

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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## RIDE ON

15th annual Ride for AIDS takes place.  
Photo by Julie Supple

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## CHICAGO SMELTS

LGBTQ swimming club marks 30 years.  
Photo from Smelts

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## POWER TRIP

Dance gala to honor Shirley Mordine, Angelique Power (pictured).  
Photo from See Chicago Dance)

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## NAME CHANGE

Initiative counts more than 1,000.

Photo of Avi Rudnick and Carolyn Wahlskog courtesy of Transformative Justice Law Project

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## Howard Brown Health COO reflects on work, family life

# EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE



Kristin Keglovitz Baker.  
Photo courtesy of Keglovitz Baker

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## Singer/actor David Cale unearths secrets in new musical memoir

# IN THE OPEN

David Cale.  
Photo by Craig Schwartz

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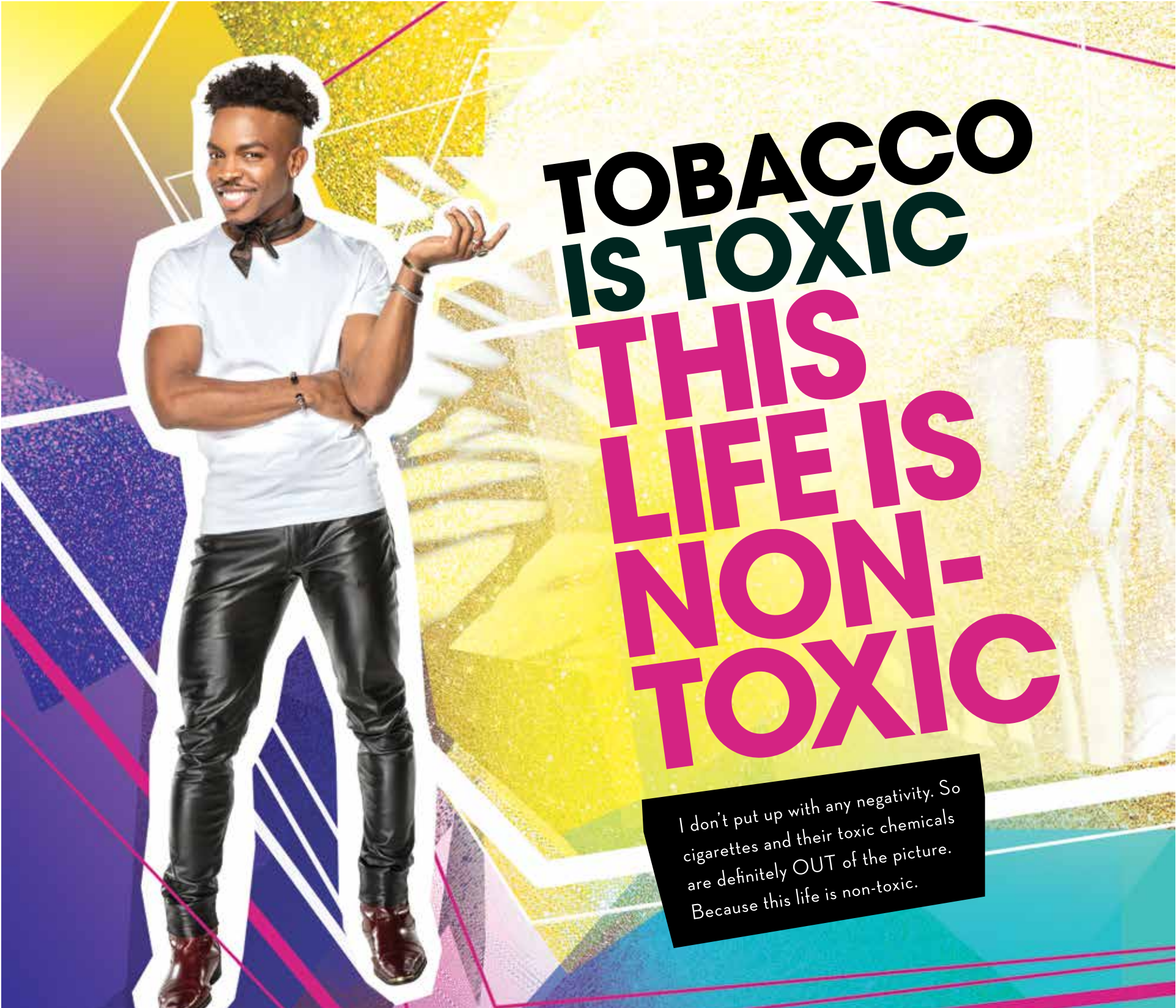


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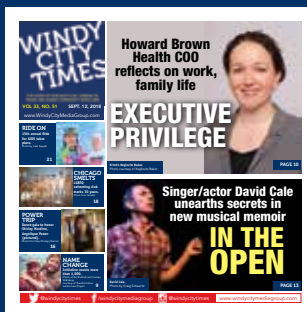
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## WINDY CITY TIMES

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WCT reviews the theatrical production Nick and Zoe.  
Photo by Sarah Larson Photography

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

## STAGE LIGHTS

There are other productions WCT is reviewing this week, including Borealis (left).

Photo by Michael Brosilow

## ALL THAT JAZZ



Bent Nights looks at the Chicago Jazz Festival as well as a concert by Giorgio Moroder.

Photo of Ramsey Lewis by Vern Hester

## TOM TOM

WCT talks with musician Tom Bailey, best known for being part of Thompson Twins.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about actor Henry Cavill, singer Teraj and the show Trading Spaces.

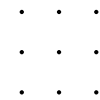
plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## This Week's Featured Properties



Ideally located on an oversized 30x140 lot on a one-way street in Lincoln Park, this custom Metzler-Hull solid-masonry house, designed by noted architect Dan Wheeler, reflects a rare & impressive attention to detail in its design, construction & finishes. Dreamy yard, three car garage.

2432 N. Surrey Ct.  
\$2,550,000



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.

1457 W. Addison St.  
\$1,995,000



Behind a classic facade and set on an oversized 25' x 150' lot, this dynamic modern sensation is the essence of Wicker Park: unconventional, wildly exciting, and filled with cool surprises at every turn. Best location across from park.

1829 W. Evergreen Ave.  
\$1,950,000



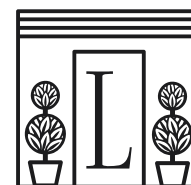
With expansive views east and north of the harbor, park, and lake beyond, this is what pre-war Lake Shore Drive living is all about. Sprawling 3-bedroom, 3-bath residence at a great price-point.

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# Formato's FOCUS

BY ERIC FORMATO

Welcome to *Formato's Focus*, a monthly spotlight that shines light on the interesting people doing amazing things within our community.

This month we shine light on a fascinating individual, **Justus Harris**, the creator of "Technology & Data-Influenced Sculpture." Physical sculptures that depict mountains of health data, as well as people's statuses, orientations, gender and more. After living with type 1 diabetes and being fascinated with the public health sector as an artist, Justus has focused for the last three years learning how to manifest physical representations of data of those living with chronic illness. His unique work blends the fields of art, science and policy. Through the work he manages to identify parallels and connections between the worlds that aim to prove the three can and should work interrelatedly. He aligns most when there's collaboration with doctors, scientists, even the American diabetes association, fitness companies, etc.

As an artist myself, I must admit he is one of the rare artists out there whose artistic works permeate the scientific realm, while crossing the medical, political and societal spectrums all awhile addressing tough questions such as: "What role CAN art play in our society?" He recently asked this question after starting a fellowship at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. around citizen artistry. Justus' work is aimed to promote dialogue to help shape policy, and eventually change the way we view and harness the power of art in our society.



Justus wasn't always a data-crunching scientist, though. He took an interest in 3D printing and learned a plethora of new computer, design and data-analysis skills at Makers Lab, a center of high-tech resources found in the Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center. The space is open source and all free / accessible so that people who don't have computers or access to such equipment can still create their very own inventions. Justus described it as a place where creative people who have something they want to see translated into a different format can go to explore, learn and create.

In his case, he learned to take something digital (data representing health records)



into 3D printed sculptures. These sculptures represent things such as glucose level spikes, sleep cycles and exercise.

As a queer-identifying individual, Justus wanted to know "How can we have conversations about complicated health topics?" He believes that art and design can be people's ways of bringing it up without being obligated to and not too advert. Thus, he creates a special kind of jewelry which he envisions being used by people to inform and connect with others about their gender, what they are into, or their health statuses. He showed me little blue "PrEP Signaling Necklaces" that represent when someone is actively taking PrEP and whether or not they are HIV detectable. He also showed me necklaces that even represented if the individual was polyamorous.

Justus believes because there is so much that is stigmatized in the gay community, these wearables can subtly create awareness, dialogue and understanding between members of our community and society at large. My enlightening time with Justus showed me that there does indeed exist a way to take digital information unique to us, and forge it into intriguing physical pieces that help us to share more of us with more of the world.

Check out Justus Harris and his fascinating work at <http://www.justusharris.com/>.

**Eric Formato is a Chicago native entrepreneur, artist, and creative consultant who produces a wide range of digital media. See [www.formatografia.com](http://www.formatografia.com) or on Instagram @formato102 for more. Email suggestions for future features to: [eric@formatografia.com](mailto:eric@formatografia.com).**

## Judicial panel denies gay death-row inmate's appeal

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An appellate panel voted two to one on Sept. 7 to deny the certificate of appealability to a gay death-row prisoner who maintained that jury's ruling that sentenced him to death was partially motivated by anti-LGBT bias.

Attorneys for Charles Rhines, who was sentenced to death in South Dakota, said that some jury members later reported that, during deliberations, were concerned that Rhines would not be sufficiently punished by life in prison, given a penitentiary's all-male atmosphere. But the majority judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit did not accept attorneys' concerns.

In a Sept. 7 press release, one of Rhine's attorney's, Shawn Nolan, said, "The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 2017, *Peña-Rodriguez v. Colo-*

rado, applies to Mr. Rhines's case and requires that a court review his evidence of anti-gay bias before his execution can proceed. Anti-gay stereotypes and animus should have no role in our criminal justice system and certainly should never be a reason to impose a death sentence. We are gratified that one of the judges on the panel, Judge Kelly, voted to review this important issue.

He added, "Jurors who voted for death expressed a desire to prevent Mr. Rhines from serving a life sentence 'with men in prison' or enjoying 'conjugal visits' and recalled jurors expressing 'disgust' about Mr. Rhines's sexual orientation. Anti-gay bias should have no role in a capital jury's life or death decision-making.

"Mr. Rhines should be allowed to show whether anti-gay prejudice factored into the jury's decision to sentence him to death," Nolan further noted.

## Renslow building back up for sale

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago building once housing the Man's Country bathhouse is back up for sale, according to reports.

Developers had originally planned to turn the building into a condominium complex, but the property has been put back on the market, Uptown Update reported Sept. 5. Selling price of the building, located at 5015 N. Clark St., is just under \$1.8 million.

The property was to be named The Renslow, after Chuck Renslow, the proprietor of Man's Country who passed away in 2017. Neighbors and developers reportedly could not reach an agreement on the design of the property.

Renslow owned a number of businesses and was especially active in Chicago Democratic politics in the '70s and '80s. He also published *GayLife* newspaper before that folded in 1986, and founded the annual International Mr. Leather competition, which this year celebrated its 40th anniversary.

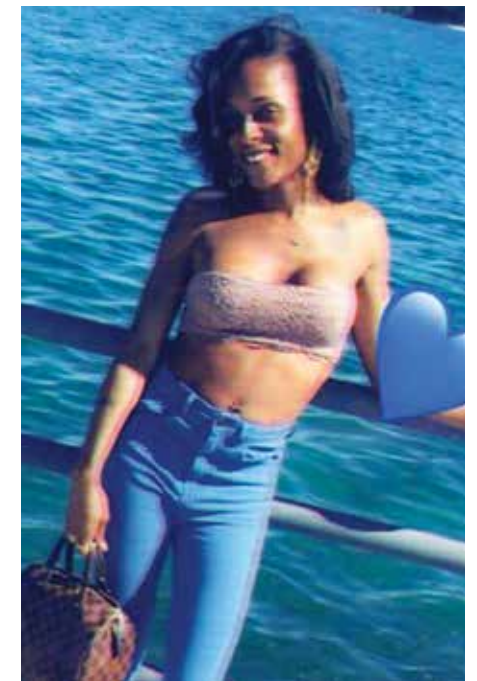
A nearby street was named after Renslow in May.

Uptown Update's report is at <https://www.uptownupdate.com/2018/09/former-mans-country-buildings-back-on.html?m=1>.

## Fundraisers, event planned in trans woman's memory

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Two online fundraising efforts are in force to assist family members of Dejanay Stanton, who was known by many as De'janay Lanorra, a transgender woman who was murdered Aug. 30 on Chicago's



**Dejanay Stanton.**

Photo from Stanton's Facebook page

South Side.

Stanton's mother, Valerie Griffin, confirmed the legitimacy of the fundraisers to *Windy City Times*.

Meanwhile, the transgender rights coalition Trans Liberation Collective has plans for a Sept. 21 march condemning violence against trans women. The event will take place 6-8 p.m. and begins downtown at the corner of Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue.

For information on the march, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2118354061818019/>. To see the fundraisers, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/shysw-she-didn039t-deserve-this> and <https://www.gofundme.com/dejanay-dada-stanton>.

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# Kavanaugh hearing: No comment, and no comfort

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

It was the third day of a four-day confirmation hearing for federal Judge Brett Kavanaugh to join the U.S. Supreme Court before a senator really pressed hard for him to account for his commitment to equal rights for LGBT people. U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey) started off, trying to get Kavanaugh to agree that he wouldn't fire somebody because of the color of that person's skin or their gender.

"Of course," Kavanaugh agreed.

"Would it be wrong to fire somebody ...if the person is gay?" asked Booker.

Kavanaugh could have said, "I wouldn't do that." Instead, he said, "In my workplace, I hire people because of their talents and abilities...." The response implied—but did not assert—that sexual orientation would not be a factor for him.

Booker pressed on. He asked whether, as a matter of law, Kavanaugh would "have a legal right to fire someone just because they're gay."

Kavanaugh could have said that the law varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Or he could have said, as he did in response to a question about how his personal religious beliefs might impact his work, say that his private beliefs "have no relevance to my judging."

Instead, Kavanaugh said, "The scope of employment discrimination laws is being litigated right now and, therefore, while I'd like to talk to you about this more, because that issue is in a variety of cases right now, it'd be inconsistent...."

Booker interrupted to say that some people have "real concerns that, if you get on the court, folks who are married right now really have a fear they will not be able to continue those marital bonds."

Booker then noted that, in a majority of states, an employer can fire someone for posting a picture on social media that indicates they have a same-sex spouse.

He then probed Kavanaugh about what personal views Kavanaugh may have expressed about same-sex marriage when he served as staff secretary to President George W. Bush. Bush spoke out in favor of a federal constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

Earlier in the day, when Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California) asked Kavanaugh whether he worked to support Bush's pro-life agenda, Kavanaugh responded that he "had to assist him in pursuing those policies" and acknowledged that "some of those things might have crossed my desk. I don't remember specifics." He gave a similar response on the constitutional amendment: "When I was in the White House, that was ... something that [Bush] talked about."

Booker interrupted him again, asking if Kavanaugh, on the White House staff, "expressed an opinion" about the constitutional amendment or same-sex marriage.

Kavanaugh said that things related to Bush's remarks on the issue "would have crossed my desk...."

Noting that many documents related to Kavanaugh's work in the White House between 2001 and 2006 were being withheld by the Bush archive, Booker pressed again:

"Did you ever express your opinions about same-sex marriage?" pressed Booker.

"I don't recall," said Kavanaugh. "Of course, at that time, as you are well aware, there has been a ...sea change in attitudes in the United States of America...."

Booker pressed again and again for Kavanaugh to say what his attitude was about same-sex marriage at that time. But Kavanaugh dodged each inquiry, saying only that there had been "debate" about the issue in the White House but that he could not "recall" what his opinion had been. Asked what his opinion is "now," Kavanaugh would say only that, "I apply the law....The law of the land protects that right, as dictated by the Supreme Court."

## No answer is no comfort

That exchange did nothing to quell concerns in the LGBT community that Kavanaugh is an ultra-conservative, maybe even anti-LGBT, jurist who will almost certainly give the Supreme Court's existing four conservative justices the fifth vote they need to vote against the equal rights interests of LGBT people. Nor did a similar exchange with Sen. Kamala Harris (D-California). She asked repeatedly whether Kavanaugh thinks the decision to strike state bans on marriage for same-sex couples (*Obergefell v. Hodges*, in 2015) was correctly decided.

Earlier in the hearing, Kavanaugh did not hesitate to call *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended segregation of public schools, the "greatest moment in Supreme Court history." Harris echoed that remark, pushing Kavanaugh to express his opinion on *Obergefell*.

But Kavanaugh continued to evade answering Harris' questions and tried to simply take up the senator's limited time by recounting the history of retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinions in various LGBT related cases.

Kavanaugh did paraphrase a significant statement in Kennedy's opinion in *Masterpiece Cake-*



**Judge Brett Kavanaugh.**

Photo from from U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit website

shop v. Colorado (this year) that "the days of discriminating against gay and lesbian Americans, or treating gay and lesbian Americans as inferior in dignity and worth, are over." (In his opinion, Kennedy worded it this way: "Our society has come to the recognition that gay persons and gay couples cannot be treated as social outcasts or as inferior in dignity and worth. For that reason the laws and the Constitution can, and in some instances must, protect them in the exercise of their civil rights.")

"Do you agree with that statement?," asked Harris.

Kavanaugh would not answer the question, stating only that Kennedy's opinion was precedent.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, called Kavanaugh's "refusal to confirm that *Obergefell* was correctly decided" as "chilling" and said it "poses an unprecedented threat to the liberty and equality of LGBT people."

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Chad Griffin said Kavanaugh's refusal to answer questions about the *Obergefell* decision was "alarming."

"If this nominee cannot so much as affirm [*Obergefell*] or the fundamental equality of LGBTQ people and our families, he should not and must not be granted a lifetime appointment to our nation's highest court," said Griffin.

An HRC paper on Kavanaugh last month characterized the nominee as a "direct threat to the constitutional rights" of LGBT people and other Americans.

"Judge Kavanaugh's record on reproductive rights, the right to privacy, and religious liberty indicates a potent combination of ideological views that could significantly and unnecessarily reshape constitutional doctrine and nondiscrimination protections as they apply to LGBTQ persons," said the paper. The paper notes that Kavanaugh has frequently cited the late Justice

Antonin Scalia, who led the dissent to *Obergefell* and many anti-LGBT opinions, has one of his legal heroes.

Kavanaugh himself has not participated in an LGBT-specific case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. But the HRC, like Booker, believes he likely does have a record on LGBT issues from his tenure in Bush's White House from 2001 to 2006. HRC's paper on Kavanaugh said, "It is reasonable to infer he was involved, given the central function of the White House Staff Secretary and Kavanaugh's record of participating in so many of the politically consequential decisions of the Bush campaign and first term."

Papers that have been released from Kavanaugh's work in the White House have illustrated that his acceptance of Supreme Court precedent in regards to abortion is tenuous. During last week's confirmation hearing, he told Feinstein that the Supreme Court's ruling in abortion rights cases is "precedent." But with the release of some documents from his time in the White House, the public could read that, in 2003, he opined, "I am not sure that all legal scholars refer to *Roe* as the settled law of the land at the Supreme Court level since Court can always overrule its precedent, and three current Justices on the Court would do so."

One particularly interesting moment during the four-day hearing came when a Republican, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, following on the heels of Booker's questions, looked into the camera—not at Kavanaugh—and said, "Quite honestly, if firing someone because of their gender identification is immoral...if anybody even suggested it that's ever worked in my organization, they'd get fired before the sun set."

"I've been very passionate about this issue since 1997, when I set up a gay and lesbian recruiting practice at Price Waterhouse. That is becoming the norm," said Tillis. "But, he added, "It's on us [presumably referring to Congress] to fix it. It's not on the judge to determine how we're gonna get it done."

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## N.Y. center starts Stonewall project

The Center in New York, NY, has launched Stonewall Forever, a project to find, preserve and share the untold stories of the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and the early years of the LGBTQ rights movement.

The 50th anniversary of the Riots will be noted next year.

According to the project's website, "Stonewall Forever is actively acquiring materials to help tell the diverse stories of the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and the surrounding years of activism from 1968 to 1971. This growing collection includes photographs, films, interviews, oral histories, protest materials, Pride memorabilia, personal effects and unpublished writings, including letters and diaries, that help to illuminate the lived experience of this historic period."

Visit <https://stonewallforever.org/>.



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# Chicago Women in Trades adding members through outreach efforts

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) volunteer and Local 130 third year apprentice plumber Liz Albertson did not know she was on the cusp of starting something new when she brought her snare drum to the Women's March on Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21, 2017.

Albertson's goal that day was to keep CWIT members together by playing her snare drum and

attention to CWIT at these events and get more women interested in signing up for our free programs," said Albertson. "We showcase the sisterhood that exists among ourselves and show that these careers are possible for women to pursue."

Albertson said the Drumline also offers a fun and stress-relieving activity since their jobs are very physically, emotionally and intellectually demanding.

"Practices are held at CWIT so visiting trades-



Chicago Women in Trades' drumline at the Pride Parade.

Photo courtesy of Chicago Women in Trades

making some noise for the organization and other pro-labor groups and women in construction amidst all the other marchers.

"Seeing the amazing all-women Afro-Brazilian percussion band Batala from Washington, D.C., take over the streets made me think CWIT should start a drumline," said Albertson. "We were in awe of the group's dynamics and how they were able to move throughout the crowd with such strength."

As the group was traveling back to Chicago from the Women's March, they started formulating their plans for the CWIT Drumline, and now there are 15 members. They include both CWIT staff members and tradeswomen—bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, pipefitters, plumbers and welders.

The Drumline has been marching at a variety of events over the past 18 months, including the 2017 incarnations of the Tax Day Protest, Women Build Nations and the Tenth Ward Labor Day Parade; the May Day March in 2017 and 2018; and the Chicago Women's March in January 2018 and Chicago's Pride Parade this past June.

"The primary focus of the Drumline is to bring

women or newcomers are able to see how much fun the group is having together," said Albertson.

"It is really fun and amazing to play music with my trade sisters while also supporting an organization near and dear to all of our hearts," said Local 1027 apprentice carpenter Ebba Schmid. "When the crowds see us in high-visibility vests and hard hats at rallies and parades playing the drums they enthusiastically cheer us on."

"CWIT opened so many doors for me and showed me that my dream of becoming a union carpenter was totally possible," said Local 1027 apprentice carpenter Alissa Roush. "I joined the Drumline because it is a lot of fun and I love representing CWIT and challenging people's ideas of what a trades worker looks like."

"CWIT has done so much for everyone in the Drumline," said Albertson. "We are tradeswomen who work hard every day and thrive in a male-dominated industry. We got here because of CWIT's support and our other union sisters. We want to make some noise for that with the Drumline."

Founded in 1981, CWIT's aim has been to increase the number of tradeswomen by recruiting,

retaining and building leadership in an industry that has been traditionally held by men. CWIT does this by providing support, advocacy and educational opportunities as well as assistance to employers, unions and other industry stakeholders. The organization also documents workforce trends and advocates politically so women in the trades have equal access to these jobs.

"CWIT's new motto is 'Build A Career. Join A Sisterhood,'" said CWIT Marketing and Communications Director Sharon Latson-Flemister. "The organization exists to improve women's economic equity by increasing their participation in high-skilled, well-paid, blue-collar occupations."

Albertson said many women have gotten into the trades through CWIT's Technical Opportunities Program or Welding Program.

CWIT will hold its Technical Opportunities Program class for the fall starting in October. The Welding Program takes rolling admissions and every Wednesday CWIT holds mini-information sessions at the organization's headquarters, at 2444 W. 16th Street, Suite 3E.

The Drumline marched with CWIT at this year's Tenth Ward Labor Day Parade Sept. 3. CWIT participated in the Bud Billiken Parade Aug. 11 and was part of the 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade Sept. 9.

"If you or someone you know wants to change careers for a great paying job with some of the best benefits offered, while learning life-long skills, CWIT is the stepping stone to get you there," said Albertson.

See <http://chicagowomenintrades2.org/> for more information.

## India court rules gay sex not a crime

On Sept. 6, India's supreme court unanimously struck down a colonial-era law that made same-sex acts punishable by up to 10 years in prison—a landmark victory for gay rights in this country.

The five justices ruled that the law was designed to harass members of India's gay community and resulted in mass discrimination. The law, Section 377, held that intercourse between members of the same sex was against the order of nature.

Nine years ago, a New Delhi High Court declared Section 377 unconstitutional; however, three Supreme Court justices overturned that decision in 2013.

"This monumental decision by India's Supreme Court finally ends a deeply discriminatory law that violated the dignity and most fundamental human rights of LGBTQ people in India," said Human Rights Campaign Global Director Ty Cobb in a statement. "We congratulate the plaintiffs in this case and the LGBTQ advocates who worked tirelessly for decades to achieve this tremendous victory."

With a population of more than 1.3 billion, India is the world's largest democracy and was the most populous of 72 countries that criminalize same-sex relations.

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# 1908 Springfield race riot led to the creation of the NAACP

BY THE (SPRINGFIELD)  
STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

One of the pre-eminent civil rights organizations was born from one of the worst moments in Springfield's history.

In August 1908, a white mob, thwarted in an attempt to lynch two Black inmates in the Sangamon County Jail, went on a rampage. They



**Forty Black homes and 15 Black-owned businesses were destroyed during the 1908 race riots.**

Photo from Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

destroyed dozens of Black-owned businesses and homes in Springfield. Two Black men were lynched and five white men died during the riot, with dozens more injured. Other deaths connected to the riots happened in the days prior to and after it ended.

Appalled that such an event took place in Abraham Lincoln's hometown, civil rights activists in New York began meetings that led to the formation of the NAACP.

For numerous reasons, noticeable tension along racial lines existed among the 50,000 people who lived in Springfield in 1908. That tension boiled over in August, having simmered for at least a month after the first of two high-profile accusations were made against Black men.

## New to town

On or near June 1, 1908, 17-year-old Black teenager Joe James jumped off a freight train passing through Springfield. Police ordered him to leave but James stuck around, and was eventu-

ally arrested for loitering.

Late the evening of July 4, when he was granted a temporary parole from jail for good behavior, by James' own account, he must have wandered drunk and fell asleep outside. That same night, an intruder resembling James' description entered the Ballard home.

Alerted by his daughter Blanche's screams, Clergy Ballard, a popular white mining engineer,

caught up to the stranger outside the house. The two scuffled and Ballard returned bleeding profusely. He died the next day.

Ballard's sons and other young men searched the neighborhood and found a sleeping James and beat him senseless. Police arrived and broke up the bludgeoning. James denied knowing anything about the home invasion or Ballard's injuries, still he was charged with the crime.

Perhaps the rage would have faded and James' trial would have been held without incident had Mabel Hallam not falsely claimed a Black man named George Richardson sexually assaulted and dragged her from her Springfield house near midnight on Thursday, Aug. 13, 1908.

## The first day

Crowds grew outside Sangamon County Jail, where Richardson was being held, as news of Hallam's alleged rape spread. The state militia was summoned, but it would take hours for troops to arrive.

Sangamon County Sheriff Charles Werner decided to sneak Richardson and James out of the jail, hoping that if the crowd learned they were gone, people would go home. Werner had a fire station nearby sound its alarm and dispatch its trucks past the crowd. Werner was able to get prisoners out of the jail and into a car that sped off to Bloomington.

The crowd became incensed when it was discovered they had been duped. A handful of militiamen arrived at the jail and pushed back the crowd. But by then, word had spread the car used to escort James and Richardson out of town belonged to Harry Loper, a white downtown restaurant owner.

Within minutes, thousands assembled in front of Loper's restaurant. An estimated 5,000 rioters destroyed Loper's restaurant and torched his car. Then, organized groups methodically decimated dozens of Black businesses and tenant rooms with bricks, torches and bullets. Several Black residents, either working downtown or who were out at the wrong place at the wrong time, were attacked and beaten.

By 11 p.m., the mob had reached the "Badlands," where many of the city's Black families lived. The mob spent the next four hours torching roughly 40 Black homes, avoiding those lived in by whites. At about 2 a.m., the mob reached Scott Burton's home. Burton had already lost his barbershop business and had sent his family away.

He was soon beaten and lynched; his body was mutilated for the next half-hour with bullets and knives. Only after Col. Richings J. Shand ordered his militia troops to fire low into the crowd shortly after Burton's lynching did rioting end for the day.

## The second day

By Saturday morning, Aug. 15, six were dead or dying and more than 100 whites and Blacks had been injured. Many Black residents had fled the city, although some found shelter in the basements of white neighbors while others organized defensive fronts and patrols. Dozens sought refuge at Camp Lincoln and inside the Illinois State Arsenal, where the militia, sent from throughout the state early Saturday morning, pitched tents.

Stationed at various locations throughout the city, law enforcement officers fanned across town chasing small outbreaks and rumors of outbreaks the second day of the riot.

Organized rioting seemed to be over, but between 7 and 8 p.m., smaller bands began forming. They gathered quickly, struck, dispersed, then gathered somewhere else with little warning. At about 8 p.m., roughly 1,000 rioters approached the Arsenal. But they scattered once militiamen there showed their guns.

The mob reorganized several blocks to the southwest, outside the home of William Donnegan, an elderly Black man and retired shoemaker who owned considerable property. He also was married to a white woman. Rioters dragged Donnegan, 84 years old and begging for mercy, out of his home. They slashed his throat and proceeded to lynch him. Militia and city police arrived as Donnegan was being raised. He died the next day.

## Aftermath

Although Donnegan's murder traditionally is seen as the last act of the two-day riot, hate crimes and threats continued for months.

More than 100 white residents would be indicted on riot-related charges, including murder. Trials were held but only one person—Abe Raymer, an accused ringleader—was charged in relation to the riots (with petty larceny).



**Mabel Hallam admitted she lied when she said that George Richardson, a Black man, had raped her.**

Photo from Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Hallam, the young married woman whose rape claim pushed the town over the edge, would later confess she concocted her story (possibly, according to one newspaper, to conceal an affair with a white lover). Richardson had been one of several Black laborers working on a house near her home and made an easy scapegoat. He was released from jail and returned to Springfield, eventually retiring from Bell Telephone as a janitor.

In September, James, the 17-year-old boy who had wandered into town in June, was tried for the Ballard attack. He was sentenced to death and later hanged outside the county courthouse.

**This article is a compilation of multiple stories written by former (Springfield) State Journal-Register reporter Pete Sherman for the special section "Outrage: The events and aftermath of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot" that appeared in the June 1, 2008, edition of The SJ-R to mark the 100th anniversary of the riots.**

**The weekly Illinois Bicentennial series is courtesy of the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors and Illinois Press Association. More than 20 newspapers are creating stories about the state's history, places and key moments in advance of the Bicentennial on Dec. 3, 2018. Stories published up to this date can be found at 200illinois.com.**



# Name-change initiative's number surpasses 1,000

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On Aug. 31, the 1,007th person's name was officially changed through the Transformative Justice Law Project's (TJLP) Name Change Mobilization (Mobilization) initiative.

Among the people whose names were changed were high school students who brought their affirming parents to complete the process due to their status as minors as well as adults across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

The mobilization has provided free name change assistance since 2011 for transgender and gender expansive adults and children across Illinois.

Avi Rudnick and Carolyn Wahlskog are the co-coordinators of the mobilization alongside their full-time jobs. Rudnick is Chicago House and Social Service Agency director of scattered-site housing while Wahlskog is the 360 Youth Services (Naperville) LGBTQ transitional housing program senior program manager.

Rudnick got involved with the mobilization at its inception and became the sole coordinator from 2012-2017. Wahlskog came onboard in 2014 as a volunteer and became a co-coordinator last summer so Rudnick could complete his master's studies at the UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work.

"TJLP wanted to create a space at the Daley Center on the last Friday of every month that was

affirming for transgender and gender expansive individuals during the application process," said Rudnick. "For many years, all of this work was done by volunteers across LGBTQ communities. Recently, we have been able to provide compensation for the coordinators of the project, contracted attorneys and for two part-time court support contractors."

"Initially, we started in Cook County but a few years ago we expanded our in-person direct services to people in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties," said Wahlskog. "We also support folks across the state via phone and electronic filings."

"Carolyn has been leading the way in the suburbs and I am so excited that we are able to expand our capacity because of her connections," said Rudnick.

Wahlskog said for the most part, the Mobilization has been received positively in the suburbs. She explained there are there are one or two judges they get to know and that most court staff have been very helpful. Wahlskog said they also have a great relationship with several newspapers that write about the work they do.

Rudnick explained that the Mobilization's volunteers have told them they get immense satisfaction in helping people with this life-changing event, especially volunteers who were participants themselves. He said a number of people have formed bonds and created friendships due



Avi Rudnick (left) and Carolyn Wahlskog.  
Photo courtesy of Transformative Law Project

to connections they made at the Mobilization.

"We want to make this process as accessible and celebratory as possible," said Wahlskog. "We can assist folks to update their gender marker and understand how to navigate those systems so please reach out to us for support."

"In 2011, we changed 34 names in the entire year and last year we changed 180," said Rudnick.

"We like to think that by providing increased access to name changes, we have played a part in making the process more affirming than it has ever been in Chicago."

See <http://tjlp.org/services/name-change-mobilization/> or contact them at [namechange@tjlp.org](mailto:namechange@tjlp.org).

## Report examines LGBT spending habits

A new Experian survey on LGBTQ financial planning suggests that most members of this country's LGBTQ community may be more inclined to spend money than save it.

Asked to characterize their habits on a zero to 10 scale, with zero denoting "spender" and 10 indicating "saver," 52 percent of LGBTQ respondents placed themselves in the six-to-10 "saver" range. However, responses to more detailed follow-up questions gave a decidedly different impression:

—For example, 44 percent of LGBTQ respondents said they struggle to maintain adequate savings, versus 38 percent of the general population; and

—LGBTQ respondents estimated they devote 16 percent of monthly income to discretionary spending, but just 11 percent to saving or investment.

Also, in responses consistent with their reported anxiety over spending habits, LGBTQ respondents in the 25-to-34 and 35-to-44 age

rated discretionary spending more important than their older counterparts in a wide variety of categories, including clothing, hobbies, health and fitness, and home decor. Dining out was named as a significant source of overspending for 46 percent of all LGBTQ respondents.

The original report is at <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/lgbtq-money-survey-attitudes-challenges-and-opportunities/>.

## Sept. 22 ball to honor Marsha P. Johnson

Mothers LaSaia Lauren and Jahari Mizrahi will present the "Pay It No Mind Ball" Saturday, Sept. 22, at 5110 S. Prairie Ave., 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

The free event will celebrate the life and contributions of Marsha P. Johnson, a drag queen/activist who was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. Johnson, who died in 1992, had said the middle initial in her name stood for "pay it no mind."

See "Pay it No Mind Ball" on Facebook.

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Photo: Steve Kane/MediaCity

# Howard Brown Health COO reflects on role, expanding family life

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Howard Brown Health Chief Operating Officer and Physician Assistant Kristin Keglovitz Baker's life changed forever when she met her now-wife Bridget Baker at Pennsylvania's Camp Dreamcatcher in 2004.

"It is a camp for children and young people infected or affected by HIV," said Keglovitz Baker. "We were both volunteer camp counselors who took care of the teen girls there. It was such a rewarding and pivotal learning experience that inspired me to do clinical work in HIV from then on."

While working at the camp, the couple formed a friendship that blossomed into a long-distance romance when Keglovitz Baker returned to California and Baker to Chicago.

"After many late-night phone calls and visiting one another in our respective cities, I decided to move back home to Chicago to be closer to Bridget," said Keglovitz Baker. "We got married in 2007 and had our first children, twin girls Caitlin and Ryan, in 2009. We were the first gay wedding at Gaelic Park on the Far South Side of Chicago and were joined by 350 of our friends and family for a wonderful day."

Their family grew from there and now they have six girls—Caitlin and Ryan (9), Nora (7), Mary Fionn (5) and Eireann and Molly (3-year-old twins). Keglovitz Baker describes their family life as full of laughter, joy, chaos, activity and lots of chatter.

"While working at Dreamcatcher with kids who had some pretty tough issues in their lives, it was easy to see that Kristin wanted to be a part of helping all of the campers live their best lives," said Baker. "She brought out the best in me as well and I did not want to let that go. Now we are raising a family and living the life we dreamt."

"Our family loves road trips," said Keglovitz Baker. "This past summer we road-tripped to a campout in Michigan for LGBT families and had a blast. There is not one ounce of room in our car

for anything but us. We also have a 110-pound mastiff rescue dog because why not when you already have six kids."

Keglovitz Baker grew up in Chicago near O'Hare Airport with her brother. After their parents divorced, they were raised primarily by their mom. At a young age, Keglovitz Baker dreamed of working in the healthcare field. She was able to get her feet wet as a nursing care tech when she was a teenager. She also worked as a caddy at Ridgemoor Country Club, where she discovered the full-ride Chick Evans Scholarship.

"I would not have been able to go to college without financial help so when I found out I got the scholarship I was so happy," said Keglovitz Baker. "I went to Marquette University where I received a BS in biochemistry and a master's degree in physician assistant study."

Just after graduation, Keglovitz Baker was accepted as a scholar with the National Health Service Corps. That work brought her to California's rural central valley where she provided primary care services for Latinx and migrant farm worker patients.

"I loved the work so much that I stayed for an additional two years but my budding romance with Bridget called me back to Chicago," said Keglovitz Baker.

When Keglovitz Baker returned to Chicago, she got a job at PrimeCare Community Health and then in 2006 she moved to Howard Brown.

"I wanted to work closer to the community I live and love in, and had a huge interest in how I could contribute my talents to a healthier LGBTQ community," said Keglovitz Baker. "I heard about them from Bridget and applied for the provider position. From day one, I knew it was the place I belonged. It is the perfect balance of deep community commitment that also satisfies my professional goals. I love being both an administrator and clinician because it keeps me very connected to the work and our community."

LGBTQ care, women's health, HIV medicine, health promotion and interdisciplinary medi-



Kristin Keglovitz Baker and wife Bridget Baker and their kids during Halloween 2017.

Photo courtesy of Keglovitz Baker

cal care for populations at risk are the focus of Keglovitz Baker's work at Howard Brown. She explained that she has a "deep passion" for the communities she works with and these are the areas that are closest to her heart. Devising plans to improve service delivery is one way she stays energized by her work. Additionally, the feedback she receives from patients and the community at large has helped her grow in her roles.

Some of the projects Keglovitz Baker has spearheaded at Howard Brown are rapid HIV opt-out testing, expansion of the sexual/reproductive health walk-in clinic, alternative insemination and the call center launch. Keglovitz Baker said she is proud of Howard Brown's clinical service

expansion into areas of Chicago that it did not previously serve, especially locations on the South Side.

Recently, Keglovitz Baker and others at Howard Brown hired The Morten Group to gather data for their Women's Health Care Assessment report. She also worked on the survey tool so it would reach a wider audience geographically, demographically and across all ages.

"Women's Health Manager Amy Miller and Social Services Director Liz Weck were the visionaries behind the report," said Keglovitz Baker.

The report contains feedback from the community on where they should go next for women's health, what they are doing well and what they are missing out on with certain initiatives. It will be released at Howard Brown's Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium, which will take place Sept. 14-15 at the JW Marriott Chicago.

"I am excited to help integrate the results into Howard Brown's approach to women's health," said Keglovitz Baker.

She added the symposium will feature "a great line-up of guest speakers including Harvard Medical School LGBT Program Director, former Chicagoan and iconic lesbian Jessica Halem; NYU School of Medicine's Dustin T. Duncan and six exciting tracks that will cover best practices for LGBTQ-inclusive healthcare for both new and seasoned health professionals."

"I never imagined I would have six kids and a best friend by my side but feel so lucky that I do," said Keglovitz Baker. "Not only does my home life provide me with a lot of meaning, so does the work I do at Howard Brown. I strive to serve in my leadership role with humility, grace and the hope that we can achieve equity in health in our community across demographics, age and geographic areas. I am always learning, especially from the patients and clients we serve."

See <https://events.bizzabo.com/MLHS2018/home> for more information. Registration will also be available at the symposium.



Kristin Keglovitz Baker.

Photo courtesy of Keglovitz Baker

WINDY CITY TIMES **ARTS + THEATER** WEEKLY

**COMING NEXT WEEK!**

# Panel focuses on intersectionality of LGBTQ, reproductive rights

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Illinois state Rep. Kelly Cassidy moderated an Aug. 29 panel discussion featuring Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt, Planned Parenthood Illinois Director of Community Engagement and Adolescent Health Initiatives B. Deonn Strathman, NARAL Pro-Choice America Field Organizer Nick Uniejewski and Howard Brown Health Women's Health Manager Amy Miller.

Cassidy explained that the guiding principles of her life's work are LGBTQ and reproductive rights. She asked how society views these two issues and the ways they intersect with one another.

Hunt said there are times when people do not see the intersections between LGBTQ and reproductive rights because of the way in which these issues have been framed by various entities but in progressive, inclusive circles that is not the case.

Strathman explained that family and friends wondered why she, a lesbian, started working at Planned Parenthood but over time people stopped asking those questions. She said people are more open-minded about how LGBTQ people fit into the reproductive rights community.

"Our health centers have become more queer over time," said Strathman. "Planned Parenthood is the second largest provider of gender affirming hormone therapy in the country, just behind the Veterans Administration."

Uniejewski has faced numerous questions about why he works for NARAL but he tells people it is because he is an ally who wants to ensure women have access to all facets of reproductive health coverage.

Miller said it is hard to gauge how society views the work they do compared to progressive communities like Chicago. LGBTQ organizations in Chicago are prioritizing reproductive health partly due to less white cisgender gay men being in leadership positions according to Miller.

Cassidy talked about the progress LGBTQ people have made over the years in part because more people are coming out and speaking out regarding equality and how that differs from reproductive rights where many women are still ashamed to say they had an abortion. She explained that years ago she talked about having an abortion to a reporter but it was omitted from the article so she had to tell the story again in the past year to bring visibility to the issue.

One of the ways people can bring more visibility to reproductive rights is through the Shout

Your Abortion campaign, said Strathman. She explained that abortion is healthcare and it needs to be discussed during sex-education classes in schools.

"My suburban high school health class was terrible," said Uniejewski. "The teacher did not talk about abortion and it was not LGBTQ-inclusive. Destigmatizing sex education is vital for everyone's well being."

"Talking about racism and gender bias because when people think of abortions they picture women of color," said Hunt.

In terms of intersectionality and how one can address multiple issues at once, Miller said people's various identities impacts their abortion access. Uniejewski said that although abortion has been legal for over 40 years it is not accessible in many communities, mostly due to economic barriers and restrictive legislation that undermines a woman's right to choose.

Hunt explained that everyone has multiple identities that impact everything in their lives and younger people are better able to break down the silos that exist between movements to get things done. She said at a recent panel someone mentioned that one cannot talk about intersectionality without talking about power dynamics among people.

Everyone said the existence of crisis pregnancy centers has been detrimental to the work reproductive rights community has done over the years because they advertise deceptive/false information. Uniejewski said the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that affirmed these center's existence was a blow to the work they do at NARAL. Miller explained that one of the ways to remove these center's power is by overturning the Hyde Amendment.

As far as LGBTQ resources in areas where they are lacking, Hunt suggested the Phoenix Center, Youth Outlook, college campuses and online information.

Cassidy asked about the U.S. Supreme Court and Brett Kavanaugh and what is at risk if he gets confirmed. The panel explained that he is very dangerous on every social justice issue, including LGBTQ and reproductive rights, that progressives believe in and will negatively impact the country for more than a generation. They said stopping his confirmation is the most important thing people can be doing right now in terms of their activism.

A Q&A session followed the panel.



From left: Amy Miller, Kim Hunt, B. Deonn Strathman, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Nick Uniejewski. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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## viewpoints



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## MOMBIAN LGBTQ parents making their mark in the world

LGBTQ parents, as a whole, are pretty awesome. We raise our children as successfully as anyone else (as decades of research has proven), often in the face of marginalization and discrimination. LGBTQ parents are having an impact in the wider world, too, some in very visible ways—so let's meet a few of them who are doing so in the realms of politics, business, sports, and faith, and who may not yet be widely known.

First, more than three dozen LGBTQ parents are running for public office in the 2018 election, at the local, state, and federal levels. These are not necessarily endorsements; any candidate may have flaws, and we should all learn more about anyone running in our locales. The candidates above offer us useful examples, however, of how a person can balance both family and public service while also being out and proud. Whether we support them or not, their examples may encourage more of us to seek office or become actively involved in campaigns and get-out-the-vote drives.

Perhaps most prominent are the four running for governor: Kate Brown is running for a second term as governor of Oregon. Brown, who is bisexual, is the first openly LGBTQ governor of any identity. She and her husband raised two children, now grown. Christine Hallquist, running in Vermont, would become the country's first openly transgender governor if she wins. The former CEO of a utility company, she is also the parent of three and grandparent of two. Actor Cynthia Nixon (one of the few here with national visibility) is seeking the governorship in New York. She has three children, two from a previous marriage and one with her current spouse. Jared Polis, running for governor of Colorado, is currently a U.S. representative from the state. In 2011, he became the first openly LGBTQ parent in Congress. He and his partner are raising two children.

At least six LGBTQ parents are running for the U.S.

House of Representatives: Lauren Baer (Florida); Lorie Burch (Texas); Alexandra Chandler (Massachusetts), who would be the first openly transgender member of Congress if elected; Angie Craig (Minnesota); Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Oregon); and Rick Neal (Ohio). Many more are running for state legislatures, state attorney generalships, city councils, and school boards, among other positions. (See my fuller list at [Mombian.com](http://Mombian.com).)

In the related judicial realm, Mary Rowland, in June, was nominated for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the only openly



**Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.**  
Official head shot

LGBTQ person among President Trump's nearly 140 judicial nominees. She's also a mom and has two grown children with her spouse. In her August confirmation hearing, she "enjoyed bipartisan support," reported the Washington Blade. The Judiciary Committee must now vote on her nomination. If they approve, the full Senate will do so.

In the corporate world, agricultural cooperative Land O'Lakes, best known for its dairy products, at the end of July named long-time executive Beth Ford its new CEO, making her not only the first known queer woman to lead a Fortune 500 company, but only the third queer person overall, according to

Fortune. She and her spouse have three teenage children.

In sports, Curt Miller, head coach of the WNBA's Connecticut Sun, led his team to a fourth-place finish in the league before they were knocked out in the second round of playoffs at the end of August. Miller is "believed to be the first openly gay male coach of a professional team in the United States," reported The New York Times in a recent profile. He and his former partner raised twin boys, now grown, born to the partner's sister. Miller lives with one of them during the off season, the Hartford Courant reported in July. The other, after becoming addicted to opioids, is now serving a sentence for armed robbery. Miller spoke with the Courant about how he struggled with feeling like he had let the LGBTQ community down because he had a son with an addiction. Now he hopes to be a role model and resource for those also going through difficult times.

In the realm of faith, Rabbi Georgette Kennebrae earlier this year became the spiritual leader of West End Synagogue, a Reconstructionist Jewish congregation in New York City. The mother of three teens, she also this year received a prestigious Schusterman Fellowship from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, "an intensive, 18-month leadership development program" for non-profit leaders. Growing up, she lived around the world as part of a military family and is committed "to multi-faith and multi-ethnic engagement," her congregation's website says. She also wants to make people "understand that I'm not rare as a Jew of color," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in July.

It's true there are also numerous LGBTQ parents of ultra-celebrity status, including actors Neil Patrick Harris and Angelina Jolie, comedian Wanda Sykes, and Olympian and television personality Caitlin Jenner, among others—but their stratospheric fame may be hard to relate to, even as they offer visibility for our community. Our accomplishments don't always have to be quite so rarefied.

Public accomplishments, in any case, are not necessarily the measure of someone's worth. For most of us, putting food on our families' tables and getting the kids tucked in safely and happily at night are accomplishments beyond measure. But for those LGBTQ parents who wish to make their mark in other ways, too, we have an increasing number of role models.

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

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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## The 'Golf' between us

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WCT reviews the August Wilson production *Radio Golf*.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

### THEATER FEATURE

## David Cale unearths tragedy, secrets in 'Short Amount of Time'

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Imagine the worst thing that could possibly happen to you as a child. Now, imagine something worse.

For groundbreaking multi-hyphenate David Cale (singer-composer-actor-writer), there's no "imagine" in the exercise. Growing up in one of England's most crime-plagued towns, his childhood would be dismissed as an exploitive, Dickensian knockoff were it the stuff of fiction.

With his musical memoir *We're Only Alive for a Short Amount of Time*, Cale lays bare a secret he's been carrying for most of his life, exposing the violent event that defined his childhood and shaped everything that followed. "Most people, even people I've known for decades, they don't know why I left London," said Cale of his abrupt departure from England in the late '60s. "I've told only a few people. And they've freaked out. When people know, they look at me differently. They say they can't see me the same way anymore. It changes things."

Running Sept. 15-Oct. 21 at the Goodman's Albert Theatre, *We're Only Alive for a Short Amount of Time* features half a dozen songs composed by frequent Cale collaborator Matthew Dean Marsh. Cale sings all of them, backed by Marsh's on-stage quintet. Cale says the show—directed by Goodman Artistic Director Robert Falls—is wholly unlike any of the previous six productions he's brought to the Goodman over the past 30 years.

The piece has the hallmarks of Greek tragedy—with a few key differences. In Cale's story,

brutality goes unavenged. A young man's odyssey across continents and oceans does not, ultimately, lead him back home.

Cale plays numerous roles in the show, but the main character is his mother. Cale was 16 the last time he saw her in person. After that, she became a paper woman, existing only in lurid headlines and endless tabloid tell-alls, her life as a factory worker in Luton, England rewritten for salacious impact and mass consumption.

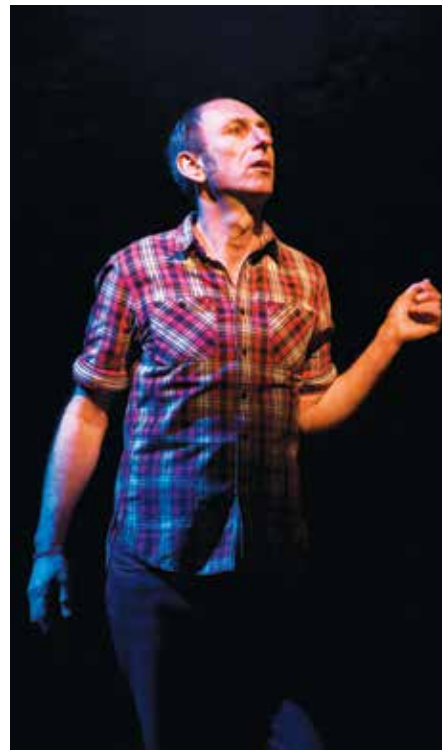
"Basically she was put on trial, but she was never able to defend herself," Cale said.

Cale has spent decades writing tunes for the likes of Debbie Harry and Elvis Costello and establishing a himself as one the country's foremost monologists. But he says he's "lost the map" with *We're Only Alive for a Short Amount of Time*.

"It's a new form for me," he said of the one-person autobiographical story-with-music. "I think I'm doing something that hasn't been done before. At least, I haven't seen anything like this out there."

Music has long been crucial to Cale's life. Growing up, he spent hours in his room listening to Judy Garland records. (In one of Cale's earlier shows, his mother snaps at him that it's not normal for a boy to spend his life listening to a dead woman sing). Garland's voice provided an escape from his parents' volatile marriage. But not even Judy could soften the violence that eventually consumed the household.

In talking about the production, Cale keeps circling back to his mother, who is featured on the show's promotional materials.



David Cale.

Photo by Casey Schwartz

"She was a gifted, creative woman who had everything stamped out of her. There was no context for a woman like her in our town," he said. Cale grew up in industrial Luton, a place where—as he tells it—"you had two options. You could work in the hat factory or you could work in the car factory."

"It was brutal," Cale added. "When I was there, it had the highest crime rate in England. My mother would have flourished in a big city, someplace where there is an outlet for creativity. For people who think differently. But not in Luton. She never had a chance."

At 16, Cale dropped out of high school and left

Luton for London. At 20, he left London and flew to the United States. "It wasn't a tortured decision," he said. "I had absolutely nothing to lose. If I'd stayed, I might have been killed. I never looked back."

Now he is looking back, and taking the audience with him. He's done three performances of *We're Only Alive* in New York, where the piece had an unexpected impact. "After people saw it, I was immediately asked to start speaking about trauma to various groups. To come lecture about survival and trauma. I turned everyone down. I'm not a spokesperson. I'm not a social worker. I don't want to be," Cale said.

"This show—it doesn't right any of the wrongs," Cale said. "But it gives me a chance to represent my mother. And I think she is representative of a lot of people. It's a complicated, tragic story. But I think it's life-affirming, too. In a way, what I do realizes my mother's potential. I wouldn't be an artist if it weren't for her."

Cale has this to say to people who feel as trapped as he did in Luton. "If it's killing your spirit, you have to leave. You have to. There was a certain point with my childhood when I felt like a kid standing with a bucket of water next to a house completely on fire. That bucket of water isn't going to do anything. So you have to flee."

Cale's longtime partner—an art conservationist—is apt to join him for part of the run. "We broke up, but I think we're getting back together. Yes, I would definitely say we're getting back together. He's coming here to see the show," Cale said.

"We met at a friend's birthday party," Cale continued. "I didn't think he was gay. So when he offered to give me a ride home I was a little cool. But I was tired, so I took the ride. Then he called me up and asked me out. It was all very old fashioned. He knows everything."

***We're Only Alive for a Short Amount of Time* marks runs Sept. 15-Oct. 21 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Tickets are \$25-\$75 each; visit <https://www.goodmantheatre.org>.**

## THEATER REVIEW

**Homos, or Everybody in America**

Playwright: Jordan Seavey

At: Pride Films and Plays at the Pride

Arts Broadway, 4137 N. Broadway

Tickets: \$25-\$30;

PrideFilmsAndPlays.com; 773-857-0222

Runs through: Sept. 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A now-somewhat shopworn literary device for introducing dramatic narrative is to propose a montage of ambiguous remarks whose significance would, presumably, be later revealed.

Playwright Jordan Seavey devotes a full three-quarters of his play to this text-in-a-blender approach, even as his protracted preamble name-checks a plethora of 2006-11 New York City trail-markers—dating apps, wine bars, fizzy bath

products, the changing profile of Williamsburg—conferring names on peripheral personnel, while reducing its protagonists to collective stereotypes.

Our romantic fable begins in a toiletries shop, where a character identified only as “The Writer” can’t decide what he wants to buy. When the salesclerk asks the occasion, we are plunged into a mosaic flashback of Writer and the also generically designated “The Academic,” who meet, have sex, squabble, chat about careers (Academic’s occupation is media studies, Writer’s is gay fiction) and debate important issues of the day, along with varieties of recreational drugs. (Academic favors monogamy and cocaine, Writer champions promiscuity and poppers.) Contributing requisite temptation is paragon best-buddy Dan.

“You’re no Larry Kramer!” Academic reminds Writer during one of their quarrels. Neither is Seavey, nor does his condemnation of Mart Crowley’s *Boys in the Band* excuse his own appeals to romantic sentimentality. Most counterproductive, though, is Seavey’s failure to heed the wisdom



Nelson A. Rodriguez and Niko Kourtis in *Homo, or Everyone in America*.

Photo by Austin D. Oie Photography

of Tony Kushner—oversight leading him to disregard the futility of compressing a portrait of social history into a universe occupied by a single couple and recounted non-chronologically over a mere 100 minutes. Some stories *need* a big screen to be told properly.

This leaves director Derek Van Barham and the troupe assembled for this Pride Films and Plays production to secure our sympathies—or, at least, our tolerance—for the progress of two implausibly naïve individuals exhibiting no explanation for their mutual attraction except to generate Platonic dialogues and Erotic cuddles. As played by Nelson Rodriguez, however, the repressed Academic is endowed with depths of understated introspection, his reserve contrasting with Niko Kourtis’ provocative portrayal of the volatile (and often annoyingly self-righteous) young Writer. Likewise fabricating personalities beyond what information Seavey’s script provides them are Jordan Dell Harris and Jessica Vann as what we can only assume are the “everyone in America” mentioned in the title.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Radio Golf**

Playwright: August Wilson

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: 773-753-4472;

Courttheatre.org; \$50-\$74

Runs through: Sept. 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

I’ve always viewed *Radio Golf*—the last part of August Wilson’s epic *Century Cycle*—mostly as a comedy with a hopeful ending. It’s the play in which Black entrepreneurs in 1990s Pittsburgh finally achieve political and financial clout while also reconnecting with their cultural and per-

sonal roots in the old Hill District ghetto. This sober and angry new production by master director Ron OJ Parson and a splendid cast shows me how wrong I’ve been.

It gives precedence to the bitterness and accusations that arise between friends and business partners Harmond Wilks (impeccable Allen Gilmore) and Roosevelt Hicks (commanding James Vincent Meredith) when Wilks undergoes an ethical reawakening. More clearly than before, I understand Wilson’s final concerns about what it means to be part of a community, to be Black in a still-white-dominant society and to recognize who you are.

*Radio Golf* is Wilson’s only play to address Black-on-Black racism arising from economic disparity. Harmond Wilks, despite the wealth and

advantages he has inherited, finally recognizes that he’s from, and of, a poor-but-culturally-rich community. Roosevelt Hicks isn’t from the Hill District neighborhood and openly disdains it in favor of material and political gain, represented by his radio station ownership and his love of golf as a game for wealthy deal-makers.

This being a Wilson play, there is much witty and humorous detail and dialogue, mostly supplied by ebullient supporting characters: carpenter Sterling Johnson (astutely played by James T. Alfred) and plot catalyst Elder Joseph Barlow (engaging and puckish Alfred H. Wilson). Each, in his own way, faces down Wilks’ and Hicks’ self-righteous pretensions. Both also knew Wilks and his family in the ghetto, and sting his conscience by their recollections. Gilmore smartly plays Wilks

as soft-spoken, a listener and consensus-builder who reserves judgment about people, while Meredith’s Hicks is loud, brash and dismissive. Parson emphasizes that crucial contrast. The Wilks persona also is shaped by his ambitious wife, Mame (sharp Ann Joseph), an important partner in his success.

“We’ve got to have rule of law; otherwise, we’ve got chaos! No one wants to live in chaos,” says Wilks in a timely line. Those words might have been spoken by his grandfather, Caesar Wilks, the murderous ghetto enforcer in Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean*, set in 1904. Coming from Caesar they would be threatening words, but spoken by his grandson they are ardently hopeful and represent his commitment to something larger than himself.

This *Radio Golf* will be a revelation to those, like me, who thought they knew it.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Nick and Zoe**

Author: Daniel Talbott

At: McKaw Theater, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave.

Tickets: thesideproject.net, \$15-20

Runs through: Sept. 29

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Radical truth is a tempting concept, in both life and art.

What if you could just say whatever you’re thinking, all the time? For instance, on the first day of class, you tell your NYU professor of radical truth how much you want to fuck her and how exactly you would do so? According to the director’s note, the existence of said truth, alongside an examination of toxic masculinity and vulnerability, are subjects that playwright Daniel Talbott aims to attack in a 50-minute four-scene two-person play.

Titular characters Nick and Zoe meet in the aforementioned radical-truth seminar. The show’s very first lines find Nick, in response to some offstage question, confessing in sickening detail to being his babysitter’s sexual violation

when he was 11. Meanwhile, Zoe has to cop to who in class she’d most like to dance with. Spoiler alert: She chooses Nick. They get drunk in Nick’s apartment: They reveal, obviously, that they want to have sex. And in that timeworn tale, rich girl with rich boyfriend screws crude scholarship boy behind rich boyfriend’s back until—gasp!—something terrible happens.

Here is some radical truth: Nick is an asshole, and not a compelling one. The “something terrible” is both gratuitous and almost entirely his own fault. Except it might not be; maybe it’s Zoe fault all along! Zoe is brittle, at times emotional, but ultimately unrevealing, or possibly even unexplored, which makes her motivations seem petty, which given how events transpire, is a bad thing.

While every playwright should ideally strive for vividness of language and singularity of character, a relationship play could potentially succeed if structure itself were the focus, if conflict became art by unique telling. But Nick and Zoe is, unfortunately, a pretty straightforward play. And it sounds like it was penned by an 18-year-old undergrad who just read *Streetcar and Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and thought, “Ooh, let me try!” We probably know this cou-

ple, sure, but that doesn’t mean we should see them on stage for 50 minutes.

Say this is a play about an idea, rather than a relationship. Should one remove radical truth as the excuse for Nick’s actions, he’s still merely an impulsive asshole. So what purpose does that excuse serve? Even if Talbott’s trying to illustrate the toxic variety of masculinity, we don’t see enough textual evidence to know that that’s really what’s going on with Nick: we only see him in competition with one other, very generic and entirely offstage man. We have far more evidence to see him as a traumatized abuse victim. But that’s a more complicated story, and we only have 50 minutes.

Yet Andrew Rathgeber and Josephine Longo deliver their lines with vigor, particularly Rathgeber as Nick, that tormented soul. They convey that terrible physical tension of a couple in their worst fights, Rathgeber in one corner, Longo balled up in another.

One wishes cast and crew’s skills could be employed in the service of a piece less self-important and better done. Even radical truth itself is a fine idea—when it imbues a thoughtful narrative rather than remaining a shallow, inciting incident.

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**Haymarket**, Underscore Theatre @ Theater Wit, closes Sept. 16!. Sounds folkloric, but it’s a sophisticated score that offers a wives’ view of Chicago’s 1886 Haymarket Martyrs. Twelve gifted singer-actors also play many instruments. JA

**Southern Gothic**, Windy City Playhouse, through Oct. 26. Now in its seventh continuous month, Leslie Liautaud’s you-are-there comic portrait of a party gone hopelessly wrong has spawned two conceptual copycats coming this fall, but why not first see the original? MSB

**The Miracles Show at the Trickery**, open run. Aaron Rabkin brings magic and mentalism to Boystown, with the aid of Hoppy the Wonder Bunny. MSB

**The African Company Presents Richard III**, Oak Park Festival Theatre. Based on the true story of an African-American theater company in 1826, playwright Carlyle Brown’s drama is timely, thrilling, tragic and joyful. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan

## THEATER REVIEW

**Six Degrees of Separation**

Playwright: John Guare

At: Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Tickets: 773-728-7529;

Redtwist.org; \$35-\$40

Runs through: Oct. 7

BY KERRY REID

Before it was a game involving Kevin Bacon's film career, John Guare's 1990 play about New York socialites taken in by a con man provided a snapshot of the upper crust and its burnt edges.

Six Degrees of Separation, in some ways, shares a narrative pedigree with Guare's earlier and more overtly manic work, such as *The House of Blue Leaves*. Paul, the young Black man whose story about being Sidney Poitier's son opens doors

upheavals of the 1960s, the characters in *Six Degrees* face a 1980s New York that is becoming more sharply divided between haves and have-nots.

The real challenge in staging this piece is finding the balance between Paul and Ouisa Kittredge, the woman who finds herself drawn to Paul's story even as the relationship between herself and her art-dealer husband, Flan, begins to fray. (The relationship with their kids—the ones Paul claims to know from Harvard—is already in tatters.) Steve Scott's production for Redtwist features stellar work from Jacqueline Grandt as Ouisa and Donovan Session as Paul.

Grandt's Ouisa has a touch of flyaway eccentricity and palpable unrest about her. Before Paul enters their home, she and Flan are desperately scheming how to get \$2 million from their wealthy friend, Geoffrey (Jim Morley), in order to buy a Cezanne to sell to the Japanese. "Having a rich friend is like drowning and having a friend who makes lifeboats," she tells us—the friend

his lifeboat. Instead, his desperation leads him to ultimately target people who are as hand-to-mouth as he is.

Or perhaps some people are born to gull others. Guare doesn't give us a lot of backstory on Paul, but his con games on the Kittredges and their friends reveals the fault lines in their social facades. Their kids hate them and their livelihoods depend upon other people believing that they

"belong" in the higher reaches of society.

The two-sided Kandinsky painting that Brian Parry's Flan proudly displays (suggested here in Shea Messinger's set by torn abstract bits of colored plastic dangling from the ceiling) is an apt metaphor for the shadow sides of all the characters in Guare's sometimes-caustic, sometimes-tragic prismatic tale, brought out to great effect in Scott's multi-hued staging.



From left: Jacqueline Grandt, Jim Morley, Brian Parry and Donovan Session in *Six Degrees of Separation*.

Photo by Jan Ellen Greaves

on the Upper East Side, is as much a dreamer as wannabe composer Artie Shaughnessy in *Blue Leaves*. But Paul (based on the real story of David Hampton, who briefly fooled friends of Guare's) has an eerily prescient way of homing in on others' weaknesses. And instead of the heated social

never knows if you just want the lifeboat.

Session brings incandescent charm that almost—but not quite—covers the chip on Paul's shoulder. And the truth is, if he had been born to the families he's set up as his marks, his gifts for creating alternative worlds might have been

**Martha Wash in 'WaistWatchers' in Sept.-Oct.**

WaistWatchers The Musical! makes its Chicago premiere at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St., beginning Sept. 13 for an open run, with a press opening Sept. 21.

Produced by Dana Matthow and featuring musical icon Martha Wash—known for singing the powerful anthem 'It's Raining Men,' and "Everybody Dance Now"—the musical takes a light-hearted and hilarious look at women dealing with their relationship to food, friendship and fitness, while celebrating the power of female friendship on the journey to self-acceptance.

In addition to Martha Wash starring as Connie (Sept. 13-Oct. 28), the Chicago production will feature Sarah Godwin (Cindy), Seandrea E. Earls (Cheryl) and Katherine S. Barnes (MC). The creative team includes Matthew E. Silva (director), Alan Jacobson (creator, book and

lyrics), Vince Di Mura (music) and Dani Tucci-Jurraga (choreography).

Tickets start at \$45 each; visit [WaistwatchersTheMusical.com](http://WaistwatchersTheMusical.com) or call the Royal George Theatre Box Office at 312-988-9000.

**UrbanTheater to start 'Not for Sale' Sept. 21**

UrbanTheater Company (UTC) kicks off its "lucky 13th" season with the world premiere of Guadalis del Carmen's play *Not for Sale*—UTC's first commissioned play—Sept. 21-Oct. 20 at Batey Urbano, 2620 W. Division St.

Directed by Sara Carranza, *Not for Sale* will also be presented as part of Destinos, the Second Annual Chicago International Latino Theater Festival. The festival will feature more than 14 plays from Chicago, the United States and Latin America in more than a half-dozen venues across Chicago.

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

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**SPOTLIGHT**

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus kicks off its 35th season with *Banned Together*, a cabaret of songs that were banned or censored. Director Terry Wittenberg, a 33-year member of the chorus, helps an ensemble of 22 vocalists and eight dancers performing music by artists such as Queen, Rosemary Clooney, Madonna, Cole Porter, Billie Holiday, the Kinks, Little Richard, Van Morrison and the Stones, among others. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14 at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 31st St., Oak Brook; 8 and 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 at the



Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$25-\$35; visit [cgmc.org/cabaret](http://cgmc.org/cabaret).

Caption: Photo courtesy of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

## Music of the Baroque holding September concerts

Music of the Baroque kicks off its 48th season with the free event "Baroque in the Park," the organization's Millennium Park debut, on Wed., Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

Longtime Music of the Baroque Music Director Jane Glover will direct and radio personality Carl Grapentine will host this concert highlighting three major works featured in the organization's 2018-19 season: Mozart's Requiem, Bach's Christmas Oratorio and Vivaldi's Four Seasons, featuring concertmaster Gina DiBello as soloist.

Music of the Baroque's 2018-19 season continues Saturday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Theater and Sunday, Sept. 16, at 3 p.m. at Skokie's North Shore Center with Mozart's Requiem, the work featured in the movie and stage play Amadeus.

Ticket are \$25-78 each; visit Baroque.org or call 312-551-1414. Discounts for groups, students and seniors are available.

## CULTURE CLUB

## DANCE FEATURE

# Power ball: Gala honors influential duo

BY AARON HUNT

See Chicago Dance (SCD) will celebrate a banner year at its 2018 annual gala. Among other unprecedented changes under the spotlight at the September 25 event: SCD will honor not one but two dance-world luminaries and celebrate a new name.

Founded in 2008 as Audience Architects, See Chicago Dance is in the midst of a massive rebranding effort aimed at redefining its place in the local dance firmament.

For years, SCD has honored a single artist at its annual gala. This year, it's doubling down on that effort. Mordine and Company Dance Theater founder Shirley Mordine will receive the Legacy Award, bestowed on a dance pioneer at the apex of their career from the arts-side of the business. In addition, Field Foundation of Illinois President Angelique Power will receive the Distinguished Service to the Dance Field Award, given to a mover-and-shaker from the business-side of the art.

### The wizards behind the curtain

SCD's name change (it was founded in 2008 as Audience Architects) is indicative of significant changes both internal and external. Roughly 300-plus dance organizations in the greater Chicago area take advantage of SCD's workshops, training sessions and consulting services. In addition, SCD offers its 90 member companies help with marketing and media planning. SCD is also in the info business, rolling out a dance news e-blast sent to 12,000 subscribers.

"In this year we have undergone a brand and an identity refresh," SCD Executive Director Heather Hartley told Windy City Times. "The initial thought 14 years ago was that the organization might also eventually build audiences for other art forms [as well as dance]. As the organization grew and evolved, it became clear that dance was our primary focus, and that dance needed a more robust service organization beyond just the website.

"We simplified everything under the one brand of See Chicago Dance," Hartley said. "We did a website redesign that launched in late March to help us kick off our annual celebration of Chicago dance month (which takes place) every April. I think that the value is not only internal to our organization, but for the public.

"It's much clearer that we're the non-profit behind the scenes. Before, we were sort of hidden, we were the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain," she said.

### Making (tidal) waves

SCD's vetting process for its coveted annual awards took a new turn this year when its members decided to honor both Mordine and Power. In determining the honorees, SCD gathered feedback from the community throughout the year. A 15-member board narrowed down their list of potential honorees and then chose the winners.

Mordine began her training in San Francisco with the San Francisco Ballet School. She caused a tidal wave of change across the country in 1969 when she founded the Chicago-based Dance Center of Columbia College.

"She has a tremendous mentoring ability, and she has done that for thousands of students throughout her ca-



Shirley Mordine.

Photo courtesy of See Chicago Dance

reer," Hartley said. "Many of them went on to form their own companies or create their own choreographic works. If you look at Shirley's family tree, [the leadership at] several of the companies that are making important dance work were trained by Shirley.

"The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago has presented regional, national, and world-renowned artists for 40-plus years.

"Mordine had the vision to see students needed to actually meet and work with visiting artists. She really revolutionized the training by bringing artists into an academic program. No one had done this before. Now that's a common practice."

### Multi-million dollar power player

Power was born and raised in Chicago, the daughter of a Chicago police officer and a Chicago public school teacher, "I have a deep and intense love for this complicated city," she said. "Deeply scarred, dazzlingly innovative and fiercely scrappy, Chicago has always held an electricity that pulses beneath the streets, compelling us to do more, to work harder, to think more creatively, to do all we can to solve its pressing issues," Power has said.

Power's journey began at Marshall Field's, where she worked in Community Relations while putting herself through graduate school at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"My connection to the dance community was both as a student in the arts with friends who were dancers trying to make their way, as well as learning about philanthropy from a corporate perspective, an organization that gave grants to the arts. Pretty early on I learned about the robust philanthropic, and the dance community in Chicago,



and how they collaborate to make Chicago this incubator for ideas and for dance and for unique expression," Power said.

Power now oversees the charitable distribution of more than \$2.5 million dollars at the Field Foundation. "At the Field Foundation we're really interested in supporting art in all its forms,



**Angelique Power.**

Photo courtesy of See Chicago Dance

whether that's individual artists, non-profit organizations, collectives of dancers, for-profit organizations. Whether it's ballet, hipster, footwork,

## Cher to perform in Chicago in 2019

Cher is set to hit the road with the Here We Go Again Tour beginning January 17, 2019 in Ft. Myers, Florida—and Chicago is among the tour stops.

She is scheduled to perform Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, at Chicago's United Center. The upcoming tour was officially announced during Cher's appearance on Ellen. Tickets will go on sale to the general public starting Friday, Sept. 14, 2018, at 10 a.m. at LiveNation.com.

Also, on the heels of appearing in the film Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again—which features ABBA songs—Cher will be releasing Dancing Queen, a new album of all-ABBA hits, on Sept. 28 through Warner Bros. Records.

Some of the songs on the album include "SOS," "The Winner Takes It All," "Waterloo," "Mamma Mia" and the title song. Those who pre-order the new album will immediately receive Cher's rendition of the song "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)"; visit <https://wbr.lnk.to/DancingQueen>.

In addition, Cher is scheduled to be awarded a Kennedy Center Honor on Dec. 2 in Washington, D.C. Also, she is a co-producer of the The Cher Show, which ran this summer in Chicago

hip hop, there is a tremendous amount of energy in Chicago's dance community, and we're looking to find it and fund," she said.

"Angelique is hitting the ground running, she is absolutely in the glorious sort of hit-the-gas-pedal time in her career," Hartley said. "I think the committee was interested in honoring someone who is really a change agent. (Powers) completely changed the Field Foundation's guidelines on how they give, opening up a pathway for funding that is much more equitable, creating greater access to grant dollars for organizations of color.

"She co-founded Enrich Chicago, a consortium of organizations that look at equity, diversity and inclusivity across many spectrums including race, gender, neighborhood, budget size, specifically in the arts. It's so exciting to see a talented, powerful female African-American woman making such a huge difference," Hartley said.

### All that jazz

In addition to the accolades, this year's gala promises performances on video, and a booty-pulsing time for dancers and patrons alike. "I can tell you that when the Chicago dance community comes together at the dance floor it is quite a scene," Hartley said. "It's a wonderful mix of dance lovers, dance administrators, donors, and the artists themselves, so you have a room with 250, 260 people that when it all comes together it's just electric.

"The dance floor, I promise you, is a hopping spot."

**See Chicago Dance's Fourth Annual Gala is Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6-10 p.m., at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St. Tickets are \$250 each; visit <https://seechicagodance.com/event/2018-see-chicago-dance-gala>.**

and will run on Broadway starting Dec. 3. She is currently performing a residency at MGM Resorts.

## 'Kevin's Room' screening Sept. 15

A viewing of the local groundbreaking film Kevin's Room will take place Saturday, Sept. 15, 6-9 p.m., at Optima Signature Apartments, 220 E. Illinois St., 20th floor.

The award-winning film Kevin's Room premiered on television in Chicago in 2001, on the UPN affiliate station Channel 50. Produced by the Chicago Department of Public Health, the film follows Kevin, a Black gay social worker who starts a gay men's support group. Attended by his friends and others, they discuss such issues as HIV testing, relationships, AIDS and sexual risk-taking among Black gay men.

In addition to the film, attendees will enjoy the ambiance of Optima Signature's theater and gourmet kitchen.

Carl Branch and Team Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus are hosting the screening.

Admission is \$25 each; visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sky-high-movie-a-kevins-room-viewing-tickets-49573258952>.

WINDY CITY TIMES

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1993 Smelts team photo.  
Image courtesy of the Smelts



## Chicago Smelts: Three decades of swimming

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Thirty years ago, a group of gay men (Mark Schoofs, Mike McGuire and Damon Mackert) formed a swimming club called the Chicago Smelts (Smelts). This was at the height of the AIDS crisis when many gay men were dying of the disease. They, like other LGBT swimming clubs across the country, did this for health and social reasons.

At first, the club was met with resistance by the Chicago Park District when they tried to schedule dedicated pool times to practice.

According to the team's website, "Gill Park in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood already had a practice time for Master's swimmers, and by winning over the sole swimmer who regularly utilized the time, the Smelts residency at Gill Park began. That sole swimmer, Ross Patronsky, still swims with the Smelts today."

"I saw that they were a good group so I joined up with them," said Patronsky. "Over time, the team has focused more narrowly on meet competitions over recreational swimming and now has a much broader range of ages—20s to 80s."

In order to keep their practice time at Gill Park, the team had to attend the Gill Park Advisory Council meetings, run for council leadership positions and meet with the Alderman at the time—Helen Schiller.

Due to the team's presence in the community, the Smelts were seen as fundraising leaders for HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ causes during the early

years of the organization.

"The grassroots volunteerism of the early years stands out to me," said 28-year member Bradley Dineen.

Bruce Wexelberg, who joined the team shortly after it was formed, said raising money during team hosted swim-a-thon's was a great contribution to LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS causes.

Outside of their activism, the team has spent time together socially at their annual Thanksgiving dinner that they call "Smeltsgiving."

"Over food we share our stories, experiences and just let go," said Le'Mikas Lavender. "When I moved to this city from Japan, I did not know anyone and now the team has become my family."

"I found the Smelts when I was looking online for an adult team sport," said Michael Cowen. "I arrived not knowing it was an LGBTQ swim team, but I have been swimming proud ever since."

"I learned about the team from a friend who was staying with my husband and me between overseas work assignments 20 years ago," said Ruth Giles-Ott. "He told me I should join. I said, 'But I'm straight. I do not want to make anyone there uncomfortable, they are probably glad to be away from straight people.' He said straight people were welcome, and invited me to join him at practice."

Giles-Ott explained that the coach allayed her fears immediately and now they are her extended family. She recently served as the team's co-chair and has officiated at six Smelts weddings—one

straight couple, one lesbian couple and four gay couples.

"These weddings were all extremely moving and precious to me," said Giles-Ott.

Smelts Co-Chair Emily Traw explained that she joined the team because they exuded happiness as they arrived for their practice at Gill Park. She observed this as she was finishing up swimming laps during the pool's individual lap swim time.

"The community and family I found was a complete surprise, and I have been grateful every day since," said Traw.

The Smelts other co-chair Anna Comella joined when she moved to Chicago in 2010 to make friends within the LGBTQ community.

"I wanted to get a good workout doing something I loved so I researched all the swim teams in Chicago and found the Smelts," said Comella. "I joined right away because it was the only team that was made up of mostly LGBTQ people. I was immediately welcomed and quickly learned the team was not just a swim team it was also a group of friends. My life would not be what it is today without the Smelts."

This family atmosphere has resulted in group camping trips, shared meals, informal 5K runs, holiday-themed workouts and dressing up in group costumes for Halloween. They have also had a contingent march in Chicago's Pride Parade since its founding.

Member Patrick Tranmer spoke about the team's mutual respect for each other attributing to everyone's close-knit relationships over the years.

Early on, the team started participated in local meets and later traveled to other cities to compete. They have competed in every Gay Games

Turn to page 21



Smelts pose ahead of marching in the 2018 Pride Parade.  
Image courtesy of the Smelts



## BILLY Masters

"How you feeling, Birmingham?"—**Britney Spears** greets the audience at the final stop on her "Piece of Me" tour. Alas, she wasn't in Birmingham—she was in Blackpool. Oops, she did it again. And we won't even discuss the Madonna-esque British accent. But you'll hear it in action on BillyMasters.com.

Back in 2005, a pair of **Judy Garland's** ruby slippers used in *The Wizard of Oz* were stolen from the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota—which gives you a pretty good idea of the security at that museum. In a caper analogous to the famed Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum heist of 1990, the friends of Dorothy broke into the museum late at night through a window and purloined the pumps, which are estimated to be worth between \$3-5 million! Anonymous tipsters told the feds where to find the fancy footwear in a sting that lasted a year and crossed four states. The shoes were eventually recovered in an undercover raid in Minneapolis. Oh, the humanity!

And yet, somehow **Kevin Spacey**, **Steven Seagal** and **Anthony Anderson** are escaping the long arm of the law. After extensive investigation by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, the charges against all three men have been dropped. When it came to Spacey, the statute of limitations had passed. In the matter of Anderson, the wronged party refused to cooperate (and we all know what that means). As to Steven Seagal ... eh, who cares.

With all the drama going on with Harvey Weinstein, it's no surprise that **Project Runway** was lost in limbo. While the show will be returning to its original home, Bravo (after 11 seasons on Lifetime), there will be a major change—**no Heidi and no Tim**. Quelle horreur! "After 16 incredible seasons, I am saying 'Auf Wiedersehen' to Project Runway, a show that I was honored to host and help create," said the ever-modest Klum. She was less sad to announce she's starting her own competition fashion show on Amazon and that she's poached Tim Gunn as her sidekick. I guess that means more Milano and Mizrahi. What's getting lost in the shuffle is that **Zac Posen** simply took himself out of the equation.

It's the end of an era. After 63 years, **The Village Voice** is a thing of the past. Although the weekly print edition stopped last year, it remained an online entity. But recently, Peter Barbey, who bought the paper three years ago, gathered the staff and told them the news: "Today is kind of a sucky day. Due to, basically, business realities, we're going to stop publishing 'Village Voice' new material." And that's that.

It's easy to point fingers, but certainly online publishing, social media and hookup apps are contributing to the decline of print media. Interestingly enough, while one publication is shuttering, an app is expanding. According to filings with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, Grindr is planning an initial public offering—meaning it will be on the stock market.



**Neil Patrick Harris** entertained, but also disappointed, Billy says.

Photo by Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for Tony Awards Productions

Do you want the good news or the bad news first? In an uncharacteristically charitable move, I will share the good news first. *Wigstock 2.HO* was a HUGE success. While I personally believe the show was stolen by the legendary **Lypsinka**, one must give credit where credit is due—**Neil Patrick Harris** slipped back into Hedwig's pumps effortlessly and put on a fantastic set, totally earning all plaudits he received for his interpretation. And earlier in the day, he, David and their kids manned the wig cannons and shot wigs out to the capacity crowd—which was super-cool.

That said (here comes that bad news), during an appearance on SiriusXM a few days before *Wigstock*, he pissed off quite a few people with what he felt was the downside of playing Hedwig: "The limping of the wrists, the cocking of the hip, the tits out and the ass out, and sort of walking with a sway and sort of the overt femininity of the characterization that I had—that was hard to get into my whole body without feeling like I was mocking it initially. I didn't want to feel like I was pretending." When asked if the transformation made him feel less masculine, NPH said, "for sure." At that point, Mrs. NPH (David Burtka) felt compelled to chime in, "I like manly guys." Yeah, because when I think of the epitome of masculinity, my mind immediately thinks of Neil Patrick Harris. Bitch, please. Be that as it may, I will post Lypsinka's and Hedwig's numbers on BillyMasters.com.

Elsewhere on the air, kooky **Alex Jones** is under fire. It seems that he had his phone in hand while doing his radio show, which also broadcasts live-streaming video. According to an eagle-eyed viewer, while Alex was promoting his line of health and wellness products, his phone was on a page titled "Naughty tbabe Marissa Mi," a reference to Marissa Minx, an Australian transgender

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porn actress. But, wait—Alex can explain this all away as only he can. And he did it on live radio, so there's no question what he said: "I saw a couple of news articles about that, it's ridiculous. I was, like, looking for some reporter we're trying to hire today and punched in some number and porn popped up on my phone. Everybody has had porn pop up on their phone hundreds of times. I probably had porn menus pop up 500 times on my phone. There's two types of people: people who look at porn and people who lie about it. But I wasn't looking at porn on my phone. I don't take phones on air that I look at porn on. Thank you for your call." All I got out of that is that he sometimes enjoys trans porn on his phone—but not necessarily while working.

When Jones was expanding his repertoire, it's time to end another column. Of course, you'll always find the best gossip (and pretty pictures) on BillyMasters.com—the site that's telling you it's not going. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Alex Jones hits on NPH! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Vinny's Pizza Bar; Publican Anker

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If you want to spend some time (whether family or post-work) in a funky place with some delicious items, check out **Vinny's Pizza Bar** (at the French Market, 130 N. Canal St.; <http://www.vinnysbar.com/>).

The year-old concept is based on "Vinny," an old-school Italian owner who aims to bring the fun while being serious about the quality of the food. For example, the decor includes portraits of celebrity lookalikes (including impersonators of Michael Jackson and Angelina Jolie as well as presidents Trump and Obama). Telegenic Director of Operations Nick O'Meara told Windy City Times: "The portraits are about satire. Some people don't get them, but Vinny's is about fun [as well as] being low-key and casual."



Assortment of Pizzas at Vinny's Pizza Bar.  
PR photo

As for the food, the crush of pedestrians clustering around the restaurant as the server presented free samples provided my initial clue. Chef Jose Ramirez—who heads Vinny's as well as Ovie Bar & Grill next door—has concocted some dishes that run from solid to spectacular.

The pizzas are unique in that the crusts are combinations of Neapolitan and New York styles. The smoked pork-shoulder pizza is basically a Cubano in pie form, and it was very satisfying. However, the version that brings everyone in is the brie-and-apple version, with white sauce, brie

cheese blend, Gala apples and balsamic roasted shallots. It was amazing—and I'd certainly return for this.

Soft breadsticks came with smoked tomato sauce and goat-cheese marinara, and the capicola and cheese fondue made for a tasty combination. Also, feel free to ask for the cheesecake—although, interestingly, it started okay and became better-tasting as we went through our slices.

By the way, another reason has emerged to check out Vinny's: the spot's Progressive Happy Hour, in which drinks are \$4 each at 4-5 p.m., \$5 at 5-6 p.m., and \$6 at 6-7 p.m. Bottoms up!

### Publican Anker

Appearances can be very deceiving.

Judging by its name, Publican Anker (1576 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://www.publicananker.com/>) might be a gastropub that concentrates on seafood, as "anker" is German for "anchor." However, there is much more to this year-and-a-half-old Wicker Park spot (formerly Francesca's Forno/Glazed and Infused)—and those items provide surprises of their own.

Bar snacks are anything but ordinary. For example, there's burrata, which might be standard at some places; here, however, it comes with honeycrisp apples, walnuts, farro and watercress, with a drizzle of honey. Addictive chicken wings are prepared with ingredients such as burnt chile

and yogurt, according to the menu; however, the server said that there are additional items like fish sauce that are used to give the wings their unique taste. (I guess that would be deception by omission.)

And there are a lot more than bar snacks. Vegetable dishes include toka plums (with crescenza, radish, urfa peppers and cashews) as well as slightly kicky sweet corn (accompanied by potatoes, peppers and parmesan).

However, even the standard burger is elevated at Anker. The Super Pub Burger may look like a regular sandwich, but somehow the combination of American cheese, caramelized onions and tangy "special sauce" make this one of the best burgers I've had since the hallowed masterpiece I consumed at Mott St. But if you want something a little different for an entree, Anker caters to every taste (pun intended) with dishes like swordfish sausage, bavette steak and half-roasted chicken (and I'm sure even THAT tastes different from your regular bird).

Regarding desserts, the bakewell tart was prepared and presented beautifully, overall, although it was slightly crumbly. But if almond shortbread isn't your thing, Anker has other offerings, such as strawberry shortbread ice cream and chocolate mousse.

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

## Coming 'Out in the Park'

Out in the Park at Six Flags Great America celebrated its seventh year on Sept. 8, with a private four-hour event that raised money for Lakeside Pride Music Ensemble. DJ Adam Joseph provided some additional beats. Photos by Jerry Nunn



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## Hundreds take part in Ride for AIDS 2018

The 15th Annual Ride for AIDS Chicago—the signature fundraising event of Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), and which had a new route this year—took place Sept. 8-9, drawing nearly 200 riders, according to the organization.

The event brings together cyclists, those living with HIV and related illnesses, health advocates

and their supporters to raise funds as well as demonstrate the strengths and resilience of an often-overlooked community. Since its inception, the Ride has raised more than \$4.5 million and continues to serve TPAN's mission: saving lives and empowering those affected by HIV/AIDS and related illnesses.

For more about TPAN, see <https://www.tpan.com/>.

Photos by Julie Supple



Above: TPAN Board Chair Michael Murphy and TPAN CEO Christopher Clark. Upper right: Group with the riderless bike (which represents all who have passed away from HIV/AIDS). Far upper right: State Rep. Greg Harris. Right: TPAN's James Craig and Andrew Miller.

Photos by Julie Supple



## SMELTS from page 18

since 1990.

In 1992, the team joined the International LGBT+ Aquatics (IGLA) and two years later hosted the annual IGLA swim meet at the University of Illinois, Chicago. When the Gay Games came to Chicago in 2006 the team grew with more gay men, other queer folks and straight people joining the team to compete at the games. Now there are about 130 members.

"When we hosted the annual IGLA swim meet the team was small so pretty much everyone was

involved in some way in making it a very successful weekend," said long-time member Chris Layton.

The team has been the Illinois Masters State Champions for the past four years, most recently at the April 15, 2018 meet. They also hold the distinction of being the only IGLA team to win a statewide United States Masters Swimming championship meet across the country.

A number of Smelts said these victories are a direct result of how hard the team works. Giles-Ott explained that in years past some straight teams would smirk at the idea of an LGBTQ swim

team but no one smirks now.

In terms of the role that these LGBTQ masters swim teams play in today's world, Lavender said that despite the many victories the community has made over the years many people still face hate and negativity and the Smelts provides a safe space for them in the sporting world.

"I thought it was ground-breaking to have gay swim meets in the early years and was thrilled to participate," said Wexelberg. "It is wonderful that gay sporting events are now just part of the norm."

"I think the challenge for every sport in the coming years is going to be finding just and eq-

uitable ways to accommodate athletes who are gender non-conforming, intersex or transgender in our practice and competition spaces," said Bolf. "Right now, one must be either 'female' or 'male' for purposes of competition, and using the public park district locker rooms and showers can be socially, if not legally, stressful for people outside of the gender binary. So that is a place for us to grow as a team and hopefully lead the way."

**For more information about joining the team contact the board at [info@chicagosmelts.org](mailto:info@chicagosmelts.org) or visit [ChicagoSmelts.org](http://ChicagoSmelts.org).**

WINDY CITY TIMES

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wed., Sept. 12**

**Andersonville Arts Week** Self-Guided Art Walk to artists on display in pop-up gallery fashion at more than 50 locations. Guides/maps available at participating locations at Chamber. Through Sept. 16 11:00am - 6:00pm Start Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, 5217 N Clark <http://andersonville.org>

**Access to Social Justice Symposium** Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic and the Action Injury Law Group will host a gathering of experts at the cutting edge of social justice advocacy. Free and open to the public 1:00pm - 6:00pm Law School, 375 E. Chicago Ave., in Thorne Auditorium Tickets: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JHMC62J>

**Eric H. Holder Jr.** 82nd Attorney General of the United States (2009-2015) discusses the pressing issue of voting rights in the United States 7:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago 312-341-2300 <http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/a-conversation-with-eric-holder/>

**Thursday, Sept. 13**

**Common in conversation on Activism and Dissent in an Age of Polarization** Hip-hop artist, poet, and native Chicagoan Common leads a timely conversation as part of Roosevelt University's 3rd annual American Dream Reconsidered Conference. 7:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago 312-341-2300 <http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/a-conversation-with-common/>

**Official RuPaul's Drag Race World Tour** Favorite drag stars return with new show hosted by Bob The Drag Queen with performances by the queens from Season 10 and fan favorites Kim Chi, Valentina, Shangela and Violet Chachki. Doors open 8pm 9:00pm - 9:30pm Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph Dr Chicago <http://vossevents.com/events/werq-the-world/>

**Dreamboat - An All LGBTQIA+ Showcase** Solo acts from a queer performers in music, stand up, sketch, drag, and an improv set highlighting talent in the community. Thursdays through Sept. 27. \$10. 10:00pm iO Chicago, 1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401 <http://www.ioimprov.com/search/?q=dreamboat>

**Friday, Sept. 14**

**Doing Our Own Work** A six-session anti-racism seminar for white people will be held Sept. 14-15, Oct. 26-27 and Nov. 16-17. Gender-inclusive. Attendance at all six sessions required. 9:00am - 5:00pm Youth and Opportunity United, 1911 Church St., Evanston

WANDA-FUL

Friday, Sept. 14

Wanda Sykes (above) and Adam Rippon will be part of the Chicago House Speaker Series.

Photo by Roger Erickson

[liesforchange.org/doow-evanston-2018.html](http://liesforchange.org/doow-evanston-2018.html)

**Join Shedd Aquarium Free days** Illinois Resident Free Days through Sept. 30. Online tickets required with \$3 transaction fee 9:00am - 6:00pm, <http://www.sheddaquarium.org/plan-a-visit/Illinois-Resident-Free-Days/>

**Sykes, Rippon at Chicago House Speaker Series event** Wanda Sykes, an out stand-up comedian and actress. Figure skater Adam Rippon made history as the first openly gay U.S. male athlete to qualify for the Winter Games. NBC reporter Chris Hush will emcee. 11:00am - 2:00pm Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. <http://ChicagoHouse.org>

**Tootsie Pre-Broadway world premiere** The story of a talented but difficult actor who struggles to find work until an audacious, desperate stunt lands him the role of a lifetime. Original score by Tony Award nominee David Yazbek (The Band's Visit, The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels). Through Oct. 14, 2018. 7:30pm Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph <http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com>

**Saturday, Sept. 15**

**Rummage Sale with crafts tables** To rent a table and sell crafts, email [roberthilum@hotmail.com](mailto:roberthilum@hotmail.com). Benefits Holy Covenant MCC Brookfield 9:00am - 3:30pm Holy Covenant MCC, 9145 Grant St, Brookfield 708-387-1611 <http://holycovenantmcc.org>

**Kevin's Room screening** By Chicago Department of Public Health in 2001, follows a Black gay social worker and gay men's support group discussing HIV testing, relationships, AIDS, sexual risk-taking among Black gay men. Enjoy Optima Signature's theater and gourmet kitchen. Carl Branch, Team Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus host. \$25 6:00pm - 9:00pm Optima Signature Apartments,

220 E. Illinois St., 20th floor Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sky-high-movie-a-kevins-room-viewing-tickets-49573258952>

**Baroque in the Park** Music of the Baroque kicks off its 48th season with the free event. \$25-78 7:30pm Millennium Park 201 E Randolph St Chicago Tickets: <http://aroque.org>

**Sunday, Sept. 16**

**Dar Williams** Out lesbian folk-pop and raw acoustic singer/songwriter. \$35/\$45/\$55/\$58. Doors 6pm 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St., Chicago <http://www.citywinery.com>

**Monday, Sept. 17**

**Shedd After Hours: Caribbean Flavors and Flair** Featuring a special menu of Caribbean-inspired cuisine for guests as they explore the aquarium, including habitats like the iconic Caribbean Reef exhibit in Shedd's main galleries.

5:00pm - 9:00pm Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Dr. <http://sheddaquarium.org>

**Tuesday, Sept. 18**

**Chicago Foundation for Women 33rd Annual Luncheon** With Aly Raisman, a two-time Olympic gymnast who is daring to speak her truth, advocating for survivors of sexual assault and demanding an end to violence against women and girls. Young leaders symposium 9:30am, registration 11am, luncheon and speaker noon. Register early 9:30am - 11:00am Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 E Wacker Dr Chicago <http://www.cfw.org/33rd-annual-luncheon-register/>

**Wed., Sept. 19**

**Meet Pride Action Tank** Celebrate and support Pride Action Tank's participation in the upcoming (Sept. 23) AIDS Run & Walk Chicago. \$20 donation gets a drink ticket and special performances by Thair,

lead singer of Chicago alternative band Astro Samurai. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago Tickets: <http://events.aidschicago.org/site/Calendar?id=103101&view=Detail>

**Thursday, Sept. 20**

**Reeling, The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival** Thirty feature films, nineteen shorts programs. Features include Mapplethorpe. Rupert Everett and Scud are scheduled to attend. Through Sept. 23. Time:TBA Various locations <http://reelingfilmfestival.org>

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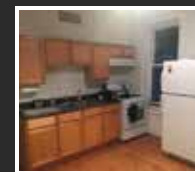
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