their business there. Their business has been there for 13 years.

"For Jimmy, Michael and I, it's about the people involved," Kugelman said. "Not just the people who work for us, it's going to affect many. I've been there at closing with Jimmy, seeing all of his people as well. They're not scared, but concerned, and rightfully so. Now that the news is out there, the phone calls of support that we're getting have been wonderful."



Jackhammer's Jimmy Keup (center) with Leather64TEN's Eric Kugelman (left) and Michael Syrjanen (right).

Photo by Matt Simonette

Syrjanen added that nearby businesses would be affected as well, including a neighboring Mexican restaurant and Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

"It will affect Touche in a big way," he said.

"It's kind of become a nice little community, and my passion has become all about that," Kugelman said.

Keup noted that he's had very little turnover amongst his staff and has had a steady and regular flow of customers.

"I've literally seen some of my customers grow up and literally say that I'm like a gay dad to them," he said. "That's been very touching, feeling that sentiment from these guys. So many people have reached out to me, whom I haven't heard from in years. It's all about community."

The principals involved in the search have established a website that lays out details about the situation at [SaveTheJackhammerComplex.com](http://SaveTheJackhammerComplex.com).

## Lauper, True Colors release LGBTQ-inclusive youth homelessness report

Cyndi Lauper and the True Colors Fund, in partnership with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, have unveiled the State Index on Youth Homelessness—a first-of-its-kind resource that evaluates all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

The State Index assigns all 50 states and the District of Columbia a score of up to 100 and provides concrete steps that states can take to protect the safety, development, health and dignity of youth experiencing homelessness.

According to a recent study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, one in 30 youth aged 13 to 17 and one in 10 young adults aged 18 to 25 experience some form of homelessness in the U.S. each year. The study also found that LGBTQ youth are 120-percent more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ youth. The State Index on Youth Homelessness takes LGBTQ inclusion into account in its findings and provides recommendations on how states can address the unique needs of LGBTQ youth.

Illinois' state ranking is 28th, with an overall score of 43.

The index is at <https://truecolorsfund.org/in-dex/>.

## Report: LGBTQ student-athletes still closeted

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation and the University of Connecticut released a groundbreaking report, "Play to Win: Improving the Lives of LGBTQ Youth in Sports," detailing the experiences of LGBTQ student-athletes.

Despite the growing visibility of LGBTQ athletes, coaches and officials, and the progress being made toward inclusion in professional and collegiate sports, participants in youth sports continue to fear discrimination—and remain overwhelmingly closeted.

RC and researchers at the University of Connecticut found that:

- 80 percent of LGBQ teenagers and 82 percent of transgender teenagers are not out to their coaches;

- 41 percent of transgender boys, 34 percent of transgender girls and 31 percent of non-binary youth never feel safe in the locker room; and

- Only 24 percent of LGBTQ youth say they play a school sport, compared to 68 percent of a national non-LGBTQ sample.

The report is at [HRC.org/resources/play-to-win-improving-the-lives-of-lgbtq-youth-in-sports](http://HRC.org/resources/play-to-win-improving-the-lives-of-lgbtq-youth-in-sports).

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# West Side event attacks HIV/AIDS stigma

BY ASHLEY COLLINS

"Stigma Starts with Me" were the words written in red on the front of many individuals as they wore their shirts proudly claiming that they were defying stigmas.

That phrase was also the name of a June 27 event/press conference that members of the Men & Women in Prison Ministries (MWIPM) and the Rev. Doris Green (who heads MWIPM) held at the Sankofa Cultural Arts Center, 5820 W. Chicago Ave., to celebrate their fight against issues involving stigma against persons re-entering the community from prison and against persons with HIV/AIDS.

State Reps. LaShawn Ford, Camilly Y. Lilly and Julianna Stratton (the latter who is also running for lieutenant governor) joined the members of MWIPM and other community locals to speak out against societal barriers that have caused a lack of resources for many communities in the Chicago area and proclaim that the fight must continue.

Ford, who represents the 8th District, thanked Green for her diligent work in the community and her push to fight stigma. "She's one of the advocates that will strike fear in legislatures because she's serious about what she's doing and the people she's advocating for," he said. "It's not funded the way other programs are funded but you continue to do this work with very little appropriations, if any from the state."

MWIPM member Beverley Walker introduced Lilly, who represents the 78th District. She said, "A longtime resident of the West Side, she is a person that I see all the time in the community



The Rev. Doris Green.  
Photo by Ashley Collins

any time you have questions or need information about the community on the West Side she has that information for you."

"I, too, want to congratulate Rev. Green for just being the vessel that's making sure that our children, family, friends are getting the health-care services that they need" Lilly said. In addition, she discussed the ongoing need of walking

with other people to continue on the journey of fighting for our communities. Lilly congratulated some of her co-workers from the Austin area's Loretto Hospital for their hard work and dedication to individuals in their community. "Keeping the information and the education in the hands of people who use it," Lilly said.

"We have to do the testing, we have to do the education, we have to prevent this disease from spreading and we have to do it together," she added.

The press conference ended with a warm welcome for Stratton, who currently represents the

5th District. "Today is National Testing Day and it is so critical that we continue to raise awareness. The work that's being done to stop the stigma and begin to get individuals with HIV the health-care they need is absolutely critical and as we know in this country the access to healthcare is under attack," Stratton said.

Members of the MWIPM and state representatives and residents of the community gathered afterward to learn the steps of action to take against HIV. The family-friendly event included face painting, barbeque, free giveaways and more.

## 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

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.



South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg (left) and Chasten Glezman.  
Photos by Mike Kuby



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# Trans community holds second annual event at Hollywood Beach

BY VERNON HESTER

The Trans Liberation Collective, with the support of Brave Space Alliance and Rebirth Garments held its second Annual Trans Day at the Beach on June 30. The event—which started two hours after it was originally planned due to an immigration rally in Chicago's Loop—was held at Hollywood Beach and included a fashion show as well as plenty of mingling.

As onlookers watched, a group of models posed, danced and frolicked in Sky Cubacub's clothing, which are designed to embrace the full spectrum of gender, size and ability. Also present was a film crew who were shooting a documentary on Cubacub and their Rebirth Garments. Cubacub was a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree this year.

Later, Brave Space Alliance Executive Director LaSaia Wade spoke about her organization's Dedicated Trans Needs Assessment project, which is exclusive to the trans and gender non-conforming community. Wade pointed out that the project is important because it addresses the needs of what is to many, a hidden community. For more info, visit <https://www.bravespacealliance.org/>.



Sky Cubacub speaks to the crowd.



Above: Attendees strike a pose. Below: Friends at the gathering.

Photos by Vern Hester



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## viewpoints


**Mark  
ZUBRO**

## When they come for me

When they come to tell me to move to the back of the bus, the answer is no, I'm not moving. When they tase me, arrest me, shoot me, whatever—until my last breath, I will be fighting.

Yeah, I'm almost 70, out of shape and fat, and there isn't much physical fight in me. I don't care. Kicking, screaming, biting, hitting, scratching, gouging whatever I can do, I will do.

When they come to deport me or declare that I have no rights because I am gay, and it wasn't that long ago that all gay people were considered criminals in this country, and you don't think they won't continue to try that? I'm thinking of the current laws in Mississippi. They argued back then that since we were criminals, we had no rights, and they will try to argue that again. When they try that, I will still be fighting.

The Justice who recognized/helped us achieve many of our rights will be gone in a few weeks. We have a right to feel anxious and afraid. We must be vigilant and forceful. We have the obligation to take action.

No, I'm not going to be civil. That ship has long since sailed. Civil? I remember the 1960s. I marched in the 1960s. The bigots and the segregationists told us we had to be civil. Then and now, they are using some weird standard of politeness against us while they inflict their violence upon us. They don't always have to beat us with a night stick, or spray us with a water hose, or gun us down. They've learned to couch their viciousness in the language of religion or in attempts at passing unjust and discriminatory laws against us. They twist our feelings of compassion so that now, it's pity the poor bigot who is being picked on. Their candidate bullied and continues to bully individuals and groups, and commits war crimes, tearing children from their parents. I have zero pity for any of that.

You had to leave a restaurant? But see the thing is, you weren't being discriminated against because of the color of your skin or because you were a member of a particular class. You were being discriminated against because of the content of your character.

Picture every official of the current government


**Mark Zubro.**

Photo courtesy of Zubro

no longer able to dine out in peace anywhere. No, I am not advocating violence against them. Asking them quietly to leave, chanting 'Shame,' pointing out what they should be ashamed of—oh my, yes—all of that and more.

For the future? Go back in the closet? Are you mad? One, I don't want to. Who does? But more, there's no way I'm going back in the closet. Back when my first book came out in 1989, I was one of the few, if not the only, gay mystery writers to use his real name on his books. Fake names, marriages to lesbians, pseudonyms, closet, bah! Thirty-six books and seven short stories later, and it's no secret who I am and where my political affiliations lie. Do what they will, they will not take my soul or my self.

Who is to blame for the state we are in? Those indulging in malicious hallucinations that voted for him, yes, they're to blame. The parts of the media that aired his rallies and gave him excessive air time, they're to blame. Oh, but my yes, to all of you for whom Hillary was not pure enough, Hillary was not Bernie enough and, oh, her emails, and you stayed home and you didn't vote, or you contributed to the

drumbeat of negativity about her, yes, I'm talking to all of you—this is your fault as well. The most civil thing I can think of to say to all the members of the above groups is fuck you. On my way to the camps, or deportation, or death, I will turn my back on all of you. With my last thoughts, I will be hating you.

Until those dreadful moments, if they come, I will be speaking out, joining my voice to our better angels to work for change. It is a requirement of our existence that we vote this November. I will be voting as if my life depended on it.

**Mark Zubro is the author of 36 LGBTQ novels: mysteries, science fiction and books for young adults. He won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Men's mystery for his book, A Simple Suburban Murder. He has been nominated eight other times. He taught eighth graders reading and English for 34 years. He was president of the teachers' union in his district for the last 20 years that he taught. Now, he spends his time reading, writing, napping, eating chocolate, and voting.**

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

# WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 33, No. 42, July 4, 2018  
The combined forces of Windy City Times,  
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,  
founded May 1987.

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

# DIVERSIONS

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## Meth row

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WCT reviews *Not One Batu*, which explores meth culture in Hawaii.

Photo of Marie Treadway from *Nothing Without a Company*

## DANCE

# Joel Hall: An icon looks back at career

BY AARON HUNT

The desecrated cow town that pushed its charred carcass toward the water and created one of the world's most glittering lakefronts has always been a city populated by scrappers—and Joel Hall is no exception. Stepping down this summer after more than 40 years at the head of his eponymous dance company, Hall has forged his legacy the Chicago way: Using the raw materials at hand and telling his own stories his own way.

Hall announced his retirement as artistic director and head choreographer from the dance company that shares his name earlier this summer. The news marked the end of an era for Chicago dance.

### Young, Black, gay and gifted

Hall's legacy is undisputed: Joel Hall Dancers—including a school company, a pre-professional company, and the professional company—has debuted more than 70 new works and collaborations over the years including such memorable pieces as *Night Walker*, *"El Gato Negro"* and *"Y2Day."*

Joseph "Joel" Hall grew up Black, gay, and uneasy in a working-class neighborhood in the 1960s, a whisper away from the Cabrini Green housing project. But a passion for dance—intensified by a four-year stint as a detainee of the Illinois Youth Commission so he could, "learn not to be a homosexual," set him on an artistic trajectory that spanned five decades.

In his groundbreaking work as a choreographer and a performer, Hall proved that there was (and is) a place for a style of jazz dancing that didn't deny its ethnic or social roots.

### This is how we communicate'

"In Africa dance has a functional role in death, birth, marriage, harvesting, in all those natural things that happen," Hall said in a lengthy interview with the *Windy City Times*. "(S)o it was very natural for me to do 'street dance' because that was very much a part of my culture," Hall said. Hall used his culture to reshape dance culture, creating a method of jazz dance that mixes in elements of ballet, jazz, modern, funk and "street."

"Street dance refers to the dance of the people," said Jacqueline Sinclair, Hall's long-time collaborator and the newly anointed artistic director of the company (see related story.) "It is our way of saying vernacular dance, but with our context added to it. This is how we communicate together in the world and then we add this to the stage."

### Intersecting activism and art

Hall, 69, began his training in classical dance in Chicago in 1968, before moving to New York in 1969 for a stint in the trail-blazing modern dance world of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Collective wisdom has it that no matter how great your talent and technique, you can't truly create as an artist until you've endured something truly momentous. Hall found his momentum in New York City, a bonfire of activism as the LGBTQ community began to organize and demand its agency. When he wasn't dancing, Hall worked with the Lower East Side's Fire House, a community center for gays and lesbians.

When returned to Chicago, his dance bag was brimming with stories to tell. He quickly found the intersection between dance and activism.

Throughout his career, Hall has spoken about combining the two, and using his art as a means to address social justice issues.

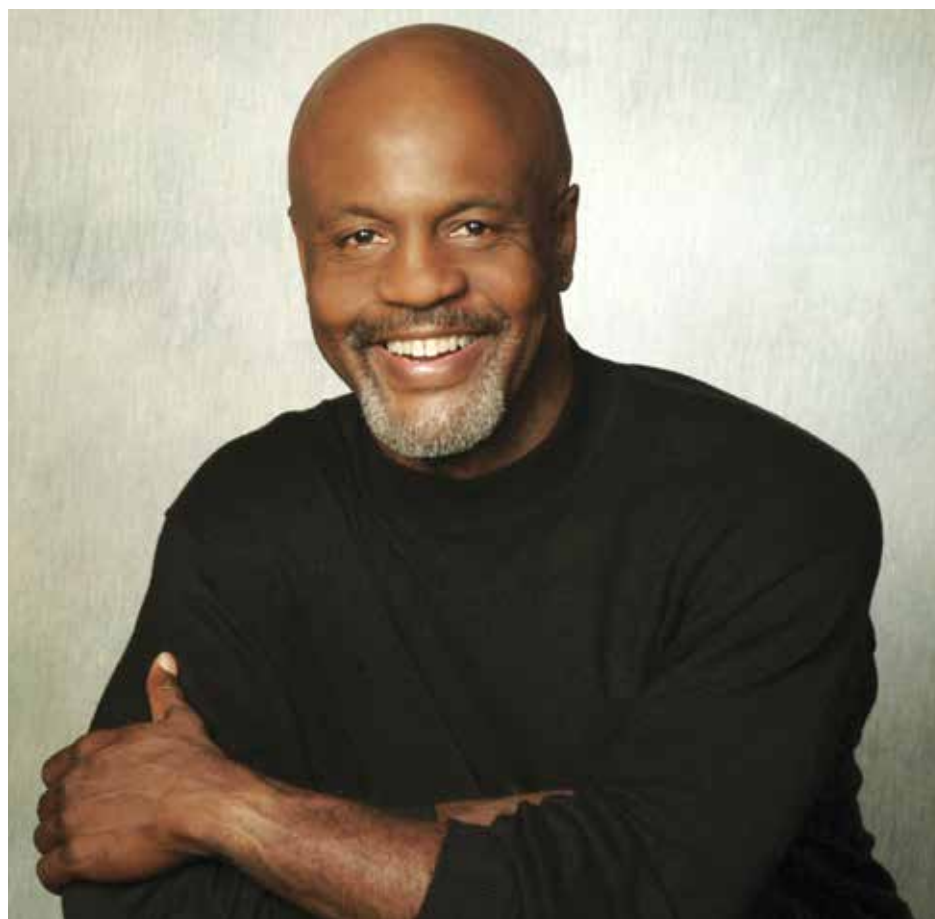
### Going global

Founded as the dance arm of the Chicago City Theatre company in 1974, the Joel Hall Dancers quickly gained a foothold in both Chicago and New York. During the 1980s and '90s, the troupe

concertized extensively throughout Europe.

"We were the premiere company coming out of Chicago that was able to do this, so every year we would have one or two seasons in Europe," said Hall. "I was able to take young dancers who never thought they would be able to travel outside the United States or travel outside of Chicago really,

Turn to page 16



Joel Hall.

Photo by Jennifer Girard

## THEATER REVIEW

**The View UpStairs**

**Playwright:** Max Vernon (book, music & lyrics)  
**At:** Circle Theatre at Pride Arts Center,  
 4139 N. Broadway  
**Tickets:** CircleTheatreChicago.org; \$30  
**Runs through:** July 22

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The smart, dense lyrics are this show's best element. They convey much more information about the characters and tell more of the story than most show lyrics. You'll be rewarded if you pay attention to them.

The music isn't compelling, but it's pleasant pop/rock that gets the job done with several solid ballads, an anthem and numbers that knowingly channel early-1970s disco classics per the 1973 New Orleans setting.

The weakest element is the book, which is too generic. We are in the Upstairs Lounge, a French

Quarter gay bar torched in 1973 with a loss of 32 lives (some never identified). But this musical isn't about the fire or its aftermath; it's about the regulars in the bar that night.

What you get is akin to a World War II movie platoon: one of everything. There's a leatherman, a hippie twink, a Puerto Rican drag artist and his mother, a hustler, a loner, a married piano player on the DL, a lesbian bar owner, etc. Some tell their stories (mostly in song), others do not, and most bemoan the still-benighted early 1970s when being identified as gay could cost you career, friends, marriage and maybe your life. The cops were hostile, yet also "on the take."

The problem is none of this is unique to New Orleans. These characters and the social context easily could be Chicago (even though Illinois decriminalized homosexuality in 1962) or any American city of that era. Author Max Vernon doesn't make *The View Upstairs* and its characters specific to New Orleans or the colorful French Quarter with its long, storied history as a gay mecca.

Vernon wisely engineers a love story between



**Roy Samra (left), Juwon Tyrel Perry (right) and the ensemble in *The View Upstairs*.**

Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

a fashionista from today who time travels back to that fatal night at the Upstairs, and a handsome hustler. Improbable as it is, the relationship between Wes (Kevin Webb) and Patrick (Averis L. Anderson) provides focus and an emotional hook for the audience. Coming from 2018, Wes also assures us that "It Gets Better."

Book, music and lyrics aside, this production sparkles with energy and high-caliber talent. Webb's powerful high baritone and Anderson's sweet tenor lead a fine ensemble under director Derek Van Barham and music director Jeff Bouthiette (who also acts/sings as piano player Buddy). Jon Martinez provides strong choreography, working around an on-stage piano nearly dead-center (not the best design idea) and providing wonderful, small moves for many of the songs. The fine six-piece band is conducted by Justin Harner, and never overpowers in the intimate theater.

The Upstairs Lounge fire was a horrific LGBTQ event in which New Orleans' first responders and political and religious leadership totally failed their citizenry, perhaps from bigotry ... but that's not this show's story.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Not One Batu**

**Playwright:** Hannah Ii-Epstein  
**At:** Berger Park Coach House,  
 6205 N. Sheridan Rd.  
**Tickets:** NothingWithoutACompany.org; \$25  
**Runs through:** July 21

BY SARAH KATHERINE BOWDEN

There is nothing playing on Chicago stages like Hannah Ii-Epstein's *Not One Batu*. Many productions may be about drug addiction and family tension, but none are exploring meth culture in Hawaii. Many productions may be outdoors this season, but none are likely to examine the Lake Michigan setting in Berger Park as both paradise and prison.

Director Rachel Slavick's ensemble for *Nothing Without a Company* features a wealth of talented actors with roots in the Pacific Islands. In both content and casting, *Not One Batu* is unique. That uniqueness is one of its greatest asset, as the ensemble and subject matter blend to create an unforgettable evening of theatre.

Honey Girl (Marie Tredway) is a meth dealer waiting for her customers in an seaside park. Her Ma (Lelea'e "Buffy" Kahalepuna-Wong) drops by one evening to hash out their estrangement and reconnect with her daughter.

Honey's customers include a Marine named Touilly (Tony Rossi), her Book of Mormon-thumping friend Sherrie (Gloria Alvarez), and a jumpy user named Max (Jae K. Renfrow). Honey Girl had been a meth user in the past, but recently stopped in order to pass drug tests and regain custody of her child, Junior. She plans to live

with her kid and Braddah (Ian Voltaire Deanes), as long as Ma does not spoil her plans by bringing the chaos of her own drug use into her daughter's life.

Ii-Epstein is from Hawaii, and creates a complex world of shifting alliances and good-natured ribbing in this drama. As they struggle with the inequities and dissatisfaction of living in paradise, there is never a doubt that the men and women onstage feel legitimate affection for one another.

Slavick gives her ensemble plenty of room to move in the park space. She isolates Tredway in one corner of the park, often facing the water when other characters smoke meth, so the audience understands how she is able to deny how her own drug-dealing is affecting her loved ones. When a fight erupts, Slavick and fight choreographer Jaq Seifert move the action as close to the

audience as possible, bringing us into the energy of an unpredictable park brawl.

All the actors (the ensemble also includes Scott Hanada, Bobby Wilhelmson and Heather Jencks) do fine work, and they handle the complications of performing in a public space with aplomb. The company rolls with the noise of nearby traffic and conversation, even playing with people on the common-area bike path.

One final note about this production's singularity: It features musical performances by the Aloha Center of Chicago at the start of each show. The joy and pride on display during that section nicely set the stage for the mix of elation and sorrow to come.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Tilikum**

**Playwright:** Kristiana Rae Colon  
**At:** Sideshow Theatre Company at  
 Victory Gardens 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-871-3000;  
 VictoryGardens.org; \$20-\$30  
**Runs through:** July 29

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

As the lights dim, an announcer dedicates *Tilikum* to the "life, voice and struggle of indigenous peoples" and acknowledges that we sit on land forcibly appropriated from the original occupants.

Then, to a percussion score (Coco Elysses, composer), we observe a colorful sequence of animated projections (wonderfully designed by Paul Deziel) of orca whales and abstract geometrics closely associated with Pacific Northwest First Peoples (Inuit, Tlingit and others).

We assume the play will be about First Peoples in some way, but it's not.

Instead, it's about a strapping male orca named *Tilikum* (galvanizing African-American actor Gregory Geffrard), taken into captivity for breeding and exhibition at a Sea World-like attraction, owned by a sarcastic white male identified only as Boss (slickly loathsome Matt Fletcher, as the guy you love to hate). *Tilikum* is partnered with three older females, represented by animated projections and percussion riffs. Through them, we learn a great deal about orcas: their elaborate social culture, language and close-knit family structure. *Tilikum*'s trainer and show partner is Dawn (quiet, nuanced Sigrid Sutter), a young white woman who regards *Tilikum* as something akin to a lover.

I identify the race of the actors—not my normal practice—because it's important to understanding *Tilikum*. This world premiere by the always dynamic Kristiana Rae Colon is about slavery and not at all about the usurpation of indigenous peoples, at least not North American peoples who were not collectively enslaved.

The mixed metaphor—the percussion instruments used are of African origins, as another example—is confusing and unnecessary: Just drop the opening announcement and let the story speak for itself without attempting to guide the audience's interpretation. Most folks will see *Tilikum* as a brilliantly-theatrical concept of what real-world captivity is like, especially for highly intelligent oceanic mammals, but they also will extrapolate to the human sphere based on casting and dialogue.

Director Lili-Anne Brown (very in-demand these days) smartly has put together *Tilikum* as if it were a musical, recognizing the song-like richness of Colon's language. She's well-served by choreographer Noelle Simone and fine scenic, lighting and sound designs.

Some theatergoers (I was not one) may know *Tilikum* was a real orca that died of natural causes last year at 36 years of age. (Free orcas live 50-80 years.) While in captivity (for 34 years), *Tilikum* was involved in the deaths of three humans—two of them his trainers.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Maids**, The Artistic Home, through July 14. Author Jean Genet always said he wanted his play's title servants played in cross-gender drag, but playgoers are warned that this examination of domestic power games (based on a real-life murder) is no fluffy camp comedy. MSB

**Buddy**, American Blues Theater @ Stage 773, remounted through Sept. 15. Far more concert than story, the short, mostly-sweet life of Buddy Holly is presented by 16 rocking vocal and instrumental stars. Don't miss! JA

**Haymarket**, Underscore Theatre at the Den Theatre, through July 22. A star is born in Bridget Adams-King's clarion-voiced portrayal of Lucy Parsons, who is front and center in this riotous new folk music about the Haymarket Affair and violent birth of the labor movement. CES

**Monsieur D'Eon Is a Woman**, Trap Door Theatre, through July 7. Last call for playwright Mark Brownell's comedically subversive dive into the life of an 18th-century French war hero (embodied with grit and splingor by David Lovejoy) who spent a lifetime defying gender norms. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan





Teal Wicks,  
Stephanie J.  
Block and Micaela  
Diamond in  
The Cher Show.  
Photo by  
Joan Marcus

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Cher Show

Playwright: Rick Elice (book),  
Lyricist: Daryl Waters (orchestrations,  
arrangements, musical supervision)  
At: Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.  
Tickets: [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com);  
\$35-\$115

Runs through: July 28

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

For many of us of a certain age, Sonny and Cher's 1967 hit "The Beat Goes On" was a formative experience: A piece of pop culture that provided an ethos to live by and an unforgettable sound. You could say the same about Cher herself.

Nobody—with all due respect to Chad Michaels—can fully embody Cher, *nee* Cherilyn Sarkisian. But the Broadway-bound The Cher Show is an eye-popping ode to the Oscar/Grammy/Emmy-winning iconoclast.

With close to three dozen songs packed into the score, it's inevitable (if frustrating) that the likes of "Dark Lady" and "Half Breed" are abridged; ditto Cher's epic journey from bullied schoolchild to global brand. Still, The Cher Show captures the unapologetic Cher-ness of the title character's persona, showing how she repeatedly broke the mold for leading ladies.

Starting out with young Cher tricycling to her mother after being called a "half-breed" at school and ending with a Vegas-worthy rendition of "Believe," The Cher Show is slavishly entertaining. And thanks to costume designer Bob Mackie (yes, that Bob Mackie), Cher's iconic looks are jaw-dropping. That 1986 Oscar frock is replicated with fantabulous detail. So are the various "naked dress" gowns that Cher pioneered generations before Sex and the City slapped them on on bus ads.

Elice hasn't yet found a solid dramatic arc for The Cher Show. She was a star by 21. Her post-stardom valleys and troughs are somewhat glossed over—but, then again, that gloss is pretty spectacular.

The show belongs to three Ages of Cher, embodied by Stephanie J. Block (as Star, or present-day Cher); Teal Wicks (Lady, mid-career Cher) and Micaela Diamond (Babe, early Cher). All three interact, providing retrospective insight while highlighting the highs and lows of Cher's half-century-plus long career. Babe is the wide-eyed, unstoppable kid with dreams. Lady is a woman in command of her powers. And Star is a woman in full, showing the planet how to werk before "werk" was even a thing.

Setting the show within the framework of a variety show is a smart move. Cher entered the nation's living rooms in 1971 with The Sonny and Cher Comedy Show. She was decidedly not our parents' variety-show host. Dinah Shore who? Andy Williams what? If you can recall Elton John and Cher burning through the small screen with "Bennie and the Jets," you can probably summon some irrational exuberance just by unlocking the memory.

The complexity of Cher's relationship with a man who loved her and wanted to control her is apparent—and so is her flat-out refusal to be controlled.

All three Chers have powerhouse voices, and capture the deep alto belt that flew in the face of the conventional blonde soprano stars who preceded Cher.

The Cher Show hasn't figured out how to deal with those Native American war bonnets Cher favored in her earlier years, long before the ills of cultural appropriation were even widely acknowledged. And Elice's book needs a more substantial dramatic arc. Cher fans probably won't care—and everybody else will probably be carried away by the sheer, joyful force of the spectacle.

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## SPOTLIGHT

In **Stories of the Body**—a quartet of one-hour one-acts (alternating pairs on Thursdays and Fridays, all four on Sundays)—Romanian playwright Andras Visky explores four women and their relationship with their bodies. The Woman with No Legs deals with the death of the flesh; Eva is based on the life of a Roma sex worker based in Budapest; Artemisia looks at the world of groundbreaking 17th-century painter Artemisia Genstileschi and The Unburied delves the life of Mother Teresa. The free production runs through July 15 at The Ready, 4546 N.



Western Ave.; see Theatre-Y.com.

Caption: Photo of Katie Stimpson in The-  
resa, by Devron Enarson

## JOEL HALL from page 13

to places in the world that were very different, culturally. It was a wonderful experience to be very much accepted by those communities."

### Trials by fire

It was an experience that Hall couldn't have imagined when he was locked up at 14 by a judge determined to "correct" his homosexuality. Hall remained in juvenile detention at the hands of the Illinois Youth Commission for four years, after numerous attempts to run away from home. Predictably, the imprisonment had no impact on his sexual orientation. Hall came out at 17.

Keeping Joel Hall Dancers thriving wasn't always easy. The company's studio was struck by lightning in 1993. A jazz class fled the building before it burned to the ground, taking all the company's props, scenery, costumes office equipment with it.

"The lightning struck down the chimney and ignited basement photography darkroom and its contents. The studio, above the darkroom, was a wooden loft with heavy beams and it went up fast," Sinclair said.

## SIDEBAR

### Moving forward

*As Joel Hall's new leader, Jacqueline Sinclair takes steps to continue the work*

BY AARON HUNT

"I'm house-hunting today!" Jacqueline Sinclair giggled to Windy City Times over the phone. She's not your average house hunter. The newly named Artistic Director of the Joel Hall Dancers is looking to move the the company into its "forever home."

If there was a tiny trepidation in her tone, the biggest part of the orchestra was playing glee. "Our lease is up at the Edgewater location. We've been there for eight years, built lots of great memories in that neighborhood and we're looking forward to moving to a location that better meets our needs," Sinclair said.

### Branching out, leaning in

Stepping into the position vacated by company founder Joel Hall (see related story), Sinclair has far more on her mind than real estate. With The Legacy Project, she's also focused on continuing the company's ambassadorship, and working with Hall to preserve the company's repertoire, codify his ground-breaking method, and build a system to roll it all out to academia through a certification program.

"My initial focus will be getting the company on many different stages, having [new] audiences be exposed to Joel's work. This season is we're bringing Nuts & Bolts to the Beverly Arts Center," she said of the company's popular, jazz take on "The Nutcracker."

"The Beverly Arts Center has expressed desire to really connect their community members," she said. "As we know, Chicago is a very seg-

"It happened in the middle of Joel's 6:30 p.m. pro level jazz class. Everyone ran from the studio, grabbing Civic (our studio cat) and stood in the rain.

"The storm scared Civic and he ran back in the studio. That day we lost Civic and all the contents of the studio including costumes, props, music and office equipment," Sinclair said.

Undaunted, Hall debuted his ballet Nuts & Bolts in 1994, which quickly became a holiday staple in Chicago, and is coming back into the company's repertoire this year.

### Ensuring the legacy

In true Chicago style, the company remains vibrant, safely housed at 5965 N. Clark St., for now. Sinclair is pounding the pavement, searching for what will be the company's next (and hopefully forever) home.

Meanwhile, Hall isn't slowing down. He's diversifying. "I'm planning to do more and not less, but I'm planning to do it in a different way and I have to have someone (Sinclair) to step in that I trust to be able to do that," he said.

With Sinclair at his side, Hall has already begun the work of codifying his signature method,



Jacqueline Sinclair.

Photo by Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth

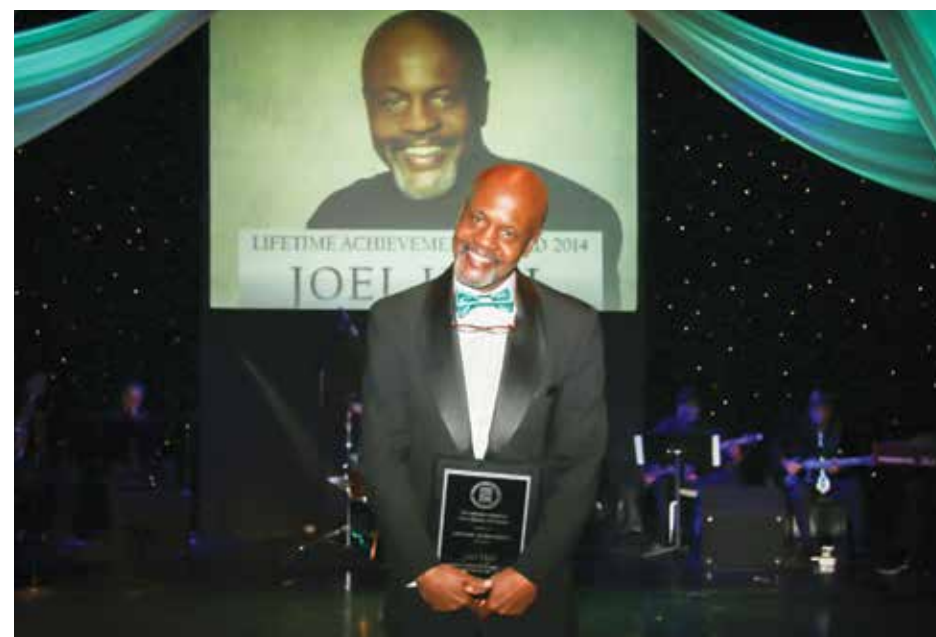
regated place and the Joel Hall Dance Center has always been such a diverse company and school. We want to be spreading that to new places."

Sinclair visualizes further outreach through The Legacy Concert, a traveling celebration of Hall's ballets. "My intention is to program one of Joel's signature works from each of the decades spanning his career, including a premiere work that Joel himself would set," she said.

### Straight outta '42nd Street'

Sinclair sees her move to artistic director as a natural progression, born of a dance experience she laughingly calls, "Joel Hal 101" and her extensive experience in academia.

Sinclair studied jazz dance while pursuing



Joel Hall is awarded the Lifetime Achievement award, 2014.

Photo courtesy of Hall

her BA at Columbia College and attended Hall's masterclasses whenever possible. After graduation, she had no conscious intention of working toward a career in dance. But after Sinclair signed up for a class at Joel Hall Center, her career began to resemble the plot from "42nd Street." She was asked to step into a performance at the last minute for an ailing dancer. Sinclair's performance caught Hall's eye and her artistic yellow brick road materialized beneath her feet.

Sinclair joined the company in 1990, at the same time working to create a dance program at a northwest suburban school, designing and developing her own curriculum.

### Living work, in words and motion

Sinclair stressed that Hall isn't retiring so much as he is was not retiring but taking the type of space gifted an emeritus artistic director to contribute in fresh ways. Their mutual goal of codifying his methods has already begun. Classes are being filmed; the construction of syllabi will follow. Then, the work will live in written words that can direct, inspire and endure long after the dancers who have memorized Hall's choreography are no longer on the scene.

Classes will continue at the Clark Street studio until June 2019, while Sinclair moves ahead with her new initiatives. She sees a time in the future when she will begin to create dances for the company, but for now she is focused on increasing visibility, and passing along the wealth.

"So often you hear people talk about our studio's sense of home. For me it's a little deeper than just physical space feeling like home, it's where I found my voice. We're not at all in fear of this next phase. We're hugely excited about a move and what that can mean to the dance community in Chicago, and for the company! We're excited! We're about to blow up!"

from the building blocks of the vocabulary to a technique that can be taught in certification programs that will give it continuance.

And he's only just begun to teach; He's writing a book. As a survivor of a generation of artists wiped out by AIDS, Joel Hall is uniquely poised to write one of the history books to which the youngest generation so desperately needs access, before the fiery backlash against our newly attained rights and privileges engulfs us all.

**For more information about the Joel Hall Dancers, go to JoelHall.org.**



Joel Hall and Jacqueline Sinclair.

Photo by Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth





Left to right: AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Brian Solem, Center on Halsted's Vanessa Sheridan, state rep candidate Lamont Robinson, aldermanic candidate Maria Hadden, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's D'Ontace Keyes, journalist Derrick Clifton, and The Sip's Isaac King and Lenox Magee.

Photo by Emagin Tanaschuk

## PrideIndex celebrates 11th Annual Esteem Awards

BY ASHLEY COLLINS

On June 30 (during Windy City Black Pride Week), about 50 local residents, family and friends of the LGBTQ community and honorees celebrated the 11th annual Esteem Awards ceremony at Boystown nightclub Sidetrack.

PrideIndex—a community guide for Black LGBT individuals—organized the ceremony, which honored a total of seven organizations and 12 individuals.

This year's recipients included Lamont Robinson, who is currently running for the 5th Congressional District of Illinois; and Maria Hadden, a lesbian who is a 2019 Chicago aldermanic candidate and executive director of Our City Our Voice.

Many other individuals—including Center on Halsted Director of Transgender Relations and Community Engagement Vanessa Sheridan, and journalist/consultant Derrick Clifton—were all recognized for their commitment to bring equality and change amongst the LGBTQ community. Each honoree was given time to share with audience about what needs to be done as a community moving forward.

"We need you, and you need us," Hadden said shortly before closing.

National awards were given to Dr. Eric Prichard, author and English professor at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, activist Dr. Wilhemina Perry and many more. The audience and honorees shared jokes and laughter with one another, all praising the struggles and battles each individual has overcome.

The event included raffles and gift baskets throughout the ceremony. Many of the honorees spoke to the folks who were in the audience after the ceremony and exchanged information for future actions.



Maria Hadden.

Photo by Emagin Tanaschuk

## Actress Thompson discusses sexuality

Tessa Thompson has spoken out about her relationship with queer musician Janelle Monae JustJared.com noted.

The Westworld actress told PorterEdit about Monae, "We love each other deeply, we're so close. We vibrate on the same frequency. If people want to speculate about what we are, that's okay. It doesn't bother me."

Thompson added that Monae's Dirty Computer album is important for the LGBTQ community: "I get text messages from friends which are like, 'Would you please let Janelle know I came out to my family because of her?' I think that work is really helping people and probably saving some lives."

The JustJared.com item is at <http://www.justjared.com/2018/06/29/tessa-thompson-on-janelle-monae-we-love-each-other-deeply/>.

com/2018/06/29/tessa-thompson-on-janelle-monae-we-love-each-other-deeply/.

## Martin only current U.S. out male pro athlete

The world of professional soccer made news last week as Minnesota United player Collin Martin came out as gay.

The midfielder made the announcement on social media, saying he had been out as gay for "many years" to family, friends and teammates.

Martin, 23, is now the only current professional male soccer player in the world—and the only athlete in any of the major U.S. male sports leagues—to be openly gay.

## ESPN's Body Issue features first same-sex couple

For the first time since ESPN Magazine released its first Body Issue in 2009, the magazine will feature a same-sex couple on the cover, The Seattle Times noted.

Sports power couple Sue Bird, of the the WNBA's Seattle Storm, and Megan Rapinoe, of the soccer team the Seattle Reign, will be featured on the cover of the 10th-anniversary edition of ESPN's Body Issue, that hit newsstands June 29.

In an interview last month, Bird, 37, and Rapinoe, 32, told The Seattle Times that they recently moved in together. They have been dating since fall 2016, and went public with their relationship last summer.

The Seattle Times article is at <https://www.seattletimes.com/sports/storm/storms-sue-bird-reigns-megan-rapinoe-to-become-first-openly-gay-couple-on-the-cover-of-espn-magazines-body-issue/>.

## 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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# The legacy continues: Gay Games running Aug. 4-12 in Paris

BY ROSS FORMAN

Gay Games 10 will be one of the largest in the history of the quadrennial event that dates back to its 1982 launch in San Francisco, which attracted 1,350 worldwide participants.

The 2018 edition will take place Aug. 4-12 in Paris, and local organizers are truly waving the rainbow flag with pride as the event has more than 10,000 registered individual participants and more than 620 teams from 86 countries. In addition, organizers raised almost \$4 million to

cover the cost of the event.

There are expected to be about 12,000 participants in the sports and cultural events, and more than 30,000 are expected to attend the multi-sport extravaganza, in which the top five sports among registrants are the 5K and 10K races (1,250 participants), swimming (1,100), half-marathon and full marathon (820), soccer (780) and volleyball (720).

"The city wears the rainbow colors and our whole program is confirmed and ready for the Gay Games. The number of participants has reached

our goals," Manuel Picaud, co-president of the Paris 2018 local organizing committee, stated. "We are getting very excited. We are thrilled to welcome all participants and visitors to Paris.

"We have a mission to deal with the mindset [toward LGBT individuals] in sports and more generally to combat discrimination in sport, culture and society. For example, 500,000 people [were expected to] march with the motto 'Against discrimination in sports as in our lives' during the annual LGBT Pride of Paris," in late June.



Picaud was filled with joy when talking with Windy City Times before the opening ceremony. In fact, he said his lone concern now is the weather, so it's not too hot for the marathon or too rainy for open-air events.

The Paris Games have about a three-to-one male-female ratio of registrants, ranging in age from 18 to 90, with an average of 43, Picaud said.

About one-third of all registrants will be from the United States, including 162 from Illinois.

The five countries with the most representation at Paris 2018 will be France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and Australia.

Registration was scheduled to end July 4 at midnight Paris time.

"We have built a legacy plan with our members, but also with the French government and the City of Paris. Paris 2018 is pioneering to fight prejudices in sport, not only in our country, but in the world," Picaud said. "Gay Games is an event to change the attitude towards sport and combat homophobic behaviors in sport with several campaigns for equality in sport, with several conferences about sport for all and against discriminations, with many debates and new educational program in schools, firms, universities or sports federations, [plus] a new section of same-sex couples in figure skating or dance sport.

"We set up a foundation, Inclusion Paris 2018, which will continue our work for inclusion of LGBT people in sport and culture. There will be new rainbow signs in the city for the Gay Games and after the Games. And, of course, the most exciting moment of Gay Games 10 will be the opening ceremony.

"Gay Games 10 will be a success if participants, spectators, volunteers, partners and sponsors will have a great experience and are happy with our program, our city and all celebrations. We focus on that."

Pascale Reinteu, the Paris 2018 co-president with Picaud, confirmed that most of all 36 sports sold out their capacity, particularly tennis, golf, water-polo, flag soccer, rowing, running and swimming.

The five sports with the fewest registrants are fencing, diving, speedskating, mountain biking and judo.

Rugby and roller derby were initially scheduled, but were eliminated due to low registration, though organizers proposed other activities to those registrants, Reinteu said.

The opening ceremony will be held at the 20,000-seat Jean Bouin Stadium.

"After the life-changing parade of all athletes, artists and supporters, there will be a fantastic show with hundreds of dancers and well-known artists, and of course some speeches, memorial moments and a lot of emotion," Picaud said.

The closing ceremony—with the traditional passing of the flame to the next host city, Hong Kong, for 2022—will be held at the City Hall Plaza in the heart of Paris. "It will be amazing," Picaud said.

Picaud and Reinteu stressed that local organizers, along with local and national police and the army, are taking all possible actions to provide the highest level of security for all Gay Games 10 participants, volunteers, visitors and supporters.

## WCT COLORS Windy City Times: An LGBTQ History Coloring Book Series

This week's Windy City Times Coloring Book illustration of icons from LGBTQ history is of **Rachel Carson**, by artist Ingrid Skare. Rachel Carson (May 27, 1907–April 14, 1964) was a marine biologist and author. Her most well-known and groundbreaking work was *Silent Spring*, which addressed the impact of synthetic pesticides on the environment, and chemical companies fought strongly against the findings. Her work not only led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides, but the activism it sparked led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Letters between her and her lover Dorothy Freeman were published in the book *Always, Rachel* (Beacon Press, 1995)—this despite the fact that they had actually destroyed many letters before Carson died. Carson had breast cancer and the treatments themselves weakened her greatly. She died of a heart attack.





## BOOKS

# Thomas Garguilo talks 'Stonewall Revival,' partner

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Thomas Garguilo retired from a 30-year marketing career at Philip Morris, husband Ron Leone encouraged him to try new things.

"He knew I enjoyed writing and pushed me to give it a shot," said Garguilo. "Initially, I did not have an idea I was passionate enough about to commit to the long process of writing a book. Then, in 2016, I was cleaning out a closet in our house. I stumbled across a collection of old photos from when my first partner, the late Jimmy Pisano, re-opened Stonewall in 1990.

"Jimmy was totally the opposite of me, gregarious and a bit of a showman, while I lived very much on the straight and narrow. I had been saving the photos, preserving them, for more than 20 years but had not really looked at them more than two or three times. After I went through the collection, I knew I had to do something with them."

Garguilo explained that, at first, he was looking to give them to an institution so they could be archived but during his search he did not find "any one place that felt just right" so instead he created his own historical website archive—StonewallRevival.com.

"The book, *Stonewall Revival: Tales of 53 Christopher Street & Other Theatrical Adventures*, came about as a result of wanting more people to discover the photos other than those who visited the website," said Garguilo. "I wanted lots of people to learn about how Stonewall came back into existence and that Jimmy was the man who made it happen."

Since Garguilo is not an historian, he spent four months doing research on the parts of Stonewall's history he did not already know before he began the book and joined the James River Writers to learn about the writing and publishing process. He noted the whole process took about a year to complete. Garguilo explained that the events in the book happened at the same time as the height of the AIDS crisis. He said Pisano struggled to keep Stonewall open until he died of AIDS in 1994.

"Then I helped keep it open until I could not do that anymore," said Garguilo. "Most people assume that Stonewall was a goldmine when it reopened. The opposite was true. The business was never strong enough to sustain itself, so Jimmy just borrowed, juggled and finagled to keep it open. It was not until 2000 that anybody paid it any notice. Then, it started to receive numerous landmark designations."

Some of the most surprising things Garguilo re-discovered while looking through the pictures include one image of a small group of people in the bar blowing up pink balloons.



**Thomas Garguilo.**

Photo courtesy of Garguilo

"I had forgotten the details of that night until I saw the tiny print on one of the balloons in an enlargement," said Garguilo. "It said 'Gay Liberation 1990.' Then the memories came flooding back. It was the early morning hours before the 1990 Pride Parade. Jimmy's friends had all stayed after the bar closed to help him blow up thousands of pink balloon bouquets that were placed up and down Christopher Street to celebrate the fact that the site of the original Stonewall Riots had been re-opened. It was one of my most joyous memories because everything was still hopeful at that point."

Garguilo said that when he created the Facebook page and started posting the photos there his goal was to have others contribute their memories and fill in details that he might have forgotten. More than 2,000 people have liked/are following the Facebook page.

"One gentleman helped me remember the name of someone that appears in one of the best photos of the collection," said Garguilo. "It is a shot of a guy in drag bumping and grinding with a New York City police officer. To me, the entire change from 1969 to 1990 is encapsulated in that photo."

When asked why Pisano wanted to reopen Stonewall, Garguilo said it was a desire for Pi-



**Stonewall Inn waiter Darryl Brantley entertains the police outside the bar during the 1990 Pride celebration.**

Photo courtesy of Thomas Garguilo

sano to have his own space after managing many other people's bars and nightclubs over the years. Garguilo explained that Pisano found a space at 53 Christopher Street and at first called the place New Jimmy's to honor Jimmy Merry, the man who taught Pisano the bar business.

Another reason why Pisano did not call the place Stonewall right away, according to Garguilo, was because a prior attempt to resurrect Stonewall at 51 Christopher Street abruptly ended and that coupled with the fact that the famous Stonewall sign that hung outside the building was torn down in 1989 made him reticent to attach the Stonewall name to his new establishment.

"I am not sure how he would have reacted to seeing Stonewall receive all those landmark designations and become a U.S. national monument," said Garguilo. "You have to remember that he struggled so much over the last four years of his life keeping that place open. Just because

it was Stonewall did not mean that the crowds came to drink there.

"In fact, Chelsea was the hot neighborhood at the time and most younger men were going there, not to Greenwich Village. While he did see support for his efforts from friends, business associates and a core contingent of loyal patrons, there were parts of the gay community in the 1990s that really did not seem like they cared if Stonewall existed or not."

Garguilo said he does not know how Pisano would have responded to the changes that have happened regarding LGBTQ equality since he always lived as an out and proud gay man who thought of himself as equal to everyone else.

This fall, Garguilo's book will be included in a course, "Literature of the Queer," that Professor T. Ross Leasure will teach at Salisbury University.

**For more information about Stonewall's revival, visit <http://stonewallrevival.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/StonewallRevival/>.**

## Movie nonprofit names new executive director

IFP Chicago—a non-profit that supports filmmakers and presents the annual Chicago Underground Film Festival—now has Gregory Collins as its newest executive director, according to ReelChicago.com.

Collins entered the film industry as executive administrator of the Austin Film Society in

2002; he has since been involved in film production, higher education and nonprofit management. Since moving to Chicago, Collins has worked with Kartemquin Films, Facets and the University of Chicago.

The cosmopolitan Collins was born and raised in Kenya, and has lived in Brazil, Malawi and a dozen U.S. cities; he currently resides in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood.

See IFPChicago.org.

The ReelChicago.com article is at <https://reelchicago.com/article/ifp-chicago-announces-new-executive-director-gregory-collins/>.



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Optima; Booth One brunch

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Optima Chicago** (1252 N. Wells St.; <https://www.theoptimachicago.com/>), a newcomer to the Old Town area of Chicago, stands out in at least a couple ways.

First, the spot (which is more casual than you might think) is an unmistakable homage to (mostly rock) music. Yes, the music is piped out through the sound system, but the wall is literally papered with images of hundreds of musicians; the second floor has a section that consists only of speakers; and even the wall by the restrooms is made up of nothing of cassettes. (Remember those?) Even the menus come in vinyl-record sleeves.

Second, Optima has menu offerings that fit the vibe—and they mostly succeed. There's even a little attitude with dishes like Yesterday's Soup, which comes with the description "Whatever we want."

Shareable appetizers include the Optima V (which I still don't know is pronounced like "five" or "vee")—but it's a more-than-satisfying

selection of meats, cheese and accompaniments. And the pretzels and cheese (housemade pretzels with fontina fonduta and porter beer mustard) is practically addictive.

As for the sandwiches, the double cheeseburger is definitely a step or six above what you might get at most of the fast-food chains. (Vegetarians can get an Impossible Burger if they wish.) However, the intriguingly named Morning, Noon & Night (toasted ciabatta, giardiniera, avocado, lettuce, tomato, ham, fried egg and Swiss) should lose a couple ingredients; maybe "Morning & Noon" would be enough. But Ma's Meatloaf (a spectacular dish) more than made up for the second sandwich.

Dessert (a trio of ice creams) was pretty impressive—even if it was our only choice because the spot was out of the other two choices. I hope that's not the case the next time I visit.

By the way, the restaurant's name comes from the word "optimum," meaning to get most out of an experience. I don't know if Optima reaches that rung necessarily, but for a casual spot, it's pretty close.

(BTW, Optima now has weekend brunch (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), with items like avocado toast, chicken-and-waffles Benedict, savory French toast and cinnamon rolls. Rock on!)

#### Booth One

A few blocks away from Optima is **Booth One** (1301 N. State Pkwy.; <http://boothone.com/>)—the space formerly known as the esteemed Pump Room.

There's definitely a more upscale atmosphere here, down to the sweeping curtains and weekend



**Booth One's lobster toast.**

PR photo by Christina Slaton

brunch items. (It's open for breakfast through dinner the rest of the week as well.)

There are some standard brunch items—but with this spot, there are certainly some elevated dishes. Even the egg sandwiches have variations

such as smoked turkey (with fried egg, avocado and harissa). However, the caramel monkey bread is a must-try. And I'd definitely return just for the black truffle scrambled eggs, which are just as delectable as they sound.

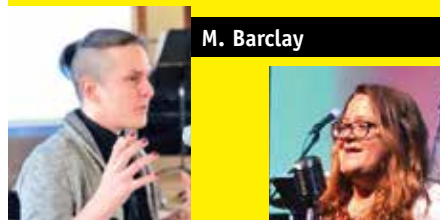
The only drawback for some might be the prices; after all, Booth One is a Gold Coast hotel. Yang's Imperial lobster toast (which I didn't try) is \$28.95, the aforementioned scrambled eggs are \$24.95 and even the monkey bread is \$8.95.

And, yes, there is a Booth One in the spot—and although Beyonce could sit there, you and I would have to just gaze and sigh.

I do recommend Booth One; just be advised that the prices are not on par with a lot of restaurants—although the quality is above the bar as well.

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

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



M. Barclay



Lindsay Eanet



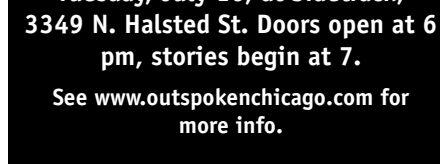
Angel Jacques



Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss



Ken Mejia Beal



Gabriel Wallace

The July edition of **OUTspoken!** LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, July 10, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

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

—**Rev. M Barclay** is the first openly non-binary trans person commissioned as a deacon in The United Methodist Church. They are currently serving as Director of enfleshed where they create progressive spiritual resources with a feminist, anti-racist, LGBTQ affirming lens. They also speak, preach, and teach on the intersections of faith and social justice and finding sacredness in unexpected places.

—**Lindsay Eanet** can be seen reading around Chicago at shows like You're Being Ridiculous, Essay Fiesta, Story Jam and karaoke night at Spyners Pub, doing her best impression of the Teen Angel from Grease. She is the co-host of "Hello to All That," a podcast launching this summer.

—**Angel Jacques** was born in Orlando, Florida, moved to Chicago two years ago. She has a graduate degree in Public Administration and Non-Profit Management. She is an outspoken lesbian who survived the south and her religious upbringing. Currently works as a sexual wellness advisor and moonlights as a burlesque performer under the name Pam C. Dartmoor.

—**Roger McCaffrey-Boss** has worked in the Chicago LGBT Community for more than 40 years, serving the legal needs of individuals, same-sex couples, and LGBT organizations. Over the past 30 years, he has published weekly legal advice columns that help members of the LGBT Community to know what their legal rights are and how to defend them.

—**Ken Mejia Beal** is a member of the Democratic National Committee . Political Strategist and Organizer for several candidates over the last 5 years . Writer for Patriot Not Partisan online magazine and DemWrite Press. Avid SIMS enthusiast. Legend in my own mind.

—**Gabriel Wallace** is a native of the Missouri Ozark Plateau, has been in Chicago for a decade or so, and currently hosts the monthly hybrid reading series PAMELA in Humboldt Park. An undocumented poet and a continually emerging artist, Wallace holds a degree in Radical Translucency from William Wilton College and was recently named a Distinguished Fellow by the Bonhomie Institute. His most recent publication, L.T.B.G. (Love's True Bluish Guise), is a poetry collection available at lesser bookstores everywhere.



## MEETING HOUSE TAVERN

Game on in Andersonville!

Photos by Joseph Stevens Photography





## BILLY Masters

"Hands down, **Justin Timberlake**. 'Cause if we wanna talk about big..."—**Patricia Clarkson** when asked, "Who had your biggest chance of being your friend with benefits on the set of *Friends with Benefits*?" Needless to say, **Andy Cohen**'s follow-up question was, "He's gifted below the waist?" Clarkson said, "Oh, yes!"

As we go to press, almost 600 women were arrested at a sit-in at the Senate building protesting the government's immigration policy. Among those charged with "unlawfully demonstrating" was actress **Susan Sarandon**—something I find quite ironic. Not that I think she swung the election, but she was vocally against **Hillary Clinton**. I agree that we shouldn't have to vote for "the lesser of two evils," but here's what happens when you don't.

The first daughters marked Pride Month in very different ways. **Tiffany Trump** shared videos of herself attending the NYC Pride Parade with her best friend, fashion designer **Andrew Warren**. She even donned a Pride-themed ensemble, complete with glitter. On the flip side, **Ivanka** donated \$50,000 to an anti-gay megachurch. The Prestonwood Baptist Church in Texas is headed by Pastor **Jack Graham**—a member of Trump's Religious Advisory Council. He also has a history of anti-LGBT activism. His arguments come down to a single statement he has made repeatedly: "The biblical design of marriage is clear: a man and a woman living and loving together in a monogamous relationship in the image of God." Yet somehow he supports Trump, that paragon of monogamy!

It's been two years since **The Go-Go's** said farewell to touring at LA's Greek Theatre. But they never said they wouldn't get together for something special. So they played Oakland and San Diego to warm up for three nights at the legendary Hollywood Bowl. As a purist, I wasn't interested in seeing **The Go-Go's** augmented by the Los Angeles Philharmonic—as fabulous as they are. I wanted a real show, so I trekked to Oakland's glamorous Fox Theatre, which was filled to capacity—prompting **Belinda Carlisle** to quip, "Wow, there sure are a lot of you out there!" What made these shows noteworthy was the return of bassist **Kathy Valentine**, who unwillingly left the group in 2012. I was excited at the prospect of seeing the classic **Go-Go's** lineup reunited. Alas, my plans were thwarted. **Drummer Gina Schock** had surgery on her arm, so she had to sit out these shows. But she still showed up to introduce the band, joined by temporary replacement drummer **Chris Arredondo**. The **Go-Go's** shook things up by doing several songs they haven't done for years—if ever. "Here You Are" is a highlight of the Broadway musical based on **The Go-Go's** catalogue, *Head Over Heels*. Charlotte mentioned they've never performed it live and hoped for the best, while Jane cautioned the band, "Don't fuck it up." Check it out on **BillyMasters.com**.

Speaking of the Hollywood Bowl, the season opened with a concert by **the Supreme Lady**,



**Justin Timberlake** has a whole lot happening, **Billy** notes.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

**Miss Ross**. Due to the presence of an orchestra, **Diana** eschewed her typical live show repertoire and, instead, dug deep into her extensive back catalogue. Although she tinkered with the set, the medley of the "Theme from *Mahogany*" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" was still intact—complete with ever-present "Do you know, do you know, DO YOU KNOW!" So, here's something you may not know—the Bowl seats more than 17,000 people, so most of the audience is watching the giant monitors. Curiously, **Ross** specifically instructed the Bowl personnel to not get any close-ups on her face. Thank heavens one of our fans filmed the whole show, which you can see on our website.

While all that merriment is happening on the West Coast, your beloved **Billy** has touched down in Boston and is heading down to Provincetown for July 4. People always ask me what shows they should see each summer in Ptown, so here are my picks: My favorite venues are **The Ptown Art House** and **The Crown & Anchor**. I would definitely suggest starting there and working your way down. Eventually, you'll bump into me!

**The Cher Show** just opened at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago and essays the career of **Cher** through use of her songs. Because **Cher** invented reinvention, three actresses play the diva. However, special kudos must go to **Emily Skinner**, who plays **Cher's** mom. Her performance was the one thing **Cher** liked most when she slipped in to see the musical. As for what she thought of the resrt of the show, she said, "Some parts of it are really fabulous. We're going to work on the other parts. In many parts, it was much, much better than I thought it would be. And there were no parts where I wanted to gouge my eyes out. It needs work. I'm not supposed to say that, but I don't care." And that, in short, is why we love **Cher**. Hopefully, everything is ironed out by the Broadway opening on Dec. 3.

Our "Ask **Billy**" question comes from **Mark** in Miami: "First, we REALLY miss having you in print in Florida! Could you work on that? Second, have you seen that alleged dick video of **Chris Hemsworth**? Is it real?"

First, thank you—write to Hot Spots. We parted on the best of terms, but the person who briefly

was calling the shots wanted to shake things up—and then he resigned. Coincidence? Who can say. But I would love to be back. I'd also love if that video is really **Chris Hemsworth**. Alas, my brain tells me it isn't him. I just don't know why he would film this slow reveal of an erect penis. But it's such a hot video, I'll post it on **BillyMasters.com** and you can decide for yourself.

When we're asking the real **Hemsworth** to please stand up ('cause after having him, you won't be able to sit down), it's definitely time to end yet another column. If you can't get to the fireworks outside, I'm sure something will erupt when you check out **BillyMasters.com**—the site that may be delivering a fully erect **Hemsworth**. If not, you'll still see **Cher** arrive at her own musical, **Diane** screw up the lyrics to "Amazing Grace" (she covers by humming) and **The Go-Go's** performing with **Valentine**. If you have a question, send it to **Billy@BillyMasters.com** and I promise to get back to you before I bump into **Tiffany Trump** in Ptown! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



WINDY CITY TIMES

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Thursday, July 5**

**Affinity Community Services virtual leadership series** "The Blackprint: A Plan for Building the Leadership Capacity of Black LGBTQ+ Women Leaders," each Thursday in July 12:00pm - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash, #108. <http://bit.ly/AffinityTheBlackprint>

**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, 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.,



## ONGOING 'PROJECT' Through July 8

The Matthew Shepard-focused Laramie Project is at The Raven Theatre.

Photo by Emily Schwartz

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>

**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>

**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/>

**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>

**GLBTQ Veteran Meetup** Veterans get together to swap stories, hear speakers, get information on programs and services for veterans and enjoy light food and drink. Admission and food are free and there will be a cash bar. Find AVER Chicago Chapter on Facebook 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., Chicago

**Sunday, July 15**

**Queer Narratives** With Zach Stafford, editor-in-chief of Grindr and INTO and scholar/author Halberstam for a frank conversation about the role that technology can play in collecting and disseminating queer narratives. \$8-\$15 3:00pm

Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) 220 East Chicago Ave Chicago <http://mcachicago.org/Calendar/2018/07/Talk-Queer-Narratives-With-Zach-Stafford-And-Jack-Halberstam>

**Scary Stories to Save Your Life** About Face Theatre Youth Theatre Ensemble presents horror-inspired tales informed by the social and political anxieties facing today's LGBTQ+ youth. Through July 22. 7:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-784-8565 <http://aboutfacetheatre.com>

**Purple Rain, Tribute to Prince** Third Sunday of every month. DJ Adam EL. No cover 10:00pm - 4:00pm Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago <http://www.berlinchicago.com/index.html>

**Saturday, July 21**

**Gerber Hart annual book sale** Includes LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ fiction and non-fiction books, videos, and erotica. Supports operations of Gerber/Hart. By-the-bag and by-the-box pricing. Atrium, down the hall from the library. 10:30am - 2:30pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

**15th Annual Disability Pride Parade** Theme: Disability Equality. Post-parade program at Daley Plaza 11:00am Start at 401 S. Plymouth Court. <http://www.disabilityprideparade.org/traveling-guide.html>

## CONNEXIONS

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have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (11/28/18-52)**

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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)**

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**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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