

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

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FUNDAMENTAL READING
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PRIDE 2018

EXPANDED ARTS COVERAGE EVERY WEEK

www.artsandtheaterweekly.com

ART TO ART
Ralph Arnold's work being showcased

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Ralph Arnold work Above This Earth.
Photo from Museum of Contemporary Photography

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Note: This issue went to press around midnight, Wed., November 7, in an attempt to include as much current info as possible on the 2018 mid-term elections. For updated info, please see www.windycitytimes.com.

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com



DAILY NEWS

The column 10 Questions with Vic continues with E.G. Daily (left).
Photo courtesy of Daily

OLLY, GEE WHIZ



Out British singer Ollie Alexander talks about his band, Years and Years, and queer musicians in general.
Photo by Ed Cooke

FREDDIE, SET, GO

WCT reviews the movie Bohemian Rhapsody, about Freddie Mercury and Queen.

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Find out the latest about Telly Leung, Bette Midler and Duran Duran.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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ELECTIONS 2018

Change is in the air

BY ANDREW DAVIS, CARRIE MAXWELL
AND MATT SIMONETTE

Record numbers of voters turned out (early and on the day of election, Nov. 6) to make their voices heard, and what they wanted—change—was loud and clear.

From Democrat J.B. Pritzker dethroning Republican Bruce Rauner in the Illinois gubernatorial race to Colorado's Jared Polis becoming the first openly gay man elected governor in the United States, a sea change took place at the polls.

Note: All of these results are as of 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 6. Results will be updated online.

Dems command quick state victories

Businessman J.B. Pritzker solidly defeated incumbent Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner on Nov. 6, with Pritzker capturing as of press-time some 54.4 percent of the vote. Rauner, who garnered about 38.8 percent of votes, phoned Pritzker to concede about a half-hour after polls closed. Libertarian Kash Jackson (2.4 percent) and Conservative Party candidate William "Sam" McCann (4.3 percent) candidate also ran for the post.

At his victory rally, with Lieutenant Governor-Elect Juliana Stratton at his side, Pritzker spoke of shoring up the state's commitments to health care and immigrants' and women's rights.

"None of us succeed until all of us succeed," he said.

Pritzker—whose cousin Jennifer is transgender—pledged his support for the LGBT community early on, frequently citing his mother's support of LGBT-rights as his inspiration. Shortly before the primaries, he told Windy City Times that, "We've got to stop the rise of anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. We've got to pass budgets that fund programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, PrEP for Illinois, HIV testing, anti-bullying initiatives, and health and safety programs in the LGBTQ community. The budget of the state of Illinois is a moral document that speaks to the values of our government. The values of our government ought to be standing up for the LGBTQ community."

State Rep. Kwame Raoul also won his bid to replace Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who is stepping down from her post, against attorney Erika Harold; Raoul netted 54.5 percent of the vote while Harold received 42.9 percent. Raoul defeated an enormous field of Democratic opponents in the primary and fought hard against Harold, receiving a last-minute cash infusion from Speaker Madigan. Libertarian Bubba Harsy also ran for the attorney general post and received 2.6 percent of votes.

In his victory speech, Raoul spoke of how his mother inspired him by her unwavering support of a family member who had come out as gay: "She taught me that love is love, and that you should be able to marry who you want, and that we should be strengthened by that."

As of press time, several incumbents seemed poised to return to their state offices. Longtime Secretary of State Jesse White (68.3 percent) defeated Republican Jason Helland (29.2 percent)

and Libertarian Steve Dutner (2.5 percent). Incumbent State Treasurer Michael Frerichs (57.8 percent) defeated Republican Jim Dodge (38.7 percent) and Libertarian Michael Leheny (3.5 percent). Meanwhile, incumbent Susana Mendoza (60.3 percent) defeated Republican Darlene Senger (36.7 percent) and Libertarian Claire Ball (3.1 percent); news leaked the week before that Mendoza was likely to run for Chicago mayor in the 2019 election.

Races with national implications

With the publishing deadline approaching, Democrats seemed poised to take the U.S. House, and Republicans maintained a slight edge in holding on to the U.S. Senate.

And there were some important LGBTQ victories that dotted the evening.

As mentioned, Polis has become the first out gay man to be elected governor of any state. In a statement, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said, "For nearly a decade in Congress, Jared Polis fought to advance fairness and equality in Colorado and across America. He is a proven leader who will take his commitment to securing full equality to the governor's mansion and fight to make Colorado a stronger and more inclusive state."

In addition, Sharice Davids scored her own historic U.S. House win. Davids is the first Native woman elected to U.S. Congress and the first openly LGBTQ U.S. Congress member from Kansas. Democrat U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin marked an important achievement in Wisconsin, as the lesbian incumbent turned back Republican Leah Vukmir; Nebraska voters made history in electing Megan Hunt, the first openly LGBTQ candidate ever elected to their state legislature; and bisexual Oregon Gov. Kate Brown was re-elected.

Also, another important development took place in Massachusetts, where voters upheld non-discrimination protections for transgender people in public spaces. It was the first time gender identity non-discrimination protections were on a statewide ballot independent of protections based on sexual orientation. In a statement, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund Executive Director Rea Carey said, in part, "When given the option to stand with their neighbors or follow the path of bigotry, Massachusetts sent a message loud and clear that love trumps hate."

And Betsy Driver—of Flemington, New Jersey—has become the nation's first intersex mayor. Driver, who was previously a Flemington borough council-member, is only the second-known openly intersex elected official in the world.

Kim Davis—the Kentucky county clerk who was briefly jailed for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses—was denied a re-election bid, with her losing to Democrat Elwood Caudill Jr.

Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams was hoping to be the nation's first Black female governor—but was 10 points behind Republican Brian Kemp with 81 percent of the votes counted; and, in Florida, African-American Andrew Gillum conceded the gubernatorial seat to the GOP's Ron De-



Governor-elect J.B. Pritzker and Lieutenant Governor-elect Juliana Stratton (second left from Pritzker).

Screenshot from YouTube

Santis. And Texas Republican Ted Cruz managed to edge popular Democrat Beto O'Rourke to keep his Senate seat.

However, New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—who identifies as a Democratic socialist—won her race.

As for Illinois congressional races, Democrat Sean Casten was projected as the winner over Republican incumbent Peter Roskam, and Democratic challenger Lauren Underwood defeated Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren—both seemingly riding a blue wave that splashed over Illinois.

Democrat Chuy Garcia easily succeeded U.S. Rep. Luis Guterrez in the 4th Congressional District. Gutierrez, who is retiring, endorsed Garcia months ago. Other congresspersons who easily won re-election included Democrats Brad Schneider, Danny Davis, Jan Schakowsky, Mike Quigley, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Robin Kelly and Bill Foster, among others.



Lauren Underwood.

Photo from campaign

Cook County races: New faces elected

This year's Cook County elections saw many changes during the primary that resulted in more races being contested than in previous election cycles.

With the results of the Nov. 6 midterm elections, the uncontested Cook County commissioner seats will be filled with five new people while the contested races will see three new people taking seats. This leaves nine incumbents out of the 17 total commissioner seats.

One of the most talked about Cook County races outside of the commissioner seats has been the assessor where Frederick "Fritz" Kaegi beat out Democratic incumbent and Cook County Democratic Chair Joseph Berrios during the primary. Kaegi won the seat handily against Republican challenger Joseph Paglia with over 75 percent of the vote.

"We are delighted that this election delivered the same result as the primary which was a decisive vote to make the assessor's office ethical, transparent and fair," said Kaegi. "People in Cook County deserve to have a functional assessment system like other major U.S. cities and this is what we plan to deliver."

In the contested Cook County commissioner races, Democratic candidate Bill Lowry beat Republican candidate George Blakemore 90 to 10 percent in the third district.

The eighth district incumbent Democrat Luis Arroyo Jr. was victorious over Republican challenger Walter Zarnecki 89.1 percent to 10.9 percent.

Incumbent Republican Peter N. Silvestri kept his seat against Democratic challenger Frank L. McPartlin in the ninth district with 52.6 percent and McPartlin receiving 47.4 percent of the vote.

In the 11th District, Democratic incumbent John P. Daley also kept his seat against Republican challenger Steven S. Graves. Daley received 73.4 percent to Graves' 26.6 percent.

Democratic incumbent Larry Suffredin won against Republican Chris J. Hanusiak in the 13th district with 77.3 percent versus 22.7 percent of the vote.

In the 14th district incumbent Republican Gregg Goslin lost to Democrat Scott R. Britton. Britton received 53.9 percent while Goslin got 46.1 percent.

Openly gay Democrat Kevin B. Morrison won with 53.9 percent of the vote against incumbent and Illinois Republican Party Chair Timothy Owen Schneider who received 46.1 percent of the vote in the 15th district

Lastly, in the 17th district Democrat Abdnasser Rashid and incumbent Republican Sean M. Morrison are currently at 50.6 percent for Morrison and 49.4 percent for Rashid in a too close to call race.

Turn to page 14

Marge Summit receives Damski Award at event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Longtime LGBT activist and lesbian businesswoman Marge Summit received the Jon-Henri Damski award Nov. 4 at The Call, in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

LGBT-rights advocate Lori Cannon established the award in 1998 to honor Damski because of his impact on the local LGBT community. Damski's many accomplishments included involvement in the passage of Chicago's human-rights ordinance in 1988 and Chicago's hate-crimes bill in 1990. He was a poet and writer for many publications, including Windy City Times.

Damski was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 1991 and received a proclamation from Mayor Richard M. Daley and the City Council in 1997 for his service to the LGBT community.

Summit founded His 'N Hers bar and started the Gay \$ Project alongside gay businessman Frank

"Marge, you know where all the bodies are buried and are not afraid to name names," said Cannon. "We salute you for everything you have done."

Boyer praised Summit for making His 'N Hers a place that is open to everyone in the community regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. He explained both of them have a wicked sense of humor and can trade barbs with each other no matter the occasion.

Keehnan read Summit's bio that the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame created and the answer to a question about the Gay \$ Project from his recent Windy City Times interview, while de la Croix read from a Gay Chicago article about His 'N Hers.

Baim spoke about how the bars, like the ones Summit owned, were the LGBT community centers from the '50s to the '70s. She also read from Keehnan's Windy City Times interview with Summit about the many fundraisers she did over the



From left: Gary Chichester, Lori Cannon and Marge Summit.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Kellas. The Gay \$ Project was an ink stamp LGBT people used to show businesses that the money coming into their stores was from the community. She also appeared in the film Before Stonewall, co-founded PFLAG's Chicago chapter, was a Matachine Midwest member and was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 1993, among many other accomplishments.

Among the speakers were Summit's friends and community activists, including Dean Ogren, Cannon, David Boyer, Owen Keehnen, Tracy Baim, Mike Ferrari aka Ashley Morgan and Gary Chichester, who most recently received the Damski award. Sukie de la Croix, Jamie Krohn and Terry Gaskins delivered video messages.

Ogren said this event was to both celebrate Summit's many achievements and honor Damski's legacy.

Cannon spoke about Damski's life, including his status as the first gay columnist in the Midwest to publish his writings under his real name and photo, and his love of the Chicago Cubs.

years and specifically the Thanksgiving dinners she spearheaded for the LGBT seniors who had no place to go that day because they were shunned by their families.

Krohn and Gaskins told stories about how much Summit means to them while Ferrari, who co-owns The Call with his husband Michael Hogan, spoke about how Summit's bar played a role in his romance with Hogan.

Prior to presenting Summit with her award, Chichester said she is a "tiny woman with the mouth of a truck driver." He also read the plaque inscription.

Accepting her award, Summit spoke about the bond she has with her brother, who accepted her immediately when she came out to him, and how proud she is of her adopted daughter Tanya, who currently lives in Virginia with her children.

A video of past recipients' images was also played, and the festivities capped off with a champagne toast to Summit.

This Week's Featured Properties



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

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.



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

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CORE Center marks 20 years of HIV/AIDS care, research

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Cook County Board President and City of Chicago mayoral candidate Toni Preckwinkle spoke at and introduced principal stakeholders in a Nov. 1 presentation marking the 20th anniversary of the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center.

Preckwinkle called the center, which is large-

being a fundamental-care and -treatment facility for people with HIV, Larry Goodman, MD, CEO of Rush Healthcare System and Rush University Medical Center, said that, "Now there's a new aspiration: let's get to zero. When this was formed, I think it set a precedent for what can be attained."

Additional speakers included David Schwartz,



Jay Shannon, David Schwartz and Toni Preckwinkle.

Photo by Matt Simonette

ly dedicated to the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, "truly one of our health system's gems."

Jay Shannon, MD, CEO of Cook County Health System, added that the Center "remains not only one of the busiest, but clearly one of the best, HIV-care centers in the United States."

Many of the participants discussed the Center's potential role in the state's Getting to Zero initiative, which seeks to eliminate new HIV transmissions and increase the number of persons with HIV who are undetectable. Noting that the Center had been opened with an "aspirational goal" of

MD, Cook County Health's infectious diseases chairman; Cook County Health Senior Director for HIV Services Toyin Adeyemi, MD; AIDS Foundation of Chicago President and CEO John Peller; activist London Benton; and Peter McLoyd, manager of the CORE Center's peer educator program.

At the opening of the presentation, Preckwinkle called for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Jerry Rabinowitz, an eminent physician who served Pittsburgh-area HIV/AIDS patients who was killed in the Tree of Life synagogue shootings on Oct. 27.

Nov. 8, at Evanston's Beth Emet Synagogue, 1224 Dempster St.

At the initial summit, leaders from the participating Chicago-area organizations will learn how to foster LGBTQ inclusion and formulate a practical, specific action plan for doing so. Keshet will then provide a full year of follow-up support and training to help participating groups realize their LGBTQ-inclusion action plans.

Chicago's Response Center, a program of Jewish Family and Child Services, is co-sponsoring the project.

LGBTQ+ community's Veterans Day events

—The American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Chicago Chapter will hold its annual LGBTQ Veterans Day Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Ann Sather restaurant, 909 W. Belmont Ave. The dinner speaker will be Vanessa Sheridan, the author, performer and director of gender equity and inclusion at Center on Halsted. RSVP to Jim Darby at 773-752-0058 or jamesdarby@aol.com; more is at www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/.

—On Saturday, Nov. 10, a remembrance ceremony will be held at the grave of Allen Schindler, a sailor who was murdered by shipmates in 1992 for being gay. Dorothy Hadjys-Holman, the sailor's mother, will participate. The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at Evergreen Hill Memorial Park in Steger, Illinois. More information is at 773-752-0058 or Facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/?ref=br_rs.

—The Center on Halsted's second annual Trans Military Appreciation Symposium will honor and demonstrate support transgender military personnel, transgender veterans, and families on Monday, Nov. 12, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Center, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Speakers will include Master Sergeant Erika Stoltz, an Army Reservist with 33 years of active service; and Dr. Jennifer Coleman, of the Rush University Medical Center's Road Home Program/Center for Veterans. There will also be representation from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital and the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Admission is free; visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/296695877595315/>.

—On Saturday, Nov. 17, AVER will also take part in the Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band Fall Concert "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band will perform a military-themed band repertoire, with compositions by gay and lesbian composers.

The concert will take place at 7:30-9:30 p.m. at DePaul School of Music's Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted St. Veterans and members of AVER who attend with AVER may RSVP though AVER at secretary@aver-chicago.org for a limited number of courtesy tickets. More information and \$10 tickets for general admission are at <http://lakesidepride.org/dadt>.

Reports: Off-duty cop sued after brawl at Andersonville bar

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An off-duty Chicago Police Department (CPD) officer has been sued by two Chicago men who allege they were brutally beaten by the officer and others outside @mosphere nightclub in Andersonville on Sept. 29, according to reports.

The suit, filed Oct. 1 according to Cook County Circuit Court records, alleges that Of-

ficer Eric Elkins and others attacked Chicagoans John Sherwood and his partner, Tomasz Stacha, that evening. Sherwood suffered a compound leg fracture, among other injuries, after the episode.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Elkins had a number of other complaints against him; he has been relieved of policing duties and on desk duty as CPD investigates a 2015 episode in Michigan that resulted in his pleading guilty to assault and battery and disorderly conduct jostling. Charges of misdemeanor sexual conduct involving a teenager 13-15 years old against Elkins had been dropped after he pled guilty to the other charges.

Three others, as well the @mosphere bar owners, are named in Sherwood and Stacha's lawsuit.

The Chicago Sun-Times' report on Elkins is at <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/chicago-police-eric-elkins-sex-crimes-charges-teenage-boys-never-disciplined/>.

Intergenerational SAGE Tables Nov. 8

SAGE Table—which involves people sharing meals with LGBT people and allies of different generations—will take place throughout early November, a press release noted. People can either host meals or attending a public SAGE Table.

Chicago events include a SAGE and Huron get-together at Punch Bowl Social, 310 N. Green St., on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 6 p.m.; a Latinx trans/queer potluck on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2425 S. Western Ave.; and a community dinner at Howard Brown Health, 6500 N. Clark St., on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

See <https://www.sageusa.org/join-sage-table/>.

SAGE, NCLR hosting meetings Nov. 14

SAGE and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) are hosting two community meetings Wed., Nov. 14, regarding housing discrimination.

The events will be 2-4 p.m. at Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave., #108; and 6-8 p.m. at Howard Brown Health, 6500 N. Clark St.

Speakers will include NCLR Senior Staff Attorney Amy Whelan, Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim L. Hunt, activist/advocate Donald M. Bell, Chicago Housing Authority Director of Senior Services Paula Basta and SAGE Director of National Field Initiatives Serena Worthington.

People can register at <https://giveto.sageusa.org/pages/events/other/2018-housing-denied>.

Jewish groups taking part in project, summit

Keshet—a national organization working for LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life—announced that 21 Chicago-area Jewish organizations will participate in Keshet's first Chicagoland Leadership Project.

The year-long Leadership Project will kick off with a day-long leadership summit Thursday,

ACA open enrollment is underway

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The open enrollment period for Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace insurance plans is underway, and will remain so through Dec. 15.

A number of community health facilities and advocacies have navigators in place to walk community members who need guidance through enrollment, noted Howard Brown Health Benefit Coordinator Rachel Maher.

"We mostly help people who are on the marketplace," said Maher, who added that Howard Brown Health aims to enroll about 400 individuals. The organization also offers assistance to those enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid plans as well.

Despite the relative popularity of the ACA in the populace, many are skeptical about whether they can find affordable insurance, she added.

"I still see people who assume that they can get healthcare insurance at all, and I see people who don't think they'll be able to afford an Affordable Healthcare Act plan option," she said.

Maher added that, though the government will not be enforcing the penalty for not having insurance, consumers should nevertheless persevere. Persons living with HIV, for example, are virtually assured of finding coverage through various configurations of ACA and Ryan White Act resources.

"We'll work with you to find something," she said.

Jordan Wishner, who founded the Chicago-based agency the Health Insurance Shoppe, noted that the process may be frustrating, especially when a financially-strapped consumer finds that they still make too much to qualify for subsidies and are thus subject to higher premiums. As such, they should continue to investigate affordable and effective options, such as checking whether their employer takes part in a Small Business Health Option Program, which Wishner said can provide a more affordable consumer option, with a minimal effort from their employer.

"If an employer wants to contribute, all the better," he added.

Maher added that it is easy to become overwhelmed and frustrated by the choices, but consumers usually just need small amount of information when they get assistance, including an estimation of their income; a list of medical conditions and prescriptions; usernames and passwords for their current plan, if any; and, for those not born in the United States, proof of immigration or citizenship status.

"Whether it's your first time or not, it's best to work with a licensed insurance agent or navigator," said Wishner.

NGLCC honoring Heels & Hardhats

NGLCC: The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce will be honoring several organizations during the 2018 NGLCC National Dinner—including local company Heels & Hardhats Contracting Corp.

The Byron, Illinois-based company (headed by same-sex couple Jackie and Cyndi Richter) will receive the award for 2018 LGBT Supplier of the Year on Friday, Nov. 16, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Other of the night's recipients will include Bank of America (2018 Corporation of the Year), American Airlines' Todd Rice (2018 Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year) and the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (2018 Affiliate Chamber of the Year).

Marsha P. Johnson Institute GoFundMe page started

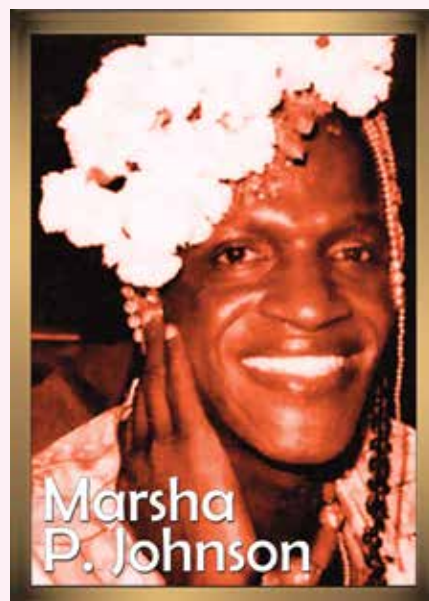
A GoFundMe page for the Marsha P. Johnson Institute has been started at <https://www.gofundme.com/trans-people-will-never-be-erased>.

According to a description, "The Marsha P. Johnson Institute is a community organization working to protect and defend the human rights of transgender and gender non conforming communities. We do this by advocating and organizing to put an end to systemic, structural and physical violence against our com-

munities."

The page also uses the line "Trans People Will Never Be Erased"—which directly addresses a recent New York Times article about the Trump administration looking at narrowing the definition of gender to the point where transgender rights and protections could be rescinded.

Johnson (1945-1992) was an LGBT-rights activist who co-founded the Gay Liberation Front and S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries).



Marsha P. Johnson.
Image from The Legacy Project

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Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

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

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:

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

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

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

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

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

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.



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

Get HIV support by
downloading a free app
at MyDailyCharge.com



KEEP CREATING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

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

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

BIKTARVY.COM



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(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT BIKTARVY

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

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

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

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Diane Robinson talks Chicago Voice Center

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Diane Robinson became a certified Fitzmaurice Voicework teacher in 2010, she decided to take that knowledge and start the Chicago Voice Center (CVC).

Shortly after getting her certificate, Robinson began teaching at Cal State Long Beach, where actress and activist Alexandra Billings was also a teacher. She also participated in a workshop with United Kingdom transgender actress and voice coach Rebecca Root during that time.

"I became inspired to work with the transgender and gender non-binary community, and as I reached out I found that what I had to offer was valued and needed," said Robinson. "I am working to make CVC a true center for voice in Chicago, offering lessons and workshops in person

coaching and teaching endeavors. She has a master's of fine arts in acting and studied Knight-Thompson speech training.

"The goal of my work is to help my clients re-establish a connection the voice and their body," said Robinson. "Some recent coaching credits include working on-set on Chicago Fire and with Blue Bird Arts, an English-Russian language theater company here in Chicago. I have taught in training programs around town, including at Second City and DePaul University, and I lead workshops with the Chicago Sinfonietta and Rush Medical Center students. My most recent acting role was this year in the Piven Theater's production of a new play by Chicago playwright M.T. Cozzola."

Robinson completed the Transgender Voice and Communication Training for Voice Clinicians



Diane Robinson.
Photo by Tom McGrath

and online, as well as presenting performances and bringing in master teachers from around the world. I want to offer the best in voice and speech training to anyone who wants to improve their ability to express themselves. It is a crucial time for voices to be heard, and to educate the world to hear all the different ways humanity expresses itself."

Founded in 2013, CVC provides "voice and communication training to transgender and non-binary people, businesses eager to retain talent by providing professional development and film, television and theater productions seeking accent and dialect coaching for actors," according to its website.

Robinson's expertise also includes her work as an actor, director and producer along with her

at Roosevelt University in 2015. She said it was such a good experience that she attended again in 2016. Robinson has continued her education at Northwestern's Center for Audiology, Speech, Language and Learning, where she attended their transgender voice training classes this past spring. She said one of the most valuable things the training provides is bringing professional voice clinicians and singing and theater voice trainers together to share information and their best practices.

"In the last year, I have lead voice workshops at the Transgender Voices Festival in St. Paul, the Transgender Singing Conference at Earlham College and at the Creative Bodies Creative Minds festival in Austria," said Robinson. "I am an active member of the Gender Spectrum Voice and

Communication Trainer's Facebook group, and recently hosted one of their roundtable presentations on incorporating theater voice training methods into working with transgender clients."

Clients Cynthia (who requested that only her first name be used), Alessandra Pereyra and Josie Sanfordino praised their instructor.

"As an older trans woman, I was self-conscious about my voice," said Cynthia. "After working with Diane for only two months, I learned how to make my voice sound feminine, which gave me the confidence to go out freely."

"Working with Diane and CVC quickly became one of the highlights of my week," said Pereyra. "Something that could have easily become a jarring and awkward exercise, was not only far from it, but instead, a fun experience and a safe, trusting environment to share, learn, experiment and grow. After some months, I not only got back the confidence I had partially lost at the beginning; I also get to learn more about myself, what it meant to cherish and discover my own voice, and how to develop the tools that helped me in a daily basis through the continual interactions with other people."

"CVC has been inspirational because Diane sees the human being in all of us," said Sanfordino. "Diane directed me to the Irving Goffman book, 'The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.' The

single takeaway I have gotten from the book is that we have different faces we show depending on the context we are in. I see there is a relationship between acting as if and being the person we are inside. This is the proverbial 'fake it till you make it' paradigm.

"I had not thought of that again until I started to read Goffman. I saw how Diane's acting knowledge pushes the envelope to have us experience different contexts and we get to see ourselves in an exploratory mode. Exploring is how we are in a place of possibility. Possibility thinking is essential to generate a full life. What she has taught me is invaluable and intriguing to me and the people I am privileged to work with."

Robinson explained that her classes and workshops are full of great information, including voice exercises, voice practice routines and learning about the latest voice apps and best ways to use them.

"My clients have told me they think I am a great listener who is very funny and nice with one client making me feel great by saying, 'You really care,'" said Robinson. "I have lesson times available at various times of day every day of the week, and I can be reached at diane@chicago-voicecenter.com."

See chicagovoicecenter.com for more information.

Memorial events for Bernard J. Brommel in Nov., Dec.

There will be two memorial events for Dr. Bernard J. Brommel coming up in the near future—one in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and one in Chicago.

—On Saturday, Nov. 10,, in Kalamazoo, there will be a tea in his memory at 2-4 p.m. in the Auditorium of The Fountains, 1700 Bronson Way. (Those who plan on attending must put Bronson WAY in their GPS, as there are several other Bronsons in Kalamazoo.)

—On Saturday, Dec. 1, at 1 pm, there will be a memorial tribute in Chicago in the Alumni Hall of the Student Union, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. Saint Louis Ave.

Brommel—a retired Northeastern Illinois University professor, therapist and philanthropist—passed away Sept. 22 in Kalamazoo. His obituary is at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Bernard-Brommel-passes-away-at-88/64226.html>.

Michelle Obama giving book-tour tickets to groups

Michelle Obama and Live Nation have announced a selection of the local and community organizations that will receive free admission to the former first lady's upcoming book tour, *Becoming: An Intimate Conversation With*



Michelle Obama.
Photo courtesy of Live Nation

Michelle Obama.
Obama's tour kicks off Tuesday, Nov. 13, in Chicago's United Center.

Among the groups receiving free admission are local organizations Chicago CRED (Creating Real Economic Destiny), formed to reduce Chicago gun violence; and Bottom Line, which addresses the low college graduation rates of low-income and first-generation students.

The tour feature intimate and honest conversations between Obama and a selection of to-be-announced moderators, reflective of the stories shared in her book.

See LiveNationEntertainment.com.



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Ex-Neo Nazi talks about what spurred him to change

BY THERESA VOLPE

To look into the eyes of Christian Picciolini—eyes that seem to smile in a nonthreatening and empathetic way—one would probably not believe at the age of 16 he led one of the most violent Neo-Nazi hate groups in the world. However, listening to his story, one might believe that redemption is possible.

Picciolini is the co-founder of Life After Hate, a non-profit organization working to help individuals exit hate groups through outreach, intervention, and education. He has assisted more than 100 people to disengage from hate movements. He is an Emmy-Award winning director and producer, and the author of *White American Youth: My Descent into America's Most Violent Hate Movement—and How I Got Out* (Hatchett Books, 2018). Picciolini, a Chicagoan, travels the world sharing his story.

Picciolini's story served as the centerpiece at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's first College Leadership Summit on Oct. 12—an event that attracted more than 100 college attendees interested in social justice and advocacy work.

At a time when the president of the United States is calling himself a “nationalist,” has a history of defending the Alt-Right, and leans towards dividing the country into us and them, it's only fitting Picciolini's message be spoken in a place of remembrance like the Illinois Holocaust Museum which is “dedicated to combating hatred, prejudice, and indifferences.”

“I've had the honor to speak at Holocaust museums all over the world. But speaking in Skokie is extra powerful for me because there is the history of Nazi's wanting to march here in the 1970s,” Picciolini said. “The most important thing is the museum is capturing the story of survivors.”

According to Picciolini, the Holocaust is like ancient history to the young people he works with. There is a disconnect. The Illinois Holocaust Museum is the first museum in the world to utilize three-dimensional technology to preserve Holocaust survivor's stories in the exhibit, The Survivor Story Experience shown in its holographic theater.

“The hologram exhibit keeps the Holocaust real and the story in the public,” Picciolini added.

Standing in front of a giant screen displaying a younger, somber Picciolini—eyes narrowed, arm stretched out giving a Heil Hitler salute—Picciolini recounted for students the turmoil he was going through when he decided to join the Chicago Area Skinheads (CASH) at 14 after being approached by Clark Martel, the leader of CASH, in a Blue Island alley in 1987 while smoking a joint. Picciolini had a normal childhood with loving Italian immigrant parents. But his parents were often too busy working to pay attention to him, and Picciolini rebelled. “I felt lonely and isolated. Like all young people, I was searching for identity, community and purpose,” said Pic-

ciolini.

“If a baseball coach had approached me that day and asked me to play ball, I would have chosen to play ball over the Neo-Nazi. Somebody paid attention to me that day and made me feel important.”

Targeting the broken and marginalized kid, explains Picciolini, is how extremists continue to recruit young people, and it's easier than ever via the internet. Extremists will look to online mental health and depression forums or gaming sites seeking out new members. That's why Picciolini is currently combating online extremist recruitment through his organization, the Free Radicals Project.

During the Obama administration, Picciolini applied for a \$400,000 government grant meant to fund programs working to end extremism. He learned his organization, along with 37 others, would receive the funding. While most organizations dealt with Islamic extremism, Picciolini's organization was the sole group focusing on white supremacists. But days after the Trump administration took office, Picciolini received a letter rescinding the award, with no explanation.

Picciolini told the story of Grace, a 17-year old Florida girl who was radicalized online, to drive home the necessity for this kind of work. Grace had met what she thought was a 21 year-old boy from Idaho online. They began dating him. He coerced her into making Neo-Nazi propaganda and other hate-related videos. When Grace's parents recognized she was deep into the ideology, they contacted Picciolini. With very little information, Picciolini discovered the man was a 35-year-old from Moscow who was fooling 12 other girls, the youngest being 14. He had explicit photos of the girls and threatened to reveal the photos, if the girls didn't do as he asked. Picciolini turned over the information he had uncovered to the FBI a few weeks before the presidential election in October 2016. He hasn't heard from the FBI since.

Grace's story does not end there. Picciolini never argues with or tries to discount the beliefs of the extremists he works with. Instead, Picciolini makes a human connection by introducing extremist to the people they think they hate. Grace's new best friend is 96-year-old Holocaust survivor, Elsie. “The two talk all the time,” said Picciolini. “Grace recently started college and is doing great. It would not have happened if Grace hadn't opened her eyes and wanted to meet Elsie.”

Picciolini has accomplished these feats by first listening to what drove the person towards the movement in the first place: stories of sexual abuse, poverty, mental disorder and even privilege where folks shut themselves off from diverse communities and never get to know people. Through his organization, Picciolini provides job training, education, life coaching, psychological therapy, and other means needed to be rehabilitated from the movement.

Picciolini also addressed how the Trump administration's discriminating messages about



Christian Picciolini.

Photo by Theresa Volpe

LGBTQ issues, particularly those pertaining to the transgender community has helped fuel far-right extremists, saying the messages amplify what far-right extremists have always said. “It's about them making those who are the “other” appear sub-human. Laws such as the attempt to ban transgender people from the military essentially dehumanize peoples' ability to participate in daily activities applies to the far-right extremist's message,” Picciolini confirms. “They [the Alt Right] feel very emboldened by it. The whole Make America Great Again message does not include gay people, or equal rights for African-Americans, or for immigrants. Where the Trump

Administration is not coming out and specifically saying, We are white nationalists and this is a white nationalist message, they've taken the message and made it more palpable. But it's still very exclusive to anybody, but white males.”

Picciolini was quick to point out the white nationalist movement is not exclusive to gay people. “I know plenty of gay people who are part of the Alt Right who share these ideas. Traditionally, they were very exclusive, but it seems lately some of the pundits who are influential as far as messaging and propaganda goes, are gay. This is not something that is separate from gay people,” he said.

When asked what the LGBTQ community can do to help stomp out LGBTQ hate messaging from the far-right extremist movement, Picciolini was clear. “If you want to combat hate, it's not about disproving what they believe in with words. It's with actions. People who hate need to come to the conclusion they are wrong by themselves because telling somebody their wrong doesn't always work. People don't like to be told they are wrong. However, if they come to that conclusion themselves, it takes because it's genuine,” he said.

“The only way people can come to that conclusion is if we are kinder, more empathetic and more compassionate with one another. If we listen to the other person's heart instead of their words, then maybe we'll find out more about each other,” says Picciolini. “If we made it a point to look at each other in the eye and judge each other with our eyes instead of everything else, eyes are the same, they don't lie.”

More about the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's holographic Survivor Stories Experience is at <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>. To learn more about Christian Picciolini, visit <https://www.christianpicciolini.com/>.

Events planned around Veterans Day

The American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Chicago Chapter will hold its annual **LGBTQ Veterans Day Dinner** Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Ann Sather Restaurant at 909 W Belmont Ave Chicago. The dinner speaker will be Vanessa Sheridan, author, performer and Director of Gender Equity and Inclusion at Center on Halsted. RSVP to Jim Darby at 773-752-0058 .n or jamesdarby@aol.com. More at www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/.

On Nov. 10, a **remembrance ceremony will be held at the grave of Allen Schindler**, a sailor who was murdered by shipmates in 1992 for being gay. Dorothy Hadjys-Holman, the sailor's mother, will participate. The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at Evergreen Hill Memorial Park in , Steger, IL 773-752-0058. More information at www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/?ref=br_rs.

The Center on Halsted's second annual **Trans Military Appreciation Symposium** will honor and demonstrate support transgender military personnel, transgender veterans, and families. Speakers are Master Sergeant Erika Stoltz, Army Reservist with 33 years of active service, and

Dr. Jennifer Coleman, Rush University Medical Center's Road Home Program/Center for Veterans. There will also be representation from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, and Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Free Admission 7 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago. More information at www.community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/transmilitaryappreciation?erid=8957853&trid=5c1cba5c-3646-4aa5-9dad-4f97dfdb4f60

On Nov. 17. AVER will also take part in the **Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band Fall Concert “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.”** From 1993-2011, the U.S. government kept gay, lesbian and bisexual soldiers in the closet with “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.” The Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band will perform a military-themed band repertoire, with compositions by gay and lesbian composers. The concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at DePaul School of Music's Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N Halsted St., Chicago. Veterans and members of AVER who attend with AVER may RSVP though AVER at secretary@averchicago.org for a limited number of courtesy tickets. More information and \$10 tickets for general admission at <http://lakesidepride.org/dadt>.

My boss fired me from my funeral-home job for being transgender

VIEWPOINT BY AIMEE STEPHENS

I was in funeral services for nearly three decades before I was fired in 2013 for being transgender. In March, a federal appeals court agreed that it was wrong to fire me just because of who I am. Now, the Supreme Court will consider whether to review that court ruling.

While studying to be a pastor in college, I needed a job, and I found one in a funeral home. There are a lot of different ministries people can pursue, and I realized comforting people during one of the most vulnerable points in their lives was my ministry. Some of my co-workers became my closest friends. It meant a lot to me that one co-worker once trusted me to handle the funeral arrangements for a family member.

My performance reviews were always positive. For the nearly seven years I worked specifically at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, I received regular raises, including one just a few months before I was fired.

My whole life, I tried to live as a man. Eventually, I told my wife Donna the truth: I am a woman. She encouraged me to see a therapist, who I expected to tell me something was wrong with me. But after a few sessions, she told me there was nothing wrong with me. In fact, she helped me think through the steps I could take to become more comfortable expressing myself.

It started with going grocery shopping dressed as a woman, and then going out to eat with Donna. I remember when we first walked into a restaurant. Everybody naturally looked up to see who was coming in. There were no comments from anyone, and I felt relief. The more time I spent being me, the more I finally started feeling right.

There were rough patches—like being shunned from our church. I was worried about family members and how they would take the information about my identity. So was Donna. But both our families have been more understanding than either of us could have expected.



Aimee Stephens.
Photo by Charles William Kelly/ACLU

Deciding to share my identity with my employer followed a lifelong journey to understand my gender. I knew, from around five years old, that I was different, even though there was no internet to help make sense of what was going on with me. As a child, I would swipe some of mom's clothes as she was discarding them. It was nice to wear them and feel like the real version of myself, even for a just a few minutes.

It took longer to talk to my coworkers. One day, in November 2012, I felt that I couldn't go any further. I couldn't come out at work—I had overheard coworkers make derogatory remarks at times and I didn't feel I could face them. But I also couldn't keep living two lives. I felt ready to kill myself, because I couldn't think of a way out.

After a long hour, I realized I had too much to live for. I put down the gun that had been in

my hand and picked up a pen. I started writing a letter to my co-workers, a letter that I would eventually hand to my boss.

The first coworkers I told were ready to support me, which made me feel so much better. A few months later, I handed my boss the letter while sitting in the chapel of the funeral home. It said that after an upcoming vacation, I would start using the name Aimee and following the home's dress code requirements for women. My boss didn't say anything at the time.

A couple weeks later, he came up to me and said, "This isn't going to work." He handed me a letter with a severance package.

I had given almost seven years of my life to the funeral home, offering countless families comfort when they needed it most. Being discarded so coldly was hard to understand. With the help of

the ACLU, I sued my former employer for bias.

My case made its way up, and when the federal appeals court said this past March that what happened to me was both wrong and illegal, I started to see that not only did I have the support of my wife Donna and many of our family and friends, something not all transgender people have—but I had the support of the law.

I brought this lawsuit, in part, to extend that support to all transgender people. No one should be fired because of who they are. I hope the Supreme Court sees the same.

This piece is online at <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/transgender-rights/my-boss-fired-me-my-funeral-home-job-being-transgender>.

This article was run with permission from the ACLU.

2nd Annual 'Sleep Out' Nov. 15

Covenant House Illinois (CHIL) will host its 2nd Annual Sleep Out on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at St. James Commons, 65 E. Huron St.

Members of the community, celebrities, business leaders and young professionals will come together to raise funds and awareness for Chicago's homeless, trafficked and at-risk youth by sleeping outside.

Now an international human-rights movement, Sleep Out spans 19 Covenant House sites across the United States and Canada. On

this one night, thousands of participants (aka "Sleepers") will give up the comfort and security of home and spend the night outside so that, one day, no youth will have to.

In addition, a candlelight vigil will take place at 6 p.m., and will feature youth and community advocates as attendees light a candle to raise visibility for homeless and at-risk youth.

With a goal of \$200,000, this year's event aims to expand on the success of Chicago's inaugural event, which raised more than \$160,000.

Visit CovenantHouseIL.org or call 312-759-7875.

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Late gay artist's identity, politics intersect at MoCP

BY JAKE WITTICH

Several small portraits of collage artist Ralph Arnold hang at the entrance of the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), 600 S. Michigan Ave. In one, he wears an African Kufi hat. In another, he portrays the persona of a macho, tough guy. A third portrait shows Arnold dressed as a cowboy, and the list of characters he's performing continues.

These are just some of the many hats of Ralph Arnold, a black, gay Korean War veteran and prominent artist in Chicago in the '60s and '70s. They're part of the museum's latest exhibition, "The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold: Art, Identity and Politics," which examines the late artist's more personal works and impact on the city's art scene. Arnold went on to teach at Loyola University of Chicago into the '80s and '90s until he died in 2006.

Arnold's work in the gallery explores themes of identity and politics through three-dimensional photo collages, which Curator and Columbia College Chicago Associate Professor Gregory Foster-Rice said is both a technique and metaphor for his identity.

"In the same way collages tend to be overlapping and drawn from different source materials, his own identities as a queer man of color who is also a veteran are all intertwined," Foster-Rice said. "The term we use for that today is intersectionality."

One section of the exhibition examines how Arnold used his art to explore the intersections of his identities, using bags as a symbol for these identifying factors. A collage titled "Star Bag" features a blue bag with red stars that Arnold made and plastered on the canvas. Another piece, a sketch of Arnold by artist Jerry Torn, depicts Arnold carrying a bag that says "The Bag" on its side.

"He addresses the bag like it's a vessel for your identity that you can swap out," Foster-Rice said. "It's this idea that there's no core identity, but a series of identities you're enacting in front of different audiences."

Foster-Rice added that just because Arnold was a queer man of color, not all of his works had to be about his identities. In one piece, "Celebration," Arnold addressed expectations that his work must always be about his race by creating an abstract collage of crayon, watercolor and graphite pencil that bore no indications of his race.

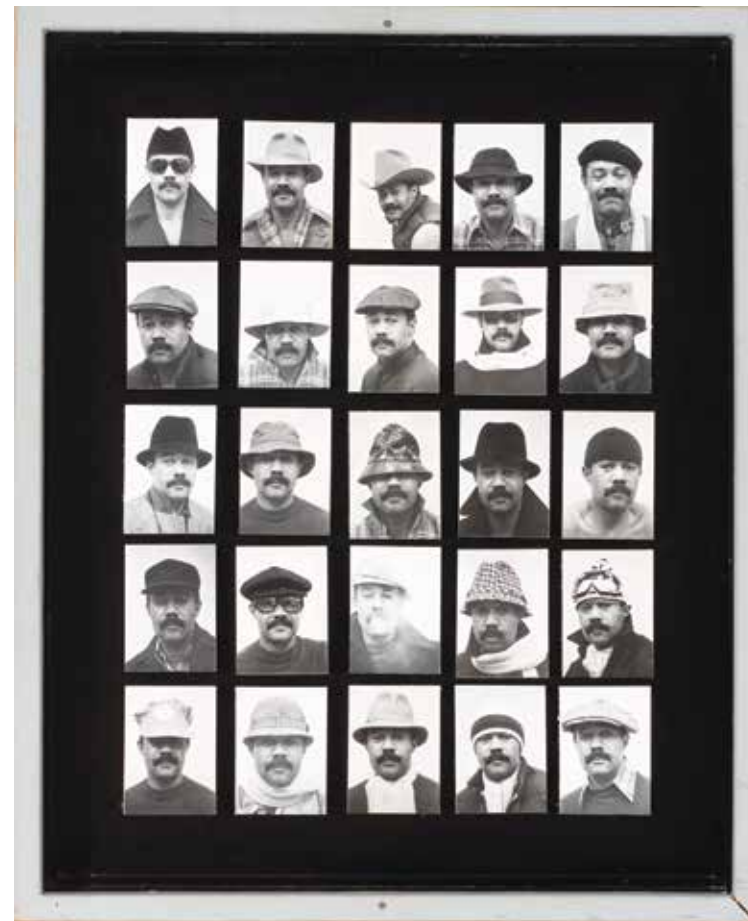
"We're not going to argue that his identity and identity politics is suddenly the prism through which you can understand his work," Foster-Rice said. "What's significant about some pieces is that his identity would seem to have no place within it, which makes the argument that the community of artists in this area during the '60s and '70s was much more diverse than we give them credit for."

Foster-Rice said he hopes viewers not only learn about Arnold's contributions to the city's art scene, but that they also understand how the artist's work is still relevant today, whether it's through his exploration of intersectionality or fearlessness to address civil rights issues from his time period.

In "Unfinished Collage," a giant, three-panel, triangular collage hanging near the center of the gallery, Arnold explores violence stemming from political divisiveness. The first two panels examine the progressive civil-rights agendas and eventual assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, while the third panel features a blank canvas, meant to invoke the question of "who's next?," according to Foster-Rice.

"When we were preparing for this show three years ago, we knew it would have remarkable resonance with today's climate," Foster-Rice said. "But it was unsettling how this piece suddenly had more resonance after the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting and pipe bombs being mailed to President Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other leaders, all within the last month."

The exhibition aims to further link Arnold's work to today by featuring works by contemporary artists similar to Arnold in a companion show, "Echoes: Reframing Collage," curated by



The work *The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold*. Photo courtesy of Angela and George Jacobi

MoCP's chief curator and deputy director Karen Irvine. The upstairs gallery features work that is similar to Arnold's both thematically and in technique by artists Ayanah Mary, Krista Franklin, Wardell Milan, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Paul Mpigi Sepuya and Xaviera Simmons.

"The gallery enriches the experience of the Ralph Arnold show by exploring the continued relevance of his concerns with identity, politics and civil rights and updating them with contemporary artists for contemporary audiences," Irvine said.

Moor, an associate professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, said she had never heard of Arnold before Irvine approached her to participate in the exhibition. Moor said in learning about Arnold's life, she started thinking about things she had in common with him and

created two pieces in response to his work.

"He was someone like who was black, identified as queer and operated within academia," Moor said. "There are aspects of that story that really resonated with me, and his mixed-media approach is similar to my art style."

"The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold" exhibition will be on display at the MoCP through Friday, Dec. 21. Sepuya will give a lecture on his work featured in the gallery at 6 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 7, at Columbia's State Two, 618 S. Michigan Ave. On Nov. 8, Foster-Rice will participate in a Chicago Humanities Festival panel discussion on the intersection of violence and art at 6 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. The MoCP will also present a video playlist of works relating to Arnold's art at 6 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 14, at the MoCP.

CHANGE from page 4

The uncontested Democratic races included incumbent Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Karen A. Yarbrough for clerk, incumbent Sheriff Thomas J. Dart, incumbent Treasurer Maria Pappas and for commissioners—Brandon Johnson (1), Dennis Deer (2), incumbent Stanley S. Moore (4), incumbent Deborah Sims (5), Donna Miller (6), Alma E. Anaya (7), incumbent Bridget Gainer (10), Bridget Degnan (12), incumbent Jeffrey R. Tobolski (16) and Cook County Board of Review commissioner candidates Michael Cabonargi (2) and Larry Rogers Jr. (3), both of whom are incumbents.

In the Metropolitan Water Reclamation Dis-

trict (MWRD) six year term race Democrats Debra Shore, Kari K. Steele and Marcelino Garcia won against Republicans R. Cary Capparelli and Shundar Lin and Green party candidates Christopher Anthony, Karen Roothaan and Tammie Felicia Vinsion. Shore received 26 percent of the vote, Steele got 23 percent of the vote and Garcia garnered 22 percent of the vote.

Two other MWRD races for two-year unexpired terms saw Democratic candidate Kimberly Neely Dubuclet beat Green party candidate Rachel Wales with 77 percent of the vote while Democratic candidate M. Cameron "Cam" Davis beat Green party candidate Geoffrey Cabbage with 79 percent of the vote. Davis will take over the seat that the late Timothy Bradford held before his

untimely death last winter.

Gains for state LGBTs

This year a record number of LGBT candidates ran for office nationwide.

Following the primaries where, according to the LGBTQ Victory Fund, 627 LGBT people ran for office across the country, 399 of them moved onto the general election. Of these, 11 LGBT people were on the ballot Nov. 6 in the Chicagoland area.

Incumbent Democratic state Rep. Sam Yingling (62nd District) ran against Republican Ken Idstein in what the Yingling campaign considered a tight race. Yingling won with 55.8 percent of the vote.

"We are very proud of our hard work fighting

back against Dan Frost and his right-wing funders who peddle in bigotry and intolerance," said Yingling. "I look forward to continuing to serve the people of my district and fight for the equality of all communities in the state."

Two new LGBT candidates were on the ballot for state representative seats—Democrat Lamont Robinson Jr. (5), who ran unopposed, and Democrat Margaret Trevor, who ran against incumbent Republican Thomas Morrison (54). Morrison currently has 50.5 percent versus Trevor's 49.5 percent in a tight race that is yet to be called for either candidate.

"I want to thank the voters in the 5th district for making history and sending me to the Illinois

Turn to page 15

Affinity event good as 'Gold'

BY VERNON HESTER

Affinity Community Services held its second annual "Black Gold: A Casino Night" at The Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center on Nov. 3. The event featured an open bar, a DJ and dance floor, a raffle, a buffet menu and, of course, a variety of

casino games and card dealers. Entertainer Trina Truluv emceed the event.

Among the items featured in the raffle were a theater package from About Face and Victory Gardens Theaters, a deluxe in-home wine tasting and spirits package, a private tour and special cocktail hour at CD Distillery, and a "treat yourself" package which included items from Estee Lauder, Asrai Gardens and Early to Bed. Among the many attendees were mayoral candidates Toni Preckwinkle (who is Cook County board president) and Lori Lightfoot.

Sponsors for the event included United Airlines, About Face Theater, Sky Chicago, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health, Victory Gardens Theater, Early to Bed, CD Distillery and Asrai Gardens with drink sponsorship provided by Sidetrack Video Bar and MillersCoors.

Affinity Community Services is a social justice organization that works with and on behalf of Black LGBTQ communities, queer youth and allies to identify emergent needs, create safe spaces, develop leaders and bridge communities.



Above: Mona Noriega, Lori Lightfoot and Imani Rupert-Gordon.
Below: Antonio King, Toni Preckwinkle and guest.
Photos by Vernon Hester



CHANGE from page 14

House to fight for affordable and accessible health care, strong education, economic development and jobs, good housing and safe streets," said Robinson. "These issues united us in the 5th district, which runs from 79th Street on the South Side to Division Street on the North Side and is made up of all walks of life. I am excited to bring together my experiences as an educator, small business owner, director of a non-profit and the first gay African American ever elected to the Illinois legislature to fight for these issues on behalf of the 5th District and all Illinoisans."

Incumbents running unopposed were Democratic state Reps. Greg Harris (13) and, for the first time, Kelly Cassidy (14).

In the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner races, two Democratic LGBT candidates ran for a six year term—incumbent Debra Shore and newcomer Marcelino Garcia. Shore, Garcia and Democratic candidate Kari K. Steele won their races, each with over 20 percent of the vote.

"I am proud and humbled to be selected by voters to serve another term," said Shore. "With the election of my running mates, we have a strong conservation caucus on the Board to protect

our precious freshwater resources, work to make Cook County more resilient in the face of climate change, and improve quality of life for people throughout the county."

"I am proud and excited to join the MWRD board to ensure that our citizen's health and safety are always front and center, said Garcia. "Throughout this process, I learned that if you do not push and make your voices heard, even the establishment will take you and your communities for granted. I think that my voice will represent the voice of many and I hope to work with my colleagues for the betterment of institutions and our citizens."

One Cook County Commissioner race saw gay Democratic candidate Kevin Morrison face off against incumbent Republican Timothy Owen Schneider (15), who also serves as the Illinois Republican party chair. Morrison won with 53.9 percent versus Schneider's 46.1 percent.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Cecilia Horan (Hartigan vacancy) ran unopposed.

Two judges running for retention seats—Mike McHale and Mary Colleen Roberts will stay on the bench with McHale receiving 71.8 percent and Roberts at 80.1 percent of the vote.

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viewpoints



Housing denied: 'Biblical marriage,' fair housing and LGBT equality

Mary Walsh and Beverly Nance have been together for 40 years and have lived in St. Louis all their lives. They became familiar with Friendship Village Sunset Hills after visiting friends and, after multiple visits and extensive research, they filled out an application and paid a \$2,000 deposit. What should have been their first step in moving to a new home instead became a nightmare when the retirement community refused the couple, saying that they follow the "Biblical definition" of marriage.

According to the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)—which, along with the ACLU of Missouri and Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC, filed a lawsuit on the couple's behalf—"Friendship Village is not affiliated with or operated by any religion or religious order; it is open to the public and does not inquire about the religious beliefs or affiliations of residents. Walsh and Nance considered seeking housing elsewhere, but Friendship Village is the only senior housing community in St. Louis that can provide increased levels of care without an increased

monthly cost to residents."

According to the complaint, Friendship Village violated the federal Fair Housing Act and Missouri Human Rights Act by discriminating against Walsh and Nance on the basis of sex, denying them a unit because they are a same-sex married couple.

"The horrible discrimination experienced by this older lesbian couple—for something as basic as senior housing—is a stark reminder of the challenges that many LGBT elders face," said SAGE CEO Michael Adams. "We know that this story is far from unique. Research shows that 45 percent of same-sex couples who apply for senior housing in Missouri are discriminated against. This lawsuit will help ensure that Mary and Bev—and all older same-sex couples—will have the same access to senior housing as everybody else."

Many facilities do provide quality care for LGBT older adults. However, there exists a coordinated nationwide effort to pass religious exemption laws and policies, and file lawsuits that would allow individuals, businesses, and even government contractors and grantees to use these religious exemptions to discriminate against a range of communities, including LGBT elders. Earlier this year, the Trump administration established the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division at the Department of Health & Human Services to shield medical providers who deny care based on religious or moral beliefs.

Older LGBT adults are particularly vulnerable to discrimination because religiously affiliated organizations provide a majority of the services they rely on for their most basic needs. Approximately 85 percent of nonprofit continuing-care retirement communities are affiliated with a religion. Religiously-

ly affiliated facilities provide the greatest number of affordable housing units that serve low-income seniors, and 14 percent of hospitals in the United States are religiously affiliated, accounting for 17 percent of all the country's hospital beds.

"Bev and Mary faced painful discrimination—and would not have if either of them were instead married to a man," said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter. "This story demonstrates the severity of the discrimination and harm that members of our community still face daily."

Join SAGE and NCLR at a community briefing to learn about the issues raised in this lawsuit from national and local experts. The briefing will be offered twice—once on Chicago's South Side hosted by Affinity Community Services and once on the North Side hosted by Howard Brown Health Center. Speakers will include Paula Basta, senior service director, Chicago Housing Authority; Donald Bell, activist and advocate, Senior Voice; Kim Hunt, executive director, Pride Action Tank; Amy Whelan, senior staff attorney, NCLR; and Serena Worthington, director of national field initiatives, SAGE.

The meetings are:

—Wed., Nov. 14, 2-4 p.m., Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave., #108; and

—Wed., Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m., Howard Brown Health Center Atrium, 6500 N. Clark St.

Serena Worthington is the director of national field initiatives at SAGE, where she oversees SAGE's national affiliate network, facilitates state-based policy advocacy on LGBT aging issues, and enhances the capacity of partner organizations across the country to work effectively on behalf of LGBT older people.

letters

Dear community members,

We are saddened by the senseless terrorist attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

It feels like we are living in a nightmare, grieving for the victims and their families. We are sorry for them, and we are sorry for our nation. Horrific acts of antisemitism and other forms of bigotry and hatred, for example, the domestic terror massacre at Mother Emmanuel Church, are increasingly scarring our country and world. They are pure evil, perpetrated by evil and stoked by evil, hateful rhetoric.

One of the few things that can offer solace at these

dark moments is coming together as a community. The Museum family has received caring messages of support and solidarity from DuSable Museum, The Muslim Community Center Interfaith and Outreach Committee, Syria Faith Initiative and more.

While answers feel elusive, we must fight this evil together. We must redouble our efforts as a community, nation and world to find our common ground and recognize our common humanity. We must hold accountable those who speak of the "other" and disparage groups of our fellow human beings.

Words matter, and those in positions of power must wield them thoughtfully and as tools to re-

pair our world. We can and we must use our voices and our privileges as citizens to demand leaders who help us create peaceful communities built not on hate but on tolerance and mutual respect and who help us work towards the day when never again is a reality.

Fritzie Fritzsball
President, Illinois Holocaust Museum

Susan Abrams
CEO, Illinois Holocaust Museum

Send columns or letters to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING LoveYourWebsite.com (Lead programmer: Martie Marro)
PRESIDENT Tracy Baim
(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
Editorial: andrew@windycitymediagroup.com
Sales: terri@windycitymediagroup.com
Calendar: calendar@windycitymediagroup.com
Circulation: jean@windycitymediagroup.com
Art/ad copy: kirk@windycitymediagroup.com
Theater: cateysullivan25@gmail.com

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Window of
Women and
Children First.
Photo by Sarah
Hindmarch

THEATER REVIEW

The Last Session

Playwright: Steve Schaalchlin, music/lyrics: Jim Brochu, book; John Bettis/Marie Cain, additional lyrics

At: Refuge Theatre Project @ Atlas Art Studio, 4809 N. Ravenswood Ave.

Tickets: RefugeTheatre.com; \$30

Runs through: Dec. 2

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Four extremely gifted performers power through a dozen songs in this gospel-rock flavored chamber musical, written and set in 1997 at the height (or depth) of the AIDS crisis, when tens of thousands of Americans still were dying each year. Very much of its time period, *The Last Session* is dated but still has emotional power, similar to other "AIDS plays" such as *The Normal Heart* and *As Is*.

Unlike those plays, *The Last Session* has a restricted setting: one night in a small Los Angeles recording studio where singer-songwriter Gideon



Darilyn Burtley, Liz Bolla and Ryan Armstrong in *The Last Session*.

Photo by Rob Riddle of Ghost Light Foto

Wells (Erik Pearson), a self-described one-hit-wonder, is recording his last tracks with three

back-up singers. Gideon has AIDS and plans to commit suicide, unable to endure the ravages of the disease and the terrible side-effects of then-available drugs (AZT). His unseen lover of 13 years doesn't know his plan, but Gideon's studio engineer (Benjamin Baylon) and back-up singers—two gals and a guy—eventually do and try to dissuade him.

Spicing the stew is substitute backup singer Buddy (Ryan Armstrong), a very young, Bible-carrying Baptist. "A man can't be a Christian and a homosexual," he says when he learns Gideon—whom Buddy idolizes—is gay. Even though the show's world is small, no character is fully-explored or developed, not even Gideon, but Buddy is the least dimensional and believable (no fault of Armstrong's). A singer-songwriter himself, he's a gospel star pursuing a crossover career in LA, and yet he's naïve about gays, booze, drugs, sex and humor. Just a little much.

Of course, much exposition and emotion is channeled into the songs and most are gang-busters. In Act I, "The Preacher and the Nurse" fills in Gideon's backstory, while Act II's "Friendly

Fire"—the shows' centerpiece number—powerfully describes one's body at war with itself from AIDS and nearly-poisonous drugs which cannot cure. Each back-up singers has several solos—Gideon is improbably generous in this respect—which allow them to display feelings and emotions beyond their diva bickering between songs (some of which is funny-bitchy but often sounds artificial).

The only musical accompaniment is Gideon at the piano (Pearson also is the production's musical director), which is more than sufficient to drive the powerful vocals by Pearson, Armstrong and Darilyn Burtley (as Trishia) and Elizabeth Bollar (as Vicki). The women also adroitly deliver most of the laugh lines. Director Christopher Pazdernik has staged the show—which has no dance element and little scenery—very simply in the intimate Atlas Art Studio, the effect being that you're in the session with the artists.

FYI: *The Last Session* is heavily autobiographical. Schaalchlin was at death's door in 1997 but survived with new medications. He's 65 today and an ardent LGBTQ activist.

THEATER REVIEW

Lady in Denmark

Playwright: Dael Orlandersmith

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: GoodmanTheatre.org;

312-443-3800; \$15-\$45

Runs through: Nov. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Historical fiction typically recounts its chronicles from the vantage of a humble witness whose proximity coincidentally enables them to observe—perhaps even participate in—the significant events under scrutiny.

The event in Dael Orlandersmith's solo play is

the 1954 European tour of iconic jazz vocalist Billie Holiday, called "Lady Day" by her fans—specifically, an incident documented in her autobiography describing how, following a concert appearance in Copenhagen, Denmark, a local doctor and his teenage daughter invited her to their house for a post-show dinner, and how the welcome extended her by these "plain good people" was so different from the treatment of African-Americans in the United States.

All right, so a glimpse of domestic life in a foreign country, the celebrity status of the glimpse notwithstanding, may not represent an earth-shaking cataclysm, but to our narrator—whom we learn is the doctor's teenage daughter Helene, now a widow living in Andersonville, Chicago's gateway district for Scandinavian immigrants—the multicultural implications are manifest. For

her fellow Danes, chafing under the Nazi occupation, the music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington, whether captured on vinyl records or replicated by local bands in smoke-filled "underground" clubs, proclaimed a freedom as profound as that embraced by expatriate artists of color fleeing North American injustice.

For young Helene, too, Billie Holiday's pain, given voice in songs like "God Bless The Child" and "Strange Fruit," becomes a source of solace—especially now, as our hostess pauses in the cleanup of what would have been an 80th birthday party for her beloved husband, who died a mere three weeks earlier (after instructing his bereaved wife to continue with plans for the anniversary celebration) to share her memories with us and look to her gardenia-bedecked and needle-scarred guardian angel for comfort in her

loneliness.

As archeologists postulate entire civilizations on a minimum of physical evidence, so has Orlandersmith fabricated a fascinating (if still in need of some tightening) backstory, replete with wry humor and unflinching candor transcending racial boundaries. The only structural flaw in the text at its premiere is Helene's too-frequent bouts of melancholy over her recent loss. A woman who lives as fiercely as the one we have met deserves a better takeaway than a lingering farewell by a hospital bed and prognostications of a joyless future.

CRITICS' PICKS

Rock 'N' Roll, The Artistic Home, through Nov. 18. Tom Stoppard's clever play channels the collapse of European Communism through rock music, centered on a Czech idealist and a British Communist. It's vigorously and intimately staged and performed. JA

The Scientific Method, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, through Dec. 2. Sexism, racism and backbiting in academic circles may not be big news nowadays, but when the arena is a laboratory for scientific research, even a cure for cancer can be held hostage. MSB

1776, Porchlight Music Theatre at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Nov. 14-15. Porchlight Revisits presents a concert version of 1776, with a killer cast that includes Joseph Anthony Foronda as Benjamin Franklin and Heather Townsend as John Dickinson. CES

Neverland, Prop Thtr, through Dec. 2; Peter Pan, Bros Do Prose at the Mercury Theater, through Dec. 23. You've got two Peter Pan options this month, with Prop and Bros Do Prose both telling the story of the boy who refused to grow up. If you're a J.M. Barrie aficionado, this is your season. CES

—by Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan

MUSICAL REVIEW

An Oak Tree

By: Tim Crouch

At: The Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

Tickets: RedTheater.org; \$20-\$22

Runs through: Dec. 9

BY SARAH KATHERINE BOWDEN

Red Theater's *An Oak Tree* opens with one actor announcing the concept of the performance.

Gage Wallace, also known as The Hypnotist, explains that he has memorized and rehearsed the play. The second actor invited onto the stage has never attended a single rehearsal or even read the script. At each performance, the second actor will be played by a different Chicago artist. Such high-wire theatricality is a staple for Red Theater, but its deployment in one of the Athenaeum Theatre's small studio spaces makes for an intimate and quizzical experience.

The opening-night performance saw Cruz Gon-

zalez-Cadel as the second performer. Wallace informed Gonzalez-Cadel that she was playing the father of a little girl who died in a car accident, in which Wallace was the driver. Gonzalez-Cruz has appeared during Wallace's hypnotist show, and is looking for a reckoning.

Director Jeremy Aluma, who also worked with Red on *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, is a good match for Tim Crouch's discursive script. Bits of dialogue that involve the actors speaking in character are interspersed with moments where the second actor questions motives and emotions and asks basic script questions one might have in a rehearsal. Aluma keeps Wallace confident but light, having him simply and humorously engage his scene partner with clear encouragement about a tough exercise. Aluma keeps the staging simple, with Wallace pantomiming other characters experiencing hypnosis onstage, and with overturned chairs forming the obstacles that pop up between the characters. A piano stool comes to mean far more than it initially seems by play's end.

Wallace has a good-natured way about him,

which makes him a safe guide for the evening, as he asks Gonzalez-Cadel to repeat dialogue he proclaims, or asks his scene partner to take a seat or stand to the side. Gonzalez-Cadel was open and strong in their choices during the performance, no easy feat when one doesn't know what emotional experiences will be had during an evening. One of the curious things about this performance piece is that Wallace whispers many directions to the second actor, so the audience isn't actually privy to the full experience being shared. In some ways, we are left in the dark a bit about the process, just as we would be during the alchemy of a more traditional performance. And that confuses the central metaphor about belief and creation a bit.

Set designer Alex Casillas frames the stage with red curtains, giving the show a vaudeville, punchy feel, while Abby Beggs' lights and John Nichols III's sound generate an ethereal series of flashbacks. If the production seems half-planned and half-spontaneous, and we must jump between the two, it remains worth the leap.



Courtney Williams in *The Scientific Method*.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW The Scientific Method

By: Jenny Connell Davis
At: Rivendell Theatre Ensemble,
5779 N. Ridge Ave.
Tickets: RivendellTheatre.org, \$28-\$38
Runs through: Dec. 2

BY PAIGE LISTERUD

Scientific research within academia is going through its own #MeToo moment, as surely as its counterparts in entertainment, politics and the corporate world. Add to that the complications

of a small, inbred, competitive scientific community, scrambling for funding, assured of its exceptionalism, and entrenched in male-dominated hierarchy, and you have the domain of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's world premiere production, *The Scientific Method*, directed by Devon de Mayo.

Playwright Jenny Connell Davis explores this world without the more egregious crisis of sexual harassment and, for the most part, that is an extremely wise choice. Her heroine, academic cancer researcher Amy Lee (Ashley Neal), must contend with the subtle and not so subtle professional sabotage dealt her by male colleagues and heads of the department. Reserving the focus on sexual harassment for another day, especially for this hothouse academic environment, allows us

a clearer view of the twisty, thorny Gordian knot of gender discrimination that threatens to choke Amy's hopes for progress, let alone graduation, within her field.

After six years doing cancer research for her Ph.D. thesis, extended an extra 10 months by her head professor Julian Millard (Josh Odor), Amy's work is "scooped" by a competing lab publishing before her. Julian tries to solace her by dismissing her setback as the risks of their field, but further action slowly reveals his bias. He consigns Amy to a study that the rest of the lab jokingly refers to as the "white mice mess," meanwhile, promoting Danilo, or Danny, Bayani (Glenn Obbero) a hot new graduate addition to the lab, to a much more prestigious study which is much closer to Amy's research--and maybe all for bonding with Julian over basketball and apapetinis.

Julian wields schmoozing as his weapon and art form, cultivated, no doubt, during the perpetual conference-hopping he engages in while Amy takes over his teaching load. Indeed, one of the kudos to Josh Odor's portrayal of Julian is his ability to render him smooth and charming, even at his dastardliest. Julian's eye is always on the ball and that ball is always about money. Meanwhile, Ashley Neal's performance deftly glides Amy's decline into depression and isolation, checked only by a possible collaboration and/or affair with Danny, as well as her push to support a promising student in Makayla Lozada (Courtney Williams), blossoming well beyond her initial hesitancy in taking Amy's class.

Indeed, it's Makayla's success that threatens to pull away the veil of Julian's suavity and tear it asunder. Incredulous that an African-American

woman could advance so far and wishing to "protect the brand" of his lab, he refuses to allow her to apply for a prestigious fellowship and, instead, accuses Makayla of cheating on her exams. Makayla's crisis of status within the department, not Amy's, brings on the unraveling of Julian's judgment and authority. It opens the way for Danny to reveal that Julian may have shared Amy's research with the principal investigator who "scooped" her at the competing lab, who just happens to Julian's old pal and roommate from Stanford.

Of course, nothing is provable and real help from Marie Healy (Carmen Roman), the lone tenured female scientist in the department, is not forthcoming, other than cautioning Amy against becoming known in their small scientific community as a "troublemaker." When Amy's meltdown in front of Julian finally happens, Neal unloads a most brilliant release of emotional fireworks--acknowledging her culpability in Julian's belittlement of previous female researchers as "worker bees" and confronting him with her most desperate plea, "When did I stop being your hotshot?"

Devon de Mayo has crafted a tight and well-balanced ensemble of her cast. Indeed, the only character that seems slightly underdeveloped is Marie Healy and that is certainly no fault of Carmen Roman, who gives her an august, yet wry and bemused edge, especially in her encounters with Julian. It's just that 20 years being the lone female scientist in a more intractably sexist culture than Amy or Makayla have endured—surely there are many tales to be told there, for another day, for another play.

SPOTLIGHT

A transatlantic partnership 10 years in the making comes to fruition with *Ekili Munda (What Lies Beneath)*, a collaboration between Kampala Uganda's Keiga Dance Company and Chicago's Red Clay Dance Company. Red Clay's Vershawn Sanders-Ward and Keiga's Jonas Byaruhanga's creation explores personal identity and how it is influenced by history, culture, the physical body and spiritual practices. Performances start at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 8-10 at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$30; visit dance.colum.edu.



Photo by Mbogo Moses

Ricardo Muti.
Photo by Todd Rosenberg



Measure for Measure

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The Hindu celebration of Diwali, the five-day festival of lights, will be marked by the Chicago Sinfonietta with concerts in Naperville (Nov. 10 at Wentz Hall) and Chicago (Nov. 12 at Symphony Center).

Diwali celebrates light conquering dark and good conquering evil, and also coincides with the Hindu New Year. Typically, Hindu, Sikh and Jain households will light traditional lamps during the festival, wear their best clothes and keep the house doors open so the gods may enter. They also celebrate with nightly fireworks. Even some Buddhists, it's been reported, honor Diwali.

The Chicago Sinfonietta concert, entitled "Sea of Light, Reflections on Diwali," will juxtapose European classical music with compositions by contemporary American and Indian-American composers. Sinfonietta musical director Mei-Ann Chen will conduct, with sitarist Gaurav Mazumdar as guest soloist. The program features works by Mazumdar, Indian-American composer Reena Esmail, American composer Eric Whitaker (a 2012 Grammy Award winner) and concludes with Debussy's *La Mer*.

The Chicago Sinfonietta, now 30 years old, is one of America's most diverse professional orchestras, long noted for its eclectic mix of standard classical repertory with multiethnic and multicultural contemporary music. Complete info and tickets (\$10-\$62) are at Chicagosinfonietta.org. FYI: The next Chicago Sinfonietta event is its annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 20-21 in Naperville and Chicago.

An orchestra of a different kind has a standing gig at Uptown's Green Mill Lounge every Thursday night (including Thanksgiving), 9 p.m.-1 a.m. That would be Alan Gresik's Swing Shift Orchestra, maintaining the great tradition

of 1930s-1940s big band jazz. This outfit, which sometimes includes a featured vocalist, is something to savor. The modest cover charge is \$8; visit GreenMillJazz.com.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) music director Riccardo Muti returns to the Symphony Center podium Nov. 8-10 to lead the orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Chorus and distinguished soloists in three performances of the massive Verdi Requiem. Muti and the CSO won two Grammy Awards for their 2010 recording of the work. Most seats already are gone for these concerts so move fast if you want to attend, and be prepared to take scattered seats if there are two or more in your group. Tickets (\$65-\$316) and info are at CSO.org.

Another Grammy-winning group, the Soweto Gospel Choir, takes over Symphony Center for a Nov. 16 concert of African gospel music, *Songs of the Free*, honoring Nelson Mandela. This vibrant choral group, accompanied by African drums, has developed a global following over almost 20 years. In addition to authentic South African music, the choir also will perform *Amazing Grace* and Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. Tickets (\$20-\$65) and info: www.cso.org.

Lovers of baroque music are in for a rare treat with the Nov. 15-16 visit of Toronto-based Opera Atelier at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, offering a double-bill of rarely-seen operas, both inspired by classical mythology: Marc-Antoine Charpentier's early-Baroque *Acteon* and Jean-Phillipe Rameau's late-Baroque ballet-opera *Pygmalion*. Tenor Colin Ainsworth will perform the title roles in both works. Opera Atelier, founded in 1983, specializes in fresh, visually-arresting new productions of 17th- and 18th-century repertory. To judge by the website, Opera Atelier manages to expose a good deal of skin in many of their productions (if that's your idea of a good time). It partners with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, a

MUSIC

period instrument ensemble that will accompany them to Chicago. Tickets (\$35-\$135) and info are at HarrisTheaterChicago.org. FYI: French Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier is not related to 19th-20th-century French composer Gustave Charpentier.

Voice of Chicago, the premier mixed-voice ensemble of the larger Chicago Children's Choir, opens its concert season Nov. 14 with a FREE concert at the Chicago Cultural Center's Sidney R. Yates Gallery. The concert is at 7:30 p.m., with tickets available at the concert venue one hour earlier.

The Chicago Children's Choir (CCC) uniquely

maintains a series of neighborhood ensembles (although they all sing together from time to time) and several of them are performing in November. The CCC Austin Neighborhood Choir performs Nov. 11 at the Third Unitarian Church and again Nov. 29 at the Austin College and Career Academy. The CCC Rogers Park Neighborhood Choir will perform Nov. 15 at the annual tree-lighting festival at the 900 N. Michigan Avenue shops. The CCC Pilsen/Little Village Neighborhood Choir will lift its voices Nov. 17 at the Peter Cooper Dual Language Academy. Finally, on Thanksgiving morning (11 a.m.), the CCC Hyde Park Neighborhood Choir will join the Allegro and Vivace singers for an interfaith Thanksgiving service at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel. All these are FREE events; visit ccchoir.org.

Women of Soul.
Photo by Alan Davis



THEATER REVIEW Women of Soul (With a Tribute to Aretha Franklin)

Playwright: Daryl D. Brooks
At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.
Tickets: BlackEnsemble.org; 773-769-4451; \$55-\$65
Runs through: Jan. 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Federico Garcia Lorca once defined "duende" as "a mysterious power that all may feel and no philosophy can explain."

The same enigma may be applied to the concept of "soul music"—a predominantly (though not exclusively) African-American artistic genre associated with individual expression of intense emotion arising from personal or tribal experience, typically manifested in embellishments such as key changes, cadenzas and spoken-word asides. What distinguishes the female voice of soul, however, is the subtext of defiance injected into even the most docile of lyrics.

Take for example, the classic "Hound Dog"—written by Tin Pan Alley composers Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, but when delivered by Big Mama Thornton, transformed into a diatribe worthy of royal decree—or "Respect," Otis Redding's masculine whine converted by Aretha Franklin into

an equal-opportunity demand. Indeed, the roster of iconic compositions embodying this ethos, as evidenced by the nine treble-range vocalists (and one baritone) in Black Ensemble's musical cavalcade, emerges as nothing less than a pantheon of women bearing witness to the precepts of independence, both in their music and in their own lives.

These encompass such gospel luminaries as Mahalia Jackson and Mavis Staples, rhythm-and-blues pioneers like Etta James and Jill Scott, and boom-generation idols like Diana Ross and Donna Summer, all the way up to such recent headliners as Anita Baker, Whitney Houston and, of course, the late "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin. White-girl soul is given its due, too, in Texas-born Janis Joplin and British crooner Amy Winehouse (covering Ruby and the Romantics' "Our Day Will Come"). Hip-hop warblers get their moment in an old school/new school sing-off, while songwriter Rick James redeems a long line of bossy male spouses and sidekicks.

Two-and-half hours (plus intermission) is not enough to honor to all those deserving thereof—a shortcoming acknowledged by emcees Rhonda Preston and Cynthia Carter—and many playgoers may lament the absence or abbreviation of their favorite anthems or the often fast-and-furious renditions offered by a cast sprinting through a marathon array of costumes and wigs. All that notwithstanding, author/director Daryl D. Brooks' revue may be viewed as a chronicle of feminine progress, in addition to a showcase for some of Chicago's most auspicious rising stars.

Conversion-therapy film 'Boy Erased' hits the big screen

BY JERRY NUNN

The new film *Boy Erased* tells the story of Jared Eamons, the son of a Baptist pastor, who goes under conversion therapy after being outed at age 19.

The head therapist is played by Joel Edgerton, known for his Golden Globe performance in *Loving* and for directing *The Gift*. He directs and wrote the screenplay for *Boy Erased* inspired by Garrard Conley's memoir titled *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family*.

Edgerton and Conley sat down at their hotel to discuss the movie that opens in theaters Nov. 9.

Windy City Times: How was bringing your memoir to life on film, Garrard?

Garrard Conley: It was a dream come true to educate the rest of the world on this issue. This is an expansion of my message thanks to Joel. It is a tool for advocacy that is also art. In the end people can walk away thinking how can they end this. That is the best gift for me personally.

WCT: Were there big differences from the book to the screen?

GC: Not a whole lot. There is no internal monologue that exists in the memoir, but Joel focused wisely on the family quite a bit.

We wanted to show how bigotry in conversion therapy erases everyone who touches it, not only the person who goes through it, but the parents that make the unwise decision to send their kid there.

WCT: Isn't the father a car salesman in the book?

GC: Yes and he is in the movie, but it is brief. He has the ability to sell cars and souls.

Joel Edgerton: We go there twice. The tough thing was how long could he stay in that environment.

WCT: Why did you take on so much in one film, Joel?

JE: I did the same thing in *The Gift*. The producing side of it is just gathering the team, bringing Nicole, Russell and Lucas onboard. Writing came about because I became obsessed with the book after reading it. I wanted to be involved. No one else was trying to make the movie and I wanted to direct it.

I became interested in the character of Victor Sykes. Even though we don't go behind the curtain in his psychology, it is such a conflict. Other facilities had a similar theme with most of the staff identifying as ex-gay. There is a whole story about my character to make. I had to focus on Garrard's story.

WCT: What made you want to make this movie in the first place?

JE: I still find that hard to articulate. It is like making a second album. I was terrified. I loved making my first film. I didn't want to do it again until I felt very passionate about something. I didn't want to do the same thing again.

I wanted to work with actors in a dramatic way and put something positive into the world. When I read the book

FILM



Garrard Conley and Joel Edgerton.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

it just put its talons in me. I have never had a project that picked me before this one.

WCT: Did the bible beating happen to you, Garrard?

GC: That was one liberty Joel took. I had mentioned that happening to a friend of mine.

JE: I took that liberty because I wanted to tell the story of the worst part of conversion therapy that touches on suicide.

GC: It is actually using the bible as a weapon against people.

WCT: I am familiar. My mom is a lot like Nicole Kidman in the film. Correcting her son for hanging his arm out of the car window rang true.

JE: There were big reasons where I felt unqualified to make this movie, but there were things I could relate to. I grew up in a small town where homophobia was its own conversion of sorts. My mom and dad have a similar dynamic. My dad is no preacher, but he is the loudest voice in the family. My mother hovers over me and loves me almost too much.

GC: She and my mom got along insanely. They are almost the same person.

JE: I had a Catholic upbringing where I had a deep feeling about God toward my actions. Still to this day I live with guilt. I am fearful of my father's opinion. If he told me to do something at 19 I would have done it.

I don't think the majority of people have the agency to leave their town and rebel at a young age. This movie is for people like that.

GC: It felt like kismet when I met Lucas Hedges. He told me about a crush he had at basketball camp on a guy. He told his mom and she was so supportive. He identified with that part. Everything fell into line almost perfectly.

WCT: Why do you think movies like *Boy Erased* and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* are important now?

GC: I was a consultant on that. I think it's so important

that both of these films exist in the same year. It feels like a real moment for conversion therapy to become mainstream.

From what I have heard about *Boy Erased* from survivors that it is extremely accurate depiction of what many of us have gone through.

It is basically having your soul murdered and not a good experience. For that reason alone it is a document that happened to us and our community needs this. It is a roadmap for people that have been around LGBTQ youth and messed up. What do they do next? Through Nicole Kidman they see they messed up, but can change things.

JE: Love is the strongest weapon in her instance. She may seem frail, but there is such a strength in her because she picked up the weapon of love and wielded it.

There is also a chance that this will lift up the rock that places are hiding under. It has gone underground and this will point at them.

GC: Because of this movie, an actor from the film David Craig has done a podcast that looks at the whole history of conversion therapy. It is called *UnErased* and comes out Nov. 2. It feels like there is a branching out effect to this whole thing.

WCT: Joel, after starring in *Kinky Boots* as Charlie, why do you think that story still resonates with audiences?

JE: That is because it is a perfect odd couple story about acceptance. A peacock walks into a blue-collar factory and purely by the empathetic experience of contact and understanding they create something wonderful. It is a simple, colorful contrasting tale. I am proud that it continues on.

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Caitlin Mehner and Jenna Laurenzo in *Lez Bomb*.
Photo courtesy of Gravitas Ventures



Jenna Laurenzo talks 'Lez Bomb'

BY DANIELLE SOLZMAN

Lez Bomb writer-director-actress Jenna Laurenzo recently spoke with the Windy City Times ahead of the release of her new film. If you're looking for a dysfunctional family comedy set during Thanksgiving with an LGBTQ twist, *Lez Bomb* is quite the hysterical treat. Gravitas Ventures will open *Lez Bomb* in the Chicago area at AMC Loews Woodridge on Nov. 9. The film will also be available the same day on VOD platforms.

Windy City Times: When did you first get the idea to make this film?

Jenna Laurenzo: I wrote the first draft of the script eight years ago, and it took me six years to get it made.

WCT: During such a dark time for many of us in the LGBTQ community—this will likely run after the midterms—I just want to say how much I appreciate this light-hearted comedy that focuses on sexuality with a mix of family dysfunction.

JL: Sometimes I want to laugh, and it was important for me to create something that has some levity to it and has a message in there, but was [also] something that could bring people together and laugh, because I think it's necessary sometimes.

WCT: Were there any specific films that influenced *Lez Bomb*?

JL: When I was growing up I really loved the dysfunctional family stories like *The Family Stone* and *Meet the Parents*. There's something interesting about coming home and bringing any news.

WCT: What has the reception been during the film-festival screenings?

JL: It's been wonderful! We premiered it at Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival in Arkansas. A lot of people had encouraged me to do that because they thought it would be a great place that we could have very impactful Q&As. People have been really warm and receptive, and a lot of laughter. But people have found the end moving in a way that has created a lot of interesting dialogue after the film. People are continuously sending me messages on social media or writing me emails.

WCT: I remember my first Thanksgiving after coming out as transgender—it was brutal. Is your own coming out story similar to what happens in the film?

JL: Yeah, it was a challenge for me because I never wanted to disappoint my parents. I felt like by coming out to them, it was going to disappoint them. In looking back, I felt like I wasted so much time in not telling them because I had this assumption of they were going to react. It sat there and made me angry at them for not understanding something that I never gave them permission or room to understand. By the time I did come out for them, I was angry. They were so supportive. They just needed to readjust their expectations because my future wasn't what they had imagined. They were very supportive and they just wanted me to be happy. There's a line in the movie that my mom actually said to me, which meant a lot: "A parent is only as happy as their unhappiest child."

WCT: Bobby Farrelly is one of the film's producers. How did he get involved with the project?

JL: Bobby was at a festival where my short film, *Girl Night Stand*, played. He really liked that

FILM

short film. He asked to see the feature script and he really responded to it because he has a daughter that also came out. He thought that the way in which the story was being told with something [was something] he hadn't seen before. ... He's such a comedic legend so I was so grateful that he got involved. I learned so much from him. He became an incredible mentor who's a very hands-on executive producer.

WCT: Cloris Leachman and Bruce Dern are some of our cinematic treasures. How were you able to bring them on board for your feature debut?

JL: They both very much responded to the script, and they very much liked the message within the script and the themes that were being explored. On their first day on set, they both wanted to talk to me about the script and moments in the script and they were just very excited from the start. ... Even looking back, I think it's miraculous that every time I watch the movie—I see it now a lot—they talk on screen and I'm like, "Oh my God, I can't believe this happened!"

WCT: What's the big message that you want people to take away from viewing the film?

JL: I was really interested in the theme of self-acceptance. Sexuality aside, we often assume that the pressures of stepping into ourselves have had to do with the pressures from externalities. Sometimes, it's an internal thing. I am hoping the idea of self-acceptance is explored, not just with my character coming out, but with all the other family members. ... People should have the permission to be who they are and not be fearful of that and not be their authentic selves. I think that, in leaning into our true authenticity, that's where we find the greatest gems that we're capable of offering the world. We have to give people permission to do that, or we're going to miss out on so many tremendous gifts.



Hana L. Anderson poses next to her piece, *Power to the People*.

Photos by Brooke Nagler

Black Panther art exhibit now open

Following exhibitions at American Steel Studios in Oakland, California, and Gregorio Escalante Gallery in Los Angeles, SEPIA collective hosted the third exhibition of "ICONIC: Black Panther," at Chicago's Stony Island Arts Bank, complete with an opening Nov. 2.

The exhibition is curated by Rootwork Gallery founder Tracie D. Hall; co-presented by Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture UChicago and Rebuild Foundation; and produced by SEPIA collective.

This exhibition will be taking place in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party's Illinois chapter. The heartland exhibition of "ICONIC" will feature a mix of local emerging and established artists.



Black Panther member speaks.

David Jay Collins readings Nov. 9

Chicago author David Jay Collins will read scenes from his locally set novels *Gaybash* and *Summerdale* on Friday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m., at The Leigh Gallery, 3306 N. Halsted St.

Collins will sell and autograph books after the readings and Q&A.

For more about the author, visit <https://davidjaycollins.com/>.

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A Cradle Song: Part Four

WRITTEN BY MARK ZUBRO; ILLUSTRATED BY W.S. REED

A Cradle Song, written by Mark Zubro and illustrated by W.S. Reed, debuts in the Windy City Times as the new holiday classic. Filled with travail and woe, warmth and great joy, it is a story for the ages. It will appear in ten installments from Octo-

ber 17 to December 19 and will also be available for gift giving as an e-book and as a paperback. For the true joy and meaning of the season, this is the book you want to read.

Today **A Cradle Song: Part Four.**

Chapter Four: Matthew Part Two

Over time, he refined his routine.

His favorite corner was near the train station. The intersection was always trapped in the shadows of the hovering majesty of the turrets and walls of the train station. Traffic flew by, back and forth in front of him.

Sometimes on the corner, there were people making music. Some had guitars, or clarinets, or harmonicas, others a recorder, one had bells she played. Matthew often stopped and listened. He wished he could play, but he couldn't afford any kind of instrument, and he had no one to teach him.

He envied the mounds of coins they collected. He could live for a long time on what looked to him like a fortune.

One day, one of the guitar players noticed Matthew and smiled at him.

He was a tall, thin man with a guitar. Matthew enjoyed hearing his music. Sometimes a tall, slender woman with a violin joined him. Matthew would crouch on a nearby bench and listen. It was a mystical moment, childhood wrapped in warm memories. He knew he loved his mom and dad, but if they were gone, he wished this couple would adopt him. They always smiled at each other. Matthew liked it best when they played soft, sad songs.



Once in a while, one or the other would put their instrument aside and they would sing while accompanied by the other. Mat-

thew thought it was altogether a magical sound.

Most of the people who passed by the musicians smiled. On warmer days, sometimes passersby would stop. They got more donations on warm days. As it got colder, each of the musicians dressed in more layers of clothes.

A few of the people who passed by were mean. Matthew didn't understand this. They were so beautiful together. One man stood and yelled at them to get jobs.

The guitar playing man had smiled and said, "That's the best advice I ever got."

But the horrible man kept screaming almost like it was a chant. Matthew knew there was something wrong with the man, but he didn't know what to do. That day, the couple walked away early. The screaming man had then noticed Matthew and begun to advance on him. Matthew ran. It was a few days before he went back, but the singers had returned.

The man and the woman noticed him over time. They both smiled at him. Matthew feared being noticed, so he didn't come around much after that. But late one day, Matthew had gone back, and another awful person kicked the man's guitar case. Matthew had rushed to keep some of their coins from falling into a sewer drain. He'd gathered them and brought them back.

The guitar man had stooped down so he could be at Matthew's eye level. He thought the man had the most deep blue eyes and a kindly smile. That time, he'd handed Matthew a quarter and said, "Thank you."

Matthew had given him a brief smile.

The man had said, "We're glad that you come listen to our music. Do you sing or play an instrument?"

Matthew had shaken his head and hurried away. It took a week before he had gone back again. He'd found several quarters on his bench that day, and every day after. He thought maybe they were leaving them for him. However, as it got even colder, they came less often. He hadn't seen them in a while. He guessed they had moved somewhere warmer.

To the vast majority of passersby, Mat-

thew was just an invisible hopeless bum. Few paid attention to his size or age. Most avoided eye contact and didn't want to see him.

At emergency shelters and warming centers, they asked too many questions.

He saw police take people away. The police were most often rough and unsympathetic. They tried to get the homeless to move along. Or at least go to part of the park or the street where they wouldn't be noticed quite as much. He knew when the police on the beat made their rounds. He knew when to be out of the way or to be gone long before they came by with their swagger, their solid-wood batons, and guns attached to thick black belts.

One day while he'd waited at a corner, a wheelchair scrunched on the pavement behind him. A service dog, who wore a harness and leash, walked along next to it. The animal stopped. So did the wheelchair. The boy glanced at its occupant. It was a huddled old man with white hair sprouting from random spots on his ears, dangling from his nostrils, and jutting out from his eyebrows. His rheumy eyes watered. The man gave him a brief smile.

Matthew hung his head. He felt a tear at the corner of his eye. He tried to sniff it back and shake it away. He knew little boys weren't supposed to cry. Not if they wanted to be men.

The beautiful golden retriever dog put his muzzle on the boy's shoulder. His nose nuzzled the boy's chest and chin. The little boy could feel the warmth of the canine. He wanted to put his arms around the golden retriever and bury his face in that thick fur.

The boy let fall one tear. He couldn't help himself.

The tear landed in the center of the dog's nose. The animal looked him in the eye.

The light changed. The man spoke in a soft voice, "Tawny, cross." The dog and the wheelchair moved forward. Matthew hung back.

Matthew only saw the dog, Tawny, and the man with the wheelchair about once a week. Most often at a distance. Right after

his most important wishes to have his dad, mom, and sister back, he hoped someday that he'd have a dog that beautiful and gentle.

Too often, strange dogs snarled and yipped at him. Luckily, he'd never been bitten.

Chapter Five

As Matthew searched for his mom and sister, hunger and thirst ruled his days.

He began to know particular dumpsters behind restaurants, the best times of the day to go to certain ones. Matthew discovered that certain dumpsters behind particular restaurants were treasure troves, but others had learned the same. He had to be quick and clever to get some of the merest scraps.

He watched, observed, and took great care. Still, he got chased away. Sometimes by people from the restaurants themselves. Other times by people scabbling for the same remnants.

When he went depended on what he could get at the mostly likely times during the day. Some he got to very early in the morning, to get scraps from the breakfast rush.

Trash cans were another possible trove of treasures. He had to be careful though. Other adults shooed him away from spots they considered their own. These homeless people would make regular journeys, as if they were trash picking collectors on a fixed schedule. More than once, he'd gotten shoved out of the way. He took care to study the routes of the people on the streets nearest to him.

Over time, Matthew was able to tell when big adults were approaching. They smelled bad. So he could often get a head start on them.

At times, he wondered if he smelled the same as these people. It was kind of awful. But after a while he didn't notice. He just had to time when he was in the back of which restaurant.

One day, Matthew found a new restaurant that had just opened and that people lined

up out front to get into.

From listening to the waitstaff in the alley, he learned that a Mr. Schermerhorn was the owner of the restaurant Too Chic to Eat. He was also the head chef. And he was mean. His food was divine. His employees hated him. Mr. Schermerhorn thought cash was king, and he must make more than anyone else. He believed that everything had to be a competition. Competition between employees, competition between foods, a competition between restaurants. He threw out any food that didn't meet his standards. Matthew heard the employees talking about all this as they smoked cigarettes in the alley behind the restaurant's back door.

The restaurant was on the poshest street in town. The alley behind it was too good to stink. The poor and homeless got shooed away.

Matthew could slip between the shadows. He found some rolls one night that were sweet and wonderful. Thrown away from tables of diners who didn't want to fill up on bread. He figured out if he got there just a minute or so after the restaurant closed, and just after the last busboy threw out the trash, he could sometimes get good morsels.

Sure, he got chased sometimes, but the restaurant employees concentrated on shooing away adults. Matthew waited until they went back inside and the other treasure hunters had been frightened away. Then he'd creep from his shadow.

Matthew had been so hungry one night he'd grabbed some food that was still warm. He couldn't help himself. He was

so hungry and grateful for warm food that he began devouring it before he ran away. He'd felt a hand clutch onto his jacket.

Mr. Schermerhorn had caught him. Matthew squirmed and fled at top speed. Mr. Schermerhorn screamed after him that he'd call the police if he caught him again.

After that, Matthew timed his appearances to that alley later and later. He'd about given up even making the attempt, but very late one night he gave it one last try at Schermerhorn's back door. Before he even got there, Matthew had had to hide from a gang of teenage boys and a shouting man who made no sense.

Through the front windows of the restaurant, he watched the last lights flick off. The last of the pot washers left. When Matthew had finally crept around the corner to the alley, he saw a line of sitting and shuffling people. He was surprised at so large a group, but even more startled to see the back door opened. By the light leaking from the interior, he could see Mr. Schermerhorn standing next to a steaming vat.

Matthew joined the line. As he got up close, he saw that each person got some soup in a plastic bowl and a generous hunk of bread. Instead of hustling away with their bounty, most of the people sat on the ground and ate.

When it was Matthew's turn, he saw a mounted police officer turn the corner of the alley. Matthew prepared to run, but he noted the others only looked up and then resumed eating.

Matthew took his bowl and piece of bread. Mr. Schermerhorn gave no sign he

recognized him. Matthew thanked the man for the food which was warm and delicious.

Matthew had seen that same policeman shoving at people with his horse, breaking up sleeping spots. Now, the officer just watched. When the line was done, he tied up his horse. He joined Schermerhorn. Policeman and proprietor ate together. They talked softly.

Matthew took a place on the other side of the horse so he would be hidden, but he could still hear their conversation.

They talked about the weather and a possible storm and more snow. The policeman said, "How come you don't let your employees know what you do out here?"

"Same reason you don't shag them away."

The policeman's voice was deep and gruff. "After they eat here, they calm down. The food's good."

Schermerhorn said, "If my employees knew, they'd expect more from me. I can't afford that."

"You can afford this."

"A vat of soup and leftover bread? What difference does that make?"

"To some of these folks a lot."

"But not to me."

Matthew finished and slunk away. His belly felt full and that was rare. He was surprised that Mr. Schermerhorn was actually kindly but didn't want to acknowledge it.

Matthew fell asleep marveling. At least, this night, his belly was warm.

Every day, Matthew passed an old church on a corner. Its sides were old, dirty brick, depressed with age. Down that same street there were three other churches. He knew

one was a synagogue, one an Episcopal church, and across from them down at the other end, a mosque.

He could often sneak into them for warmth. He had to be careful because the adults watched their congregations and might ask questions.

When the churches were open but empty, he sat in the last pews of the church. He crouched down. In a couple of them, he saw soft candle lights flickering up front.

In the middle of the block was a blank space amongst all the tall buildings. It had been turned into an urban garden. Many people labored long hours to keep it green and thriving. Then the city had decided to kick people out and to put it under lock and key. The owner who didn't live in the city didn't want people using his land, no matter what their goal or how kindly their work was meant.

The churches had banded together with their shared purpose of feeding the needy. They fought the city. Hoses were gathered to stretch down back alleys to provide water from different churches on different days when there wasn't enough rain. Congregants shared the duties of planting, weeding, and harvesting. Others gave the produce away or toiled in the kitchens to provide meals for those who needed them. This time of the year the garden was sparse so there was little use in Matthew making the dangerous climb over the walls. Some big kids did that and Matthew never went near them anyway, so he avoided the garden.

End of part four. Part five coming next week.



"A Cradle Song is my very favorite of Mark Zubro's books. Tender, full of insight and love, it made me cry—but they were happy tears."

—*Jeanne M. Dams,*
author of the *Dorothy Martin*
mysteries

"A Cradle Song is a wonderful, heartwarming story, and just right for Christmas. Open this present and enjoy!"

—*Barbara D'Amato,*
author of the *Cat Marsala*
series and the recent
Other Eyes

A Cradle Song will be available soon as an ebook and as a paperback online and from **Unabridged Bookstore** in Chicago and **Outwords Books** in Milwaukee.

Mark Zubro is the author of thirty-six books and seven short stories. He has won the Lambda Literary award for *A Simple Suburban Murder* and been nominated eight other times. All are available as ebooks and most as paperbacks online or at **Unabridged Bookstore** in Chicago and **Outwords Books** in Milwaukee.

Some of Chicago's LGBTQ-friendly book clubs

BY KELSEY HOFF

Reading is a solitary act, and sometimes a lonely one.

A number of individuals have gone the extra mile to start book groups for readers in the city. Meetings in bookstores, community centers and restaurants give book lovers a place to find each other, share their thoughts and talk about the stories and ideas they've spent hours perusing on their own.

The following are just a few of the most LGBTQ-friendly groups open to new members. Some stick to topics of gender and sexual orientation, and some are wide open to anything members are interested in. Most have fewer than 10 in attendance each week including regulars and newcomers, perfect for introverts looking to connect over great reads.

—Trans & Gay Authors Book Club at Volumes Bookcafe: This small group started this summer and meets the second Thursday of every month with a mix of regulars and newcomers. They focus on books authored by transgender people. Group leader Doe Parker says "We talk about likes/dislikes within the text and what the author wants us to be taking away as actions to do out in the world." The group's next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 8, 6:30-9 p.m., when attendees will discuss *Amateur: A True Story about What Makes a Man* by Thomas Page McBee. Volumes hosts three other monthly book clubs at their location, 1474 N Milwaukee Ave.: *Book of the Month*, *Sci-Fi/Fantasy and Feminist*. Details are posted on their website and Facebook.

—Gay Men's Book Group at Center on Halsted: This group welcomes male-identified individuals of all ages who are interested in reading and discussing gay-related literature. They meet every third Tuesday at Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., reading books that span fiction and nonfiction, new and old, classics and debuts and many prize winners with gay themes and potential for good discussion.

On the group's personality, leader Steve Wroten told *Windy City Times*, "We don't always agree, we're passionate about what we read, we are open to everyone's perspective and it's always enjoyable and engaging." The group has been meeting for over 10 years with anywhere from six to over a dozen attendees each month. Their next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7-9 p.m., when they will discuss *The Naked Civil Servant* by Quentin Crisp. Meetings are posted on the Gay Men's Book Group-Chicago Facebook page.

—Feminist Book Group at Women & Children First: This small group is open to feminists of all genders and focuses on various social issues through a feminist lens. Meetings take place the second Sunday of every month with a book selection meeting every six months in which members

suggest books and vote on future reads.

Leader Kris Mayer said, "Members of the group are generally past feminism 101," regarding the discussion level. "The group is dedicated to intersectional feminism, and our membership matches that." The group will not meet in November; the next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m., when attendees will discuss *Trainwreck: The Women We Love to Hate, Mock, and Fear... and Why*, by Sady Doyle. Meetings are posted on WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

—Social Justice Book Group at Women & Children First: The #BlackLivesMatter movement inspired Alex Wolfe to start this group in 2016, and Anne Bradley has recently taken over leadership. She said, "We strive to learn more about the world outside our own bubbles. We read both nonfiction and fiction on timely topics and in our discussions try to challenge our own assumptions without judging one another."

The group votes on member suggestions to select titles, tending towards nonfiction, and meets the third Sunday of each month. Six or eight members attend each month, sometimes more. The next meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 18, at 2:30 p.m., when they will read *Asking for It: The Alarming Rise of Rape Culture--and What We Can Do about It*, by Kate Harding. Meetings are posted on WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

Selections for book groups at Women & Children First, 5233 N Clark St., are always available at the store at least a month in advance so that the next month's selection can always be purchased at the current meeting. Book group members get 10 percent off and members of the bookstore get 20 percent off. Other groups that meet at WCF include a Women's Book Group, Family of Women, Women's Classics, Women Aging with Wisdom & Grace and Teens First.

—BTQ (Bi-Trans-Queer) Book Discussion group at Gerber/Hart Library & Archives: This small group meets on the second Friday of the month and reads a balance of fiction and nonfiction books that "touch on topics of gender and sexuality that tend to fall outside of the standard gay or lesbian norm: books where bi, pan, queer, GNC, trans, ace, kinky and polyamorous folk can find representation," according to facilitator Stef Potter. Reading work by queer and non-queer writers sparks discussions about how accurately these identities and relationships are portrayed. Their next selection is *Reign of the Fallen* by Sarah Glenn Marsh, to be discussed Friday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Gerber/Hart Library & Archives, 6500 N Clark St. Meetings are posted on the Gerber/Hart Facebook page.

—Queer Genre Fiction Discussion Group at Gerber/Hart Library & Archives: This group began as an outlet for members to read queer romance, sci fi, fantasy, horror, mystery and other genres. Facilitators Brigid Potter and Louise Tripp

BOOKS



Women and Children First.

Photo by Sarah Hindmarch

both love YA, as do many of their adult members who did not have access to queer lit growing up. They meet the third Friday of the month at the Gerber/Hart Library & Archives, 6500 N Clark St., with varying attendance up to seven or eight people. At their next meeting—Friday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m.—they will discuss *Guapa* by Saleem Haddad as part of an ongoing effort to read books by non-American and non-Western authors. Meetings are posted on the Gerber/Hart Facebook page.

—Chicago 20-30 Something GLBT Book Club Meetup on Meetup.com: "Whether you are an avid reader, or *US Magazine* is your literature of choice, this book club is for you," said founder Darren. "My intention is that this book club be a place to ignite friendship, thoughtful conversation and an opportunity to connect over some really good books." Members share thoughts on books they love, then vote and save nominations that did not make the cut for future reads. The group meets every other Wednesday at various locations on the north side and often splits books up to discuss a few chapters at a time. A "longread" of *1Q84* by Haruki Murakami is under way, meeting Thursday, Nov. 8 in addition to the main group, which will discuss *Devil in the White City* by Eric Larson on Wed., Nov. 14. Details on upcoming titles and locations will be posted on the Meetup.com page.

—Diverse Books/Eclectic Readers- LGBTQ and Friends Book Club on Meetup.com: This group is all about variety: they read fiction and nonfiction, often choosing books that deal with issues of race and history. Their description states "Our book club is a place where we learn from each other and freely express our views. We select thought-provoking, challenging, but also fun books."

More than 10 members, new and regular, show up each month according to organizer Armando, with a significant range of ages, orientations and ethnicities. They discuss the book of the month for an hour and then go to a restaurant nearby to eat dinner and socialize. The group meets at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, 708 W. Belmont Ave.. At the next meeting—Monday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m.—members will discuss *The Argonauts*, by Maggie Nelson. Meetings are posted on the Meetup.com page.

Atwood discusses impact of 'The Handmaid's Tale' at Northwestern

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Author Margaret Atwood spoke before an at-capacity audience on Northwestern University's Evanston campus Oct. 30 to discuss the implications of her classic 1985 dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. The book was chosen as part of the university's "One Book, One Northwestern" book club program.

The popularity of *The Handmaid's Tale*, which details one woman's tribulations after the United States reconfigures into a fundamentalist theocracy, has enjoyed a resurgence since the book was adapted into a television series by the streaming service



Hulu. Furthermore, numerous critics and activists have pointed out that the novel and series are effectively an allegory the nation's embattled political climate and the freedoms that have been questioned by the right.

Toronto-based Atwood, for her part, said Oct. 30 that the scenarios illustrated in the book were all inspired by "patterns we had seen before—I didn't include anything that hadn't happened before."

She said that in the '80s she longed to write a dystopian novel, something that up until then had only been the province of male writers, so she was eager to tell the story from a female point of view. Now, numerous other female writers are trying their hand at such stories.

"Why? Because they can," she added.

Atwood explained that a society often acts in effect as a slow-boiling pot, slowly eroding the liberties and freedoms of its members when they do not notice. She was quick to note that that was not out of their willful ignorance either.

"A lot of people are living day-to-day," she said. "They don't have a lot of speculative time. ... Unless the hurricane is blowing off the roof of your house, you don't think it's going to happen to you."

Atwood further detailed her very limited involvement with the television series, noting that she only acts as a sort of consultant, especially since the series' story has long advanced past the original novel's narrative.

"I have said a couple of times, 'Don't kill this person, don't kill that person,'" she joked. "So far, they've listened."

Helen Thompson, a professor in Northwestern's Department of English, interviewed Atwood.

Pictured: Margaret Atwood.

Photo courtesy of Northwestern Univ.



BILLY Masters

"God's greatest gift to me."—**Tim Cook** tells Christiane Amanpour how he views being born gay. I couldn't have said it better myself.

Some of our queer celebs had inventive costumes this year. The one that stuck out for me was that of skier **Gus Kenworthy**, who went as fellow Olympian **Adam Rippon**. He wore a replica of the skater's Oscars ensemble, complete with leather harness! Gus called himself "Adam Ripoff," and replaced the Oscar over the real Adam's shoulder with a similarly sized penis ... as one does. Rippon applauded the homage, saying, "We finally did each other." Kenworthy responded, "I've been wanting to do you since we met." Boys, boys, save it for someplace where same-sex encounters are encouraged—like the Olympic Village!

Fox has announced the cast for its next live musical. Rent: Live! will take place Jan. 27 and feature some familiar faces. Roger will be played by **Brennin Hunt**, Mark will be **Jordan Fisher**, Mimi will be **Tinashe**, Maureen will be **Vanessa Hudgens**, Joanne will be **Kiersey Clemons**, **James Leyva** will play Angel, **Mario** will play Benny, **Brandon Victor Dixon** will play Tom, and "Seasons of Love" will be sung by **Keala Settle**—this time without facial hair (presumably).

In case the name James Leyva didn't ring any bells, devotees of RuPaul's Drag Race most likely will know him as his alter ego, **Valentina**. Apparently she's doing quite well since she'll also be in the next season of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars. So, for those of you keeping track, we have Valentina in Rent: Live!, **Shangela** in A Star is Born, and **Peppermint** in Head Over Heels on Broadway. Let's hear it for the girls.

I'm sure many of you are spending sleepless nights wondering about **Colton Haynes** and **Jeff Leatham**. You'll be happy (or sad) to know that they are officially back together. On their first anniversary, the florist posted a photo from their wedding with the following caption: "I can't remember what it was like before you, and I don't even know how we got here but maybe that's exactly what I needed. Someone who could make me forget where I came from and someone who could make me love without knowing how to fall." Colton was a bit more succinct: "Can't believe it's already been 1 yr. since we got married. Happy Anniversary my beautiful husband."

The problem with so many out gay people on television is that it's hard to keep track of their ever-changing relationship status. Take **Antoni Porowski** from the cast of the revamped Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. Last week, he announced he was single. Then, a few hours later, he was in a new relationship. Well, we gays work fast and, let's face it—ripped abs have a treacherously short shelf life. Antoni's revelation was that he'd split from the equally hot **Joey Kriemeyer**, whom he had been dating for about seven years.



Adam Rippon (above) and Gus Kenworthy sort of got together, Billy says.

Photo courtesy of Chicago House

We suspect the split happened a few months ago, since Antoni showed up on the arm of a familiar fella at some Emmy parties back in September. Back then, people just figured Antoni and **Trace Lehnhoff**, from Flipping Out, were professional colleagues. Apparently, it is much more than that—the twosome have gone public with their coupling. Since the name Trace sounded familiar (one doesn't meet many of them), I checked out the indispensable archives on BillyMasters.com. Way back when he was Jeff Lewis' intern, I ran into Trace on Halloween 2010 while he was walking around WeHo wearing football shoulder pads and a jockstrap! Of course, we'll re-post those photos, along with some of this new pairing. You know what I got out of this item? That Joey Kriemeyer is single.

When it comes to bad boys, **Cesar Sayoc** may be as bad as they come ... if not the brightest bulb. He's the guy who allegedly sent defective pipe bombs to many people in the Democratic Party. Here's what I discovered—he has a past as a male stripper, and we've got the photos to prove it! Apparently he wasn't so stable back then. He was part of a troupe of guys who traveled around in a van and performed on the road. One dancer claims that when he made more tips than Cesar, the future terrorist threatened to stab him with a syringe filled with HIV-infected blood! Someone else said that when Cesar got jealous that another dancer was getting too much attention, he taped the tops of tuna cans to the bottom of his boots and threatened to stomp on the rival's face and cut him! Sayoc allegedly said, "Just wait—I'm gonna take this guy out." Something tells me he'll be popular in the pokey.

With Bohemian Rhapsody opening, I expect I will get several "Ask Billy" questions like this one from Justin in Rhode Island: "**Rami Malek** is so hot. Is he gay? Do you have nude pics or videos of him?"

We got similar questions about Rami after he won the Emmy for Mr. Robot—and back then, we happily obliged. However, I somehow missed last summer's release of Papillon starring Rami and

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Charlie Hunnam. This was a remake of the 1973 flick, with Charlie in the Steve McQueen role and Rami as a latter-day Dustin Hoffman. His prison flick features quite a bit of nudity—like LOTS of it. In fact, it would be easier for me to point out the scenes where hot men are clothed as opposed to when they're showing skin. Of course, that defeats the purpose of such a riveting story ... at least, I suppose there was a story. But you can look at the pretty pictures on BillyMasters.com.

When we're featuring hot men doing time, I've gotta find me a new prison pen pal and end yet another column. It certainly would be a crime if you didn't check out BillyMasters.com—the site that has files which will get you off, if not out. If I can perhaps assist in a conjugal way, reach out and touch me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before anyone attacks me with a tuna can. 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

Return of the MAK; SideDoor brunch

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The chork lives!

The chopstick/fork combination is the tool of the trade at **Modern Asian Kitchen** (1924 W. Division St.; www.makrestaurant.com), a fast-casual spot also known as MAK that I initially profiled a few years ago.

Those into health will be happy to know that MAK continues to feature meats that are raised naturally—free of antibiotics, hormones and steroids. Also, no MSG is used in the items, and there are gluten-free offerings.

And those concerned about taste and quality will be relieved to discover that the menu



Chicken wings at Modern Asian Kitchen.

Photo by Andrew Davis

offerings are still delicious.

There's a reason the chicken wings (not wings) are popular, as those items are practically addictive. Other very tasty offerings include the eggplant skillet, pork-fried rice and (especially) the falafel. You really can't go wrong with the

apps or entrees. (However, the Chinese five-piece and black sesame donuts fall a bit short of the desserts found at places like The Bakery at Fat Rice.)

However, there has been at least one major change at MAK. Jeff Wang (of the Yum Dum food truck) has taken over the spot from his friend and initial co-owner, Tommy Wang—and, no, they're not related. (In fact, Jeff joked that he's the "better-looking" of the two Wangs. Relax, guys: You both look good.) Jeff did indicate that the restaurant will add items from the food truck to add even more authenticity to the menu. I can't wait to try those.

By the way, there's no need to treat MAK as a BYOB spot, as there are beer and even sake offered. Please check out this spot.

SideDoor brunch

The history and decor that are part of **SideDoor** (100 E. Ontario St.; <http://sidedoorchicago.com/>) can be intimidating to some—but they, along with some appealing cuisine, are all part of the intrigue.

SideDoor, which is next door to the iconic Lowry's, is located in the historic McCormick Mansion. (Incidentally, the gastropub's name comes from the relatively new Rush Street entrance—the first change in the building's

exterior in nearly a quarter-century.) The interior is eclectic and sophisticated, with everything from a large turtle shell on a wall to mysterious back rooms and semi-private enclaves.

Brunch takes you away from the weekend hustle-and-bustle that comes with being near Michigan Avenue. Start with a libation such as the tasty Off the Coast cocktail (spiced rum, rum agricole, lime, honey, Giffard's passionfruit, Aperol and angostura bitters), or partake of the many beer and wine offerings.

As for culinary items, it's a test for the indecisive, as there are so many cool-sounding items. Take, for instance, the Horse Shoe—a concoction of featuring Lawry's famous prime rib with fries, a four-cheese sauce and pickled jalapenos, topped with fried eggs. The Southern fried-chicken sandwich is delightful, although the bird was slightly overwhelmed by the toppings. And for those craving something sweet, look no further than the French toast sticks. Regarding apps, my dining companion absolutely loved the Wisconsin beer cheese, and I was partial to the crab-and-spinach dip.

SideDoor is just the break one needs before tackling those weekend crowds.

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



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Joseph Stevens Photography

WINDY CITY TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 7

Chicago 00: The 1968 DNC Protests exhibit ongoing Exploring a watershed moment in U.S. politics—the 50th anniversary of the convention protests—with the new virtual-reality experience. From photographs and documents from the Chicago History Museum's archives to the site of the demonstrations. David Farber, Ph.D., narrates the 14-minute VR tour that can be viewed through YouTube; the Chrome browser; or with Google Cardboard VR glasses. 12:00pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark Chicago <http://chicago00.org/experiences.html#dnc>.

Author Reading Butch Heros Ria Brodell offers twenty-eight portraits of forgotten but heroic figures, each accompanied by a brief biographical note. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Thursday, Nov. 8

7th annual 3% Conference Theme is "Bring It." Advertising, marketing, PR, tech, nonprofits and more come together for two days of inspirational



WE SALUTE YOU
Nov. 10-12

Various LGBT-related events will salute veterans.

WCT photo from 2016 LGBTQ Veterans Day event

keynotes, themed master classes, informative panels and networking. Concludes Nov. 9. 2:00am Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://www.3percentmovement.com/conference/553>

SAGE Table Yearly national event with local tables. Sit down to a meal with other LGBT people and allies of all ages for a

transformative conversation about aging in the LGBT community. 6:00pm Various locations <http://www.sagetable.org>

Friday, Nov. 9

Orlando Traveling Memorial Art installation created by Pulse Nightclub shooting survivors, first responders and family members, The Orlando Traveling Memorial (OTM), will make its first stop here. Through Nov. 23 12:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Orlando-Traveling-Memorial-to-debut-at-Center-on-Halsted/64350.html>

Gay author David Jay Collins, GayBash and Summerdale GayBash is set in Boystown and Summerdale is a gay horror novel set in Andersonville. 6:30pm The Leigh Gallery 3306 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-1865 <http://theleighgallery.com>

Author, Out in the Union: A Labor History of Queer America Co-hosted by CTU LGBTQIA+ Committee and Chicago chapter of Pride at Work, a national organization representing LGBTQ union members. Author Miriam Frank will speak alongside panelists from CTU, Pride at Work, and recently unionized nurses at Howard Brown. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book available to purchase. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Chicago Teachers Union Center // 1901 W. Carroll Ave.; <http://www.facebook.com/events/731826077173699/>

Saturday, Nov. 10

PFLAG conference, The Power of Positivity PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois hosts full day PFLAG Conference with keynote Gearah Goldstein, founder of The Gender Cool Project. Also talks on Advocacy & Policy: How to Create Change, Impactful Public Speaking, Creating Thriving Chapters 8:00am - 4:00pm Southminster Presbyterian Church 916 E. Central Road Arlington Heights <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-positivity-time-to-thrive-tickets-50202326510>

Ms. Ruck and Maul 2018 Annual fundraiser for Chicago Dragons Rugby Club, featuring a drag show by club members. \$20 pre-sale tickets; \$25 day-of. 5:30 pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., <https://www.facebook.com/events/2141896296138505/>

Remembrance Ceremony at grave of murdered gay sailor The Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) will hold a Remembrance Ceremony at the Steger, Illinois, grave of Allen Schindler who was murdered by shipmates in 1992 for being gay. Dorothy Hadjys-Holman, the sailor's mother, will participate. 2:00pm Cemetery, Steger, IL 773-752-0058 http://www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/?ref=br_rs

The City that Werqs: A History of Chicago's Drag Revolutionaries Chicago's diverse drag culture, anarchists and vaudeville queens at the Dil Pickle Club, the legendary Finnie's Balls, the racially

integrated club scenes of the 1960's, the rise of the Miss Continental competition in the 1980s. (Drag Show follows at Jackhammer.) 6:30pm - 9:30pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N Clark St. <http://www.gerberhart.org/events/the-city-that-werqs-opening>

Sunday, Nov. 11

American Veterans for Equal Rights GLBTQ Veterans Day Dinner Speaker will be Vanessa Sheridan, author, performer and Director of Gender Equity and Inclusion at Center on Halsted. RSVP to jamesdarby@aol.com 6:30pm Ann Sather - Belmont 909 W Belmont Ave Chicago 773-752-0058 <https://www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter/>

Monday, Nov. 12

Trans Military Appreciation The Center's second such event to honor and demonstrate support transgender military personnel, transgender veterans, and families. Speakers: Master Sgt. Erika Stoltz, Army Reservist with 33 years of active service, and Dr. Jennifer Coleman, Rush University Medical Center's Road Home Program/Center for Veterans. There will also be representation from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, and Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Price: Free Admission 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; <http://www.facebook.com/events/296695877595315/>

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Blossom Boys reopens

On Nov. 2, Blossom Boys—a flower shop that Steve English and Ryan Steinbach own—reopened in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago at 1810 W. 103rd St.

The original store closed in 2016 after eight years at 99th and Walden Parkway.

English told Windy City Times in September, “We decided back in the spring that we would bring back The Blossom Boys, but it won’t be the same Blossom Boys,” adding the original location had a heavy emphasis on “fair trade” and U.S.-made goods. English said that while there will remain “an element of fair trade” in the business, that aspect will be “more like a trunk show” with certain merchandise coming in for a set period of time.

English added that the new space, which is a bit larger than the previous location, “won’t look quite the same as the cute little flower shop we had before,” with some “high-end” additions like a few antique furniture items purchased from another florist who recently closed.

See TheBlossomBoys.com.

‘Lion King’ musical auditions Nov. 10-11

There will be adult singer, adult dancer and children’s auditions for Disney’s The Lion King musical Nov. 10-11 at Hubbard Street Dance, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd.

Children and adult singer auditions will be Saturday, Nov. 10, with sign-ins at 9-11 a.m., and auditions starting at 10 a.m. Singers should

prepare their best 16 bars (approximately 30 seconds, with sheet music) of a classic R&B, pop, or rock-and-roll song (NOT Broadway) that best showcases their voice and range. Children should be 9-12; between 52”-57” in height; and be able to sing, dance and act to play the African cubs Simba and Nala.

Adult dancer auditions will be Sunday, Nov. 11 (women at 9-10 a.m., and men at 1-2 p.m.). Casting agents want strong male and female dancers with a modern/ballet dance background—late teens to early 30s. Some male dancers require strong acrobatic skills. People may be asked to sing, so please bring a contemporary song (with sheet music).

For more info, visit LionKingCasting.com or email info@bindercasting.com.

Reese Witherspoon in town Nov. 12

Hello Sunshine x Together Live is welcoming actresses Reese Witherspoon and Sophia Bush to its Chicago lineup, which will be held Monday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Ida B Wells Dr. (50 E. Congress Pkwy.).

Hello Sunshine x Together Live is a touring live event. At this two-hour event, speakers will share their authentic stories, sing songs and more. Witherspoon and Bush will join Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach, Luvvie Ajayi, Cameron Esposito, Priya Parker and CAM.

Visit <https://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/hello-sunshine-x-together-live/>.

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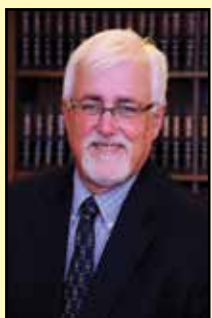
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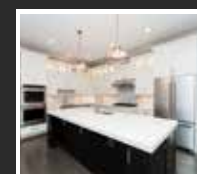
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