

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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## DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek on his award, fellow doctor.  
Photo courtesy of Vanden Hoek



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## JODY MICHAEL

Career coach talks StartOut, honor.  
Photo courtesy of Jody Michael Associates



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# Local LGBT happenings of 2018 **IN THE NEWS**

2018 saw record-setting numbers at Chicago's annual Pride Parade (left); while The Baton Show Lounge (upper right) announced exciting changes and we said good-bye to LGBT nightclub Scot's (lower right).  
Parade photo by Jerry Nunn; Baton photo by Hal Baim; Scot's photo by Kirk Williamson

WINDY CITY TIMES **ARTS+THEATER** WEEKLY



NEW BOOK CHRONICLES CHICAGO'S EARLY GAY DISCO SCENE  
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# ENCORE

## The best of local theater (part one)

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Kevin V. Smith in TUTA Theatre's Radio Culture.  
Photo by Austin D. Oie



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## WINDY CITY TIMES

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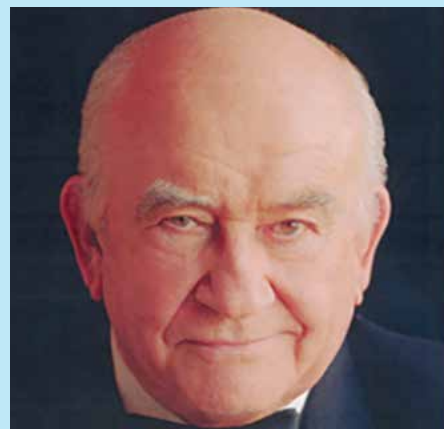
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## CHANGES

Fashion designer Anastasia Chatzka (left) has closed shop—and taken her career in a different direction.  
 Photo courtesy of Chatzka



## ED RECKONING



The 10 Questions with Vic column continues with revered actor Ed Asner.  
 Photo courtesy of Asner

## HOT 'PANTS'

WCT reviews the book The Pants Project.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Mahershala Ali, Mariah Carey and Queer As Folk.

plus  
 DAILY BREAKING NEWS



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'13 Lexus RX 350 AWD Auto., Loaded, Grey, 20961A	.....\$19,995	'14 Forester Touring/Nav. Auto., Sunroof, Heated Seats, Red, 21150A	.....\$18,995
'15 Toyota Prius Three/Nav. Automatic, Equipped, Red, 20702A	.....\$16,995	'11 Forester Prem. Automatic, Sunroof, Heated Seats, Grey 21207A	.....\$13,995
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'17 Nissan Sentra SV Automatic, Full Power, Leather, Red, P5944	.....\$12,995	'14 Outback Prem. Auto., Eyesight, 37K, Tungsten, 20801B	.....\$15,995
'17 Hyundai Accent SE Automatic, 1-Owner, Grey, P6048	.....\$10,995	'13 Outback Prem. Automatic, Alloys, All Weather, Silver 20810A	.....\$14,995
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# The year in local news

COMPILED BY MATT SIMONETTE

—**Candidates out and proud:** A record number of openly LGBT candidates, as of January, are slated to run in various local elections.

—**Ban the blood ban:** The Chicago City Council's Committee on Health and Environmental Protection unanimously passed a resolution on Jan. 12 calling for the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to revoke its ban on blood donations by men who have had sex with other men in the previous year.

—**March on:** An estimated 300,000 people gathered at Columbus Parkway near Grant Park for the Women's March Chicago rally and march Jan. 20 under the theme "March to the Polls."

—**Injunction denied:** A Cook County Circuit Court judge denied a preliminary injunction on Jan. 25 that would have allowed a transgender Nova Maday attending school in Township High School District 211 in Palatine access to the girls' locker room.

—**Ad nauseum:** Anti-LGBT gubernatorial candidate state Rep. Jeanne Ives (R-Wheaton) ran an ad in February mocking, among other groups, transgender Illinoisans. The ad featured what's intended as a comic depiction of a masculine man wearing a dress, "thanking" Gov. Bruce Rauner for "legislation that lets me use the girls' bathroom."

—**Gala truce:** Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Gov. Bruce Rauner set aside their continuing differences over the state of the state Feb. 3 as each presented welcoming remarks, as did Rauner's wife Diana, at Equality Illinois' 2018 fundraiser at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. It was Rauner's first time attending the gala.

—**HIV withholding:** AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) announced Feb. 9 that state officials withheld, without explanation, about \$10 million in spending that had already been approved by the General Assembly for HIV treatment and prevention.

—**Housing appeal:** Attorneys from Lambda Legal appealed a February ruling against Marsha Wetzel, a client who says she was discriminated against at her Niles retirement community because she is a lesbian. Wetzel ultimately prevailed in the case.

—**Trans lawsuit:** Six transgender women sued the Illinois Department of Corrections in February over what they say are the gross inadequacies in the medical treatment provided to prisoners with gender dysphoria.

—**Aurora vote:** Aurora's City Council Government Operations Committee approved on Feb. 13, by a vote of two to zero, Indivisible Aurora's permit request to hold the city's first Pride Parade on June 17. Despite the sweltering heat that day, nearly 100 degrees, more than 5,000 people descended on downtown Aurora to take in the festivities.

—**Armstrong robbery:** An online GoFundMe campaign was formed in February to assist Chicago-based entertainer Amy Armstrong after an establishment she helps manage in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico was robbed.

—**Candidate slurs:** Burt Minor—a Republican

candidate for the Illinois General Assembly (42nd District)—received criticism from his own party in February amid claims that he asked a GOP-backed, African-American candidate for state attorney general if she was a "lesbo" and used a racial slur while talking with her.

—**Statement denial:** Republican Illinois State Attorney General Candidate Erika Harold said in March she didn't recall allegedly saying in 2000 that she'd prefer foster children being placed with child abusers rather than a same-sex couple, according to reports. Her opponent in the March 20 primary, Gary Grasso, has called on her to withdraw from the race over the matter.

—**Title VII brief:** Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was among a coalition of 16 attorneys general who in March filed an amicus brief arguing that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

—**11th Ward race:** Labor and education activist and out gay man David Mihalyfy entered the 11th Ward aldermanic race on March 23. For his debut event, a group of early supporters leafletted voting households in 15 of 38 precincts as his website and Facebook page went live.

—**LGBT needs:** City officials released an extensive 89-page report on Chicago's LGBT community's health needs they hope will call attention to the community's priorities and issues. The report, according to Chicago Department of Public Health Deputy Commissioner Brian Richardson, "is the first time that we have data on LGBT health issues across the spectrum."

—**Chicago attack:** A Chicago resident sustained multiple injuries after a severe beating and robbery the evening of March 23. Glenn Collins, who is gay, had just left work at Tuley Park, 501 E. 90th Pl.

—**Gun-control march:** Organizers estimated that more than 85,000 Chicago-area students and community members participated in the March for Our Lives event March 24 held in Union Park on Chicago's Near West Side. Schools from Highland Park to Crown Point, Indiana, and from the South, North and West sides of Chicago were represented.

—**Suicide threat:** SWAT teams and other police personnel responded the late evening of March 30 and early morning of March 31 after a Lake View man threatened to harm himself in his apartment.

—**Lobby days:** More than 100 community members became advocates and activists April 11 when Equality Illinois rallied its supporters at LGBTQ Advocacy Day at the Illinois Statehouse.

—**TPAN hire:** TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) announced in April that it hired Christopher Clark to serve as the organization's chief executive officer. Clark joined TPAN following more than a decade of service at Lambda Legal.

—**Education bill:** The Illinois Senate passed the Inclusive Curriculum Bill—legislation calling for the inclusion of LGBT-related historical events and contributions in state classrooms—on May 2.

—**Lightfoot campaign:** Lori Lightfoot announced her mayoral run in May, making her the



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.  
PR photo

first openly lesbian Black mayoral candidate in the City's history. She unveiled an extensive LGBT framework in her platform in October.

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

—**Miller appointed:** Stephanie Miller—who, in early 2017, was appointed to fill a 6th Cook County Subcircuit judge's vacancy, but did not retain the seat in the March 20, 2018 primary—was appointed a Cook County associate judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in May.

—**School protections:** Community members and school board officials lauded the passage of a rule codifying protections and instructions for transgender students at Oak Park River Forest (OPRF) High School in Oak Park.

—**Activist injured:** A Chicago activist and publicist was severely injured in a hit-and-run accident in the Logan Square neighborhood. Anthony Martinez was struck by a vehicle as he crossed in the crosswalk at the intersection of Fullerton and Kimball Avenues on June 6.

—**Health resolution:** Members of the City Council LGBT Caucus were among those on hand as the Council's Health and Environmental Protection Committee passed a resolution June 7 endorsing a comprehensive databook on LGBT health released in March by Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

—**Rowland nomination:** Chicagoan Mary W. Rowland, who served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Northern District of Illinois since 2012, was nominated by President Donald Trump in June to be a District Judge in that district.

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

—**Dyke March:** The 22nd annual Chicago Dyke March returned to Little Village on Chicago's Southwest Side on June 23 this year. Front and center was the message of the event: It was pro-

Palestinian, with inclusion up front of Little Village residents and representation from the Queer, Ill and Okay group.

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

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

—**Owner needed:** Two prominent North Side LGBT businesses said in July they had just under a month to find a new owner for the building they've long called home, or their businesses are in danger of closing. The building at Clark Street and Devon Avenue that Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., and Leather 64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St., partially occupied went into foreclosure earlier in 2018. A new owner was later found in the fall.

—**Police call:** Pharmacy giant CVS apologized to a Black Chicago woman after an Edgewater manager—a white, openly gay man who said he was running for 48th Ward alderman—phoned the police after she reportedly attempted to use a coupon he didn't recognize late on July 13.

—**HUD meeting:** U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Illinois), vice chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, hosted a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson and Chicago LGBTQ housing advocates July 20.

—**Another parade:** A Buffalo Grove student began working to bring a Pride parade to her Northwest suburban community. The idea came to 12-year-old Molly Pinta, who attends Twin Grove Middle School, after she attended the wedding of an uncle who is gay.

—**Revenge porn:** State Rep. Nick Sauer (R-Libertyville) resigned Aug. 1 after allegations broke that he'd posted intimate photos of his ex-girlfriend, Kate Kelly, on a fake Instagram account, where he additionally engaged in sexually tinged banter with other men.

—**Goodbye Scot's:** After more than 20 years serving the Ravenswood neighborhood, Scot's Bar, 1829 W. Montrose Ave., closed its doors. The longtime gay watering hole served its final customers the week of Aug. 5. Owners Thom Scot and Bill Houlihan decided to retire, Scot said.

—**Transgender murder:** Dejanay Stanton, a 24-year-old transgender Chicagoan, was murdered on Aug. 30 on Chicago's South Side. Her body was discovered at the alley of 40th Street and King Drive late in the morning that day, after persons nearby said that they had heard gunshots.

—**Crossfire:** A 25-year-old gay incoming Northwestern University student was killed Sept. 2 as he waited for a bus in the Rogers Park neighborhood, caught in gunfire exchange between two other men.

—**Stepping down:** Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced in September that he will not be seeking to retain his post in the 2019 city elections.

—**Flag rally:** Chicago Ald. Deb Mell (33rd Ward) organized a peaceful assembly Sept. 19 outside Resurrection Catholic Church, 3043 N. Francisco Ave., in response to Pastor Fr. Paul Kalchik and seven parishioners' unauthorized burning of a rainbow flag.

—**Union recognition:** Members of Howard





**Aurora Pride, with the grand marshal, Paramount Theater Artistic Director Jim Corti.**  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Brown Health's nursing staff and officials from the Illinois Nursing Association (INA) were among those on hand Sept. 28 to announce that the local healthcare organization has voluntarily recognized its nurses' right to organize.

—**Rogers Park shooting:** A 73-year-old gay man was killed in the Rogers Park neighborhood on the city's North Side the morning of Sept. 30. Another Rogers Park resident was similarly shot days later.

—**Another transgender murder:** A transgender Chicago woman, Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier, died after a fight Oct. 3—the second such murder in the city in just more than a month.

—**Attack ad:** On Oct. 11, openly gay Democratic Cook County Commissioner candidate Kevin Morrison was the target of an alleged anti-LGBTQ print attack ad mailed out by the Illinois Republican party. Another ad, this one from incumbent Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, depicted a marriage between rival J.B. Pritzker and House Speaker Mike Madigan, was also blasted by advocates and politicians for its anti-LGBT overtones. Morrison would eventually win his race.

—**Change in the air:** Among changes voters made at the polls Nov. 6, J.B. Pritzker handily beat incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner, while a number of Republican incumbents in Chicago suburban districts were defeated by newcomers.

—**Historic case:** In a ruling that lawyers called "historic," a federal judge ordered that Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) review the case of Strawberry Hampton, a 27-year-old transgender woman who is being-held in a male-only detention facility downstate.

—**Church protest:** About 20 activists gathered Nov. 18 at Power House International Ministries, 7040 S. Western Ave., during the Sunday evening service to protest Rev. Antonio Rocquemore's removal of a 16-year-old gay teenager, Antwan Haywood, the previous week.

—**Proposals condemned:** The Chicago City

Council Committee on Human Relations unanimously advanced a resolution in November condemning anti-trans Trump administration policy proposals.

—**Baton moves:** Longtime River North night-spot Baton will relocate to an Uptown location on Broadway in Spring 2019, its owner, Jim Flint, announced Dec. 5.

—**Getting to zero:** AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), all in conjunction with numerous other agencies and organizations, officially launched their Getting to Zero initiative Dec. 3. The project would eliminate all new HIV transmissions in the state by 2030.

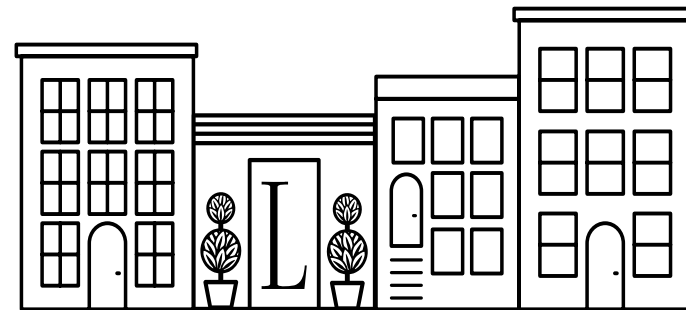


**Chuck Renslow.**  
Photo from WCT archives

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# GenderCool Champions on their lives, Chicago trip, future hopes

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The GenderCool Project started when founders Gearah Goldstein and Jen and John Grosshandler teamed up to create an organization dedicated to spotlighting the stories of transgender teens across the country under the banner “Who we are, not What we are.”

“We just could not sit back any longer,” said Jen Grosshandler. “GenderCool is filling a gap in a national conversation, and we are succeeding beyond imagination. We are cutting through the inaccurate, sensational anti-trans noise by helping the country actually meet our children. We know that when people see who these children are as thriving, successful, altruistic young people, their minds open up and they want to be supportive.”

“Even when the administration is hyper-focused on restricting people who identify as transgender, we continue to do what we have always done,” said Goldstein, who identifies as transgender. “These young people are living their truths and working every day to help replace people’s opinions with the experience of actually meeting a person who identifies as transgender. These kids are writers, future politicians, athletes, scholars and Broadway hopefuls and want to be treated like any other young person.”

Currently the organization has six champions—Daniel and Gia, from Connecticut; Nicole, who lives in Massachusetts; Landon, from Texas; Stella, who lives in Washington; and Grosshandler’s daughter, Chazzie, from the Chicago suburbs. Chazzie’s family story was the inspiration behind the campaign.

Daniel said his coming out process has been smooth across the board and he plans on going to college and supporting causes he cares about.

“My biggest hope for the future is to be in a happy, healthy relationship and have one or two kids,” said Daniel. “Being a part of GenderCool makes me feel like I am able to be a role model and help others feel more comfortable in their own skin.”

Gia said she was worried about how her parents would react when she came out to them, but when she slipped a note under their bedroom door they were very supportive and immediately helped her get the medical services she needed. What surprised Gia the most is the support she has gotten from the conservative town where she lives.

“I want to do more public speaking about GenderCool’s message to show who transgender kids are, not what we are,” said Gia. “As for the future, I want to go to college and be an entrepreneur with my own business. I like to think outside of the box.”

Gia explained that being a part of GenderCool has been amazing because she is able to advocate for herself and other transgender people on

a national platform.

Landon explained that he is grateful to have the support of his family, friends and school since he came out.

“This has allowed me not only to survive, but to thrive,” said Landon. “I am able to use my voice and tell my story as a way of not only giving back to the transgender community, but also being the person for others that I needed when I was younger. The GenderCool Project is affecting real change through increasing awareness about transgender youth, in addition to conveying that we are multifaceted people who are not defined solely by our transgender identities.”

As for Landon’s career aspirations, he said he is considering social work, law or media. He explained that doing advocacy work for marginalized communities on the whole will always be a part of his life.

Nicole said she has a very supportive mom and school “with administrators and students who ‘get it.’”

“My school principal said I was his greatest teacher because I taught him to be a better person,” said Nicole.

When Nicole is not studying or doing GenderCool and other social justice advocacy she can be found performing as a singer, which she has done since she was five years old, and onstage, having done more than 40 musical theater productions. Nicole explained that she would be performing the national anthem for the 2018-19 Boston Bruins season and has Broadway aspirations in her future.

“I am proud to stand with the other Champions to change the conversation about who transgender kids are,” said Nicole. “This campaign is making a difference in moving the narrative by focusing on the positive things about being transgender teens and the amazing experiences we have had.”

Stella has also received support from family, friends and her school throughout her journey. She said she wants to be the first transgender U.S. president. Stella explained that she fell in love with history after listening to the Hamilton musical soundtrack.

“I love the mix between music and history and it is a fun way to learn,” said Stella.

Being a part of GenderCool has been an interesting journey for Stella. She said that most times she thinks of herself as an average teen but then it hits her that she has this platform to speak out to a national audience.

Although Chazzie was born into a household full of male role models (three older brothers), she knew as soon as she could communicate that she was a girl. With full family and community support, Chazzie socially transitioned in 5th grade. Her mission now is all about paying it forward.

“I want to help others be their true, authentic



**GenderCool.**

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

selfes,” said Chazzie. “I tell people it is ok to be you because you are awesome.”

Recently, the Champions gathered in Chicago to meet with employees and senior executives at Fortune 500 companies Allstate, Citibank and Conagra Brands.

The Champions said these meetings were an amazing experience because they got to talk to everyone about what it means to be a transgender person. Landon explained that it was great to hear that many companies that operate in places like Texas, where there are no laws protecting LGBTQ people, makes him feel better about his future employment prospects.

“Having people come up to us afterward to thank us for being there with them was great,” said Daniel. “Even though I was nervous, I felt better afterward because of what people took away from the experience.”

“Someone came up to me after we gave our presentation at one of the companies and said I changed their views and was an inspiration and should keep doing what I am doing,” said Gia.

“The fact that they invited us to speak about our experiences in order to better their policies and inclusion efforts across the board was so empowering because we felt like we were heard, especially since we are young,” said Landon. “It is great to know that we are playing a part in how these policies are going to affect others now and in the future.”

They also toured the city and the Center on Halsted, saw the Howard Brown Health queer mural, and were present at the unveiling of the Legacy Walk’s newest bronze plaques honoring Marsha P. Johnson and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in October. Local transgender icon Gloria Allen was with the champions during the dedication ceremony and mural visit.

After the Legacy Walk induction ceremony, the Champions said they were honored to be included amongst the others in attendance.

“To be able to take a look back in history and see who worked to make the world safer for the LGBTQ community was very powerful,” said Dan-

iel. “Visiting with Mama Gloria was a true reminder of the privilege and safety I have felt in my life. I felt supported and loved being in the city of Chicago.”

“The ceremony was an inspiring event,” said Gia. “Meeting Mama Gloria, who has gone through so much in her life, gives me a new perspective on how things have changed throughout time. The recognition of transgender icons with plaques shows that Chicago supports us.”

“Being able to witness history with the completion of the Legacy Walk was an unforgettable moment, especially in the current climate where transgender rights and existence are under attack,” said Landon. “I felt a deep sense of pride and power when the Marsha P. Johnson plaque was unveiled.”

“The dedication ceremony and talking to Gloria were very emotional and overwhelming experiences,” said Nicole. “It was incredible to see how far we have come but also how much more work has to be done. I felt honored to meet everyone and hear how our work as the Champions has helped them.”

“It was pretty overwhelming to be in a place that is centered around the LGBTQ community,” said Stella. “The Center on Halsted tour was incredible and the Legacy Walk is hard to put into words for me. To see the people who created a pathway for me to feel safe and accepted was significant and powerful. Chicago will always feel like a special place to me.”

As for what they will incorporate into their lives going forward, they all said spreading their positive message in their own communities and the wider world are vital to educate more people about their lives both together and separately.

GenderCool has also been covered by a number of mainstream media outlets including the Today Show, the New York Times, Rolling Stone Magazine, People, ABC News, NBC News, Pink News and WGN-TV. Additionally, more than 43 countries have reached out to the campaign with messages of hope and gratitude.

See <https://gendercool.org/>.



# Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek on medical award, Dr. Tamara O'Neal

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

For 25 years, renowned physician Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek has been treating patients and teaching medical students and residents the ins and outs of clinical emergency medicine in Chicago.

Vanden Hoek has served as University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Medicine emergency medicine department head for the past eight years, where he oversees a cadre of doctors who treat over 50,000 patients a year. He was named University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UI Health) chief medical officer (CMO) a year ago. Vanden Hoek is also a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

On Nov. 20, the Chicago Medical Society named him "Physician of the Year" for his work with UI Health's Better Health Through Housing initiative which provides housing and case management for some of the emergency department's chronically-ill homeless patients. The honor also acknowledged Vanden Hoek's work leading a statewide initiative aimed at improving survival from a leading cause of death in Illinois—out-of-hospital cardiac arrest—called Illinois Heart Rescue, as well as research into drugs that may help improve survival for cardiac arrest patients.

"I am extremely grateful to all of my colleagues who have inspired and supported me in focusing on addressing health disparities that are unfortunately all too common in our most vulnerable communities," said Vanden Hoek. "Emergency medicine brings a unique perspective to what and where our biggest challenges and opportunities are as a health system and as a society. UIC will roll out a Social Emergency Medicine fellowship training program that will train future physician leaders in areas of population health, implementation science and design who will be equipped to tackle these biggest challenges."

Not only did Vanden Hoek pursue medicine, but his identical twin brother Todd is also in emergency medicine. They were the first two people in their family to graduate from college.

"Both of us volunteered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at a community phone hotline and in a busy emergency department during college," said Vanden Hoek.

After graduating from Calvin College with a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences and chemistry, Vanden Hoek received his MD from the University of Chicago, with honors. He was a resident and later chief resident at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to coming to UIC, Vanden Hoek was a faculty member at the University of Chicago for 15 years.

Vanden Hoek met his now-husband—civil-rights leader and political and non-profit consultant Jim Bennett—at a Broadway United Methodist Church Sunday service 19 years ago. After the service, Vanden Hoek asked Bennett on a date and he said they have been together ever since.



**Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek.**

Photo courtesy of Vanden Hoek

They had a holy union service Dec. 8, 2000, at that church and were legally married March 12, 2014, in their home by Judge Patricia Logue, who also opened Chicago's Lambda Legal office.

"At Terry's core, he is a healer," said Bennett. "He is the doctor everyone wants because he is patient and listens who brings people together to find the solution. One of his greatest gifts is being able to apply that same passion to heal and make things better to some of our world's largest problems. He also makes an excellent martini and I could also tell a really sweet story about how he always took my mom's calls and would be on the phone for hours patiently listening to her ailments."

Vanden Hoek has also done philanthropic work throughout his career, most recently with the CHAMPIONS program he helped launch at UIC three years ago. The program teaches high school students about health careers and health advocacy.

"We learned through Illinois Heart Rescue that high school students could become powerful agents of change when they learned CPR and then paid it forward by teaching CPR to their family members and community," said Vanden Hoek. "We extended this concept to other aspects of health advocacy through CHAMPIONS. Volunteer faculty and students from our health sciences schools at UIC participate in an intensive summer program and then after-school program that pays upcoming junior and senior high school students to learn about the health system and how to navigate the health system."

One of the many doctors Vanden Hoek trained

was the late Dr. Tamara O'Neal, who was killed Nov. 19 by her ex-fiancée in the Mercy Hospital and Medical Center parking lot before she was set to work that day.

"I loved to work clinical shifts with her in the emergency department," said Vanden Hoek. "She had the most wonderful smile and such a positive attitude about life and her work. Her family was so proud of what she had achieved in training to become an emergency medicine physician. She embodied social emergency medicine through her involvement in community health activities working to help our at-risk patients and communities."

"I always invite students and residents to stop by my office any time if they want to say hi, talk and get advice. Tamara was someone who loved to stop by frequently and made my day. She will be greatly missed. We have started a legacy fund to support students and residents like Tamara."

To donate to The Tamara O'Neal MD Social Emergency Medicine Legacy Fund, visit <https://collegeofmedicine.webhost.uic.edu/GIVING/StartGivingMedicine2.html>.



**Husbands Jim Bennett (left) and Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek.**

Photo courtesy of Vanden Hoek



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# Jody Michael talks Crain's honor, StartOut, future plans

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Jody Michael started her business, Jody Michael Associates, 22 years ago she was one of the first executive and career coaches in the United States. Prior to that, Michael spent 15 years at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where she was one of the first female traders.

"Nobody really knew what coaching was, and so I spent a lot of time during those early years engaged in conversations that were primarily educational in nature," said Michael. "Now conversations are much more nuanced because people who seek out coaching are far more sophisticated in their understanding than they were back then."

Michael and her team have worked with hundreds of clients at the Chicago flagship office and satellite locations in Atlanta, New York and San Francisco. They illuminate clients' blind spots by challenging their perceptions, posing questions and directing experiential practices.

"My approach has always been to facilitate real, transformational change, not the 'check-the-box' tactical approach to coaching that predominates the field," said Michael. "I have created more efficient methods of coaching to accommodate the increasingly busy schedules of today's executives including apps and tweaking the supporting materials and homework I give my clients. On the executive coaching side, I have encouraged organizations to create diversity initiatives and promote equality for all employees."

Michael's goal is for clients to gain greater self-awareness, clarity, observational capacity and confidence so they can get a promotion, make more money, gain emotional intelligence and be effective leaders in their fields.

Recently, Michael was honored in Crain's Chicago Business magazine's first ever Chicago's Notable LGBTQ Executives list alongside 87 other movers and shakers.

"Crain's is one of the most respected business publications around, so it is an honor to be featured as a business leader," said Michael. "It is incredible to reflect on the progress that LGBTQ executive and business leaders have made in the past few decades. I am grateful to be recognized for my contributions to the Chicago business community—first, as an entrepreneur, second as a female entrepreneur and third, as a female LGBTQ entrepreneur. These opportunities would not have been available to me, or to my fellow honorees, just a few decades ago."

Additionally, Michael has recently joined the StartOut board. She decided to get involved because there is still discrimination toward LGBTQ people in the workplace which hampers their ability to reach their full potential professionally.

"I know what it is like to face discrimination because of my gender and sexual orientation," said Michael. "More importantly, I know that it does not have to be a deterrent to success.



Jody Michael.

Photo courtesy of Jody Michael Associates

I hope to further the organization's mission by lending my insights and support to other LGBTQ entrepreneurs and leaders beyond those I see as clients in my coaching office."

Over the past few years, executive and career coaching has been depicted on the Showtime show *Billions* through the Wendy Rhoades character played by Maggie Siff. This has given more people insight into what Michael and her team do on a daily basis.

When asked about *Billions* in general and how the writers showcase her profession, Michael sings the show's praises. She said that due to her time as a trader; the fast-paced, competitive and often-cutthroat environment of the show rings true.

"I imagine that people who work in wildly different industries find Wendy's demeanor and methods offensive," said Michael. "More often than not, I find her cut-to-the-chase approach appropriate for the situations depicted on the show—and for the culture of that industry. Her character is sharp, intuitive and insightful."

The only flaws Michael sees with the Rhoades character are she is too directive and does not use Socratic questioning enough. Michael explained that these flaws make Rhoades a colorful character to watch.

As for her future plans, Michael wants to expand her business' reach. She is also releasing a book next year focusing on what she has learned over the past 25 years of applied research and though leadership in the area of mental fitness. Michael is concerned that not enough people are focused on their mental fitness and she said it is needed now more than ever.

"It is a systemic problem that hurts us individually, in our relationships, at corporations and among political leadership," said Michael.

Michael's message to everyone is to get bigger than yourself by finding meaningful things

to engage in that contribute positive impact and value for others.

"When you align your life with your purpose, find your North Star, why you are here and what special gifts you offer it is game-changing for you, others and the world," said Michael.

To read more about Michael, visit <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/On-doing-what-you-love-Coach-Jody-Michael/43297.html> and <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/awards/jody-michael>.

See <https://www.jodymichael.com/> for more information.

## ACLU decries central Illinois school letter

BY MATT SIMONETTE

ACLU of Illinois weighed in with a letter Dec. 19 advising a central Illinois middle-school principal who had declared that talk of sexual orientation in school settings was disruptive that such prohibitions would be in violation of the First Amendment as well as state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

Germantown Hills school principal Kate Williams had mailed a letter to parents saying that students discussing such matters had led to "disruption" during school hours. Williams emphasized that LGBT students had the right to safety, but discussion of sexual orientation would be henceforth prohibited.

Members of Peoria-based LGBT group Peoria Proad said Dec. 14 on Facebook that, "As of now, [Germantown Hills School District #69] Superintendent Dan Mair is failing his students in their social-emotional development and violating their constitutional rights."

In ACLU of Illinois' letter to Williams, Senior Staff Attorney Rebecca Glenberg said, "The predictable effects of such a message are isolation of LGBTQ students, and increased likelihood of bullying by their peers, for which the school may be liable. Additionally, a prohibition on discussions of sexual identity is likely to be disproportionately enforced against LGBTQ students who are sexual and gender minorities, because expressions of cisgender heterosexuality (e.g., a girl talking about asking a boy to a dance), are so commonplace that they may not be perceived as expressions of sexual identity at all. Such disparate enforcement may also constitute discrimination under Illinois Human Rights Act and other statutes."

A closed meeting on the issue had been scheduled for the evening of Dec. 19.

## Gay South Bend mayor stepping down

Openly gay South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg announced that he will not run for a third term in 2019, fueling further speculation that he plans a presidential run.

Previously, Buttigieg (pronounced "bootajidge") launched a campaign to chair the Dem-



South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Photo by Matt Simonette

ocratic National Committee, but he eventually withdrew once he realized he would not have the backing of most committee members, CNN.com reported. He has also traveled to Iowa and started a political action committee.

During the announcement, Buttigieg also mentioned his accomplishments as mayor, including the creation of "thousands of new jobs" and the launch of a 311 call center.

The CNN.com article is at <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/17/politics/pete-buttigieg-re-election-2020-presidential-race/index.html>.

## Madigan, other AGs file to protect ACA

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan joined a coalition of 17 attorneys general in filing an expedited motion to prevent disruption to healthcare and to challenge the Dec. 14 opinion in *Texas v. HHS*, which ruled that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was unconstitutional.

The motion seeks clarification on the impact of Judge Reed O'Connor's decision and requests that the judge prevent any confusion about the opinion.

"The federal court's ruling could deprive millions of Americans of health care coverage," Madigan said. "[The] motion asks the court to clarify that the Affordable Care Act can continue to provide critical access to healthcare to residents of Illinois and across the country."



# LGBT groups slam DeVos for rescinding Obama guidance

A federal commission that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is leading has recommended rescinding Obama-era guidance intended to reduce racial discrimination in school discipline—and pro-LGBT organizations have criticized the move.

In addition, DeVos has said the commission is urging schools to “seriously consider partnering with local law enforcement in the training and arming of school personnel.”

Vanita Gupta, president/CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, said in a statement, “The School Safety Commission report lays out policies and practices that make children less safe and deny them educational opportunities. It is unconscionable to use the very real horror of the shooting at Parkland to advance a preexisting agenda that encourages the criminalization of children and undermines their civil rights.”

GLSEN, the National Black Justice Center (NBJC), the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and PFLAG National also condemned the recommendation, in a joint statement. “This is yet another dangerous step in this administration’s ongoing efforts to eviscerate critical civil rights protections in our schools. By undoing guidance designed to improve school climate and support our most vulnerable students,

the Commission is both dismantling effective policy and failing to address the issue of school safety,” said Eliza Byard, executive director of GLSEN.

NBJC Executive Director David J. Johns added, “Students of color, particularly Black students, disproportionately experience exclusionary discipline practices – including suspensions and expulsions – that take them away from the places they are supposed to learn and develop and, too often, place them on school-to-prison and school-to-sex-trafficking pathways. This problem is compounded for LGBTQ students of color who often are often unfairly targeted by punitive school policies as a result of their intersectional identities.”

“From day one of her tenure, Betsy DeVos has sought to undermine the safety, dignity and civil rights of students of color, LGBTQ students, students with disabilities and survivors of sexual assault,” Human Rights Campaign Director of Government Affairs David Stacy said in a separate statement. “While the revocation of this guidance would not change federal civil rights laws, this dangerous action would embolden discriminatory practices that push students of color, including LGBTQ students of color, out of the classroom.”

## Chicago candidates get Victory Fund backing

A few candidates running for various offices in Chicago are among receiving the first round of endorsements from LGBTQ Victory Fund, the only national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ leaders to public office.

Among the general candidates receiving support are Maria Hadden, who is running for 49th Ward alderman; and mayoral challenger Lori Lightfoot. Endorsed incumbents include 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman, 15th Ward Ald. Raymond Lopez, 33rd Ward Ald. Deborah Mell and 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney; missing (so far) is 35th Ward Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa.

Kansas City Councilmember Jolie Justus, who is running for mayor, and Virginia Delegate Danica Roem, running for re-election, both received Spotlight endorsements.

More information about the candidates is at [VictoryFund.org/ourcandidates](http://VictoryFund.org/ourcandidates).



Aldermanic candidate Maria Hadden.  
Photo courtesy of Hadden

## Report: LGBT groups thrive despite Trump

The 2018 National Movement Report—which the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) publishes annually—has found, at the end of fiscal year 2017, that the participating organizations remain efficient despite what it calls “a series of increasingly hostile attacks” from the Trump administration.

The report analyzed several aspects, including revenue and expenses, donors and staff composition.

Among the key findings for organizations participating in the report:

—Excluding in-kind revenue, organizations reported an aggregate 5 percent revenue increase from 2016 to 2017. Aggregate revenue including in-kind revenue was up 13 percent for the same period. Over the past five years, total revenue has increased 34 percent from 2013 to 2017;

—In 2017, participating organizations saw a 14-percent increase in the number of individual donor contributions from 2016;

—Of organizations providing data on the sexual orientation of their staff, 54 percent of staff identified as gay or lesbian, 7 percent as bisexual, 16 percent as queer, 15 percent as another orientation, and 8 percent as straight.

However, the report also found that while there has been a cumulative increase in revenue from individual contributions, very few LGBT people contribute to these major legal, advocacy and public education LGBT organizations. Based on the number of donors to participating organizations (assuming that all donors are LGBT and there are no duplicates), only 2.8 percent of LGBT people contributed \$35 or more in 2017 to participating organizations.

The full document is at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/2018-national-lgbt-movement-report>.

MAP’s mission is to provide independent and rigorous research, insight and communications that help speed equality and opportunity for all.

## Obamacare ruling

Saying that the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA’s) mandate requiring people to buy health insurance is unconstitutional and the rest of the law cannot stand without it, Judge Reed O’Connor of the Federal District Court in Fort Worth, Texas, struck down the entire act (also known as Obamacare) Dec. 14.

However, the American Medical Association (AMA) was among those who criticized O’Connor’s ruling in *Texas v. Azar*.

In a statement sent to media, the AMA said, in part, “Judge Reed O’Connor’s decision is a stunning display of judicial activism. Judicial power does not extend to settling policy disputes or exercising general supervision over the other branches of the federal government.”

The statement added that the ruling would “wreak havoc on American healthcare if it were left to stand,” adding, “The decision reverses the historic gains in health insurance coverage that have been achieved since the implementation of the ACA, which have benefited millions of patients and the American health system.”

The AMA also said the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the case (because they have suffered no real injury); that the minimum essential coverage provision remains a constitutional exercise of the U.S. Congress; and that The minimum-coverage provision is severable from the rest of the ACA.

A spokeswoman for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said California and the other defendant states would challenge the ruling with an appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans, The New York Times reported. See [NYTimes.com/2018/12/14/health/obamacare-unconstitutional-texas-judge.html](http://NYTimes.com/2018/12/14/health/obamacare-unconstitutional-texas-judge.html).

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## viewpoints



**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN

## The LGBTQ parenting year in review

LGBTQ parents and our children faced significant challenges to equality and inclusion in 2018—but there was still some progress. Here are the highlights of the year, both good and bad.

—**The continued spread of religious exemption laws:** Kansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina this year joined Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia in allowing adoption and foster-care agencies to cite religious beliefs or moral convictions as reasons to reject otherwise qualified parents, including those who are LGBTQ. Most also allow discrimination against LGBTQ children in care, which could mean placing them with a family that does not support their LGBTQ identity.

On the federal level, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in January announced a rule that allows health care workers to cite religious or moral beliefs as reasons to refuse medical services. A new division within its Office for Civil Rights will enforce it. The rule targets medical procedures, including abortion, sterilization, and assisted suicide, but Julie Kruse, federal policy advocate at Family Equality Council, said in an interview that HHS' language and actions seem to indicate they intend the division to oversee all of HHS' activities, including human services such as adoption and foster care.

In one promising sign, however, Kansas Gov.-elect Laura Kelly said she would have her staff review the Kansas law to see if there is any way to block its enforcement. Additionally, in July, a U.S. district court ruled that Philadelphia can require religiously affiliated foster care agencies with city contracts to follow its LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination policies. And the U.S. House in September rejected an amendment to an appropriations bill that would have permitted religiously-based discrimination in child services nationwide.

—**“Voluntary acknowledgement of parentage” (VAP) forms:** Five states—California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Vermont and Washington—took action this year to allow a birth parent and the other parent of any gender to complete a simple, free form at the hospital, making them both legal parents with the full force of a court order (unlike a birth certificate.) VAPs are “a real game-changer for LGBTQ parents,” GLAD Senior Staff Attorney Patience Crozier told me.

In the theory, they will eliminate the need for often expensive and intrusive second-parent adoptions, but both Crozier and Cathy Sakimura, deputy director and family law director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, still advise same-sex parents in all states to get second parent adoptions, too, until more states have recognized VAPs. (Note also that

Washington's VAP for same-sex couples will start in early 2019 and California's in 2020; and unlike the other states, Massachusetts currently only allows them for unmarried couples.)

—**State Supreme Court rulings:** Lacking the clarity that a VAP would have provided, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in September against a woman who sought partial custody of a child her former same-sex partner gave birth to when the women were still together. They never married or did a second-parent adoption. The Court found that the plaintiff did not “assume a parental status or discharge parental duties” and the presumption that both members of a married couple are parents to a child birthed by one of them did not apply.

On the other side, the Hawaii Supreme Court in October upheld a lower court ruling that said a nonbiological mother is a parent to the child she and her former spouse had through assisted reproduction.

And the Mississippi Supreme Court in May ruled that a formerly married nonbiological mother was a full legal parent, reversing a lower court decision that said she could not be one because the couple's anonymous sperm donor constituted “an absent father.”

—**Election and public-office firsts:** Over three dozen LGBTQ parents (and one of our children) ran for office this year at all levels of government and at least 20 won. They include Jared Polis, the first openly gay man—and gay dad—to win a governorship (Colorado); Angie Craig, the first lesbian mom to win election to Congress (Minnesota), and Zach Wahls, the first person with LGBTQ parents to win state office (Iowa state Senate.) Christine Hallquist was the first transgender person and trans parent to win a gubernatorial primary for a major party, but ultimately lost her race (Vermont.)

Mary Rowland, the only openly LGBTQ person among Trump's more than 150 judicial nominees, became a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She has two grown children.

—**LGBTQ-inclusive children's books and publishing initiatives:** It was a banner year for LGBTQ-inclusive children's books, with a high overall volume in both picture and middle-grade books. See [mombian.com](http://mombian.com) for an annotated guide.

LGBTQ media-advocacy organization GLAAD and Bonnier Publishing USA launched a partnership to publish books that increase LGBTQ representation in children's literature.

OurShelves, created by queer mom Alli Harper, offers subscribers a quarterly, curated box of picture books that include LGBTQ+ characters and those of other under-represented identities. In doing so, it hopes to show publishers there's an ongoing market for such stories.

Flamingo Rampant micropress, created by queer parents S. Bear Bergman and j wallace skelton, has launched a Kickstarter for its third season of “feminist, racially diverse, LGBTQ positive children's books” of fun, celebratory, adventurous stories.

And award-winning author and queer mom Jacqueline Woodson was named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress. She also won the American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award this year for books that

have made “a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.”

—**Media milestones:** This year, GLAAD added a new “Outstanding Kids and Family Programming” category to its annual Media Awards, won by the Disney Channel's Andi Mack for its coming-out storyline about one of its regular characters, a middle-school boy.

This year sadly saw the end of *The Fosters*, Freeform's groundbreaking drama about the lives of a two-mom couple and their five children. But *Good Trouble*, a spinoff starring two of their now-grown children, premieres in January 2019, with promises of guest appearances by the moms.

—**Social-science affirmation:** The longest-running study on any LGBTQ-parent families, the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS), released results showing that young adults with lesbian parents are as mentally healthy as their peers. Evidence from dozens of other studies supports these findings, but the NLLFS' study of the same subjects since 1986 offers a detailed picture of lesbian-headed families that few others can match.

—**Milestones in reproductive technologies:** Louise Brown, the first person created through in vitro fertilization (IVF), celebrated her 40th birthday in July. IVF, where egg and sperm are combined outside the body, has helped parents both queer and not overcome fertility challenges and allowed the rise of gestational surrogacy (since the surrogate doesn't normally use their own egg). Couples like my spouse and me, too, have used IVF to create our child using one of our eggs and the other's womb. At the same time, we should remember that IVF is only one of several family-creation options for queer parents.

This year also saw the birth of the first two babies by two-mom couples using “reciprocal effortless IVF,” a new, reportedly less costly technique developed by INVO Bioscience of Massachusetts that allows both members of the couple to share in carrying the child.

And a team of scientists in China used stem cells and gene editing to create healthy mouse pups from the genetic material of two female adult mice. The technique is too tricky and untested to be considered for humans quite yet, though.

—**A business first:** Beth Ford was named CEO of Land O'Lakes agricultural cooperative. The mother of three is the first known queer woman and only the third queer person overall to lead a Fortune 500 company.

—**Goodbye to a leader:** After 22 years as the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), attorney and mother Kate Kendell in March announced she would leave “the job of a lifetime” at the end of 2018. NCLR, founded in 1977 to help lesbian moms fighting with former husbands for custody of their children, now handles often groundbreaking cases for clients across the LGBTQ spectrum in a wide range of areas. Kendell has been pivotal in setting the organization's vision and strategies since she took the helm.

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

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**PAGE 16**

*The Bearded Lady.*  
Photo by Charles Shotwell





# The best of Chicago theater (part one)

*Two Windy City Times theater critics weigh in on the best theater Chicago had to offer in 2018. More will offer their selections in the Jan. 3 issue:*

## 1. Sean Margaret Wagner's choices:

—**Tilikum, Sideshow Theatre (BEST):** Kristiana Rae Colón's deeply affecting story of marine life in captivity highlights the ways we are disregarding in real time the humanity of people who are unlike us. Gregory Geffard's *Tilikum* is supposed to be a captured orca whale, but it's no mistake that he is also a black man in a hoodie. In a very profound way,

*Tilikum* is not about sea life; it's about mass incarceration, the effects of trauma and enslavement on humans, and the injustices being dealt to incarcerated men, women and children of color as we speak. *Tilikum* evokes the mass spectacle of orca shows, and invites the audience to join in. It's brazen, funny and spirit-lifting above all else. It's one of the most revelatory concepts onstage in 2018.

—**Merchant on Venice, Rasaka Theatre & Vitalicist Theatre:** Shishir Kurup's modern-ish take on *Merchant of Venice* has something to teach us about fear, violence and stereotyping, it has something to teach us about politics, sex and prevalent hate in our 2018 American lexicon, and while it harkens back to Shakespeare, it has something to teach us about the Bard's limitations and the pedestal we reserve for them. The original text is abandoned for the authors own verse, bursting at the seams with metaphors for these characters' cultural and sexual frustrations

that cite modern tech, pharmaceuticals, and even some Queen lyrics. It's aptly performed by a terrific cast, hilarious, inviting, and understandably angry.

—**Radio Culture, TUTA Theatre:** The human consciousness goes under a microscope (and over a loudspeaker) in Maxim Dosko's exploration of one Belorussian construction foreman's inner monologue, translated by Natalia Fedorova and Amber Robinson. Volodya's thoughts are so specific they become universal, and so trivial, they encompass whole lives. He fixates so hard on keeping his life pristine, that it gives way to an unspoken concern that his thirtysome years of work has been a waste. Kevin V. Smith is still and calm as Volodya, levying such precise judgements on his workers, family and himself, you can't help but wonder what he must think of you. That's what makes *Radio Culture* so astounding: experiencing an internal voice that is not your own.

—**The Light, The New Colony:** Loy A. Webb's *The Light* inspired the deepest anger I've ever felt in a theater seat. Director Toma Langston explores a small argument between a newly engaged couple and explodes it brutally into a testament of just how powerful a woman's word must be before it is accepted as fact. How powerful? The answer isn't fair, but judging by the tear-stained faces of nearly every female patron, the truth of it resonated. Her claim must be airtight, beyond reproach, and is only as valid as she is perceived as "good." Tiffany Oglesby and Jeffrey Owen Freelon Jr. crackle with intensity as Genesis and Rashad, two Chicagoans who have let down their guard for each other, and must deal with the



Gregory Geffard, Joyce Liza Rada Lindsey, Coco Elysses and Melissa F. DuPrey in *Tilikum*. Photo by Jonathan L. Green

breaking of their unspoken boundaries.

—**HeLa, Sideshow Theatre:** *HeLa* is as messy, complicated and emotionally gripping as the real account of the life (and afterlife) of Henrietta Lacks on which it was based. Director Jonathan L. Green has crafted a truly wonderful stage experience, and honors author J. Nicole Brooks' complex tale, jumping between eras, dimensions and realities. The production is an amazing showcase for Deanna Reed-Foster as Jata, a lonely imaginary spacewoman, or maybe the form that sentient multiplying *HeLa* cells blasted to space have opted to take. The heart of *HeLa* rests with Nicole Michelle Haskins, brilliant and blistering as Auntie Bird. Her vulnerability and vitality in every facet really hammers home how little of their lives these women were allotted. It's last-thing, effective and one-of-a-kind.

## 2. Sarah Katherine Bowden's choices:

—**The Light, The New Colony at The Den Theatre:** I saw this production a week into 2018; I have been thinking about it ever since. Loy Webb's script, developed as part of The New Colony's Writers' Room, is a searing two-hander that has the audience rooting for both characters in a newly engaged couple, as they grapple with belief and perspective in our #MeToo moment. Tiffany Oglesby and Jeffrey Owen Freelon Jr. gave courageous performances, helmed by Toma Langston's controlled direction, with a gorgeous set by John Wilson, complete with paintings that reflect iconic Black women who prove how important it always has been to speak truth to power.

—**In the Canyon, Jackalope Theatre at the Broadway Armory:** Just before midterms, Jackalope delivered the best reason to vote: in order to avoid the dystopia presented in Calamity West's exploration of an America that sentences women to death for having abortions. Steeped in movie references and just under the surface religious fervor, West's vision of our future seems only a few steps away from where we live now, making its time jumps from 2007 to 2067 even more chilling. Packed with tension, and directed

with a sure hand by Elly Green, this production provided a necessary reminder that all women are right to be terrified in 2018.

—**Small Mouth Sounds, A Red Orchid Theatre:** Drama often relies on dialogue between its characters, but that doesn't mean dialogue is required to create theatre. *Small Mouth Sounds*, written by Bess Wohl and ably directed by Shade Murray, proves that connection, rather than conflict, can stir an audience's soul; silence can build bonds between actor and viewer that defy easy explanation. Wohl's exploration of a silent retreat is at turns funny and harrowing, and *A Red Orchid's* production features strong ensemble work, with a standout performance by Lawrence Grimm.

—**Scraps, New American Folk Theatre at The Den Theatre:** Anthony Whitaker re-imagines the Land of Oz as a decidedly queer realm in a charming check-in on what happens long after Dorothy lands her house on the Wicked Witch. *Scraps*, a patchwork person gamely played by Brittney Brown, yearns for adventure. Under the advisement of friends like wise Princess Ozma, played with warmth by JD Caudill, and self-described as "part boy and part girl," *Scraps* learns how to define herself, rather than cave in to others' expectations. Jamal Howard's energetic direction, combined with the bright costumes by Zachary Ryan Allen and Whitaker's clever puppetry, make for a lovely spin on a well-known yarn.

—**Merchant on Venice, Rasaka Theatre & Vitalicist Theatre at the Greenhouse Theater Center:** I doubt anyone was thirsting for an adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice* in 2018, but Rasaka and Vitalicist's revival of this earlier Silk Road Rising production was surprising for its wit and depth and revitalization. Playwright Shishir Kurup moves the action from Europe to Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles, in order to explore conflict between Hindu and Muslim businessmen in America. Kurup's dialogue is musical and lively, and he raises the stakes in the trial sequence to a dangerous new level, while Anish Jethmalani as Shukur, this world's Shylock, blends pathos and stubbornness to earn his tragedy.



Jeffrey Owen Freelon Jr. and Tiffany Oglesby in *The Light*. Photo by Evan Hanover



## THEATER REVIEW

**Barney the Elf**

Playwright: Bryan Renaud &amp; Emily Schmidt

At: Pride Films &amp; Plays at the

Pride Arts Broadway, 4139 N. Broadway

Tickets: PrideFilmsandPlays.com;

773-857-0222; \$20-\$30

Runs through: Jan. 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Marley isn't the sole casualty this yuletide.

Bryan Renaud and Emily Schmidt begin their story with the violent death of the North Pole's patriarch—Santa Claus, to us—in an industrial accident. Leadership of his toymaking empire reverts, not to his widow, but to their son, who promptly inaugurates policies designed to increase the productivity of his elvish staff to the detriment of its morale.

The employee most affected by Santa Junior's draconian measures is Barney—who is "gay," not only by virtue of his propensity for boners at the sight of hunky deliverymen, but also for his unswerving optimism and sunny disposition. After exile to an earthy snow-globe realm called Chicago, Barney finds work in a Boystown bar where he meets a sleek drag performer, who helps him to accept who he is and forgive his persecutors—all in time to save the (Christmas) day.

His progress is chronicled with the aid of body-fluid jokes, masturbation jokes, fellatio jokes, bawdy double-entendres, Dr. Seuss-style rhymes,

Roy Samra and Danika Bone't in *Barney the Elf*.

Photo by Paul Goyette

arcane Shakespearean references, threadbare political jokes, an abundance of vulgar language, a serenade to homophobia set to the melody of "I Will Survive," a solemn rendition of the Christian hymn "O Holy Night" and a number of hit-and-run remnants from previous drafts, making for several false endings before the seemingly less compromising ensemble sends audiences home with a smirking chorus of "fuck you" (ostensibly aimed

at the "haters" in the house).

Soldiering through this array of decorations piled on a script rooted in the conventions of nebbisher-hero Hollywood romcoms are Roy Samra as the ovine-innocent Barney, Maggie Cain and Dixie Lynn Cartwright as motherly Mrs. Claus and dragster Zooney, and Jaron Bellar as a ballet-dancing Santa Junior.

"Holiday traditions" are not self-imposed titles.

Now in its fourth year, Renaud and Schmidt's musical burlesque is still evolving from a raunchy romp offering affirmation to its flock to a parable providing instruction to pilgrims seeking deliverance from prejudice and intolerance. More experimentation is necessary, however, before its entrenchment in our cultural calendar is ensured.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Winter Wolf**, Otherworld Theatre, through Jan. 6. A plucky young girl and a predatory harbinger of death both learn the limits of their powers while discovering the extent of their humanity in Joseph Zettelmaier's smart new fable for young sci-fi fans of all ages. MSB

**The Old Woman Broods**, Trap Door Theatre, through Jan. 19. This relic of 20th-century Absurdist Theater shows its age, but Manuela Rentea's infectious charm and a high-stepping ensemble transform it into a vibrant carnival of multisensory spectacle. MSB

**Gypsy**, Porchlight Music Theatre, through Dec. 29. E. Faye Butler is ferocious yet tender in this exceptional production of a legendary musical. Butler was born to play Mama Rose. JA

**The Q Brothers Christmas Carol**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Dec. 30. Even in Year Six, this 90-minute rap/hip-hop version of the holiday classic still is a cheeky, edgy, mile-a-minute delight. You'll smile and tap your toes. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan

## SPOTLIGHT

**Fantastic Mr. Fox**—Roald Dahl's tale of a clever fox who outsmarts mean humans—isn't as well known as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, but it's a cracking fine story nonetheless. Bursting with wit, intelligence, music and enough edge to banish anything smacking of sentimentality or childishness, Dave Wood's adaptation takes audiences to underground lairs where canny animals plot against murderous farmers. It runs through Jan. 9 at Emerald City Theatre at the Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets start at \$20. <http://www.emeraldcitytheatre.com/>  
Photo by Austin D. Oie



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Sam Reheide, photo by Jeff Spicottino



Nicole Maines on Supergirl.  
Photo courtesy of CW

## Nicole Maines: Playing a transgender hero on 'Supergirl'

BY DANIELLE SOLZMAN

Windy City Times spoke with Nicole Maines days before the airing of Supergirl's mid-season finale in early December. The actress plays Nia Nal on the CW series, and the character breaks new ground by being the first transgender superhero.

**Windy City Times: Do you feel any increased pressure being the first trans superhero to appear in TV or film?**

Nicole Maines: Of course there is the pressure that comes with being a superhero and being given a rather large platform for the first time. As far as being the first goes, it's scary because of course I want to do it right, and I want to give the trans community the superhero that we've deserved for a while. But I feel that a lot of the pressure has been taken away with the amount of increased trans representation that we've seen on television in the recent years, with shows like Pose coming on and other programs stepping up and introducing trans characters into their cast.

I think with each new bit of representation that pressure is taking away a little bit, because that

gives actors, characters and writers more freedom to have their characters be different. You don't have to be someone, a guide. The characters' role does not have to be to educate. Their role can just be to represent an honest and respectful version of a trans person.

**WCT: One of the best moments on TV this year was when your character comes out to Jimmy Olsen. ... Did you have any input into how the script was written for that scene?**

NM: The writers have actually been really great, and we've been working really closely making sure that everything that we talk about is done in the best way possible. Actually—yes, they always give me the script, especially when it's a really trans-related scene, to kind of comb over and make sure that everything was good. There were a couple minor changes but actually that scene was incredibly, incredibly well-written. ... I really didn't have to do a lot of editing on that.

**WCT: The midseason finale going into the crossover saw some of your most important work while in action. Has there been a moment where you feel the need to pinch your-**

## TELEVISION

**self because of how important Nia is to so many fans?**

NM: I think it's more I'm always kind of aware of it. I bring that with me every time I'm on set. I feel I've gotten the hang of it a little bit better now, so I'm a little less worried about it when I go on set now because I think people have gotten to know me and really appreciate her. I see the outpouring of love on social media. But every time I go and do a scene, I'm always aware of how important this character is for a lot of people.

**WCT: You made your acting debut in an episode of Royal Pains in June 2015 alongside Mark Feuerstein. What was one of the biggest things you took away from that experience?**

NM: Oh my gosh. Honestly kind of everything—the experience. I mean that was a wonderful, wonderful first set to be a part of, because everyone was so nice and welcoming. ... I kind of took away a drive to want to go do that more. Because

of course it was my first time, so I've never done anything like that before. It was so positive and it was so amazing that I was like, "Yes, I could absolutely do this as a career."

**WCT: Prior to the Supergirl casting news, there was the announcement that Bit completed production. Can you talk about this film and what it was that attracted you to the project?**

NM: Of course, Bit is incredible. It was written and directed by Brad Michael Elmore, who is awesome in every way. So Bit is the story of a trans girl from Oregon who goes to visit her brother in Los Angeles for the summer. While she's there, she falls in with this intersectional group of feminist vampires—kind of think like a feminist version of Lost Boys.

I love the character of Laurel because she was so different from other trans characters I've read for before. Her main point in that film is not to be trans. ... It was done so beautifully. Brad wrote it so amazingly that I was like, I need to be a part of this. It was so amazing and it the most fun I've had in my life.

**WCT: The Supergirl news came a bit after the casting announcement. How long were you holding that in?**

NM: I was holding that in for about a month. I found out halfway through Bit shooting in June. I was holding that in from like mid-June to mid-July.

**WCT: What was it like walking into San Diego Comic Con for the first time and seeing that hall?**

NM: Oh my gosh. Just as a comic book fan and as a superhero nerd, going into San Diego Comic Con itself for the first time was insane. I'm so excited. It was so surreal to be going in through the back door in a way, because it kind of felt like I'd slipped under the velvet rope for a second and I feel like I snuck past somebody.

Getting to walk into that big hall for the first time and seeing everybody was so overwhelming. I'm so excited, happy, and relieved at how many people were clapping and cheering for an openly trans actor and openly trans character—a trans superhero. It really made me appreciate how far we've come in all the work that we've done as a community. I think especially in a time when it's really, really scary and it kind of feels like we are constantly under attack—and there is a new bill targeting us every week. It was really, really great to see people supporting a trans superhero and it made me feel hopeful.

**WCT: Have you made any additional Comic Con appearances or is this something that you're looking forward to doing in the future?**

NM: I haven't made any other Comic Con appearances yet, but I really hope that I get to. I'm really looking forward to Comic Con next year.

**WCT: Is there something that you're looking forward to doing in the New Year?**

NM: Getting to do more action scenes. I think I get to do more as Dreamer, which I'm really excited to do because of course, as of the midseason finale, we kind of got a little taste of what Nia's like in action. But with Dreamer and the suit and everything—it's something else entirely. It's so amazing and I can't wait for people to see that!

**Supergirl returns Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, at 7 p.m. on the CW.**



Emily Blunt in *Mary Poppins Returns*.  
Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Studios

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Mary Poppins Returns' an old-school delight

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Some will argue *Mary Poppins Returns* is boring. And maybe, to an extent, it's true—the movie has its slow moments, plus at least two songs and one cameo that could have been cut. The soundtrack recalls Golden Age musicals rather than modern pop. But at its core, with gay director Rob Marshall at the helm, *Mary Poppins Returns* is genuine in a way most modern films are not.

The sequel to the iconic Disney picture isn't a 90-minute romp of CGI characters making smart-aleck remarks meant to appeal more to parents than children. There are real stakes: Namely, the Banks home, where Michael (Ben Whishaw, who, like Marshall, is gay)—now a widowed father struggling to hold things together—lives with his three children and bumbling maid (Julie Walters). Now a labor activist with a big heart and tiny wallet, Jane (Emily Mortimer) isn't much help, and with foreclosure a few days away, Big Ben is ticking.

Enter the magical nanny (a pert and impeccably coiffed Emily Blunt), ever-ready with a bottomless travel bag and a talking umbrella used sparingly as comic relief. Same Banks house, but different London: The Troubles of the '30s have taken hold, and thanks to a greedy bank manager (Colin Firth), the family may soon be out on the streets. What's refreshing about *Mary Poppins Returns* is that the Banks must rely on their own problem-solving skills, and love for one another, to get themselves out of a life-changing mess. Although Mary injects some much-needed whimsy in the kids' lives and dispenses bite-size snacks of quotable wisdom—aided by wide-eyed lamplighter Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda)—when it comes down to brass tacks, the nanny stays behind the scenes.

The real star of *Mary Poppins Returns* is its art direction,

which is nothing short of stunning. The gray and rainy London backdrops and cluttered household are a sharp contrast to Mary's clean lines and vivid wardrobe, and the hand-drawn animation sequences that are a mainstay of the original film make a glorious return. As Mary, Jack and the children travel into the world of a china bowl, complete with a horse-drawn carriage and music hall, even the most jaded audience members will be swept away into a world of wonder.

Blunt is an intelligent choice for the title role, with crisp diction and a knowing smile reminiscent of Julie Andrews. Blunt's Mary maintains a perfect balance of efficiency and warmth, comforting the children about their lost mother and making sure they don't miss bath time. Miranda's signature quick wit and contagious smile are on full display, and his Jack gets to shine in a Newsies-esque production number.

But it's Whishaw who really tugs heartstrings. Rather than the stodgy and harsh Mr. Banks of the original, Michael wears a permanent expression of worry, a sensitive artist-turned-bank teller overwhelmed by the three small lives for which he is now solely responsible. When he finally cracks and shouts at the children, it's coming from a world of pain, and when he realizes what he almost lost—their trust—the moment is devastatingly moving.

*Mary Poppins Returns* is essentially an old-fashioned Broadway musical on the big screen, minus the usually-problematic content. In every music cue and camera angle, director Rob Marshall pays homage to the original film while creating memories for a new generation. Despite its occasionally lengthy pace, *Mary Poppins Returns* delivers the goods of peak Disney: substantial life lessons with a glittering chaser. It's the warm cup of tea you didn't know you needed.

## Kokandy names new artistic director

Kokandy Productions announced the appointment of Derek Van Barham as the company's new Producing Artistic Director, succeeding Allison Hendrix.

Barham is joined by three new artistic associates: Adrian Abel Azevedo, Leda Hoffmann and Nik Whitcomb. The new artistic team is supported by Kokandy's board of directors, which includes Preston Cropp, Allison Hendrix, Gitta Jacobs, Scot Kokandy and Katie Svaicer.

Van Barham is a member of the Red Tape Theatre ensemble. He was previously artistic director of The Ruckus and associate artistic director of Pride Films & Plays.



Derek Van Barham.  
Photo courtesy of Van Barham

## NWaC announces 'Community' season

Nothing Without a Company (NWaC) has announced its 13th season, "COMMUNITY."

The new season features two plays: the world premiere of *The Soccer Player in the Closet*, written by Ryan Oliveira and directed by Christopher Sylvie; and the Chicago premiere of *Pakalolo Sweet*, written by Hannah Ii-Epstein and directed by Rachel Slavick. Both plays focus on underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and are written by Chicago artists who belong to those groups.

Also in the season are a 24 Hour Play Fest; NWaC's first-ever gala, "Wonder Ball;" and a New World Play Festival.

*The Soccer Player in the Closet* will run Feb. 14-March 17, 2019, at Christy Webber Landscapes, 2900 W. Ferdinand St.. *Pakalolo Sweet* will run Sept. 18-Oct. 5, 2019, at Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd. The 24 Hour Play Fest is scheduled for May 2019, and the gala will take place on June 1, 2019. More information on the New World Play Festival will be announced on a later date.

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

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By Bryan Renaud and Emily Schmidt  
Staged by Michael D. Graham



# Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady: New book chronicles Chicago's early gay disco scene

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

## Fame (Remember My Name)

For nine years the Bistro reigned as the hottest club in Chicago – a genuine nightlife phenomenon – and above the door on the marquee, as well as on the club's business cards and matchbooks, it said "Dugan's Bistro, the Home of the Bearded Lady."

With the Bistro as his platform, BL became a star. Comedienne Phyllis Diller applauded him. Bruce Vilanch referred to him as "Chicago's Living Legend." Gay Life columnist Ron Herizon hailed his infectious lunacy as "Chicago's answer to Bette Midler." He posed for noted photographers like Chuck Shotwell and Marc Hauser. Glitz and glitter artist, Bob "Windy City Warhol" Fischer, who called his art bizzarte, immortalized him in an oil painting.

BL was a bona fide celebrity. People shouted to him from passing cars and called his name from department store balconies. On the street some people asked for a picture, for an autograph, or both. He was always thrilled to oblige. He was born for this because BL adored his public as much as they adored him. He was routinely featured in the gay and straight press alike for any number of reasons. He attended dozens of nightlife events, play openings, fundraisers, and restaurant debuts. He wrestled in cake batter for charity and ended the match by licking his opponent into submission. He was frequently a featured entertainer at the Mr. Windy City contests and a popular guest at film festivals. People joked that he'd show up at the opening of an envelope.

On New Year's Eve of 1974, he arrived by limo at the "black towel optional" opening of the Music Hall at the legendary Man's Country bathhouse where he performed for the mostly naked crowd. BL was paid handsomely to perform and "carry on" at private parties before hitting the Bistro stage at midnight.

In 1975, at the showing of *The Pig and I: A Love Story* for the Chicago International Film Festival, the film's porky star was squealing in the lobby. Eager to hog some of the spotlight, BL picked up the piglet and put it next to his face as the cameras flashed. The image of BL and the pig was all over the papers, and television, the following day.

Aaron Gold's 1975 Tower Ticker column in the Chicago Tribune dished about BL being listed among a roster of celebrities attending a sneak preview of *Tommy* at the State-Lake Theater. "Tina Turner, who plays the Acid Queen, definitely will be on hand... Zsa Zsa and Eva Gabor, Stefanie Powers, Bobby; The Bearded Lady, the Who's John Entwistle, and possibly Ann- Margret (if her plane arrives on time) will get together later at Arnie's for a Hollywood type glitter party complete with Bally Wizard pinball machines."

In an era when much of the Gay Pride Parade was banners and beer trucks, BL was always a highlight. When he rode by on the Bistro float, the crowd went wild. He grew so excited by the adulation that he would shriek and cackle with delight. Of the ten minutes of footage that exists from Chicago's 1976 Pride Parade by filmmaker Tom Palazzolo, a healthy portion is devoted to BL making his way into position on a float while carrying a Fiorucci shopping bag and wearing a layered mini-sundress with white stockings, satin opera

Before Studio 54...

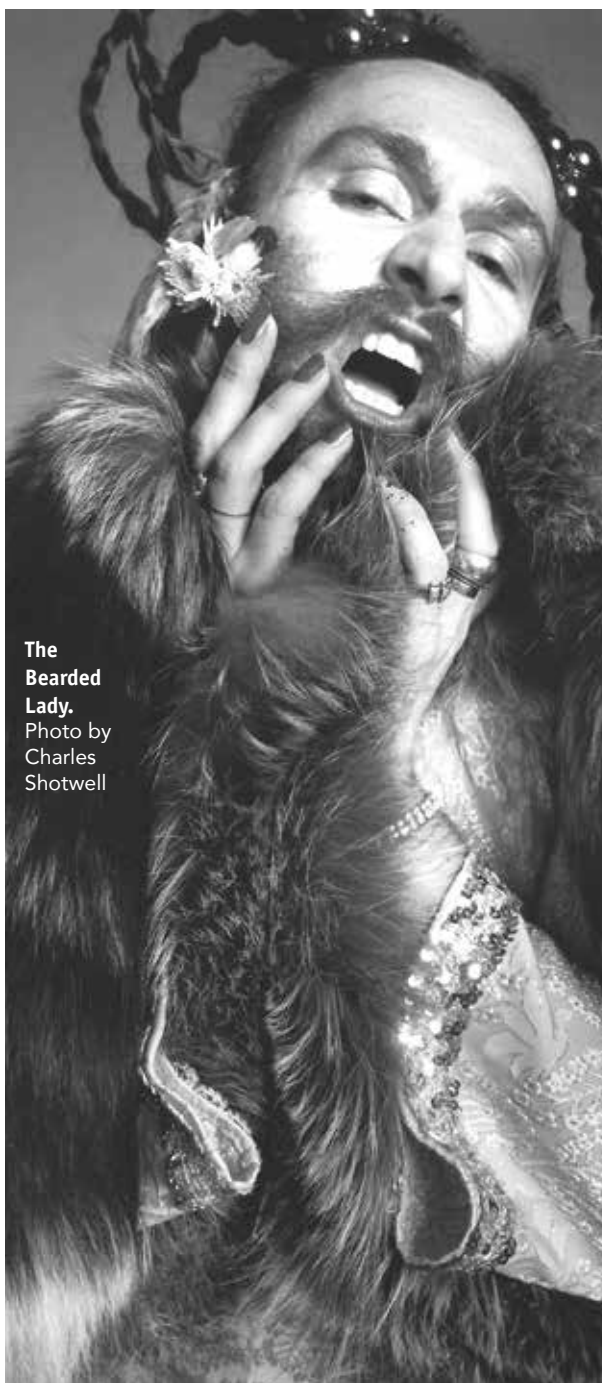
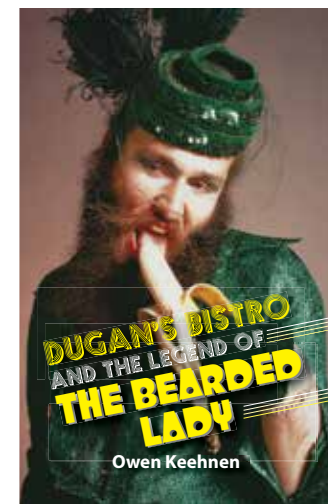
Dugan's Bistro was the hottest gay disco in Chicago. From 1973-1982 the sign above the door and on the club's matchbooks read: "Dugan's Bistro, the Home of the Bearded Lady." A Chicago nightlife phenomenon, the Bearded Lady was a unique celebrity who, for over a decade, was covered regularly in gay newspapers and magazines, gossip columns of the Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times, and several national and international publications. Despite his fame, much of BL's life has remained a mystery, until now.

Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady is a folklore-bio of the

Disco Era – a time and place that were key in the evolution of Chicago's LGBT community. The Bearded Lady's story is a gateway to the decadent nightlife and exuberance of a "lost" generation – and what happened after the party ended.

With additional material by Jeffrey Mark Bruce and Richard Knight, Jr., author, activist, and grassroots historian Owen Keehnen brings the era and one of the most colorful characters of Chicago's gay "downtown glitter scene" to life.

Following is an excerpt from the book, now available on Amazon and at Unabridged Books.



The Bearded Lady. Photo by Charles Shotwell

gloves, and a half-veil.

At a David Bowie concert, BL received media coverage after arriving in an enormous polka dot ante-bellum gown, with a zebra print shawl, and a huge southern belle hat festooned with ermine tails hanging from the brim. Over the hat was a surfeit of black bridal netting that he tied beneath his chin in an oversized bow. He carried an enormous silver fan and his beard sparkled with glitter.

The attention was like a drug. Each press photo and every column mention prompted BL to be more outrageous in his public appearances. He showed up in costumes evermore over-the-top and sporting an I have arrived attitude. He was always ready to cause a commotion; which he did at a film screening from which he was turned away because his enormous headpiece was both too high and too wide for people to see around.

On July 11, 1977, he was prominently pictured in a Time Magazine piece on the punk music phenomenon in America. The photo was taken while waiting in line at a concert. In the shot BL wore silver platform shoes with black and gold ankle ribbons, silvery hose with garters, a leopard print hot pants/top combo, gold workout belt, black coat, pink sunglasses and a biker hat with a pink floral purse slung over his shoulder. His leopard print top was open to his waist, revealing two slabs of meat on his chest that had been fashioned into a bra. When Time hit the stands BL was over the moon. He came onto the Bistro stage that night wearing a red, white, and blue sequin outfit with lit sparklers in his hair. As the music started he began shrieking and spinning in a euphoric whirl. Eventually he stopped and screamed, "Your Mother has made Time Magazine!"

On Oct 1 the same year, BL headlined a show in Toronto with the popular punk band "Oh Those Pants" at the Ontario College of Art, which was the center of punk rock in the city. On the accompanying t-shirts he received top billing: BL in huge black letters against a white background. Within the black initials were the words: "THE BEARDED LADY and OH! THOSE PANTS!" A pair of lips completed the artwork. The wide press coverage of the event thrilled him.

Even the December 1979 issue of Penthouse magazine mentioned him. Once he became "a name," BL had various agents and representatives who tried to book him on *The Tonight Show* and other programs. Although he garnered attention and was undeniably a phenomenon, his performance did not transcend the moment. His persona was too scattered, too unpolished, too unpredictable, and maybe a little too gay for the mass palate. Middle America was not ready to have this avant-garde sensation in their living rooms.

But it didn't matter. For those who knew BL – or knew of him – his live personae was so commanding that, when discussing the opening of Chicago's chicest new clothing boutique, a Chicago Sun-Times writer reported, with tongue in cheek precision, "The Bearded Lady...was not there." He had achieved so much notoriety that even Chicago Tribune arts columnist Claudia Cassidy mentioned his arrival at an event in her popular half-hour program on WFMT radio. Hearing his name uttered by "Acidy Cassidy" – of all people – BL felt he had, indeed, arrived – in more ways than one.



## BOOK REVIEW

## They: A Biblical Tale of Secret Genders

by Janet Mason  
\$22.30; Adelaide Books;  
281 pages

REVIEW BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

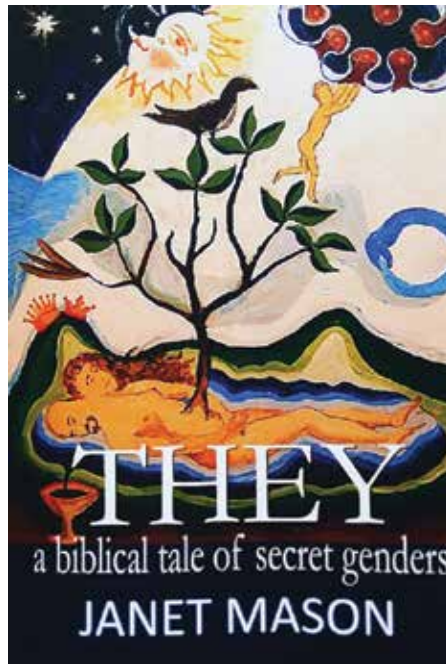
What if you could meet a secret society of welcoming misfits—omitted from patriarchal biblical history—just because they are not in keeping with gender norms?

With *They: A Biblical Tale of Secret Genders*, author Janet Mason posits that there could have been a hidden tribe of intersex children, kept under the radar by a pair of savvy twin sisters. Matriarchs Tamar and Tabitha can set the record straight on biblical heroes like Joseph and Jesus, along with other miracles of conception and reincarnation they've had to keep to themselves.

It's a premise with a lot of potential, but ultimately Mason gets bogged down in minutiae, and her intersecting stories graze each other without ever feeling quite woven together.

Tamar is a happy Hebrew widow, content to settle in with her Dromedary pet, Aziz, and no husband to pester her in Canaan. Trouble arrives, though, when her unmarried twin sister Tabitha, desperate to be a mother, beds the first willing shepherd she can convince. The sisters devise an elaborate ruse to explain away Tabitha's pregnancy; it involves the seduction of Tamar's wealthy former father in law Judah and mistaken identity (twins, remember). To be pregnant without being married was an offence punishable by death.

Long story short, Tabitha's babies (also twins) are born safely, but are discovered to be intersex. To the outside world, Tamar and Tabitha proclaim the children to be boys because male heirs are more celebrated, but secretly, they raise the children with no genders imposed. What spawns are generations of gestating twins that are both male and female, raised by intersex parents who help their children thrive in a society that is often hostile to their existence. Their children are present everywhere from Egyptian palaces with Joseph and his colorful coat, to the birth of Yeshua himself.



What ends up frustrating Mason's narrative is the energy spent relaying Tamar and Tabitha's day-to-day normalcy. We don't see thrilling events like the sister's confrontation with Judah over parentage, Tamar's betrayal of the infant's secrets, even the birth and estrangement of Tamar's own daughter (a miraculous same-sex conception!); instead, readers are assured these things happened and were exciting. One of the sister's biggest adversaries, Judah, is spoken of so often, it's strange to realize he is only referred to, never present in the story.

Characters like Tamar's somewhat untrustworthy lover Judith are dangled with the potential to become integral to Tamar's story, then are hurried off the page, when 20 years must inexplicably pass. And the sister's birth father ruse is so unnecessarily complex & unwieldy, you may find yourself doubling back over whole chapters to verify who knows what.

Mason's pursuit to weave acceptance for intersex individuals into an historically unaccepting Judeo-Christian backstory is inspiring, in theory. However, *They: A Biblical Tale of Secret Genders* never quite fuses together stories, characters and events in a way that feels purposeful and whole.

Cinderella (1950), *Eve's Bayou* (1997), *Broadcast News* (1987) and *Jurassic Park* (1993). *Brokeback Mountain*—a contemporary Western drama that won the Academy Award for best screenplay (by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana) and Golden Globe awards for best drama, director (Ang Lee) and screenplay—focuses on a secret and tragic love affair between two closeted gay ranch hands (portrayed by Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger). The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world—both on site and online.

## Season of Concern awards \$93K

Season of Concern—the Chicagoland theater community's fundraising effort that provides compassionate care to those who are experiencing the effects of catastrophic illness, and provides support annually to Chicago-based HIV/AIDS service organizations—has announced the awarding of \$93,000 to 18 local HIV/AIDS organizations.

The recipients are AIDS Legal Council, Alexian Brothers, CALOR, Care to Prevent, Catholic Charities, Center on Halsted, Chicago House, Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Children's Place, Haymarket, Heartland Alliance, Howard Brown Health Center, Open Door, Pediatric AIDS, Sinai Health System, The Night Ministry, The Boulevard and TPAN.

Season of Concern also raises funds through the Biscotto-Miller Fund to local theater artists, regardless of union affiliation.

For more information about the fund, contact Michael Ryczek at [michaelatseasonofconcern.org](http://michaelatseasonofconcern.org) or visit [SeasonOfConcern.org](http://SeasonOfConcern.org).

## Sinfonietta's MLK concerts Jan. 20-21

Chicago Sinfonietta will present its signature annual MLK Tribute Concert—featuring the conducting talents of Chicago Sinfonietta Assistant Conductor Kedrick Armstrong and Charleston Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor Kellen Gray, both graduates of the Chicago Sinfonietta's industry-leading Project Inclusion professional development program.

The group will perform Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019 at 3 p.m. at Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville; and Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Each piece programmed in this season's MLK tribute concerts was specially selected by Kedrick Armstrong and Gray in collaboration with Music Director Mei-Ann Chen, for whom Armstrong and Gray will be substituting.

Tickets to the MLK Tribute Concert are \$10-\$62 each when purchased in advance online; visit [ChicagoSinfonietta.org](http://ChicagoSinfonietta.org).

## 'My Fair Lady,' 'Brokeback' added to film registry

On Dec. 12, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced the annual selection of "25 of the country's most influential motion pictures to be inducted into the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress because of their cultural, historic and aesthetic importance to the nation's film heritage," according to the Library of Congress website.

Some of the films include *My Fair Lady* (1964), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), *The Shining* (1980), *Something Good—Negro Kiss* (1898),



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Windy City Times and your furry friends

Thanks to everyone for submitting pet photos. Aren't they adorable?!



Topo Gigio



Vincenzo



Viola



Murry



George, Dudley, Possum,  
Bradford and Henry



Franklin



Elway



Greta



Sparky &  
Toby



Scrap



Bruno



Emmett Otter



Maggie



Benson



Oreo Cookie



Simon



Simba



BE



Sunny





## BILLY Masters

"Get ready for some pounding. Some of us could see eight inches or more. That's too much—even for me."—Virginia Beach weatherman **Blaine Stewart** prepared residents for a blizzard in early 2018 with this Tweet. It shocked even moi.

I can't believe it's almost a year since **Mariah** complained about not having hot tea on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve. Thank God she didn't complain about Dick not being there—by now, he's colder than her tea!

Yeah, obviously it's our year in review. And while I typically wouldn't go to the death topic so early, I'm still mourning the loss of **Bob Smith**. For those who don't know, Bob was the first openly gay comedian to appear on The Tonight Show. As a writer, his work will live on. While his body betrayed him as he fought ALS, his mind was as sharp as ever. We still exchanged emails until the end, and he was a faithful reader of this column and one of my champions. Thank you, Bob, for opening the door for so many of us. You are missed ... and remembered.

Was anyone surprised when **Garrett Clayton** came out? Hands? No one. Then **Jaden Smith** said that **Tyler, The Creator** is not only his best friend, but his boyfriend. Correction: His "motherfucking boyfriend." Tyler denies it.

A bit of history was made this year when a trans woman was crowned Miss Spain. This made **Angela Ponce** the first trans woman in the Miss Universe Pageant. And speaking of firsts, **Daniel Hall** and **Vincent Franchino** became the first same-sex active-duty soldiers to get married at West Point. Congrats to all.

I would need a full column to really go over all the details of the **Colton Haynes** and **Jeff Leatham's** marriage. In fact, I'm exhausted before I even start recounting it. So, let's just encapsulate. Boy meets boy. Boy proposes to boy. Boy marries boy. Boy records a song called "Man It Sucks." Boy files for divorce from other boy. Boy flies to Vancouver to surprise boy on boy's birthday. Boy and boy are back together. Did you follow that? Good.

When I started this column more than two decades ago, no one talked of gays having children—unless one was referencing the age gap. Now, **Neil Patrick Harris** and **David Burtka** are going on family vacations with **Elton John** and **David Furnish**. **Lance Bass** and **Michael Turchin** are talking about having kids, but I think that's just to get an invite from Elton. When asked if he was going to have another kid with **Jeremiah Brent**, **Nate Berkus** said, "I've been trying and I just can't get pregnant." Thus ends another spirited round of "Who's the bottom?"

**Tom Daley** and **Dustin Lance Black** just had a kid—so I guess that ties in the old and new definition of gays and children. In fact, we're about to tie in the topic of bottoms. There is a photo which is purportedly Tom Daley nude and on all fours (and I'd bet what's left of my reputation that it's real). Then stills from a sex tape circu-



**Garrett Clayton (right)** is part of Billy's year-end wrap-up.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

lated which allegedly show Daley bottoming for a buff bald bloke (side note—it was pointed out to me that alliteration is an early sign of dementia). Now, I'm not willing to bet what's left of Tom's reputation on it, but I will say the photos look real to me. To settle the matter, I'll simply post them on BillyMasters.com and you can decide for yourself.

Going over all the stories, I have to say this was the Year of **Cher**. Believe it or not, all of these things happened in 2018—she performed at Sydney Mardi Gras, the musical about her life opened in Chicago, she appeared in *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again*, she released a CD of ABBA covers, *The Cher Show* opened on Broadway and she got the Kennedy Center Honor. That's a lot of work for someone who's barely awake a couple of hours a day! And it sounds like 2019 is gonna be just as busy. She's allegedly working on a second compilation of ABBA songs and has signed a deal to write her autobiography. And if that's not enough, try this on for size—if the musical about her wins a Tony Award (and that's a big "if"), she would join the hallowed halls of EGOT winners.

Of course, I'm known for nudes. The most notorious one of this year happens to be a drawing—of **Batman's** penis! And since he's a superhero, he obviously has a superpower—the ability to make his penis disappear (probably into Robin). In "Batman: Damned #1," the Bat-penis was front and center in the print edition. But, for reasons unrevealed, someone used an eraser for the digital edition. Of course, you can see it on BillyMasters.com.

One of the biggest hits of 2018 was **Black Panther**. So imagine everyone's surprise when someone from the film turned out to have a past doing gay porn. Now, don't get excited—it's not one of the stars. But **Shumba Patrick Mutukwa** was a border tribe warrior in the film. More importantly, he was the dialect coach since he was born in Zambia. Then the "Zambian Observer" reported

**SIDETRACK** MONDAY DECEMBER 31

# 2019

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TUESDAY JANUARY 1

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that Mutukwa is "actually a p\*rn star in America who makes a living out of making p\*rnograph! material." And, as I said when I initially reported this, clearly a 12-year-old girl is writing for the *Zambian Observer*. Here's one of our little-known rules of thumb—if it's good enough for the *"ambian Observer"*, it's good enough for BillyMasters.com. You're welcome.

When a **Black Panther** is sporting double digits, it's definitely time to end yet another year of columns. I cannot believe it. On one hand, the year flew by. On the other hand, some of these stories seem like they happened ... well, no more than 12 months ago. And that's because all this and more can be found on BillyMasters.com—the site that doesn't look its age. And even though we didn't include an "Ask Billy" question, I am always happy to find you poking about in my inbox. Dash a note off to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Colton and Jeff's next breakup. (As we go to press, we hear the next installment is "boy serves younger boy with divorce papers.") So, until next year, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

# 2019

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Eataly's Baita; Restaurant Week

BY ANDREW DAVIS

You can visit the Italian Alps here in Chicago.

**Baita**, located in the River North spot Eataly (43 E. Ohio St.; [https://www.eataly.com/us\\_en/stores/chicago/chi-baita/](https://www.eataly.com/us_en/stores/chicago/chi-baita/)), brings this area of Europe to the Windy City. And it's a seasonal spot, bringing the Italian winter through March. (Also, "baita" means "small ski lodge," reinforcing the decor.)

I advise you to check out this spot while you can. There are wine tastings, cool alpine settings and, of course, some very tasty food.

However, be sure to start with the impressive selections of alpine cocktails or wine. I had the Alpenglow—a tart and absolutely delicious melange of brandy, Luxardo Triplum, Shrub

Gnocchi at Baita.  
PR photo



and Co. Cranberry Pine and lemon. My dining companion really liked The Stelvio Pass, which contains Rittenhouse Rye, Borgogno Barolo Chinato and Fee Bros mint bitters. There are also slews of "warming wines," as they're called, and digestifs from which to choose—but I capped

things off at the end with the lovely sipping chocolate (with a hint of Fratello Hazelnut liqueur).

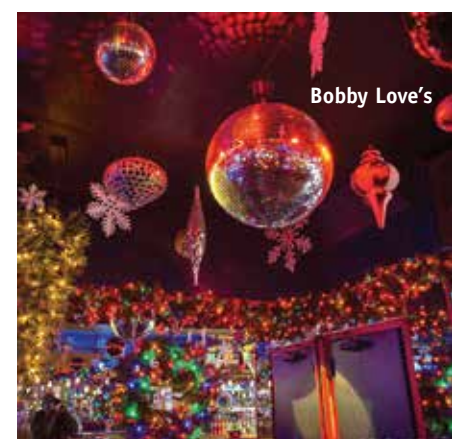
There's also a nice (and unexpectedly large) selection of culinary items. The arancini di funghi e tartufi nailed the Italian rice-ball

concept nicely, and we fell in love with the raclette (melted-cheese dish) that can come with house-pickled vegetables, marble potatoes and/or ham. (These's also a melted-cheese bar, with accompanying items like fig mostarda and apples.) For me, it was the pasta dishes that really stood out: We tried two scrumptious gnocchi dishes—one with roasted squash, brown butter and sage; and another with braised veal breast and caramelized onions. And there's also a spaghetti dish with slightly kicky pork sausage, roasted mushrooms and black truffle butter—perfection on a plate.

If, for some reason, those dishes don't appeal to you, there are plenty of other choices. Antipasti include spiedini di Manzo, with Wagyu beef skewers, sea salt and extra virgin olive oil; and antipasti misti, an olio of housemade mozzarella, Parmigiano Reggiano, basil-and-walnut pesto, Bosc pears, olives, prosciutto jam, crackers and more. Of course, there are pizzas (like speck e fontina); and larger plates with items like trota, which consists of trout, black rice, squash and Brussels sprouts.

Basically, you can't go wrong with Baita and, after that, you can check out the rest of what Eataly has to offer—which is a heck of a lot.

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





## DISH from page 20

## Chicago Restaurant Week

The new year may not quite be here, but Chicago Restaurant Week will be here before you know it.

Chicago's world-class culinary scene will once again be in the spotlight during the 12th annual Chicago Restaurant Week, Jan. 25- Feb. 7. (Yes, it's technically two weeks, but "Chicago Restaurant Fortnight" doesn't have quite the same ring.)

Produced by Choose Chicago, reservations for the annual culinary celebration are now open at [eatupchicago.com](http://eatupchicago.com), featuring menus for participating Chicago-area eateries. A record number of Chicago restaurants—395!—will take part in 2019's Chicago Restaurant Week. (More than 600,000 diners took part in 2018.)

Chicago Restaurant Week will launch with First Bites Bash, featuring Joe Flamm, executive chef of Spiaggia and Cafe Spiaggia, and Chicago mixologist Jarmel Doss, assistant bar director of The Aviary, as First Bites Bash hosts, on Thursday, Jan. 24, 6-9 p.m., at the Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. More than 70 of Chicago's most famous chefs and restaurants will be represented at the event, which allows participants to preview tasting portions from their respective Chicago RestaurantWeek menus. For a complete list of participating restaurants and to purchase tickets to First Bites Bash, visit [firstbitesbash.com](http://firstbitesbash.com).

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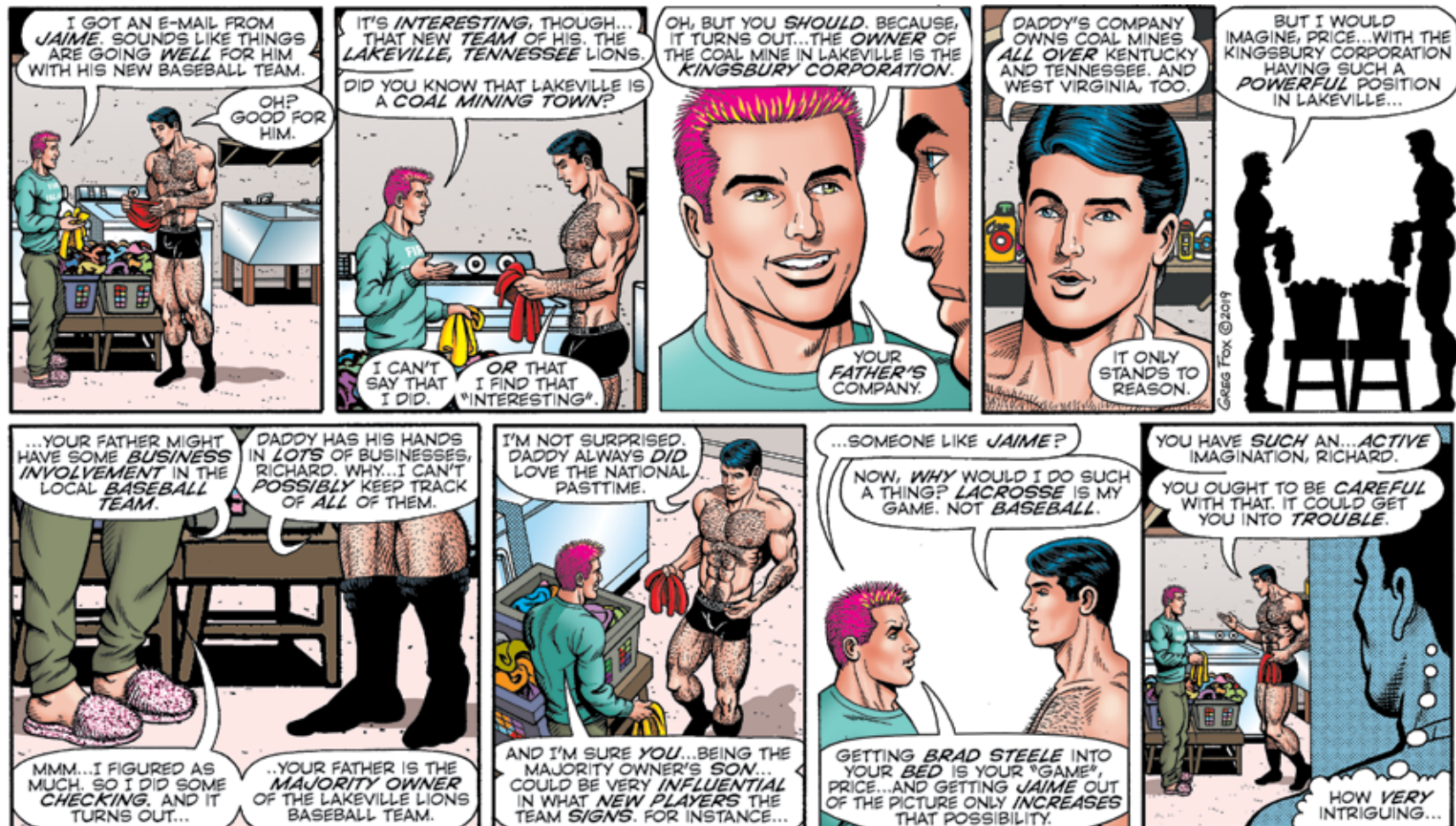
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## KYLE'S BED &amp; BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



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# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Dec. 26

**The L Lounge** is a lesbian community support group that meets the last Wednesday of every month at the Center On Halsted. Snacks and drinks included. Find The L Lounge on Facebook 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

## Friday, Dec. 28

**Trans/Gender Affirming Name Change Mobilization** Hosted by Transformative Justice Law Project. Volunteers will assist Cook County residents with filling out the documents required for a name change. Last Friday of every month in room 1202. 9:00am - 3:00am Daley Center Plaza 50 W Washington St Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/transformativjusticeproject/>

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

**Singer Macy Gray** Gray—whose signature raspy voice is featured in “I Try,” one of the biggest singles of 1999—will perform. \$55-\$75 7:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St., Chicago <http://CityWinery.com>

**Barney the Elf** Queerfully delicious holiday show with musical satire, which incorporates Renaud and Schmidt’s parody lyrics to popular songs, 7:30pm Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

## Saturday, Dec. 29

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers** Chicago Weekly run/walk. Followed by brunch. 9:00am Kwagulth Totem Pole Addison & Lakeshore Dr. <http://frontrunnerschicago.com>

**Bi Discussion Group** Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago Meetup 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Sunday, Dec. 30

**Queer Spirituality Discussion** Forum for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, genderqueer folks, intersex peo-



## QUEER TO DATE

Monday, Dec. 31

Many spots will be open for New Year's Eve/Day.  
Photo by Jerry Nunn

ple, allies to explore together what it means to be spiritual and queer. RSVP online 5:45pm Town Hall Apartments, 3600 N. Halsted St., Chicago; Meetup.com

## Monday, Dec. 31

**Celebrate NYE with Team Sidetrack** Drag performance, 8 to 10 p.m. \$5 advance tickets available. Complementary light bits. Champagne toast at midnight. Doors open 7 p.m. 11:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

**New Year's Eve Countdown at The SoFo Tap** VJ Thomas will be mixing the New Year Countdown with your favorite music videos. \$4 all whiskeys, ryes & bourbons; \$4 Stella drafts and \$5 Big Long Islands. Champagne toast at midnight. No cover. 9:00pm - 2:00am The SoFo Tap 4923 N Clark Chicago

**New Year's Eve Masquerade at Club Krave** Masquerade party favors, appetizer, midnight champagne toast. Win two tickets to see Cher's Here We Go Again tour. \$15 at the door; \$20 at the door. 8:00pm - 2:00am Club Krave 13126 S Western Ave Blue Island, IL 60406

**Dick's Clark Street New Year's Rockin' Eve** Ring in your 2019 with a spectacular night of music, entertainment and MORE. Hosted by P NoNoire, with music and

performances by Fay Ludes, Kalli Mauri and Mikki Miraj. \$5 Stolis. Doors open at 8 pm and the party starts at 9 pm. Meeting House Tavern, 5025 N. Clark St. 8:00pm - 2:00am Meeting House Tavern, 5025 N. Clark St.

**Black and Blue New Year's Eve at Touche** \$10 cover with a buffet, door prizes, party favors and your first drink. Your ticket includes a special raffle for a Mr. Chicago Leather 2019 weekend package. With DJ Harry T, champagne toast and lights out at midnight. Tickets available for purchase at the bar. 8:00pm - 4:00am Touche 6412 N Clark St Chicago

**New Year's Eve at Berlin** Ring in the new year with drag superstars Aunty Chan, Kat Sass, Bambi Banks and Tenderoni. Hosted by T Rex. DJs Greg Haus and [X] P. Free admission before 10. 9:00pm - 4:00am Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago

**Champagne Wishes and Caviar Dreams, A Red Tape Benefit** Red Tape partners with Coco Sho-Nell's drag and burlesque show featuring stunning and exciting acts all evening long plus DJ, dancers and music. \$30 1:00pm Red Tape, 4546 N Western Ave., Lincoln Square <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/champagne-wishes-and-caviar-dreams-a-red-tape-benefit-tickets-53269737218#>

**New Year's Eve five-course dinner** \$80 per person, with an additional \$35 each for wine pairing. 5:00pm - 11:00pm Cafe Robey, 1616 N. Milwaukee Ave. 872-315-3084 <http://www.caferobey.com>

**Kit Kat Lounge NYE Glitz & Glam Gala 2019** With dinner, drinks & live performances by Kit Kat Diva Amalia Black. 7pm NYE Dinner Seating (\$65) or 10pm NYE Dinner Seating (\$85) 7:00pm Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club 3700 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/kit-kat-lounge-nye-glitz-glam-gala-2019-tickets-52512047949>

**Burning Blue Beard** The Neo-Futurists and The Ruffians present a special New Year's Eve VIP Package with dinner and late-night showing of The Infinite Wrench 7:00pm The Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago <http://www.neo-futurists.org>

**New Year's Eve @ Broken Shaker** Chicago New Year's Eve 2099: A Future Fashion Murder Mystery complete with prizes, a catwalk, readings from Principe Palmistry, a live David Bowie inspired jazz band, and futuristic funk tunes by local DJ Marty Mars. Complimentary champagne toast at midnight. 8:00pm - 2:00am Broken Shaker, Freehand Chicago, 19 E Ohio St., Chicago Tickets: <http://the-freehand.com>

**Chicago Magic Lounge New Year's Eve Show** Special evening of close-up magic and music with a mind reader. 9:00pm -

2:00am Chicago Magic Lounge, 5050 N. Clark St. 312-366-4500 Tickets: <http://chicagomagiclounge.com>

**New Philharmonic** MAC's resident orchestra will usher out the old year with Polkas, arias, light classics and movie music. Early shows 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$35-\$67 9:00pm McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage 425 Fawell Blvd Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 <http://AtTheMAC.org>

**Zoo Year's Eve** Adults-only New Year's Eve celebration with DJ entertainment, games and giveaways in the glow of Zoo Lights! Food and alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Early-bird tickets begin at \$15. 9:00pm - 1:00am Lincoln Park Zoo <http://lpzoo.org/events>

**NYE Countdown Party and Open Bar** DJ Glenn Russell sets the mood and gets you on your feet, countdown, champagne toast, late night snacks. \$50. 10:00pm - 1:00am Uncommon Ground on Clark 3800 N. Clark St. Chicago <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3907260>

**Free and Discounted Rides** Miller Lite Free Rides on all CTA routes Monday, Dec. 31 from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. Also, Miller Lite and Uber team up for the first 4,000 New Year's Eve Uber riders with \$10 off one Uber trip from 7 a.m. Dec. 31, 2018 through 6 a.m. Jan. 1, 2019 by entering the code MLNYE18. 10:00pm - 4:00am All CTA routes and Uber <http://Miller-LiteFreeRides.com>

## Tuesday, Jan. 1

**New Year's Day One One Onesie Party** Wear your favorite Onesie and celebrate the first day of 2019 with friends, cocktails and Team Sidetrack. Doors open at 1pm. Team Sidetrack is wearing ours and we hope you wear yours (PJs work too). Coat Check is always available if you'd like to change into your comfy outfit once you get to Sidetrack. Enjoy a mix of Party Music Videos from 1-8pm, then sing your song at a Bonus New Year's Day Edition of Show Tunes from 8pm till 2am. 1:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago** Weekly night run/walk. Followed by dinner 6:30pm Kwagulth Totem Pole Addison & Lakeshore Dr. <http://tptchicago.org>

## Wed., Jan. 2

**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>

## Thursday, Jan. 3

**American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting** AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment. This monthly meeting supports the chapters work in outreach and visibility for LGBTQ veterans year round. On Facebook, see AVER Chicago Chapter. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., Chicago

## Friday, Jan. 4

**American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting** AVER Katie Batza, author Before AIDS: Gay Health Politics in the 1970s Book Launch Party. Focuses on gay health institutions in Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles, placing them in a larger political context and following them into the first five years of the AIDS crisis. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

**It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago** American Blues Theater presents It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago! from Frank Capra's film with Foley sound effects, an original score and holiday carols through Jan. 5, 2019 7:30pm Stage 773 1225 W Belmont Chicago <http://AmericanBluesTheater.com>

## Friday, Jan. 11

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

**Jules Massenet's Cendrillon (Cinderella)** Lyric Opera—produced with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Theatre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels and Opera de Lille 7:00pm Lyric Opera Civic Opera House 20 N. Wacker Dr. Chicago <http://www.lyricopera.org>

## Saturday, Jan. 12

**Burning Bowl: Resisting with Purpose to Thrive in the New Year** Community “burn” as a symbolic way of leaving things that are no longer serving us so that we can move confidently into the future. Honoring Kim Hunt with the Robbie Smith Award of Excellence. Hosted by Affinity Community Services. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Morgan Park United Methodist Church ,11030 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago <http://www.eventbrite.com>



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