

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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 Photo courtesy of campaign

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LGBT politicians in the April 2 runoffs talk with WCT.
 Photo of 33rd Ward Ald. Deb Mell (left) courtesy of campaign team

WELZ DONE



Ravinia CEO Welz Kauffman talked with WCT about this year's line-up.
 Photo courtesy of Ravinia

ROCK 'N ROLL

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Restaurant manager Chyna Sky Gonzalez dies

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Chyna Sky Gonzalez died by suicide March 9 after a long struggle with drug addiction. She was 32.

Born in San Leandro, California, on Dec. 4, 1986, Gonzalez spent her childhood in the Bay Area and graduated from Castro Valley High School in 2004. Shortly after graduation, Gonzalez moved to Portland, Oregon where she met her two best friends, Tim and Stephanie Ekeren, who are a married couple.

Gonzalez and the Ekerens moved to Chicago two years later to pursue career opportunities in the service industry. She worked at Kuma's Corner, The Empty Bottle and The Punch House before taking on her last job as Front Room Chicago's general manager.

In 2013, Gonzalez met Nikki Kalinowski through mutual friends, and they officially became a couple on Pride weekend that year. They got married on Sept. 12, 2016. On Feb. 4 of this year their son Julian was born.

Being outdoors was one of Gonzalez's passions. She spent her time skateboarding as well as riding and building bikes for friends. Gonzalez also liked to cook; her favorite recipe was her grandmother's enchiladas. She also loved to dance and make people laugh.

Gonzalez is survived by her wife, son, mother Julia, father Daniel, sisters Amber and Maya, brother Danny and many chosen family members.

"Every time we went out, it was guaranteed that we would either run into friends or make new ones," said Kalinowski. "Chyna just drew people to her. She took joy in shining a mirror on exactly what made people special, and taught me that love is to be shared loudly and with abandon.

"Addiction tells you lies about yourself, and isolates people from the truth of how loved you are. This is why sharing her story is so important to me."

"I know so many hearts are tender, hurting and restless," said friend and co-worker Rebecca Hendrix. "Chyna and I worked together for a short period of time, and she made everyone a happier, brighter, funnier version of themselves."

"Missing you, dude," said longtime friend Jared Darfler. "The undisputed most savage 106-pound, bandanna-wearing, eyebrow piercing-having, sarcastic, funny as hell, chick in the pit. You were always so honest and nice. You were the type of person I could go five years without seeing and instantly have that warm friendly vibe with again. Whenever you showed up somewhere, everybody would instantly be in a more excited mood. I always loved that effect you had on others."

"I am thankful for the time our paths crossed," said friend and co-worker Parker Haines. "You are



Chyna Sky Gonzalez (left) and Nikki Kalinowski at their wedding.

Photo courtesy of Kalinowski

the kind of person that, when you love something or someone, everyone knows it and feels it. I loved your curious spirit and your joyous contagious smile."

"My Chynita, my cheech, my pit bull," said friend and co-worker Meg Silvas. "You were the first person to tell me it is okay to not be okay."

"She would change the entire mood of 20-plus individuals in an instant," said friend and co-worker Michael Swing. "It was a truly powerful thing to witness."

"Chyna was the type of person who it was impossible to not fall in love with her," said friend Tera Murray. "I am honored to carry on her legacy in my memory and in my heart."

Gonzalez's memorial service was held March 13 at The Front Room Chicago, with about 200 people in attendance.

Friends are requesting that in lieu of flowers people should make a donation to the support fund for Gonzalez's widow and child <https://www.gofundme.com/support-fund-for-family-of-chyna-sky-gonzalez>.



Barbara Hammer.

Photo by Thedra Cullar-Ledford

Filmmaker Barbara Hammer dies at 79

Pioneering experimental filmmaker Barbara Hammer—whose works involved a distinctive lesbian perspective—has died of ovarian cancer, ARTnews reported. She was 79.

Hammer's breakthrough film, *Dyketactics* (1974), features more than 100 shots in just over four minutes, with images superimposed on top of one another. In an unpublished interview with ARTnews in 2018, Hammer said, "I have never separated my sexuality from my art, even if the film has nothing to do with lesbian representation." Among some of Hammer's other films are *Snow Job: The Media Hysteria of AIDS* (1986) and *The History of the World According to a Lesbian* (1988).

Windy City Times noted that, in 2001, Hammer's *History Lessons* was among the queer films screened at Sundance.

In her final years, Hammer was an outspoken advocate for people's right to die; in October 2018, she performed *The Art of Dying or (Palliative Art Making in the Age of Anxiety)* at New York City's Whitney Museum.

Lesbian actress Heather Matarazzo noted Hammer's passing, tweeting, "The film community lost an incredible artist today. The lesbian community lost a vital voice today [March 16]. #BarbaraHammer #dyketactics #Filmmaker"

According to Hammer's Facebook page, she was in a relationship with consultant Florrie Burke.

The full ARTnews article is at <http://www.artnews.com/2019/03/16/barbara-hammer-dead-79/>.

Former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh dies at 91

Former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Indiana)—a champion of women's rights and author of two amendments to the U.S. Constitution—died March 14 from several illnesses at age 91, CNN.com reported.

Bayh was the father of former Indiana Gov. and former U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh.

Birch was the main force behind the 25th Amendment, which established presidential succession; and the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.

In addition, the women's-rights advocate was a leading supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell just short of ratification. However, he did author Title IX—an amendment to a 1972 education act that, for the first time, prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in the classroom and on the athletic field.

The full article is at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/14/politics/birch-bayh-indiana-senator/index.html>.

DiProva celebration May 18 at Fox Run

A celebration of the life of advocate Vicky DiProva will be held Saturday, May 18, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Elk Grove Village's Fox Run Golf Links, 333 Plum Grove Rd.

DiProva, 54, died Feb. 12 due to multiple health complications. She was born May 18, 1964, in Elgin and lived in Chicago her entire adult life.

In the 12 years prior to her death, DiProva was a non-profit consultant, with clients ranging from Consumers Advancing Patient Safety, Season of Change Fitness, McLean County AIDS Taskforce, the Between Friends women's shelter and the National Runaway Switchboard.

She also served as executive director for a number of entities over a 20 year period, including Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County, National Association of Women Lawyers, Rape Victim Advocates and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) (now the Women's Health Services at Howard Brown Health).

Chicagoan among Pedro Zamora honorees

Karlo Manzo-Arroyo—a freshman at the University of Illinois in Chicago—is among 10 undergraduate students nationally who have been honored by The National AIDS Memorial, through its Pedro Zamora Young Leaders Scholarship, according to a press release.

Named in honor of Zamora—an AIDS educator, activist and reality-television pioneer who passed away 25 years-ago from an AIDS-related illness—the scholarship has helped support the education of young people who are engaged in a variety of HIV-related work in their schools, communities and chosen academic fields.

Manzo-Arroyo works in the Department of Public Health as a certified rapid HIV tester and counselor. He is pursuing a degree in accounting to work within his agency's finance department and ensure continued funding for HIV programs.



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Nominations sought for 30 Under 30 Awards

Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

The ceremony will take place Wed., June 26. There will be a 5:30 p.m. reception, with the program being 6-7:30 p.m. Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, and should have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 26.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Matt Simonette coordinates the awards program for the paper. Hundreds of people have been honored by the paper in the more than 10 years since the awards were established. Most honorees have gone on to great success in their careers and educations, including working for the Obama presidential campaign and administration, plus individual successes in music, legal, professional and academic careers and much more.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by emailing matt@windycitytimes.com or faxed to Matt Simonette's attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.



The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards. This year's sponsors include AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, and Howard Brown Health. Honorees will be notified in May.

Change4Youth presents checks to groups

On March 18, teen activist Ava Santos-Volpe presented the first donations from her project, Ava's Change4Youth.

She presented \$1,000 each to the Broadway Youth Center and the Night Ministry.

Ava's Change4Youth is an art mentorship program that raises awareness of youth homelessness—a problem that disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ teens.

Photo by Raven Feagins



Above: Broadway Youth Center's \$1,000 check with (from left) Broadway Youth Center Drop-in Program Manager Channyn Lynne Parker, Ava Santos-Volpe, artist Sam Kirk, AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO John Peller.



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New Art Institute exhibit spotlights professor/HIV activist

BY ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

During his 30 years of documenting the AIDS crisis, Gregg Bordowitz has learned that people can be resilient, fragile and powerful when organizing toward change.

The artist/activist/professor started recording the AIDS epidemic and his personal experience when he was diagnosed with HIV at age 23 as a coping mechanism. He was part of the ACT UP movement in New York, where he cofounded various video collectives, including Testing the Limits, an advocacy group within ACT UP and DIVA (Damn Interfering Video Activists).

Through video, portraiture, poetry and multimedia installations, Bordowitz created a lens of communication and awareness on AIDS, healthcare and activism that influenced progress for

around this time, since Stonewall's struggles are still present, particularly for the obscurity of trans history, Nelson said.

"The details in the coalition and conversations that were happening throughout Gregg's practice are still unresolved questions," Nelson said.

The exhibit begins with a 2002 MCA-commissioned piece called "Drive" that includes multiple media components like a '50s-era derby race car with stickers on it of all the pharmaceutical companies providing AIDS drugs at that time. It also has two clocks—one set to Chicago and one to South Africa. The curators said "Drive" is showing a race-car driver as a metaphor for living with HIV/AIDS and invoking questions of desire, risk and life trajectory.

"It's not a surprise that the exhibit came together because we were both very interested in



Gregg Bordowitz shares his performance piece *Some Styles of Masculinity*.
Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago

New York and Chicago and teaches at the School of the Art Institute, called the collection a queer left person's library. It includes books by Douglas Crimp, Noam Chomsky, Emma Goldman, Stuart Hall and Michel Foucault.

"The library is a kind of portrait of what the queer left was interested in reading historically during the period of my activity," Bordowitz said.

He said the exhibit is bringing awareness and advocacy around HIV, healthcare and access to medicine, reminding people that the crisis is "still beginning," as a banner in the exhibit reads. While some may think access to medicine is common and the disease is stable, Bordowitz said there is a split around access to life-saving drugs in the U.S. and more so globally.

More than 1 million people are infected nationwide and one in seven do not know they have HIV. Of the 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2018, 52 percent were in the south, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV report. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has pioneered antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, turning what was once a uniformly fatal disease into a manageable chronic condition, but accessibility is the key, and those in Southern states have less access to these drugs, NIAID noted.

Globally, there are 36.9 million people living with HIV, many who are children and women living in sub-Saharan Africa; they have minimal access to prevention, care and treatment, although mothers had increased access to antiretroviral therapy in 2017 compared to 2010, according to HIV.org, the official government site that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages. In 2017, 59 percent of those with HIV were accessing antiretroviral therapy globally, an increase of 2.3 million since 2016 and up from 8 million in 2010.

Bordowitz acknowledged these advances over the years, including pressure from ACT UP to create government-funded legal needle exchange programs in the '90s and CDC's amended HIV definition to include women. But he still considers himself lucky and "undetectable" from the disease, compared to the scores of friends he has seen die in the crisis.

"By virtue of being in New York and being involved in the movement, I have access to resources that others have not historically," he said.

The exhibit also opens up a critical conversation on what the current administration is doing about HIV/AIDS, he said. In 2018, CNN reported that President Trump moved more than \$9 million from HIV/AIDS programs and CDC funding and gave it to immigration officers and child detention centers. But he has also publicly said he wants to end HIV transmission in the next 10 years, which experts say is realistic only if the administration radically changes its healthcare policies, Quartz reported Feb. 5.

"It's very frightening that the government would take existing HIV funding and funnel it toward repressive agencies—it's very much significant of our time," Bordowitz said. "The news is not good in terms of the focus and desire or energy to meet the challenges of the crisis as they continue."

For more information on the exhibit, visit <https://www.artic.edu/exhibitions/9170/gregg-bordowitz-i-wanna-be-well>. To register for the opening lecture and performance, visit <https://www.artic.edu/events/4476/performance-lecture-some-styles-of-masculinity>.

Note: All of the videos in the show will be closed-captioned and the performances "Some Styles of Masculinity" will have ASL interpreters.

An installation at the exhibit.

Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago



people with HIV and raised awareness about stigma. Now, his work will be on display in a new exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) called "I Wanna Be Well," inspired by the 1977 Ramones song. It will document Bordowitz's decades of work that span political and artistic expression about healthcare access, HIV and its treatment's effect on identity and marginalized groups. "I Wanna Be Well" is the first comprehensive collection of the 54-year-old's work and career.

"People in museums and galleries need to be addressed and educated just as much as people in community centers and other public entities," Bordowitz told Windy City Times.

The exhibit also coincides with the Stonewall Riot's 50th anniversary on June 28, a historic day in the LGBTQ community. Curators Robyn Farrell and Solveig Nelson said although not intentional, it proved more exciting to have the exhibition

having Gregg's work here in the museum," Farrell said.

The exhibit—which first opened at Reed College in Portland, Oregon—will run at AIC April 4-July 14 in the Abbott and Stone galleries and a series of performance-lectures by Bordowitz called "Some Styles of Masculinity" on April 5-7 will kick off the exhibit. The curators also organized other exhibit-related programs, including another Bordowitz lecture and screening at AIC on May 16, and a program at Gene Siskel on Bordowitz's "Fast Trip, Long Drop" and Marlon Rigg's "Tongues United" on May 17. A poetry reading at AIC and screening of Bordowitz's *The Suicide* will take place in July at the Siskel Film Center.

The Chicago show will also include a special collection of Bordowitz's library that helped shape his work and identity throughout the years. Bordowitz, who splits his time between

House passes bill requiring LGBT content in state-funded textbooks

Bill also requires textbooks be nondiscriminatory and unbiased

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois House, on March 13, passed a bill requiring public school textbooks purchased with certain state funds be nondiscriminatory and unbiased in their treatment of racial and ethnic minorities, and that they highlight the contributions that LGBT individuals have made to American history and culture.

"Under current practice in many of our schools, the contribution of LGBT individuals in history has remained hidden and unacknowledged," Rep. Anna Moeller, an Elgin Democrat and sponsor of House Bill 246, said during debate on the floor of the House.

"This exclusion has denied students the opportunity to obtain a greater and more accurate understanding of world history, and it also has denied LGBT people their identity and reflection in our school curriculum," she added.

The bill passed out of the House on a largely party-line vote of 60-42. Only three Democrats voted against the bill, and no Republicans voted for it.

Rep. Tom Morrison, a Palatine Republican, argued schools and teachers already struggle to keep up with the growing list of mandates applied to them, and the state should not be adding another, especially one that some might find inappropriate.

"We all know that we need to have a well-educated, well-informed citizenry. We have to have that if we're going to maintain our form of government," he said. "But we're already failing to teach history to today's and future generations. We're not even covering the basics of our shared history."

The bill is in the Senate, which passed similar legislation during the 2018 session, and it awaits assignment to a substantive committee. Chicago Democrat Heather Steans is the legislation's chief co-sponsor.

But it is unlikely that the bill would have any immediate impact, even if it is signed into law. That's because it only applies to textbooks purchased through the state's textbook block grant program, which has not received any funding for the last five years, and which the State Board of Education has not requested funding for in the upcoming budget.

Peter Hancock can be reached at phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com.

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Howard Brown holds latest annual meeting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Citywide health system Howard Brown Health held its annual meeting the evening of Feb. 21 to pay tribute to its volunteers, staff, clients and community allies, and discuss service improvements the organization has made in the past year.

President and CEO David Ernesto Munar discussed increased access to mental health services as well as the completion of Howard Brown Health's first complete year providing oral health services. He also noted that the organization has increased the availability of services for transgender and gender nonconforming clients. Howard Brown Health Board Chair Mario Treto said that the organization aimed for "being a catalyst for community transformation."

Munar additionally noted a new Howard Brown Health facility, operating in tandem with La Casa Norte, in Humboldt Park.

"Our pursuit of geographic diversity has influenced Howard Brown as an advocate, employer and community leader," he added. "In the past four years, we have tripled the number of patients of color who seek our care, and half of our workforce is comprised of people of color. South side and West side patients have increased by 15-20 percent year-over-year, and we are so proud that the staff opening our new location in Humboldt Park are 100 percent bilingual and bicultural."

Among the persons and organizations whom Howard Brown officials honored at the meeting were United Way of Metro Chicago, which has provided funding for the organization's Broadway Youth Center, since 2003; Craig Andree, a Broadway Youth Center volunteer; and Lucretia Clay-Ward, Howard Brown Health's Suboxone [a medication used to treat opioid addiction] program coordinator.

Several Howard Brown Health clients provided testimonials about their experiences with the organization, among them David Hubbell, Cheno Pulliam and Eva Skye.

Pulliam—who was recently profiled in Windy City Times—praised the organization for welcoming "me with open arms. ... Howard Brown has opened the door for so many things."

ELECTIONS 2019

Lori Lightfoot on her runoff campaign

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Attorney Lori Lightfoot, who is openly lesbian, finished ahead of multiple contenders vying for the Chicago's mayor's post on Feb. 26.

Since then, Lightfoot has been locked in fierce opposition with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who finished second that night, in the runoff election to determine who ultimately occupies the fifth-floor office of City Hall. Shortly after a Feb. 24 rally in Uptown, Lightfoot discussed the election and some of the accusations that have been leveled against her.

Windy City Times: What has been the biggest difference between running this campaign in the runoff and running it in the general election?

Lori Lightfoot: I think everything in the campaign has been raised to a different level. I think people in the city are really paying attention in a way that they didn't before Feb. 26.

So, certainly the crowds are larger and the enthusiasm is larger. I think the difference is this: People want a change, but they were skeptical about whether it was possible. The [Chicago] Machine is built to last—it's had a tremendous grip on literally everything how we move through the world [in Chicago] in government and business, and even little things at the neighborhood level are very much controlled by the Machine. People were tired of it and they wanted change, and they didn't necessarily think that it was possible. The fact that I won, as an anti-Machine candidate, and the way in which I won—better-funded and with better name recognition—really has ignited this incredible energy, and I'm hearing it from everyone, from the elite business community to the more grassroots [coalitions] and everyone in between.

WCT: We're speaking of change in the larger sense, pushback against the Machine. What are one or two specific types of change your supporters are indicating they want to see?

LL: They want a government when they can actually believe in their leaders, and where there is integrity and transparency. Aldermanic prerogative is a huge, huge issue, and a big line of demarkation between me and President Preckwinkle. I want to drive a stake through it, because I think it inhibits a way to get things done in a way that's not corruptive or corrosive. She supports it, and wants to maintain that system. Those are the kinds of issues that are resonating with people.

Also, making sure that our government runs more efficiently and that we are more respectful of people's tax dollars [are both important]. People feel like they are nickel-and-dimed. I can't tell you how many people come up to me and say, "You're not going to raise that soda tax, right?" Literally, every day that happens. But it's more profound than that. People feel like they are willing to pay their fair share, but they want to feel



Lori Lightfoot.

Photo by Matt Simonette

like the government is actually working for them and not against them. I think that's another theme resonating out there.

WCT: If you had one question for President Preckwinkle—and assurances she'd answer with 100 percent honesty—what would it be?

LL: Why'd you get in bed with Ed Burke?

WCT: What would be the first item on your agenda once set out to do the mayor's work?

LL: The biggest issue that we have to tackle is the violence in our city. It's the framing issue for everything else. We're not going to really uplift the quality of life in neighborhoods if the violence continues to rage. We can't bring business to neighborhoods that are desperate for investment if it's raging. It's going to be hard to rebuild neighborhood schools because people are emptying out because of the violence. The violence is the galvanizing force that we have to wrestle with in order to open up possibilities for everything else that people have to accomplish in neighborhoods.

WCT: How would you characterize your work in police reform, especially on two fronts: Your success at holding CPD accountable for infractions, and your engagement with families impacted by those infractions? It has been the source of considerable pushback for you, and the reason for protests at your events.

LL: The proof is in the pudding—when I took

over responsibility for the Chicago Police Board, the Board held officers accountable 35 percent of the time. Over the arc of my tenure, we turned that around completely. By the time I left, that percentage was 73 percent of the time. It would have been higher, but a lot of officers quit instead of coming before the Police Board.

So I know there's a lot of noise around it—local policing and the way in which the police officers have treated community members is a way of a lot of anger, frustration and emotion. I get that. But it's important for us to keep focus on the path ahead if we're going to keep driving for change. I don't think there's been anyone in the city, particularly within the last three years, who's worked harder on police reform and accountability than I have.

It's not easy work. You fight in the midst of a lot of skepticism and anger, but I have been very diligent and steadfast that [CPD] has been respectful and engaged with the community. I want to get to a place where—down to the beat officers—they understand that respectful and constitutional engagement with the community is their most powerful tool. We're not there yet. If I'm elected mayor, we're going to absolutely forge ahead, way beyond what's required in the Consent Decree, because we're going to have to build a city in which police are not feared or loathed, but are imbued with legitimacy. That would benefit the police.

I think about these issues when I think about young kids when I think about communities growing up with fear as their constant companion. For them, we must get this right—move beyond the rhetoric and make real, meaningful progress—and I know how to do that.

WCT: How would you characterize your work in corporate litigation, and answer critics who say it was in the service of union-busting or otherwise anti-worker interests?

LL: I'm not going to play into that. There are plenty of people who look like me who have done great work in the corporate world. The truth is, Toni Preckwinkle called me up and solicited me for a donation, which I gave. She took \$19,000 from my colleagues at Mayer Brown. She's taken money from Sidley [Austin], Jones Day and other

law firms that do similar kinds of work. That's the ultimate red herring and hypocrisy, particularly when you see that she's solicited and received thousands of dollars from the same corporate lawyer that she's now trying to vilify.

I'm not going to buy into that; I'm proud of the things that I've accomplished in my life because my parents sacrificed every single day through their blood, sweat and tears to give me hope and opportunity. I'm not going to shy away from that. To try to vilify someone like me, who is a Black success story, is preposterous. We've got to move way beyond that.

If you look at the work that I've done, and the way I've used my firm's resources to help those in need through my *pro bono* hours, I've spent, when I was a senior equity partner, over 3,000 hours on *pro bono* work. ... I spent 3,000 hours over the course of 13 years helping people in need, so that's my record.

WCT: How do you answer President Preckwinkle's criticism of your accepting \$40,000 in so-called "dark money" from Change Chicago?

LL: She's taken money from 501(c)(4)s. That is totally legal. There's nothing "dark" about it. What is dark is taking \$116,000 from Ed Burke and not giving it back when you've lied and said you would—that's dark.

WCT: What should Chicago expect of a mayor who's part of the LGBT community, should you win? Does that bring with it any special insight, or expectations?

LL: A mayor who understands that equity and inclusion have to be cornerstones. I want to make our city safe and welcoming for everyone and who you love, the God you worship, the color of your skin cannot control your destiny. We have to be a city that is welcoming and building bridges of hope and opportunity in every community, including the LGBTQ-plus community.

WCT: What have you learned about both the city as a whole, and the city's LGBT community, as you've run the campaign over the last 10 months?

LL: That the city is great, diverse, wonderful and challenging, and I am very blessed to have been on this journey.

Visit <https://lightfootforchicago.com/>.

To view a list of sites, visit ChicagoElections.com/en/early-voting.html.

ELECTIONS 2019

Early voting info; election judges needed

Early voting for the April 2 municipal runoff elections will take place through April 1. All 50 ward sites as well as the Loop Super Site, 175 W. Washington St., are now open.

Any ballots that voters cast in early voting are final. After voting early, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

Government-issued photo IDs are not required but are helpful if there is a question about the registration, address or signature, or if there are two voters with the same or similar names at the same address.

Danica Roem event in Lake View April 17

A reception featuring Virginia transgender politician Danica Roem will take place Wed., April 17, 6-8 p.m., at Lake View spot Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Last year, Roem made history as the first openly trans elected official in a state legislature in the nation. Cook County Commissioner Kevin B. Morrison and state Rep. Greg Harris are the event chairs; co-hosts include Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Equality Illinois CEO Brian C. Johnson and Matthew McClellan.

See "Danica Roem Chicago Fundraising Reception" on Facebook, or visit <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/chicago2019>.

ELECTIONS 2019

Guide to the LGBTs

This year's mayoral/aldermanic elections featured a record number of openly LGBT candidates throughout Illinois. From those races, several of those individuals are vying for various political offices in the April 2 runoff elections. Listed alphabetically, they are:

—James Cappleman

Race: Alderman (46th Ward)

Website: <https://www.citizensforcappleman.com/>

The skinny: A former teacher, social worker, and health care non-profit leader, Cappleman has represented the ward since 2011. In the runoff, he faces Marianne Lalonde.



—Lori Lightfoot

Race: Mayor

Website: <https://lightfootforchicago.com/>

The skinny: Lightfoot stands to make history if she wins her runoff election against Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, becoming Chicago's first African-



Cappleman and Lightfoot photos by Matt Simonette; Lopez photo courtesy of Lopez; Mell photo courtesy of campaign

American lesbian mayor. Lightfoot has served as senior equity partner in the Litigation and Conflict Resolution Group at Mayer Brown LLP as well as chair of the Police Accountability Task Force. She has secured several endorsements, including support from the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune.

—Raymond Lopez

Race: Alderman (15th Ward)

Website: <http://www.the15thward.org/>

The skinny: Lopez is facing Rafael "Rafa" Yanez in the runoff. He was elected as Chicago's 15th Ward alderman on April 7, 2015.



—Deb Mell

Race: Alderman (33rd Ward)

Website: <https://www.debfor33.com/>

The skinny: Mell, a member of the City Council's LGBT Caucus along with four others, is a former Illinois state representative. She was a member of Equal Marriage Now in the mid-2000s and participated in protest actions that led to her arrest in front of the Cook County headquarters. Mell faces Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez in what many expect to be a close runoff election.



Reports: Prosecutors drop charges against Smollett

Cook County prosecutors dropped the 16 counts of disorderly conduct facing Empire actor Jussie Smollett, according to multiple sources.

Smollett maintains that he was the victim of a brutal attack in Streeterville the early morning of Jan 29. Weeks later, authorities charged that Smollett had staged the attack with acquaintances and falsely asserted that it was a hate crime.

Prosecutors called the March 26 reversal "a just disposition and appropriate resolution to this case," Chicago Tribune reported.

Attorneys for Smollett followed up in a statement saying that the actor "is relieved to have this situation behind him and is very much looking forward to getting back to focusing on his family, friends and career."

Smollett has maintained his innocence all along.

The case has all along been marked by a number of unusual circumstances and turn-of-events, as well as shifts in public support. Chicago Police Department (CPD) said they were investigating the case rigorously, but were vocal and public with their admonition of Smollett when many details around the actor's account seemingly did not hold up to scrutiny.

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx recused herself from Smollett's case early in her office's investigation into the matter. Prosecutors had said that Smollett's alleged staging of a hate crime was an attention-seeking gambit in response to the Empire show-producers' lack of a response to a racist and homophobic letter attacking Smollett. They further alleged Smollett had created that letter as well.

The actor was written out of the final episodes from Empire's current season. A federal investigation into the letter—which, if forged, would constitute mail fraud—is ongoing.

Chicago Tribune's article is at <https://bit.ly/2UXXQ5o>.

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ELECTIONS 2019

Toni Preckwinkle talks misconceptions, Lightfoot and experience

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Things have seemingly gotten more intense for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle since the Feb. 26 Chicago mayoral election that whittled 14 candidates down to two (including runoff opponent Lori Lightfoot) before the April 2 runoff election.

The February results revealed that Lightfoot rode a wave of momentum to take the top position—and they also showed Preckwinkle trailing. Both conclusions surprised some voters.

Since then, Preckwinkle has been on the attack, accusing her opponent of, among other things, having Republican connections. However, each candidate has garnered her share of endorsers and supporters, with Preckwinkle getting backing from people ranging from Chance the Rapper to some LGBTQ politicians to the Chicago Teachers Union.

Windy City Times: What do you feel is the biggest misconception about you?

Toni Preckwinkle: Well, that's a challenge. This is a race in which I think experience matters, and

we have two African-American women in the race who are in quite different arcs in their lives.

I started off as a teacher, I've worked for not-for-profit organizations, was part of the economic team with Mayor Harold Washington's administration, then I spent 19 years as alderman and the last eight years as president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Being a mayor is not an entry-level job; experience matters. With the community-building and addressing public-safety challenges as alderman, and the management experience I've had the last eight years, I think I'm uniquely qualified to face what the next mayor of Chicago has to face.

WCT: So the misconception would be...

TP: I think it's that there isn't much difference between us. An African-American woman will be elected—and that's a great thing—but there are different trajectories in our lives.

WCT: I've seen blowback to your response to the question Carol Marin asked during a [recent] debate. [Note: During a March 7 debate between mayoral candidates Lori Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle, Preckwinkle lauded



Toni Preckwinkle.
Photo from campaign

Lightfoot's openness about her sexuality when Marin asked each candidate what she admired about the other. Lightfoot later wondered if Preckwinkle's response was "blowing a dog whistle" to conservative voters—a conclusion Preckwinkle labeled "ridiculous."]

Do you see why people might interpret your answer the way Lori did?

TP: I have a very good record on LGBTQ issues, and it was a genuine compliment. I respect people who are honest and open about who they are. I think members of the LGBTQ community who are out and proud are to be commended.

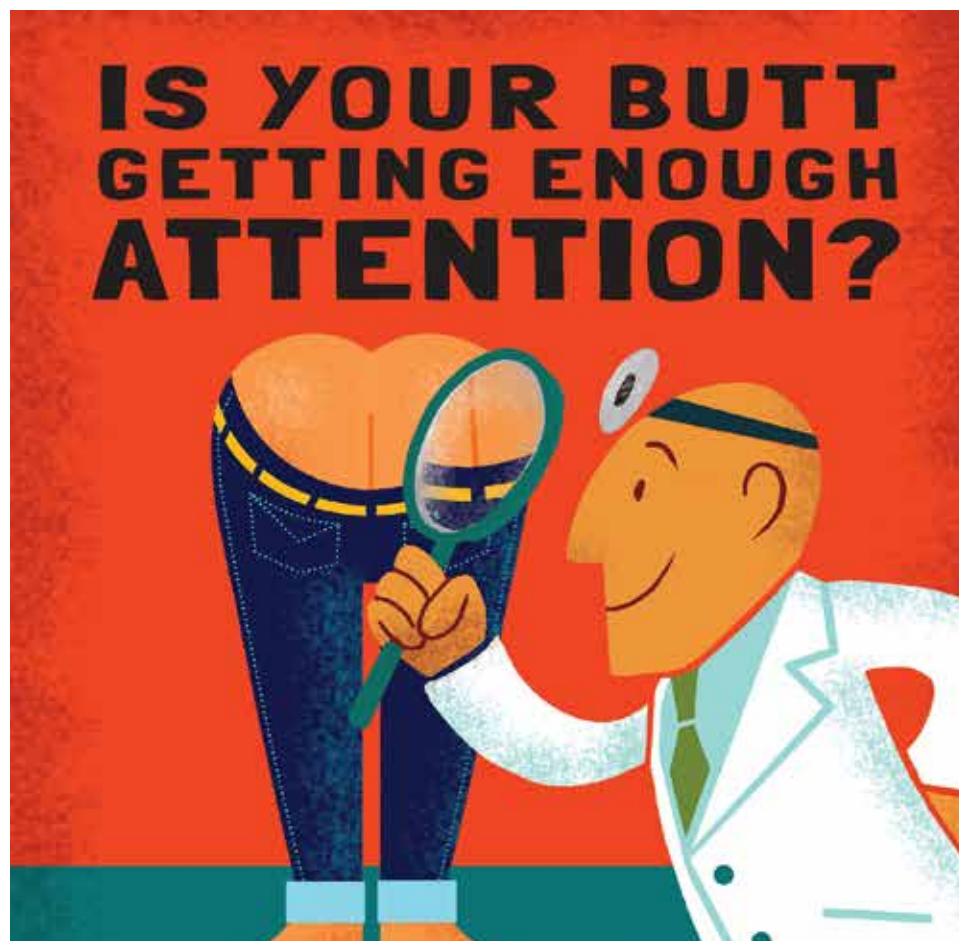
I came out early for marriage equality, and I have been a strong proponent for LGBTQ issues and candidates. I have worked with [Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner] Deb Shore and [state Rep.] Lamont Robinson and [Cook County Commissioner] Kevin Morrison, and I have LGBTQ people as campaign staffers and in my office.

WCT: What do you feel is the biggest challenge the LGBT community faces?

TP: I'm an African-American woman, so I know the challenges I face that are grounded in sexism and racism. And the LGBTQ community faces tremendous challenges. The LGBTQ community, concerning city issues, has told me about coordination issues, attacks on members of the community, the police, murders of the trans community—these are some of the issues.

WCT: Before the runoff, your ads seemed to be more light-hearted. Since then, they seem to be more negative.

TP: There are two ads running—one is positive, and the other is compare-and-contrast. In any



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campaign, you have a challenge to make sure the voters understand who you are, and to compare and contrast with your opponent. From the very beginning, she's been throwing questions my way and, in the first round, I think we had only positive ads. And she has negative ads, too.

WCT: What would you like to accomplish in your first 100 days as mayor?

TP: I think the first thing to do would be to work with the public superintendent to handle all the challenges we face in terms of public safety. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home and community.

Early on in my teaching career, I lost a student to gun violence; she was killed in a drive-by shooting. She was basically in the wrong place at the wrong time. I know how devastating these random acts of violence can be.

We've got to get a handle on the violence. We've invested in the cameras and shot-spotters—the technology—but we still have more murders than Los Angeles and New York City combined. That's an indication of the importance of the practicality of community relations; if we don't have good collaboration between police and community, we won't be able to solve crimes because, contrary to what you see on TV, crimes aren't solved in forensics labs—they're solved by talking with people on the street.

Also, we have to hold police accountable and have more training. Nationally, of every 100 murders, a suspect is arrested in 62 or 63 percent of the cases; in Chicago, depending on which research team you believe, it's 15, 16, 17 percent.

In eight out of 10 murder cases, the perpetrator goes free—which is devastating in communities that are plagued by violence. People are tempted to take out justice for themselves because they know the criminal-justice system is not going to mete out any justice, and that just continues the cycle of violence.

WCT: What are your thoughts on mayoral and aldermanic term limits?

TP: I'm a history teacher, and I've never been

Legacy Walk passes first round of landmark voting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago Landmarks Commission unanimously voted this month to confer historic landmark status on the Legacy Walk in Lake View. The commission will vote again on the matter in April.

After the April vote, the recommendation goes to the full City Council and, should it approve, the official declaration would be issued.

"I'm glad this part of it is over, because I wasn't sure what to expect," said Victor Salvo, executive director of the Legacy Project, which oversees the Legacy Walk.

City officials announced they would be pursuing the designation last June, shortly before Gay Pride weekend. On June 22, Mayor Rahm

a proponent of term limits. [Laughs] Nationally, I think term limits began as a Republican effort against Franklin D. Roosevelt. I've always said that we determine term limits through elections.

WCT: If you could ask your opponent one question and she had to answer it, what would it be?

TP: I think my opponent portrays herself as a progressive and she has a lot of Republican support. She's taken dark money [a type of campaign

contribution] that's been associated with the most conservative and reactionary parts of our political spectrum. She defended the Republican Congressional map during a plaintiff's suit. There are all of these Republican and "dark money" ties.

So my question would be "Why are you taking the dark money and the Republican support? Why are you an advocate for Republican interests?"

See <https://toniforchicago.com/>.

MacArthur names new president

John Palfrey—an educator, author, legal scholar and innovator with expertise in how new media is changing learning, education and other institutions—will serve as the sixth president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, effective Sept. 1, MacArthur Board Chairman Dan Huttenlocher announced.

Since 2012, Palfrey has served as head of school for Phillips Academy Andover. Since 2014, he has served as board chairman at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Palfrey holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Harvard College.

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THE ROAD TO VICTORY

A timeline of historic moments in LGBTQ elected history in the Chicago area



1980: Tim Drake was the first openly gay Chicagoan to win an election, as convention delegate for John Anderson's presidential bid. Drake was a Republican activist at the time. Gay businessman and Democratic

activist Chuck Renslow ran as an Edward Kennedy delegate.

1993: Marc Loveless, an African-American gay man, won a local school council post.

1994: Tom Chiola became the first openly gay person to win major public office in Illinois, when he won a seat on the bench of the Cook County Circuit Court. Cook County has one of the highest concentrations

of openly LGBTQ judges in the country, according to the Alliance of Illinois Judges.

1996: Larry McKeon became the state's first openly gay (and openly HIV-positive) state legislator,

when a north-side district elected him to the House of Representatives.

1996: Sebastian Patti became a judge, and in 2009 he took his seat as the first openly gay appellate court justice.

1997: Joanne Trapani became the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois, as a member of the Oak Park Village Board, and in 2001 she became Village Board president—the state's first openly lesbian

mayor. Also that year, an openly gay man, Ray Johnson, won a trustee post in Oak Park.

1999: Nancy Katz was the first open lesbian judge in the state, after being appointed

as an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

2003: Tom Tunney was appointed the city's first openly gay alderman, and he has run successful

re-election campaigns ever since.

2004: Sherry Pethers became the first open lesbian elected to a judgeship when she won a tight race in Cook County.

2006: Debra Shore made history by being the first open lesbian elected to a countywide seat as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

JUDICIAL PRIDE

There is a large and historic concentration of openly LGBTQ people who have served or who are currently serving on the bench in Illinois. Charter members of the LGBTQ group Alliance of Illinois Judges are: **Hon. Eileen Brewer** (Ret.); **Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario** (Ret.); **Hon. Tom Chiola** (Ret.); **Hon. Sophia H. Hall**; **Hon. Nancy J. Katz** (Ret.); **Hon. Stuart Katz**; **Hon. Norene Love** (Ret.); **Hon. Mike McHale**; **Hon. Sandra R. Otaka** (deceased); **Hon. Sebastian T. Patti**; **Hon. Sherry Pethers** (Ret.); **Hon. Mary Colleen Roberts**; **Hon. James Snyder** (first openly gay president of the Illinois Judges Association); **Hon. Colleen Sheehan**; and **Hon. Lori M. Wolfson** (Ret). Also of note: In 2012, **Mary M. Rowland** was sworn in as Federal Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is one of very few out LGBT people to be appointed to serve as a federal judge in the country.



Above: Hon. Mary M. Rowland. Below (L-R): Hon. James Snyder; Hon. Norene Love; Hon. Mike McHale.



Photo credits Main section: Loveless photo by John Gress; Patti photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright; Katz photo courtesy of Katz; Tunney photo by Matt Simonette; Shore photo by Tracy Baim; Mell photo courtesy of campaign; Cassidy photo by Kate Sosin; Cappleman photo by Matt Simonette; Yingling photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats; Ramirez-Rosa and Robinson photos by Matt Simonette; Morrison photo by AJ Kane; Garcia photo by Robert Kusel Photography; Hadden photo by Ryan Edmund; Lightfoot photo by Matt Simonette. Judicial section: Official court photos. Lavender Door section: Hart image courtesy of Chicago History Museum Archives; PR photo of Rosewell; Rice photo by Tracy Baim. Horseshoes section: Bergeron photo by Romaine; Sable photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright; Nepon photo from the *GayLife* archives; Ford and Flint photos from the *Gay Chicago* archives. All other photos from the *Windy City Times* archives.

BEHIND THE LAVENDER DOOR

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865): Rumors abound about the orientation of the 16th president of the U.S. But some historians believe he was either gay or bisexual. (See C.A. Tripp's 2005 book, *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*.)

Pearl M. Hart (1890–1975): Studs Terkel managed one of her failed attempts for a City Council seat (she ran in 1947 and 1951), then she twice ran unsuccessfully for judge. She is in the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.



Eddie Rosewell (1927–1999): The Cook County treasurer's career ended in disgrace when he hired a former window washer to a high-level job—a closeted man who paid a public price.

Lilia Delgado: While not fully out of the closet, Delgado was known in the community. Mayor Harold Washington knew she was gay when he appointed her to the city's Cable Commission. She ran for Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1987, coming within 5,000 votes of one of the ten seats (at the time, Chicago board seats were elected citywide).



Judy Rice, who is now a Cook County judge, was the Chicago city treasurer 2000–2006, but came out after she served.

These lists are not meant to be comprehensive, but rather highlight certain significant elections and "firsts" in area history.

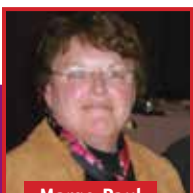
More than 100 openly LGBTQ people have run for office to major posts in Illinois, from judicial seats to city councils and county, state and federal offices. While those efforts started decades ago, the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s really kick-started the regional LGBTQ movement into action on a variety of fronts, not just in health-care advocacy, but in politics and beyond. But who were the first to break down the closet doors and take their seats at the table? Here are the highlights.



Greg Harris



Deb Mell



Marge Paul



Mark Tendam



Kelly Cassidy



James Cappleman



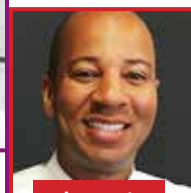
Sam Yingling



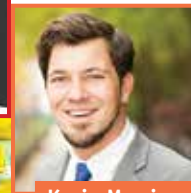
Raymond Lopez



Carlos Ramirez-Rosa



Lamont Robinson



Kevin Morrison

2006: Openly gay, HIV-positive activist **Greg Harris**, who was appointed to complete Larry McKeon's term in the General Assembly, was later elected and continues to serve, making history in 2019 as the first openly

gay majority leader of the state House of Representatives.

2009: Open lesbian **Deb Mell** won a state representative post, serving until 2013, when she was appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to fill

the 33rd Ward aldermanic seat vacated by her father, Dick Mell. She won re-election in 2015 and is in a runoff April 2.

2009: **Marge Paul** was elected as an open lesbian alderman in suburban Berwyn. In

2017 she was elected city clerk in the same election where four LGBTQ candidates won for city council.

2009: **Mark Tendam** won election to the Evanston City Council, becoming the suburb's first

openly gay elected official.

2011: **Kelly Cassidy** was first appointed to a state representative post, and she has won re-election every cycle since.

2011: **James Cappleman** was

elected alderman of the 46th Ward.

2012: **Sam Yingling** won a suburban seat for state representative in the 62nd district.

2015: Two openly gay men won seats on the Chicago

City Council in the same cycle: **Raymond Lopez** (15th) and **Carlos Ramirez-Rosa** (35th); they are the first Latino/x out LGBTQs on the City Council.

2018: **Lamont Robinson** became the first African-American

LGBTQ person to win a major non-judicial elected post in Illinois when he won for 5th district state representative.

2018: **Kevin Morrison** became the first openly LGBTQ member of the Cook County Board.

2018: **Marcelino Garcia** became the first LGBTQ person of color elected to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.



2019: **Maria Hadden** unseated longtime incumbent 49th Ward alderman Joe Moore to be the first openly LGBTQ African-American elected to Chicago's City Council and first African-American LGBTQ woman elected to a nonjudicial post in Illinois.



2019: The fact that **Lori Lightfoot**, an openly LGBTQ African-American woman, even made it to a runoff for mayor was historic and hardly predictable decades ago. But now, she may make more history as the first openly LGBTQ person to win election as mayor of Chicago, the nation's third-largest city.



ONLY IN HORSESHOES

Your can't win if you don't run ... and a few bold LGBTQ people paved the way for what would be the first openly LGBTQ person to win in Illinois.

1971: **Michael Bergeron**, later founder of *The Chicago Gay Crusader* newspaper, ran for at-large delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

1974: Radical gays **Don "Red Devil" Goldman** and **Nancy Davis** ran for alderman in the 44th and 43rd wards, respectively.

1977: **Gary Nepon**, at age 28, ran for 13th District state representative.

1979: **Grant Ford** (who passed away this year), publisher of *GayLife* newspaper, ran for 44th Ward alderman.

1987: Baton Show Lounge owner **Jim Flint** ran a widely covered race for Cook County Board, when city seats ran citywide.

1987 and 1991: **Dr. Ron Sable** came within a few dozen votes of unseating incumbent 44th Ward alderman Bernie Hansen in his first race, but lost by a wider margin in 1991; he died in 1993 of AIDS complications.



From left: Michael Bergeron (above); Dr. Ron Sable (below); Gary Nepon; Grant Ford; Jim Flint.

A joint project by the *Chicago Reader* and *Windy City Times*

For more details, see *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community*, edited by Tracy Baim



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ELECTIONS 2019

LGBT Chicagoans discuss mayoral candidates

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times recently asked a cross-section of LGBT voters who they plan on voting for, and why. Here is what some of them had to say:

—**Michael Bauer, activist and Lightfoot campaign chair:** “Lori is incredibly smart, deeply serious and thoughtful. She has an amazing ability to absorb information, ask the pertinent questions, then and develop her strategy to deal with complex problems. She is dedicated to fairness by giving all the stakeholders an opportunity to make their case. She is determined to maintain a positive environment for the Chicago’s business community while creating much greater economic opportunities and jobs in neighborhoods that have long been neglected. Most of all, she represents the change that I believe Chicagoans sorely want. I hope that everyone reading this joins me in voting for Lori Lightfoot.”

—**Stephanie Skora, director of policy and operations at Brave Space Alliance and co-founder of Trans Liberation Collective:** “I am voting for Toni Preckwinkle, because of her commitment to prison and police reform, and her commitment to rent control. I cannot vote for Lori Lightfoot because she is endorsed by Republicans, was cruel to the families of police-brutality victims and wants to turn closed schools into mini-cop academies.”

—**Jerry Pritikin, historian and activist:** “Up until last week I was leaning toward Toni. She has earned her stripes in so many ways in Chicago, and not on any family name.

“I did not know much about Lightfoot. But sometimes you are known by the company you

keep. [Recently,] several aldermen, including mine, and known Democrats came out for Preckwinkle who I happen not to like; and 43rd Ward Ald. Michele Smith, who I do like, came out for Lightfoot. I will vote for Lightfoot based mostly on that.”



L-R: Isaac King; Michael O'Connor; Ebonie Davis.
King photo courtesy of King; other photos from WCT archive

—**Isaac King, Urban Broadcast Media:** “I will be voting for Lori Lightfoot in the mayoral election. I attended and facilitated forums during the primary and she really stood out to me. She seemed prepared to answer on ALL issues and not just the those from her platform. And my gut feeling is that she will be the ONLY candidate who will bring significant change to Black and Brown communities in Chicago.”

—**Michael O'Connor, activist:** “I support Lori Lightfoot because her campaign platform promises public-policy changes that seek transformation of Chicago’s public schools; shines a desperately needed light on corruption in City Hall; advocates real measurable changes within the Chicago Police Department; and finds realistic solutions to the ballooning city workers’ pension debt that both mayors Daley and Emanuel delayed payments on by legislatively robbing City of Chicago pensioners.”

—**Jan Christian Bernabe, Equality Illinois’ statewide community advisory group member:** “First off, I think it’s a great sign that we have

than that, Lori has proven to be an empathetic candidate, with a vision for Chicago that embraces all who live here. Lori has the best interest for Chicagoans, and I believe she can execute her platform with enthusiastic support from municipal and union laborers to businesses and nonprofits, from tech workers and teachers to LGBTQ individuals and immigrants.”

—**Justin DeJong, vice president of communications for the American Medical Association:** “This is a remarkably exciting time for Chicago’s LGBT community because of the barriers we’re breaking in the mayoral race. We hadn’t even had an openly LGBTQ candidate run citywide prior to Lori Lightfoot, and the thought of someone from our community winning the mayor’s office felt like a distant illusion. In my role on the Victory Fund campaign board, I was proud when we endorsed her campaign and showed she was a credible and viable candidate for office. Lori’s [potential] victory shows that her message of change, inclusion and cleaning up the Chicago machine resonated and built over the course of her campaign.”

—**Ebonie Davis, community advisory member:** “As a woman of color who identifies as a lesbian, it would seem my mayoral choice is simple—but the reality is that race and sexual orientation are not factors in my decision; I want the best person for the job.

“When I speak with the elderly homeowners on my block who struggle to survive, I think to myself, ‘We need the best!’ When I drive my daughter—who has autism—to a private school in Lincoln Park every day because CPS wasn’t equipped to handle her needs, I think to myself ‘We need the best!’ When I look at the bullet hole in my guest bedroom wall and remember how the bullet narrowly missed my niece’s head, I think to myself, ‘We need the best!’

“Lori is committed to promoting peace and prosperity for the citizens of Chicago and, being one of those citizens, Lori Lightfoot is the best person for the job.”

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GIA - Grassroots Illinois Action
IC - Indivisible Chicago
SEIU - Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois
CTU - Chicago Teachers' Union
EIP - Equality IL PAC
LPAC - Lesbian PAC
VF - Victory Fund

March 27, 2019

	WCT	HRC	IC	SEIU	CTU	EIP	LPAC	VF
CHICAGO MAYOR								
Toni Preckwinkle	A			Y	Y			
Lori Lightfoot	A	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
CHICAGO CITY TREASURER								
Melissa Conyears-Ervin					Y			
Ameya Pawar	A-							

	WCT	IVI	GIA	SEI	UCTU	CI	EIP	VF
CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL								
ALDERMAN - 5th WARD								
Leslie A. Hairston (incumbent)		Y		Y	Y			
William Calloway								
ALDERMAN - 6th WARD								
Roderick T. Sawyer (incumbent)		Y		Y	Y			
Deborah A. Foster-Bonner								
ALDERMAN - 15th WARD								
Rafael "Rafa" Yanez	B+		Y	Y	Y			
Raymond A. Lopez (incumbent)							Y	Y
ALDERMAN - 16th WARD								
Stephanie Coleman (incumbent)	B+							
Toni L. Foulkes (incumbent)				Y	Y			
ALDERMAN - 20th WARD								
Jeanette B. Taylor			Y	Y	Y			
Nicole J. Johnson	B	Y						
ALDERMAN - 21st WARD								
Howard B. Brookins, Jr. (incumbent)				Y				
Marvin McNeil								

	WCT	IVI	GIA	SEIU	UCTU	EIP	VF
ALDERMAN - 25th WARD							
Alexander "Alex" Acevedo	B+						
Byron Sigcho-Lopez	B+	Y			Y		
ALDERMAN - 30th WARD							
Jessica W. Gutierrez					Y		
Ariel E. Reboyras (incumbent)							
ALDERMAN - 31st WARD							
Milagros "Milly" Santiago (incumbent)	B+	Y		Y			
Felix Cardona Jr.	B+						
ALDERMAN - 33rd WARD							
Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez			Y	Y	Y		
Deborah L. Mell (incumbent)	A-					Y	Y
ALDERMAN - 39th WARD							
Robert Murphy	B+						
Samantha "Sam" Nugent	A-						
ALDERMAN - 40th WARD							
André Vasquez	B+						
Patrick J. O'Connor (incumbent)	A						
ALDERMAN - 43rd WARD							
Derek Lindblom	B+						
Michelle Smith (incumbent)	B+						
ALDERMAN - 46th WARD							
Marianne Lalonde	A-	Y					
James Cappleman (incumbent)	A					Y	Y
ALDERMAN - 47th WARD							
Michael A. Negrón							
Matt Martin	B+	Y					

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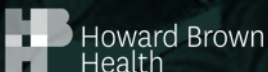
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viewpoints



**Matt
SIMONETTE**

May the best woman win

On April 2, Chicagoans will go the polls and, for the first time, elect a Black woman to be the 47th person to hold the office of mayor of Chicago.

Whoever wins—Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle or attorney Lori Lightfoot—would be the third Black mayor in the city's history, and the second woman to occupy the post. If Lightfoot were to win, she'd be the city's first openly lesbian mayor as well.

When Mayor Jane Byrne was in the throes of her election in 1979, People Magazine referred to her having the looks of a "harried suburban housewife." When Mayor Harold Washington was in office, 29 City Council members banded together to stall his agenda. Now, decades on, we don't yet know who will be mayor come May—but we know the next mayor, without question, will be a Black woman.

Lightfoot being part of the LGBT community has most loudly become an issue twice during the runoff—the first time when Preckwinkle seemingly complimented her on how she navigated that part of her identity, the second being when homophobic and racist fliers were distributed at or near South Side churches, presumably to stoke supposed homophobic impulses among the parishioners.

Nevertheless, in an election as fiery as this, only two such incidents is noteworthy. Lightfoot even received endorsements from some such as Bishop Larry Trotter, who had opposed the LGBT community on marriage equality some years back. When officials such as Judge Tom Chiola, Ald. Tom Tunney and state Reps. Larry McKeon and Greg Harris entered their offices, it was big news. With Lightfoot, one noteworthy aspect of her being a lesbian is that, for many Chicagoans, it's not very noteworthy.

This has been a long and difficult election season. Lightfoot, for her part, announced her candidacy early on when it was presumed that she'd be challenging an incumbent Rahm Emanuel. But Emanuel unexpectedly said last fall that he was stepping down, opening the floodgates for numerous politi-

cians, businesspeople and other residents to throw their hats in the ring.

Turnout for the Feb. 26 election was depressingly low, with just about 30 percent of eligible voters showing up to the polls. It's nevertheless difficult to blame the Chicagoans who didn't turn out; with well over a dozen candidates, many voters simply didn't have time or inclination to learn everyone's specific viewpoints and qualifications and, rightly or wrongly, quite likely preferred to wait it out until a runoff.

Lightfoot and Preckwinkle have pulled no punches in their criticism of one another; nobody can accuse either woman of simply phoning this election in. Both candidates are profiled in this week's issue of Windy City Times, and neither misses a chance for a barb against her opponent. Each has also been taken to task for her past work—Preckwinkle has had to repudiate and defend connections to the Chicago Machine she's had to make in her long career as a city and county politician, as well as problematic hiring decisions. Several community members have wanted to hold Lightfoot accountable for her work adjudicating police corruption and violence, maintaining that she both was not diligent enough and brusquely engaged with victims and their families.

We hope that Chicagoans won't sit out the April 2 polls—that they will at least look at the coverage of these candidates to make their most educated choice.

The first question that voters should consider: Does the candidate seem capable of doing the work of governing? All too many politicians get caught up in the ego-fueling world of campaigning, and are not cut out for the administrative drudgery that comes with executive office—coordinating staff, multitasking complex problems, listening to constituent concerns, working the phones fundraising, proposing budgets, and so on. The second question: Does the candidate understand the wheels of power and how those are greased? We've seen two notable examples in recent years—President Donald Trump and former Gov. Bruce Rauner—of a candidate coming into office without comprehending the power the legislative branch is capable of wielding, expecting to coast on the force of their personality. This city election is happening just as the figurative tectonic plates beneath the Chicago City Council are shifting, and many constituents are especially weary of the Chicago Machine. Chicago's next mayor will need to navigate rough terrain to get things done.

Make no mistake: Once the mayor takes office in

May, her real work begins. She will have to wrestle with dozens of stultifying (and usually overlapping) issues, among them wealth disparities; violence, public safety and policing problems; structural racism; school issues; crumbling infrastructure; widespread homelessness and housing instability; informationally-siloed city agencies; and underfunded pensions, to name just a few. She can expect only so much support from Springfield, perpetually locked in its own political and fiscal dysfunction, and no solid support whatsoever from the federal government led by Trump, who has taken several opportunities to mock this city.

The LGBT community has every right to have the mayor's ear from time-to-time as well. The city has excellent protections for our community in place fortunately, but having the teeth to enforce and publicize those protections—through community liaisons and adjudicating bodies, for example—takes money and willpower. Even then, those solutions often address very specific incidents and perpetrators of hiring, housing and public accommodations discrimination.

The next mayor must be able to address structural and systemic anti-LGBT discrimination in institutions such as police and service providers. Members of the community are impacted by the same problems as other residents in any urban environment, but their sexual orientation or gender identity often means they cannot find the proper means of support. An LGBT person experiencing homelessness or housing instability can be made to feel uncomfortable at shelters or agencies. A bullied LGBT public-schools student might find no recourse if they have the wrong principal. Community members might not know for days that a transgender friend or family member has fallen victim to violence, since the police report will likely indicate the gender they were assigned at birth. Our community will have a big punch-list for this next mayor.

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. We do focus coverage on LGBT politicians by virtue of our newspaper's mission, but this is no better year to emphasize our impartiality and wish the best to whichever candidate—one a member of our community, the other a stalwart ally—wins. We'll likely be a thorn in your side sometimes in the years ahead but, come April 2, may the best woman win.

Matt Simonette is managing editor of Windy City Times.



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PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Andrew Davis

MANAGING EDITOR Matt Simonette

DIGITAL DIRECTOR Jean Albright

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SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR Scott Duff

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NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media,

212-242-6863

THEATER AND DANCE EDITOR Catey Sullivan

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Shen Barnidge, Liz Baudler, Charlie Dewey,

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WEB HOSTING LoveYourWebsite.com (lead

programmer: Martie Marro)

PRESIDENT Tracy Baim

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609

Editorial: andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

Sales: terri@windycitymediagroup.com

Calendar: calendar@windycitymediagroup.com

Circulation: jean@windycitymediagroup.com

Art/ad copy: kirk@windycitymediagroup.com

Theater: cateysullivan25@gmail.com

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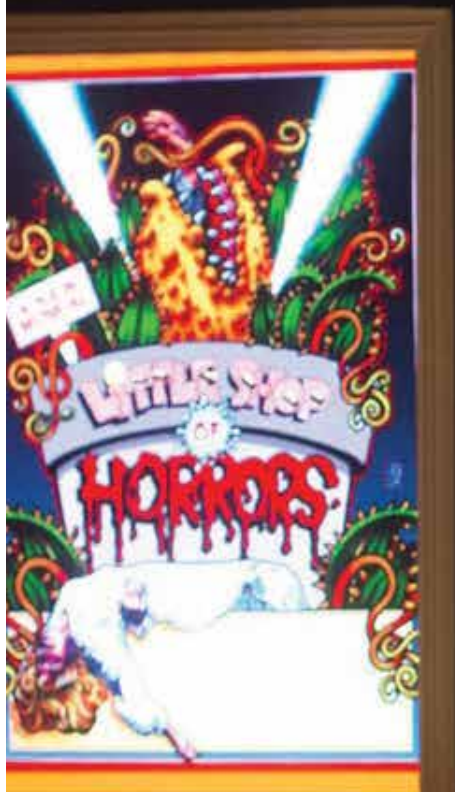
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Alan Menken.
Photo courtesy of Columbia Artists
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ALAN MENKEN

ON MUSIC, STORYTELLING,
HOWARD ASHMAN

PAGE 24



THEATER REVIEW

Sweat

Playwright: Lynn Nottage

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

Goodmantheatre.org/Sweat; \$20-\$80

Runs through: April 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Sometimes theater grabs you by the guts, sometimes it sucker-punches you. *Sweat* does both. The Chicago premiere of this 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is among the very best productions of the 2018-2019 season. It's enthusiastically and convincingly acted by a superb all-Chicago cast, who've honed their rich ensemble skills among Chicago's off-Loop theaters—but it's far more than that.

The play itself is the sucker-punch. Author Lynn Nottage makes the most ordinary blue-collar people not only utterly believable but also special, little-by-little, even though they appear in situations we've seen countless times in plays, movies and on TV: union labor squeezed by management in a crumbling economy. She makes those



Keith Kupferer, Tyla Abercrombie and Kirsten Fitzgerald in *Sweat*.
Photo by Liz Lauren

familiar circumstances both powerful and entirely pertinent to America's present anti-immigration rhetoric, although *Sweat* takes place in 2000 and, briefly, in 2008.

Nottage has crafted a well-made play, a theatrical technique perfected in the 19th century in which all character points and plot details mesh like cogs in a great machine, playing out to inevitable ends. Like the characters themselves, the audience unknowingly is swept along in the increasingly tense and rapid mechanics. One

might not realize it, however, because Nottage's language is so exquisitely plain-spoken and real, although it still has power to entrance. Just listen in Act I to Tracey (superbly bellicose Kirsten Fitzgerald) talk about respect for craftsmanship, and how folks used to dress up to shop Downtown. It's a wonderful ride as paced by master director Ron OJ Parson, who extracts a rich vein of comedy as well. Set chiefly in a neighborhood bar near a steel plant, the banter between the regulars is raucously funny ... until it isn't.

Sweat begins shortly after white supremacist Jason (Mike Cherry) and newly devout Chris (Edgar Miguel Sanchez) are released from prison, then flashes back to show us what happened, involving Chris's unemployed father Brucie (Andre Teamer beautifully underplaying), mother Cynthia (heartfelt Tyla Abercrombie) and Cynthia's co-workers/besties Tracey and Jessie (convincingly inebriated Chaon Cross). Friendships crumble when Cynthia is promoted to supervisor, followed by union-busting ruthless management actions that affect everyone. Even avuncular, generous bartender Stan (Keith Kupferer in mostly-cuddly mode) and uncomplaining, hard-working bar back Oscar (keenly observant Steve Casillas) are drawn in.

Nottage didn't set *Sweat* in Chicago but Kevin Depinet's enormous, untidy and utterly accurate barroom set definitely places it here, trimmed with a dozen Miller Lite banners. *Sweat* is about here, now and us. Almost tenderly, it also calls up legacy, those who came before us—whether slave or immigrant—and worked for what we have, or think we have. *Sweat* reminds us that what we have is very fragile—not unlike American democracy—and complicated. *Sweat* is what theater should be.

THEATER REVIEW

Herland

Playwright: Grace McLeod

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

Tickets: Redtwist.org 773-728-7529; \$35-\$40

Runs through: April 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"When people ask us if we want to do something, it will be a real question! We can say 'no' or 'yes,' and they'll listen to us when we answer!" Following a wave of playwrights wringing their hands over adult children struggling with the question

of what to do about grandma, Grace McLeod thinks it's high time to bring the grandmas themselves into the discussion.

What do McLeod's empty nesters want? Widowed Terry wants to explore her same-sex desires, spinster Louise wants a luxurious retirement, and divorced Jean knows only that she does not want to live in an eldercare facility. In order to forestall that sorry fate, she has hired an "intern"—teenaged Natalie, looking to do something "cool" before starting college—to help convert her family-sized house into a group home where the three lifelong friends can live as they please. Utopian ideals being, by their very name, unattainable, these lofty aspirations cannot escape compromises, but the pursuit thereof gradually

brings all the women to the awareness and accomplishments necessary for independence, self-esteem and the courage to resist convention.

The premise of elderly women sharing a house may recall the 1985-92 television series *Golden Girls*, but what distinguishes the 21st-century version of post-menopausal sisterhood is not merely the easy acceptance of "unfeminine" traits (a preference for pantsuits over dresses, for example), but the absence of femme-assurance triggers coded into the dialogue. To be sure, the detritus of the ex-husbands' Springsteen cover band provides the tenacious dowerings with a rallying medley of The Boss' empowering anthems, but as implied by "Herland"—the title (derived from a Charlotte Perkins Gilman novel) bestowed

on their retreat—sororal values triumph within this universe.

McLeod's rolling world-premiere play, with its delicate blend of comedy and crisis, offers juicy roles for a trio of AARP-eligible female actors, all but guaranteeing extensive regional revivals. Though the arc of the narrative could use some re-editing, director James Fleming and a dream-team cast—Kathleen Ruhl, Valerie Gorman, marssie Mancotti, Simran Bal and Deanalís Resto—never allow the playful moments (spit-takes, blackout scenes, Fiorucci-style fashions for the youngsters and a lip-synced "Born to Run" fantasy sequence) to eclipse the serious issues underlying the quest for your own identity, whatever your age.

THEATER REVIEW

Hands on a Hardbody

Playwright: Doug Wright (book), Amanda Green (lyrics), Trey Anastasio and Amanda Green (music)

At: Refuge Theatre Project at the Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

Tickets: \$30; RefugeTheatre.com

Runs through: April 27

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Midway through *Hands on a Hardbody*'s first act, a woman starts singing along with her headphones. Her nine companions—all competing against one another to win a pickup truck in a small Texas town—join in one by one.

The gospel tune picks up pace with clapping and moving in a circle around the truck, each person keeping one hand on the vehicle in keeping with the contest rules. For about four minutes, 10 people temporarily form a tight, joyful bond.

If only the rest of the show were that powerful. *Hardbody* boasts composer Trey Anastasio, part of the legendary jam band Phish, and an intriguing true story inspired by a 1997 documentary film.

Sadly, Refuge Theatre Project's Chicago premiere doesn't live up to the hype, thanks to a boring book, bloated runtime and score that is more cliché than original.

Times are tough in Longview, Texas, but everyone rallies for the annual *Hands on a Hardbody* event, in which ten people chosen at random compete to see who can, well, touch a Nissan pickup the longest. There are 15-minute breaks every six hours, but other than that, one hand (protected by cotton gardening gloves) must be on the vehicle at all times. From a stoic Marine (Max Cervantes) to an outspoken mother of six (Katherine Condit), everyone's in it to win it, but that's before oppressive heat, shady politics and family secrets come into play.

Certainly, musicals have been based on stranger topics: *Teeth*, based on a movie about a teenage girl with vagina dentata, workshopped on the East Coast last summer. The problem with *Hardbody* is its lack of specifics. Each character has a thoroughly predictable conflict, from the sleazy dealership manager (Dan Gold) trying to keep his business afloat to the wide-eyed UPS worker (Alli Atkinson) who just wants to travel. Characters of color either make cameo appearances, such as Jared David Michael Grant's boisterous smooth talker, or exist solely to teach others about prejudice, as is the case with Sebastian Summers' ambitious veterinary student. And when past winner Benny Perkins (Derek Fawcett, channeling his best Matthew McConaughey) reveals his

inner tragedies in the 11 o'clock number, the audience is expected to forgive two-plus hours of the character's casual racism, not to mention gaslighting and outright bullying.

Apart from the aforementioned gospel songs, Anastasio and Green's soundtrack is largely forgettable, and Doug Wright's dialogue sounds straight out of a sitcom about Southerners written in Los Angeles. Though *Hands* mostly falters due to its writing, Ariel Triunfo's choreography—unoriginal even in its somewhat limited capacity—doesn't help matters. Nor do the productions' copious microphone and acoustic issues, only a few of which could be attributed to opening-night roughness as opposed to, perhaps, an insufficient tech. Even standout performances, like Molly Kral's sweet and stalwart woman of faith and Roy Samra's wistful love interest, can't save *Hardbody* from itself.

Refuge Theatre Project has found a niche by presenting under-produced musicals with top-notch performers. Despite the latter, the results are often hit or miss: Some shows aren't produced much, for a reason. For every High Fidelity, Refuge's Jeff Award-winning runaway hit, there's a *Lysistrata Jones*, a clunky Greek myth-turned-pop musical that the company unwisely staged in an actual gym. Since early 2016, Refuge has chased another High Fidelity; however, because of major flaws, *Hardbody* is nowhere close to being a worthy successor.



Angelica Katie,
Leah Casey and
Melanie Brezill
in *For Colored
Girls...*

Photo by
Michael
Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf

Playwright: Ntozake Shange

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: 773-753-4472;

CourtTheatre.org; \$50-\$74

Runs through: April 14

BY KERRY REID

Ntozake Shange's death in October, at age 70, unleashed an outpouring of tributes from Black women playwrights who found inspiration in her work, including Pulitzer winners Suzan-Lori Parks and Lynn Nottage.

The latter noted that Shange's groundbreaking 1976 "choreopoem," *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, meant that young Black women previously alienated from mainstream theater "suddenly saw representation of themselves in a very honest way and understood that they could occupy that space for the first time."

In Seret Scott's searing and soaring production of *For Colored Girls* at Court Theatre, Shange's words weave a tapestry of pain, defiance, joy and renewal, all delivered by a cast of eight women who not only occupy the space but reclaim it for Black women whose voices have been ignored or disparaged. Courtney O'Neill's set—a curved wall with crumbling archways—suggests an ancient ruined amphitheater. But the stories these women bring to life through Shange's 20 poems and their own embodied musicality aren't ancient tales, but urgent and ever-timely dispatches.

One of the enduring ironies of Shange's piece is that although the women are identified only by the color of their dresses (beautifully designed by Samantha C. Jones), they are multidimensional in ways that too many Black women in narratives crafted by non-Black writers are not. Scott's production adds a character known as Lyric (Melody Angel), who fittingly adds to the inflections of Shange's words and Leah Casey's rhythmic choreography through drum and guitar accompaniment. (Casey also plays Lady in Purple.)

The stories range from playful tales of youthful sexual and romantic adventures to raw stories of rape and other violence. AnJi White's Lady in Red

gets the climactic darkest tale and holds nothing back. It's simultaneously horrific and hypnotizing.

Shange, like Alice Walker, was criticized for portraying Black men as abusers, but there are plenty of moments here where the spark of attraction between women and men provides a window into escape. Patrese D. McClain's Lady in Brown tells us about meeting a young Black man who provides a real-life substitute for her idol and imaginary spirit guide, Haitian revolutionary leader Toussaint Louverture.

Conversely, Melissa DuPrey's Lady in Blue laments that she "used to live in the world, but now I live in Harlem"—her life now defined by "six blocks of cruelty piled up on itself" that constrain the dreams she carries, while her memories of a primal connection to the ocean are mocked by the dirty puddles on the streets.

In an era in which the phrase "vote like Black women" has become a *cri de guerre* for the resistance, Shange's piece and Scott's staging remind us that Black women in the United States have been fighting their own battles for centuries. It's not their job to save us—but we damn well better start listening to them.

CRITICS' PICKS

Red Rex, Steep Theatre, through March 30. The sixth installment in Ike Holter's seven-part play cycle exploring the urban woes of Chicago's (fictional) 51st Ward doesn't spare the clueless artists whose invasions only hasten the displacement of the indigenous population. MSB

The Man Who Was Thursday, Lifeline Theatre, through April 7. G.K. Chesterton's satirical tale of government agents chasing their tails while purporting to protect society from wrongdoers has lost none of its caustic humor or ironic relevance over the hundred years since its first publication. MSB

Doubt: A Parable, Gift Theatre at the Steppenwolf 1700, through March 31. John Gawlik's direction ramps up the urgency in this examination of moral compasses led astray by moral certainty buttressed by casuistic power. MSB

Requiem for a Heavyweight, The Artistic Home, through March 31. Not a single punch actually lands in Rod Serling's tough-tender tragedy, but never has boxing been more brutal than in this production featuring Mark Pracht in a star-making performance as a down-on-his-luck prizefighter. MSB

—By Mary Shen Barnidge

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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Stephen Flaherty translates 'Anastasia' to the stage

BY JERRY NUNN

Anastasia is a musical based on the 1997 animated film that adapted the legend of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia, who escapes the execution of her family and becomes an amnesiac orphan named Anya.

The music and lyrics are by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, with a book by Terrence McNally. Composer Flaherty wrote Tony-winning musicals Ragtime and Once on This Island before Anastasia, which was nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards. Other musical credits include Lucky Stiff, My Favorite Year, A Man of No Importance, Dessa Rose, The Glorious Ones, Seussical and Rocky.

Windy City Times: Where in the world are you?

Stephen Flaherty: I am in Seattle and tonight is the first preview of my new musical Marie. It is a whole new idea and choreographed by Susan Stroman. We did an earlier version of the show at the Kennedy Center four years ago under the title Little Dancer. This is a reimagining and reworking of that particular show. We have our first real

audience tonight!

WCT: Were you always involved in music?

SF: Yes. I went to Catholic school and my parents were trying to find ways to slow me down. The nuns were ready to skip me ahead to the next grade. They randomly picked music.

My mom had me take piano lessons when I was 7. I deeply connected to it at an early age. I began writing and wrote my first musical when I was 14. I can't say it was good, but it was fun!

WCT: You studied musicals in college?

SF: Yes. I went to CCM, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. At the time that was one of the few schools that had a musical theater performance program. I knew I would study composition, but also hang out with the theater kids.

WCT: Growing up gay in the South, I definitely felt I found a tribe with the theater folks.

SF: I felt the same way. I grew up in Pittsburgh, so I felt like the alien on my block.

WCT: Do you have a favorite moment from Ragtime?

SF: Every day working on that show is elevated. It was the kind of show I had always wanted to



Above: Edward Staudenmayer, Lila Coogan, Stephen Brower and the company of the national tour of Anastasia.
Photo by Evan Zimmerman, Murphy Made.



write. I wanted to write a sweeping musical drama even as a kid. My favorite shows are West Side Story and Porgy and Bess. I like a large canvas!

One memorable moment was working on the song "Wheels of a Dream." I had been connected with Brian Stokes Mitchell and invited him to my home to work on it. My husband had come home early and Brian sang the song in our teeny apartment. When I asked my husband Trevor what he thought he said, "He certainly sings it better than you do!"

After that, I decided to build the show on that actor. It really changed my thoughts about the character. Originally it was a tenor range, but Stokes had a deep, authoritarian baritone voice.

WCT: You have worked with lyricist Lynn Ahrens for a long time?

SF: Talk about finding your tribe! After moving to the big city in New York, I was taking a workshop and the assignment was to collaborate with someone. She was in my class and I asked her. We came up for the idea of our first show.

Our way of working is very different, but our synergy was amazing. I used to sequester myself away like a mad monk in a cell and grow a beard, but she was much more of an improv kind of gal. She would throw an idea around the writers room.

We would write song after song and now we are 35 years on!

WCT: You have written new songs together for Anastasia?

SF: Yes. We were asked to write the film score for Anastasia in 1997. It was our first movie. We were suddenly in Hollywood and Madonna read our names on the telecast. It was unbelievable!

Later, we had the opportunity to revisit the characters in a more deep place.

WCT: The stage version has characters not in the film?

SF: Yes. We used five songs that were in the film, but in different dramaturgical ways. The audience will get to hear the songs that they know and love, but we still want to surprise them.

One of the first songs that Anya sings in the movie "Journey to the Past" closes the act in the musical, so the character has a much longer arc.

We wrote 15 new songs for the stage. I think the new songs are of the same caliber as the songs from the film, which is always the challenge. People go in knowing the old songs, but I had to create songs that are equally as stimulating and pleasing.

WCT: Is there possibly a new gay character?

SF: Well, this is Russia of a certain period, but maybe Count Leopold. He appears in act two and I will just leave it at that...

WCT: How do you bring an albino bat from the film onto the stage?

SF: He bit the dust—sorry: spoiler alert! The

film is very beloved; however, there were certain elements that were aimed at a young audience.

We also played fast and loose with Russian history. We knew that if we wanted to revisit this piece that we had to deal with the truth of that period. We brought in our friend Terrence McNally to reimagine it. Luckily, he saw it the same way that we did. He was not interested in taking the animated film and slapping it onstage.

We really looked at the characters, cut some and created new ones. This was our third musical writing with Terrence.

WCT: Is the dog cut, too?

SF: There is no dog, but there is a child.

WCT: Are you coming to opening night in Chicago?

SF: I can't because I will be in Russia. Oddly, when I have written my shows I have never been to the place where they are set until after the show opens. I had never been to the Caribbean until Once on This Island opened or Monte Carlo until Lucky Stiff opened.

I have an opportunity to do a master class with the educational group Broadway Dreams. I was invited to teach in Russia and there will be a series of concerts based on our work. Maybe I will see Anya running around the streets. We will see!

WCT: What are you working on after Marie?

SF: We are working on a new piece with Frank Galati, who was our director from Ragtime. It's a chamber musical called Knoxville. We are doing it at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida. It's a passion project from Frank, who is also adapting it. It's based on James Agee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel A Death in the Family. It's very American and tight focused. It's about how family face hard times and still go forward. It's a very personal show.

Anastasia travels into the James M. Nederlander Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., through April 7. Tickets are at BroadwayInChicago.com or by calling 800-775-2000.

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BOOKS

Trans author talks 'layered identity' in new memoir

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

"I wanted to be two things when I grew up: a writer and a boy."

Life has never been easy for Nate Cannon. Diagnosed with major depression and bipolar disorder at 12 years old, the trans author lost his "sense of gender identity" at the same time. His mother did her best to raise him as a girl because "she thought society wouldn't embrace me," he said.

What followed were life-changing sports injuries, a teenage suicide attempt, substance abuse and a neurological disorder diagnosis—all while Cannon realized his gender-identity disorder wasn't going to fix itself. Dying to Hang with the Boys, the author's second memoir, chronicles Cannon's transition and his journeys in physical and mental health.

"This is a book that explores the consequences of being unable to express one's gender identity," Cannon said via phone from his Minnesota home. "If I had been able to transition earlier, would my life have gone differently? I don't know the answer to that."

While identifying as a lesbian, Cannon wrote *Running on a Mind Rewired*, a memoir of his time as the only girl on an all-boys hockey team, his slide into drug dependency and near-death experience at 17 and his subsequent recovery. The book is used as a teaching tool in high schools, colleges, hospitals and treatment centers—and is still published under Cannon's birth name. The author prefers it this way: "I feel like that was a story that belonged to who I was when I was Jennifer," he said. "And that portion of my identity and my life needs to be honored."

Dying to Hang with the Boys takes a deep dive into Cannon's suicide attempt, something he was initially discouraged from writing about. "When I first pitched this book, I was told, 'You should leave [suicide] out entirely,'" he said. However, Cannon knew he couldn't leave out his experience. "The book is not intended to glamorize suicide, [but] this is the gory stuff you don't want to hear," he said. "I'm hoping not to put out a story that's going to lead someone to engage in similar acts ... but I hope it will give people the courage and determination to stay with us and



Nate Cannon.
Photo by Wendy Zins

keep fighting."

Fighting is part of Cannon's daily routine: since he was diagnosed with acquired dystonia, he has to contend with his own body.

"A mix of Parkinson's and MS is how I describe [dystonia]," Cannon said of the neurological disorder. "It feels like someone is reaching in and twisting my muscles with a dishrag." Though dystonia can also be genetic, Cannon feels his is a result of "rewiring my brain: chemical dependency, playing hockey and trying to hang with the boys," not to mention the damaging shoulder injury he sustained when another player gunned for him on the ice.

Running has helped both Cannon's recovery process and his dystonia: sober for 15 years now, he has also completed 14 marathons in the past decade. "It started early in my sobriety [as] putting on a pair of running shoes and getting on a treadmill, figuring out a natural way to boost those brain chemicals and feel good," he said.

"I'm glad I had that training when I developed dystonia in 2006. Dystonia pulls you off to one side. The muscles create push and pull, similar to Parkinson's, causing erratic signals to be sent to the muscles," Cannon said. "The reciprocal motion [of running] has been very helpful for me."

Cannon said running helped with gender issues as well. "Running brought to the surface that I had been confusing my sexual orientation with my gender identity," he said. "As a result of my sports bra, I was chafing. I thought, 'if I didn't have [breasts] this wouldn't be happening.' And

Turn to page 29



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SPRING MOVIE PREVIEW

Superheroes and festivals part of cinematic landscape

BY JERRY NUNN

The box office is warming up for the big blockbusters expected this summer. Spring offers two months of fine flicks and film festivals where the LGBT community are well represented on the big screen—along with big stars, superheroes and inspiring soundtracks.

April

—**Shazam!** (April 5): A young 14-year-old Billy Batson quickly grows up by exclaiming the word Shazam! This comic character was originally named Captain Marvel and Djimon Hounsou is surprisingly in both this movie and the Brie Larson film.

—**Pet Sematary** (April 5): Stephen King's adaptation of his 1983 horror novel comes back to life with Jason Clarke, Amy Seimetz and John Lithgow.

—**Hellboy** (April 12): Stranger Things star David Harbour turns red playing the title character in the new Hellboy reboot.

—**Teen Spirit** (April 12): Elle Fanning personifies the character Violet Valenski who is from a

small town with big dreams. She sings cover songs of Robyn, Tegan and Sara, Annie Lennox and Ellie Goulding along the way.

—**Avengers: Endgame** (April 19): The highly anticipated Avengers: Infinity War follow up has big named stars battling the villain Thanos for the universe.

May

—**Tell It to the Bees** (May 3): This is a lesbian drama with Anna Paquin playing a doctor who meets an unfulfilled housewife in conservative 1950s Scotland.

—**Ugly Dolls** (May 3): The voices of Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Wanda Sykes and Janelle Monae are spotlighted in a cartoon set in the town of Uglyville, where weirdness is celebrated.

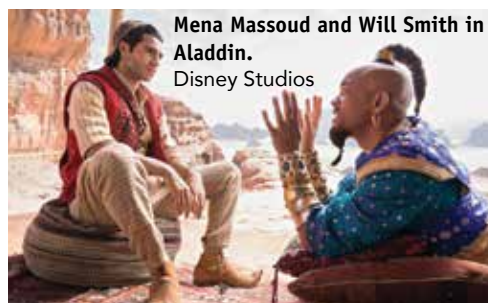
—**Long Shot** (May 3): It's a fish-out-of-water story with Charlize Theron playing a diplomat with Seth Rogen as a journalist.

—**Rafiki** (May 9): This banned Kenyan drama centers on a romantic connection between two young women in a country where homosexuality is currently illegal.

—**Aladdin** (May 24): Guy Ritchie seems an un-



Ugly Dolls.
STX Films



Mena Massoud and Will Smith in
Aladdin.
Disney Studios



David Harbour in Hellboy.
Photo by Mark Rogers

usual choice to direct the live adaptation of the Walt Disney production. Will Will Smith smoke out the unforgettable performance of Robin Williams, or will moviegoers wish for someone else?

—**Rocketman** (May 31): This openly gay rocker drama hopes to upstage Bohemian Rhapsody, with Taron Egerton representing the flamboyant Sir Elton John (and actually singing his songs live, John has told media outlets).

In addition, the **35th Latino Film Festival** returns to Chicago, with more LGBT content, at the AMC River East 21 Theatre March 28-April 11. A gay bar called Oasis, an out dance instructor in The Gazelle's dance and Guatemala's Queer Lion

Award winner Jose are all part of the international fun. Cruise over to ChicagoLatinoFilmFestival.org for the complete schedule.

The **Tribeca Film Festival** in Manhattan turns 18 this year, taking place April 24-May 5 with tons of queer offerings such as the lesbian coming-of-age story Clementine and a multitude of short films with LGBT-related subject matter. Some documentaries at Tribeca include films about the life of fashion designer Halston, a RuPaul Drag Racer in Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts and XY Chelsea, about famed transgender military whistleblower Chelsea Manning. For more information, visit TribecaFilm.com.

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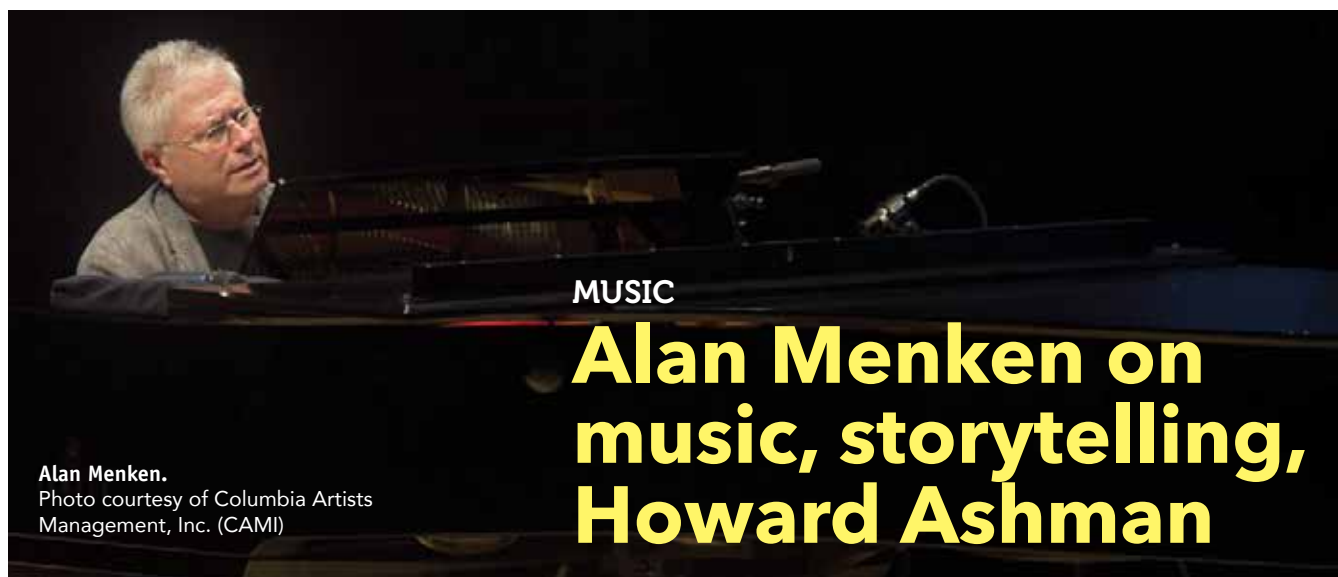
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Alan Menken.
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MUSIC

Alan Menken on music, storytelling, Howard Ashman

CULTURE CLUB

BY JOHN STADELMAN

Legendary score composer Alan Menken—best known for his Oscar-winning work on classic Disney animated films including *The Little Mermaid* and *Aladdin*—will be in Chicago playing a retrospective show Saturday, March 30.

Menken talked with *Windy City Times* about score writing, live-action remakes and the legacy of Howard Ashman, the legendary gay composer with whom he often collaborated.

Windy City Times: Score composing is such a story-based genre. How do you integrate the storytelling element into the music? Does your process vary between projects, or does it stay the same?

Alan Menken: By definition, when I write a score, I'm reflecting the characters and storyline for a project. Sometimes the intention of the music is to establish time and place. In a literal sense, that means choice that reflects the musical vocabulary of a culture at [a] particular time. Sometimes the choice of style is meant as a comment—a cultural wink that establishes a link between something contemporary and something ancient or mythological. And, of course, sometimes the musical choice is an emotional underpinning that is simply “Menken”-esque.

Since I strive to never repeat myself in my scores. I deliberately start each project in a fresh way. And, when there are new collaborators and new story influences, that task is made easier.

WCT: What was it like working with Howard Ashman on the Disney movies? How was the creative environment and overall process?

AM: Howard was a true genius, in that he understood how to deliver a story through making the smartest musical choice. I reveled in my good fortune in being in a collaboration with such a sure compass. As he grew ill and finally passed away at a tragically young age, the influence of Howard made me grow in ways I had never imagined.

Howard Ashman and I only got to work together for 12 years, over five incredible projects. But in some way, I feel like he has been an intrinsic part of everything I've done since.

WCT: What did you learn from Howard about composing and music, and creativity in general?

AM: The lessons I learned from Howard range from choosing the right subject matter and stylistic voice for a musical to understanding the rhythm and structure of musical theater storytelling. He could be blisteringly critical. And

he could be the most incredible support imaginable. He was impassioned and loyal and generous.

WCT: You've been working on the scores for live action remakes of quite a few of the classic Disney films you were involved in. What has that been like, to return to old material within a different medium?

AM: The main differences are defined by the medium as well as the vision and the agenda of the creative team. And those differences can be exciting and, at the same time, challenging.

I am collaborating with new lyricists. We're both revising pre-existing songs and creating new song moments to fit a new director's or writer's approach to story. Sometimes those additions are motivated as much by an external desire to be eligible for recognition as a “new” work as they are motivated by a need to dig deeper into material. Distinguishing between those motivations can be frustrating. But all the hard work inevitably results in a work with greater depth and specificity.

WCT: You worked with Howard on many of those songs and, unfortunately, he isn't around to help this time. How has that been?

AM: It's bittersweet to bring our songs back to life in new ways without his input or involvement. To witness new wonderful actors and creative talents rediscovering our gems is amazing. And I hope in some way Howard's spirit is in touch with that.

WCT: What advice do you have for film and theater score composers who are just starting out, or for people who want to get into this work?

AM: Serve the work, rather than your own ego or emotional needs. Yes, the work we do is emotional. But that emotion is channeled through the characters and story. Never fall in love with your own work to the extent that you are unwilling to push it aside and create something new instead. Our field is very collaborative. And success hinges on your ability to be part of a team; part of a greater whole.

The other basic advice is to always be creating something new. The act of creating keeps your talents alive, just like a workout in the gym keeps your muscles strong.

You may think you know what your best and most important work is. But the audience is your collaborator, too. Listen to them as much as you do your own heart.

WCT: You'll be in Chicago on March 30 for a retrospective show, performing and covering pieces that span across your career. Could you talk a bit about what it will be like?

AM: My concert allows me to bring together work from nearly 50 years. I play and sing and talk through career highlights and personal insights and emotional moments and telling anecdotes. And behind me on the stage are three screens that illuminate things and expand the experience. The first act leads up to the incredible success of our Disney animated musicals combined with huge personal changes due to the AIDS crisis and the passing of Howard Ashman.

The second act starts with my Broadway shows and the continuation of my Disney projects, and it moves through lots of my film and stage work that some people might be unaware of. And I will preview some exciting new work that no audiences have heard before. I've been blessed with a long and rich career that I never could have dreamed of having. And *A Whole New World* of Alan Menken means a great deal to me because it allows all the many aspects and facets of my work to be joined in one concert experience.

“*A Whole New World* of Alan Menken” will show at the Auditorium Theatre on Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. Find tickets and more information at <https://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/alanmenken/>.



Caity Lotz.

Photo copyright Warner Bros Entertainment Inc.

TELEVISION

Caity Lotz talks 'Legends,' Lady Gaga and helping other women

BY ANDREW DAVIS

On Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m. CT, DC's Legends of Tomorrow will resume its fourth season on The CW, entertaining viewers with its colorful characters and unconventional adventures. (The show is a spinoff featuring characters introduced in Arrow and The Flash along with new characters.)

Caity Lotz returns as Sara Lance/White Canary—an assassin who is the team leader. In a recent interview with *Windy City Times*, Lotz discussed being on the show, dancing with Lady Gaga and being associated with the pro-women's group *Shethority*.

Windy City Times: You have a very interesting resume. Many know you as an actress, but

you're also a singer and a dancer—and you've been a backup dancer for Lady Gaga. What was that like?

Caity Lotz: She's awesome! I was really impressed by her. I remember arriving on the set of the "Paparazzi" video at five in the morning—and she was already full Gaga; she was wearing underwear, fishnet, heels and this crazy sweater. Now that she's been acting for a while, she seems like "Gaga." But I had a good time dancing with her.

WCT: Moving on to Legends of Tomorrow, congrats on the renewal.

CL: Thank you. We're excited to tell another season of stories.

WCT: I know you can't give me details, under

penalty of death. [Lotz laughs.] However, are there any general items you can tell me about the second half of the fourth season?

CL: Yes! There are some really cool episodes, such as a Bollywood episode that might be one of my favorites. Then, there's some cool dancing with me and Jes [Macallan, who plays Time Bureau Director—and Sara's girlfriend—Ava Sharpe]. Basically, all the craziness you're hoping for is coming.

WCT: One of the things I like about this show is that it doesn't take itself too seriously.

CL: Yes, but we do take risks.

WCT: What are some of your favorite Legends episodes from the past?

CL: Hmmm... I always love our Western episodes. What else? Sometimes we get great outfits to wear. The death totem one was plenty fun and—oh!—the shogun episode was one of my favorites; the sword-fighting was awesome.

WCT: There was one episode that had three of you in a take on Charlie's Angels...

CL: ... where we're puppets. Yes.

WCT: Kudos to the writers.

CL: For sure. In TV, it's all about the writers. They're the ones doing all the magic.

WCT: Regarding the relationship between your character and Ava, I love that it's treated like any other relationship. There's no big deal about it.

CL: Yes—and it's a healthy relationship. You have two powerful women who are both leaders in what they do, and who are both very career-oriented. They try to balance their work lives and their relationship. I like that the relationship hasn't been about fighting or cheating; it's just

Wrightwood 659 to showcase Stonewall Rebellion

Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave., is hailing the Stonewall Rebellion—which spurred the modern-day LGBTQ-rights movement—with a major exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of that historic event.

"About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art" will feature historical and contemporary works by international artists that, viewed together, provide a nuanced picture of the evolving meaning of queerness.

The exhibit will run May 22-July 20. The curator of the exhibition is Jonathan David Katz, Ph.D., who is a visiting professor of gender, sexuality and women's studies at The University of Pennsylvania and chair of the doctoral program in visual studies at the University at Buffalo.

Tickets are available online only, starting May 13, and may be purchased for \$20 throughout the run of the exhibition. A limited number of free tickets are released each Monday for the current week. Walk-ins are not accommodated. Visit <https://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events>.

GLAAD to honor Madonna May 4

GLAAD is set to honor the musical icon Madonna with the Advocate for Change Award at the 30th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City on May 4. Deadline noted.

"From the HIV crisis to international LGBTQ issues, she fearlessly pushes for a world where LGBTQ people are accepted," said GLAAD President/CEO Sarah Kate Ellis in a statement. "Her music and art have been life-saving outlets for LGBTQ people over the years and her affirming words and actions have changed countless hearts and minds."

Madonna is the second person and first woman to be honored with the Advocate for Change Award; the first was President Bill Clinton, who received the award in 2013.



Events for this year's GLAAD Media Awards will be held in Los Angeles on March 28 and continue in New York City on May 4.

The Deadline article is at <https://deadline.com/2019/02/glaad-media-awards-madonna-advocate-for-change-award-lgbtq-inclusion-representation-diversity-1202549596/>.

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Women & Children First marks 40 years with 20 best-sellers

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Turning the page, Women & Children First (W&CF) began its 40th anniversary programming with a panel discussion on March 24.

People gathered into the store to see the panel, which featured W&CF co-founders Ann Christophersen and Linda Bubon and current co-owners Lynn Mooney and Sarah Hollenbeck. The panel discussed how each title came to be on the list. As they went up the list, starting at number 20 and ending at number one, each panelist took turns sharing their own personal stories in relation to each book and its author, thoughts on the featured books and authors, as well as the importance and impact of the book in the general public.

"Ann and I met in graduate school in the late '70s," Bubon recalled into the microphone on the panel. "We were ardent feminists and we wanted to do something with our passion for women's literature and we decided to open a bookstore. We took all of our savings and we built everything from scratch, including our advertising and the shelves and everything. It was something two young women could do with their savings instead of, say, investing it in a PhD program. We invested it in this instead."

Bubon continue to describe the store's growth from a small store that opened in November 1979 on Armitage Avenue to a place on Halsted in the '80s to its current location on Clark Street in 1990 with a store expansion in 1997.

The event was originally set to present the store's top 10 best-sellers of all time, but as the panelists humorously stated, there were just too many titles over the 40 years to keep it to 10 books. It was an evening full of nostalgia and passion for women in literature as the panel presented the store's top 20 all-time best-sellers.

"Being behind the scene of the process of making the list was a very interesting conversation," Hollenbeck said to Windy City Times. "It was very

hard to narrow down just our top 10. We really wanted to work hard to make a list that was more reflective of the day to day sales."

"Our store was founded to showcase and uplift marginalized voices," said Hollenbeck, who plans the events and programs at W&CF and was pleased with the conversations had. "So, the women authors, authors of color, queer authors, trans authors, that's the focus of this store. The 40th anniversary is a really important milestone because a lot of people think of these issues as new... but Ann and Linda have been doing this work since 1979 and it's time for them to get some recognition for that."

The co-founders explained how all those years ago it was almost impossible to find books by women in general bookstores. This is something they wanted to conquer.

"We wanted to sell literature; we didn't want to sell genre fiction," said Bubon of the store.

Bubon and Christophersen, both English majors and feminists, were on the same page of what they wanted their store to be—political and literary. W&CF, according to the two founders, has always been called a feminist bookstore that not only carried important feminist works, but has also carried works related to other political and progressive movements. The original mission, they both agree, has carried on through today.

"Our background is literary," added Christophersen. "That's what we knew about. We wanted a political store. We wanted to be feminists for sure, but we also wanted to be literary. We wanted to cultivate both those subject areas."

"Feminism is a dynamic movement," Bubon explained. "It has changed and evolved over the years and one of the reasons we're still in business is we went into this to learn things. To complete our education and further our education and we've learned so much."

To learn more, visit WomenAndChildrenfirst.com.

The books on W&CF's list of 20 All-Time Bestsellers:

1. *My Life on the Road*, by Gloria Steinem
2. *Bad Feminist*, by Roxane Gay
3. *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros
4. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*, by J.K. Rowling
5. *Fun Home*, by Alison Bechdel
6. *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life*, by Samantha Irby
7. *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood
8. *The Time Traveler's Wife*, by Audrey Niffenegger
9. *Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much*, by Anne Wilson Schaef
10. *The Courage to Heal*, by Ellen Bass
11. *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
12. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou
13. *Rubyfruit Jungle*, by Rita Mae Brown
14. *Stone Butch Blues*, by Leslie Feinberg
15. *Sister Outsider*, by Audre Lorde
16. *Indemnity Only*, by Sara Paretsky
17. *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
18. *Woman and Nature*, by Susan Griffin
19. *This Bridge Called My Back* edited, by Gloria Anzaldua and Cherrie Moraga
20. *The House of Spirits*, by Isabel Allende



BILLY Masters

"It didn't kill them' @BarbraStreisand did you really say that?!"—**Dan Reed**, director of *Leaving Neverland*, responding to Streisand's comments on the documentary.

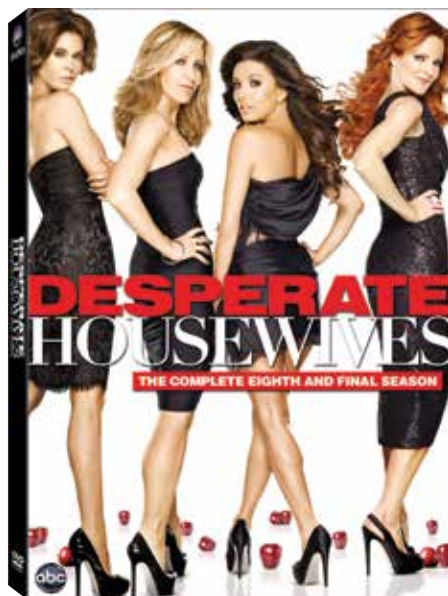
I look high and low for a quote to kick off each column. This week, it came courtesy of Miss **Barbra Streisand**. However, it also requires a bit more discussion. In an interview with *The Times* of London, she talked about the documentary *Leaving Neverland*. Babs says she believes James Safechuck and Wade Robson.

When asked her feelings about **Michael Jackson**, she said, "It's a combination of feelings. I feel bad for the children. I feel bad for him. I blame, I guess, the parents, who would allow their children to sleep with him. Why would Michael need these little children dressed like him and in the shows and the dancing and the hats?" I think what they were wearing is less germane to the scenario than what they weren't, but I see where she's going. Alas, then she got herself into trouble: "His sexual needs were his sexual needs, coming from whatever childhood he has or whatever DNA he has. You can say 'molested,' but those children, as you heard say, they were thrilled to be there. They both married and they both have children, so it didn't kill them." There's that sympathetic Babs we know and love.

Needless to say, this led to quite a bit of outrage. Streisand attempted to clarify with a statement: "To be crystal clear, there is no situation or circumstance where it is OK for the innocence of children to be taken advantage of by anyone. The stories these two young men shared were painful to hear, and I feel nothing but sympathy for them. The single most important role of being a parent is to protect their children. It's clear that the parents of these two young men were also victimized and seduced by fame and fantasy."

Remember **Nick Gruber**? He was the former "model" (he said euphemistically) who was once the paramour of **Calvin Klein**. Then he tried to get a reality show with some other "winner." (ditto) Last week, he found himself in court for—get ready for it—beating up someone with a frying pan. On Sept. 3, 2018, Nick allegedly hit an unnamed man with a frying pan and refused to allow him to leave an apartment on East 76th Street in NYC that belonged to co-defendant **Brandon Steele**. According to court documents, "The victim was treated at Lenox Hill Hospital for several broken bones to the back, as well as a nearly severed ear and injuries to the orbital bone that could, potentially, affect vision." Nick has been charged with second-degree assault and unlawful imprisonment—which you may recall is what Boy George was charged with after he handcuffed that hooker to a bed.

Why is an incident that happened more than six months ago in the news? Because on March 5, 2019, Gruber allegedly broke into an apartment



Desperate Housewives appears in this week's column, in two very different references—and neither one is connected to **Felicity Huffman**.

Photo courtesy of Bravo

in the same building and stole a bag of meth-amphetamines! However, Nick has claimed he was subletting the apartment—except the super didn't know him (but, may I say in his defense, been there, done that). Gruber is out on \$5K bail and due back in court April 4. By the way, a photographer from the *New York Post* wanted to take his picture in court. Nick's only concern was, "How does my hair look?" Priorities.

I just returned from Palm Springs where I attended **Remembering Carol: A Tribute to Carol Channing**. This was a bittersweet event—but happily far more sweet than bitter. The bitter, of course, is that our beloved Carol is no longer with us. But, my God, the room was filled with such love and warmth that it was truly as if she never left. It was certainly not lost on me that it took a dozen luminaries to create a feeling Channing could do simply by walking into a room. Those gathered shared songs and stories about someone who was truly unique. People like **Carole Cook**, **Lily Tomlin**, **Tyne Daly**, **Ruta Lee**, **Davis Gaines** and **Kristin Chenoweth**. Despite the star power in that theater, there was only one way to end the celebration—with a video of Carol herself singing the 11 o'clock number from *Hello, Dolly!* To our beloved Carol—so long, dearie.

Fans of the reboot of *Dynasty* will be sad to know that **Nicollette Sheridan** has left the building. Last week, Alexis was attacked by the latest person claiming to be long-lost son Adam. How was she attacked? He pushed her head into a fire and held her there. OUCH! As it turns out, Alexis isn't dead. But since Sheridan wanted out, the producers had to be creative. This immolation will leave her so disfigured, the character will be easier to recast.

Our "Ask Billy" question is a response to last week's column. Kevin in Baltimore writes, "Thanks for the JO video of **Tyler Posey**. But I think his [Now Apocalypse] co-star is even hot-

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ter. Didn't you once have a video of him?"

You're right—I completely forgot about that! Last July, I told you about **Beau Mirchoff**—best known from *Desperate Housewives* and *Awkward*. Apparently, he indulged in several online masturbation scenes, which some unknown paramour leaked. But, don't look a gift horse in the mouth—especially since Beau resembles another part of the horse. See for yourself on *BillyMasters.com*.

When we're wrapping things up with a Beau, it's time to end yet another column. Here's one little tidbit that I got out of Barbra's interview which I never knew before—Streisand turned down Michael Jackson's request to record a duet! Those are the little things you'll discover when you check out *BillyMasters.com*—the site that also delivers such big things. For your burning questions, write to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Babs records her own version of "Bad." Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The sweet life of Candyality founder Terese McDonald

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Talking with Candyality owner/founder Terese McDonald is a fascinating journey—not just about the world of sweets, but also about subjects such as politics and fashion.

That's because McDonald's life has been involved in those areas, and a talk with her is as likely to result in mentions of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent as well as Laffy Taffy and jelly beans.

McDonald obtained a degree in political science at Eastern Illinois University and eventually found herself in the beauty/fashion industry, working at such places as YSL Beaute, named after Laurent.

"I worked for Jim Thompson when he was governor of Illinois," McDonald told Windy City



Terese McDonald of Candyality.
PR photo

Times. "It lasted about a year and a half, and I had to run out of Springfield. It was an eye-opening experience. I thought I was going to change the world." But would she ever run for office? "I don't think so. You have to put all of yourself out there, and then there are the critiques," she replied. "If I did, it certainly wouldn't be about the money."

However, the astute McDonald is likely to give you her opinion on a variety of topics and people, including President Trump, the Kardashians and local newspapers (being an advocate of independent publications). "I have an expanse beyond candy," she said with a laugh.

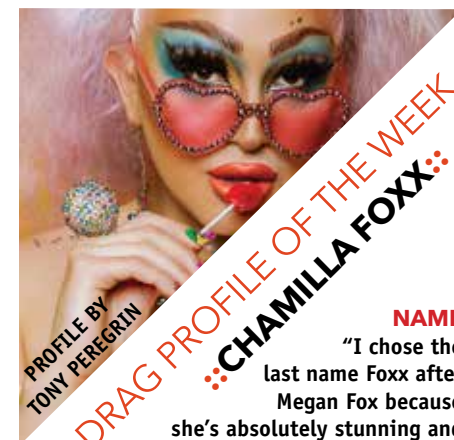
Then, she added, "I spent almost 25 years in the beauty industry. I got a job and I loved it, and I worked my way up to being vice president of sales development at Yves Saint Laurent. I traveled around the country and to Europe quite a bit—it was kind of Devil Wears Prada, but my Miranda Priestley wasn't as bad as the [Meryl Streep in the movie].

"So I wrote training modules, and I would take cues from everyday life—and one day I was inspired by candy," McDonald continued. "And I wrote one on candy and personality [a cornerstone of Candyality, which conflates 'candy' and 'personality']. ... In 2007, I was asked to move to New York. I didn't want to, and decided to do something different. I always wanted a store in Chicago. I originally thought about opening an apothecary, but I kept going back to candy. Chicago is deeply rooted in candy, [starting] with the turn of the [20th] century—and it's still called the candy capital of the world."

The original Candyality location was at the corner of Newport and Southport avenues, McDonald said. "We were there for six years [starting in 2007], and then we moved down to the hardware store, and they built a space for us," she added. Candyality now has three locations: in Andersonville, in Lake View and at Water Tower Place.

When asked if candy is actually connected to personality, McDonald said, "We're more like

Turn to page 29



PROFILE BY
TONY PEREGRIN

DRAG PROFILE OF THE WEEK
CHAMILLA FOXX

NAME

"I chose the last name Foxx after Megan Fox because she's absolutely stunning and I use two Xs because I'm EXTRA AF!"

FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"GIIIIRRRL, I started performing in drag 11 years ago! The first time I performed was for an amateur contest—I was wearing my mom's thigh high boots (yeah, my mom is that bitch), a blazer dress from Forever 21, and a flat shake-and-go wig. I did Nicole Scherzinger's 'Whatever U Like.' You couldn't tell me I wasn't the most gorgeous person in the room!"

DRAG INSPIRATION

"My inspiration comes from beautiful, powerful Latin women—all the villains from the novelas and Latin pop stars. I grew up obsessed with Salma Hayek, Shakira, Thalia, Selena and Gloria Trevi. I bring that Latin flavor anytime I show up!"

SPILL SOME T

"The biggest misconception about me is that I'm quiet and reserved, but that's only true at first; once I warm up to you, you get to see my real personality."

GUILTY PLEASURE

"Girl, bye! I don't feel bad about anything that brings me pleasure! Drag is my superhero cape. I do what I want!"

CURRENT PROJECT

"I'm currently featured on Shimmy Braun's Guaranteed Rate billboards across Lakeview and Andersonville (Yeah, that's meee!)"

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"I host a weekly show called Sunday Social at Meeting House Tavern in Andersonville every Sunday at 3 pm. It's a fun show that features drag, burlesque and circus performers. I also I host FEEDBACK every 4th Wednesday at Scarlet with Aurora Gozmic."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @chamillafoxx
IG: @chamilla_foxx and @styledbychamilla



Drag Brunch hosts mayoral
candidate Lori Lightfoot.
Joseph Stevens Photography



SIDETRACK

Poppin' rocks at the Pop
Rocks/RPDR viewing party.
Joseph Stevens Photography

Photo by
Drag Files

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HELP WANTED

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER All Chicago is seeking a Communications Manager to provide leadership on the creation of communication strategies, develops and executes workplans/projects to more fully engage our community partners and Chicago's Continuum of Care to prevent and end homelessness. **For more info about this opportunity visit www.allchicago.org/Careers (3/27/19-4)**

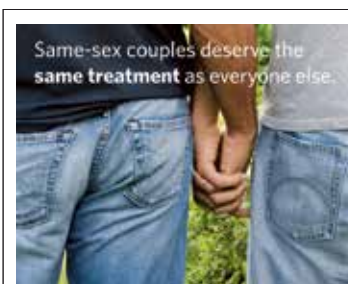
GRANTS MANAGER All Chicago is seeking a Grants Manager dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness. As a key team member, the Grants Manager will be challenged by managing the entire grants process, prospecting and cultivating relationships. **For more info about this opportunity visit www.allchicago.org/Careers (3/27/19-4)**

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DISH from page 28

Willy Wonka than Albert Einstein. It's not based on science, but it's very well thought out—and people tell us what we say is true. It's a different way to buy candy."

Switching to another facet, McDonald said, "There are so many aspects to running a store. I had to teach myself—so many different variables, even when ordering." When the 2008 recession hit, she said it was a scary time, but "things were settling out—and then the New York Times called in February 2009, saying it was doing a story on candy stores and the recession. I talked about how people saw it was a small indulgence. It was only, like, 40 words in the Times, but that was my tipping point, really. It got so many people so interested."

Candyality has a huge selection of retro candies, but there are many other offerings as well. "We're known for our licorice bar as well," McDonald said. "It speaks to my dad, who was a huge licorice fan." However, there are also all sorts of chocolate treats, cotton candy and even popcorn mixes.

Interestingly, although Candyality has a website, McDonald said she feels "we have to stop people from using the internet. Local people don't necessarily shop locally; people don't go out and experience anything anymore. They're not getting that tactile experience—and candy is very tactile."

"I love candy, but what I love more is seeing how people interact with it," McDonald said. "I love the impact candy can have on people's lives."

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

MEMOIR from page 21

that triggered another set of thoughts." Though he still wears women's running shoes, Cannon said "I think companies have gotten better about gender-neutral colors."

Next month, Cannon will run another marathon, do promotion events for Dying to Hang with the Boys and further his successful career in public speaking.

"Something about being on the stage feels comfortable for me," Cannon said. Though he did a bit of public speaking in college—mostly centering around the chemical dependency he was battling at the time—Cannon's career really took off in 2012, after he connected with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). "I started in small residential mental health facilities, which became conferences," said Cannon, "and suddenly I was getting requests to come in and talk on a variety of issues: mental health, suicide prevention, neurological illness and the layered identity of being a transgender man living with a physical and mental illness."

While Cannon's audiences have ranged from social service professionals to the "brain health"



community, he's done a lot of work with corrections employees of late. "When I first got connected with NAMI, I indicated I wasn't comfortable speaking with police," Cannon said. "And yet, [police] seem like an audience that has been able to hear my message about how you work with someone who's transgender to best honor their identity." Most recently, the police department of St. Paul, Minnesota hired Cannon to train 600 officers on its new transgender policy.

This spring, Cannon will have an essay published in Queer Voices: Prose, Poetry and Pride. The anthology "will feature artists primarily from the Twin Cities involved in the Queer Voices reading series, which was one of the longest-running reading series in the country," Cannon said. "Pretty excited about that!"

When asked what he'll write next, Cannon said, "I do think having finished this book, I set myself up for a trilogy and I didn't even realize it. I may have to write a third book—you never know!"

Dying to Hang with the Boys is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and wherever books are sold.

For more about the author, visit Runnin-gRewired.com.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., March 27

Young Professionals Mixer LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois hosts. Co-chaired by Roxanne Meyer (CNA) & Kris Sangari (Events With a K). Join them for networking, learning, and Carnivale University. Find Young Professionals Mixer on Facebook 5:30pm Carnivale 702 W Fulton St., Chicago

Chicago Foundation for Women's 2019 Impact Awards Honoring the local leaders making a difference in the lives of women and girls 6:00pm Venue Six10 at Spertus Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.cfw.org/2019-impact-awards-main-page/>

Afterglow A married couple in an open relationship invite another man to share their bed one night. When a new intimate connection begins to form, all three men must come to terms with their individual definitions of love, loyalty, and trust. 18+. Through May 4 8:00pm Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway 866-811-4111 Tickets: <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Thursday, March 28

Meet & Greet (HOLA & OLA) LGBTQ LatinX & Amigos Social MeetUp event 7:00pm - 9:00pm Headquarters Beercade, River North, 213 W Institute Pl. <http://www.meetup.com/LatinX/events/259939024/>

Friday, March 29

Victoria Noe in conversation with Owen Keehnen Author Fag Hags, Divas and



MAKING AN IMPACT

Wed., March 27

Reyna Ortiz will be one of the recipients of the Chicago Foundation for Women's Impact Awards.

Photo courtesy of Ortiz

Moms: The Legacy of Straight Women in the AIDS Community. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Saturday, March 30

Activists and Icons: Photographs of Steve Schapiro, Challenging Status Quo through Lens of a Camera Forty-

six powerful large-format documentary photographs showing issues of the civil rights movement are still deeply relevant today. from Rosa Parks, James Baldwin and David Bowie to an unnamed sanitation striker. 10:00am - 5:00pm Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center 9603 Woods Dr. Skokie, IL 60077 <http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/activists-and-icons/>

Lights! Camera! Sing! Music from newer movies like La La Land, old favorites such as Casablanca, and classical like Amadeus. Windy City Performing Arts celebrates diversity, honors creativity, and cultivates pride through the transformative power of music and the arts. 7:00pm DePaul School of Music's Ganon Concert Hall, 2330 N Halsted St. Tickets: <http://WindyCitySings.com>

Jess Glynne Jess Glynne, out bisexual and first British female solo artist to have seven number-one singles on the UK sIngles Chart. 7:30pm The Vic Theatre 3145 N Sheffield Ave Chicago <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/NUNN-ON-ONE-MUSIC-Jess-Glynne-Always-in-the-mix/65600.html> Tickets: <http://victheater.secureboxoffice.com/Chicago/Tickets>

Alan Menken Stories and songs with eight-time Oscar winning composer 7:30pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago <http://tickets.auditoriumtheatre.org/?p=1954&promo=wct>

Sunday, March 31

Transgender Day of Visibility Center on Halsted is currently seeking models for our Transgender Day of Visibility Fashion Show. Contact Patricia Blain, triciablain@hotmail.com or 312-451-8309. Also RSVP to attend the event online. Donations welcome. 1:00pm

- 4:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/TransVisibility?erid=9660304&trid=0692708a-73d6-41cd-abf0-c6f60f73293e>

Transgender Day of Visibility Music, drag, comedy, speakers. By Chicago Theapy Collective. \$34.99 6:00pm - 9:00pm Chicago Magic Lounge, 5050 N. Clark St. Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/trans-day-of-visibility-2019-tickets-58124634346?fbclid=IwAR15wsAsiPmEYXgKwGLS91URWC-wZIt7Y9exn4Y0i764QqNm0hFoAzklMOE>

Tuesday, April 2

OUTspoken OUTspoken occurs on the first Tuesday of every month, new storytellers, stories from the perspective of LGBTQ persons Doors 6pm 7:00pm Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Thursday, April 4

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 Chicago

Blue Jean Ball 2019 Break out the boots & blue jeans for BBQ & Boot Scootin' Boogie, open bar, BBQ buffet, silent auction and an old fashioned Barn Dance, featuring the all-female bluegrass group Fox Crossing Stringband. Benefits Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, advancing lives of women through theatre. VIP reception 6 p.m. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Flower Firm, 451 N. Wood St. Tickets: http://rivendelltheatre.secure.force.com/ticket#sections_a034A000024RLdlQAG

rivendelltheatre.secure.force.com/ticket#sections_a034A000024RLdlQAG

Friday, April 5

Seeds of Change 2019 Supporting community organizations working on issues of racial, social, and economic justice in Chicago area. Performance by Music Department students from The Chicago Academy for the Arts, silent auction, buffet dinner, open bar, awards. \$135 to \$750. 5:30pm - 9:30pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago 773-227-7676 Tickets: http://crossroadsfund.org/content/seeds-change-2019-tickets-and-sponsors?fbclid=IwAR3RmHI7M21_9_jTA-aGuNG-S61nqfgxz7IguRSBQvs4TnLhb-DoiFqWE3kuU#

Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama In conversation with Susan Sher who served in the White House as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama. 7:00pm Nicholas Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood Avenue Chicago Tickets: <http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/4071562>

Saturday, April 6

Chicago Dragons Rugby Bachelor Auction 2019 Proceeds will fund the team's trips to upcoming tournaments. Includes a silent auction. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door gets you two drink tickets. 6:00pm Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Tuesday, April 9

LGBT Chamber of Commerce keynote breakfast Kevin Morrison, Cook County Commissioner in the 15th District. 7:30am - 9:00am Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton Pl.

CONNEXIONS

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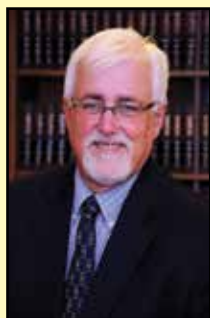
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