

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 34, NO. 24 APRIL 24, 2019

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

MONICA HELMS
 Activist on writing new book, creating trans flag.
 Photo courtesy of Helms



6

AILEY NEWS
 Chicago academy to celebrate dance icon's legacy.
 Photo of Zachary Jeppsen and Mary Adele Campbell by Ariel Parella-Aureli



21

RAFIKI
 WCT talks with director of groundbreaking film.
 Photo courtesy of Film Movement



24

Terence Steward.
 Photo courtesy of Steward



PAGE 10

BREAKING BARRIERS

Terence Steward talks about overcoming the challenges of living with HIV

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg.
 Photo by Richard Knight Jr.



PAGE 14

MAKING IT OFFICIAL

Pete Buttigieg throws his hat in the ring

 @windycitytimes
  /windycitymediagroup
  @windycitytimes
 www.windycitymediagroup.com


Love Can Tell A Million Stories


THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER PRODUCTION OF

Falsettos

ON SALE NOW!

MAY 28-JUNE 9 | BROADWAYINCHICAGO.COM

 JAMES M. NEDERLANDER THEATRE | 800-775-2000 • GROUPS 10+ 312-977-1710
 24 W. RANDOLPH | TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL BROADWAY IN CHICAGO BOX OFFICES



YOUR OASIS AWAITS.

LANDSCAPED OUTDOOR TERRACE.

In-unit washer and dryer. Stainless steel appliances. Quartz countertops. Hardwood floors. Indoor parking. Rooftop deck. Exercise room. Pet friendly.

Say hello to better living.



**1323 W
MORSE**

WWW.1323WMORSE.COM

Contact info: TAWANI Property Management
312-374-9785 infochi@tawanipm.com



WINDY CITY TIMES

INDEX

DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT
www.WindyCityTimes.com



NEWS	
Supreme Ct. to hear LGBT-bias cases	4
Wold obit; Palatine trans case ends	5
Talking with trans advocate Monica Helms	6
Center on Halsted's Vanessa Sheridan	8
Man talks about overcoming HIV challenges	10
Buttigieg formally announces candidacy	14
Letters	19
ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
Theater reviews, Picks	18
Dance: Chicago academy to honor Ailey's legacy	21
Ravinia CEO on upcoming season	22
Books: 'Halal' appearance	23
Movies: 'Rafiki' director talks with WCT	24
Movies: Review of 'Wild Nights with Emily'	25
NIGHTSPOTS	27
Classifieds	29
Calendar	30

REMAINING 2019 WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

May 8	July 24	Oct. 16
May 22	Aug. 7	Oct. 30
June 5	Aug. 21	Nov. 13
June 19	Sep. 4	Nov. 27
June 26	Sep. 18	Dec. 11
July 10	Oct. 2	Dec. 25

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com



STOP AND 'GLOW'

There are many other theater reviews online, including one for Afterglow (left).

Photo by Heather Mall

MODEL BEHAVIOR



Trans model Mimi Tao struts her stuff on Project Runway.
Photo by Barbara Nitke

'DEAD' RECKONING

WCT talked with stars of The Walking Dead and other shows at the Heroes & Villains Fan Fest.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Missy Elliott, Jake Gyllenhaal and the show Broad City.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

The All-Wheel-Drive



When A Great Deal Matters, Shop Rob Paddor's...
Evanston Subaru in Skokie



0% ON EVERY NEW 2019 SUBARU OUTBACK & LEGACY

ALL-NEW 2019 FORESTER

\$169 PER MONTH

AUTOMATIC, Back-up Camera Eye-Sight, All-Wheel-Drive

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT! 36 month lease.
\$2,995 due at signing. KFB-01 #3275



2019 Subaru Ascent 7 OR 8 PASSENGERS

NEW 2019 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i



\$159 PER MONTH

AUTOMATIC Back-up Camera, Bluetooth, USB, All-Wheel-Drive

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT! 36 month lease.
\$2,995 due at signing. KAB-01 #3176

NEW 2019 SUBARU CROSSTREK 2.0i



\$149 PER MONTH

All-Wheel-Drive, HD Radio, USB Bluetooth, Back-up Camera

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT! 36 month lease.
\$2,995 due at signing. KRA-01 #6234

NEW 2019 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5i



\$179 PER MONTH

AUTOMATIC, Back-up Camera, Bluetooth, USB, All-Wheel-Drive

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT! 36 month lease.
\$2,995 due at signing. KDB-01 #5561

TOP-QUALITY INSPECTED USED CARS & SUV's

IMPORTS & DOMESTICS

'17 Porsche Macan AWD/Nav. Leather, Sapphire Blue, 21935A\$35,995	'14 Forester Prem. Sunroof, Heated Seats, Silver, 21966A.....\$14,995
'18 VW Golf Alltrack TSI SEL/Nav. Leather, Only 3K, Black, 21588A\$27,995	'13 Forester Prem. Sunroof, Heated Seats, Grey P6179.....\$13,995
'15 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara 4x4/Nav. Orange, P6140\$27,995	'12 Forester Ltd.Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Grey P6175.....\$10,995
'17 Honda Civic EXAutomatic, Sunroof, Black, 21776A\$18,995	SUBARU OUTBACKS / LEGACY
'18 Honda Civic LXAutomatic, Full Power, Silver, 21883A\$15,995	'17 Outback Prem.Auto, Alloys, All Weather, White, P6065\$21,995
'16 Toyota Camry LE Automatic, Full Power, Grey, P6142\$15,995	'18 Legacy Prem.Auto, Heated Seats, Eyesight, Grey, P6067\$19,995
'14 Toyota Rav4 LE AWD Autotomic, 1-Owner, Clean, Grey, 21747A\$15,995	'13 Outback Prem.Auto, Alloys, All Weather, Black, 21782A\$13,995
'14 Mini Countryman S AWD .. Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Blue, 18918RA\$14,995	SUBARU CROSSTREK
'15 Honda Civic LXAutomatic, Full Power, Black, P6132\$12,995	'18 Crosstrek Ltd./Nav.Automatic, Sunroof, Grey, 21969A\$20,995
'11 Hyundai Genesis 4.6L/Nav. Leather, Sunroof, White, 21786A\$10,995	'14 Crosstrek Prem.Automatic, Heated Seats, 29K, Blue, P6163\$16,995



847-869-5700

3340 OAKTON - SKOKIE • EVANSTONSUBARU.COM



* Add tax, title license and \$179.81 doc fee. **Finance on approved credit score Subject to vehicle insurance and availability. *Lease on approved credit score. Lease, 10k miles per year, 15 cents after. Lessee responsible for excess wear and early termination of lease. Option to purchase; Legacy \$13,355, Crosstrek \$15,094, Outback \$16,829, Forester \$16425. Ends 5/01/19

Supreme Court denies appeal for gay man on death row

BY LISA KEEN

In an action one civil-rights lawyer called “a deeply disturbing message about the value placed on LGBTQ lives,” the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to hear an appeal from a man on death row who said anti-gay bias motivated his jury’s decision to give him the death penalty. According to the appeal, some jurors said that, because the man was gay, a life sentence in prison with other men would not be punishment.

Just two years ago, the Supreme Court intervened in a case where there was evidence of anti-Hispanic bias in a jury’s deliberation of sentencing.

Several national LGBT legal groups joined a brief in support of the gay man’s appeal, arguing that the jury’s bias violated the man’s Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury.

Charles Rhine has been on death row since 1993, when a jury found him guilty of stabbing to death a 22-year-old employee of a Rapid City, South Dakota, doughnut shop Rhines was robbing. Rhines repeatedly stabbed his victim, even as the young pleaded for his life. Under South Dakota law, a person convicted of first-degree murder can be given the death penalty if the offense was “outrageously or wantonly vile, horrible, or inhuman in that it involved torture, depravity of mind, or an aggravated battery to the victim.”

Rhines’ attorneys made no claim of jury bias in their first three motions for appeal, but did so on their fourth and fifth claims. Attorneys for South Dakota argued that Rhines’ claims of jury bias were supported only by “dubious evidence that has never been subject to judicial review.”

But the Rapid City Journal reported there were sworn affidavits from jurors, saying bias played a role. According to the paper, one juror said, “If he’s gay, we’d be sending him where he wants to go” by sentencing Rhines to life in prison.

Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, GLTBQ Legal Advocates & Defenders and the Human Rights Campaign all signed onto a brief to the Supreme Court arguing that the death sentence in this case constituted a violation of the Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury.

They said their concern was to defend the right of an accused person to have an impartial jury where bias based on sexual orientation could “play no part in jury decision-making, and especially in the determination of whether a person lives or dies.” In such cases, they said, “litigants must be allowed to present evidence of bias based on sexual orientation to the court.”

“The history of discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in nearly every aspect of life illustrates the need to safeguard against sexual orientation bias in our nation’s judicial system,” the brief stated.

The brief urged the Supreme Court to allow the trial court to take a look at the jury deliberations

in Rhines’ trial and sentencing. It said “there is disturbing evidence that, if credited, shows the jury sentenced Mr. Rhines to death in significant part because he is gay. Yet Mr. Rhines has never been allowed to present this evidence to a court.

The groups pointed to a Supreme Court decision in 2017, *Peña-Rodriguez v. Colorado*. In that case, the Supreme Court said that, when there is clear evidence that a juror relied on racial stereotypes or animus with regard to a defendant, then a trial court should be able to review jury deliberations.

The Supreme Court’s denial of Rhines’ appeal means it will not require a similar safeguard for stereotypes or animus based on sexual orientation in jury deliberations. There was no indication of dissent in the order. But, interestingly, just three days earlier, the court’s four liberal-leaning justices dissented from the court’s refusal to uphold a stay for a death row inmate in Alabama who sought a less painful means of execution because the man missed a deadline for making his request. Justice Stephen Breyer asked the majority discuss the matter in conference the next morning, but the majority refused.

Speaking for the dissent (which included Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan), Breyer wrote, “To proceed in this way calls into question the basic principles of

Supreme Court to hear LGBT work discrimination cases

On April 22, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear three high-profile cases involving employment discrimination against LGBT individuals in the fall term, ABC News reported.

The cases involve Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans employment discrimination on the basis of “sex.” The court will determine if federal civil-rights protections extend to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

According to a press release from Lambda Legal, the three cases include: *Altitude Express v. Zarda*, a New York case where the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled in favor of the estate of a skydiving instructor who was fired because he was gay; and *Bostock v. Clayton County*, in which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled against a Clayton County, Georgia, child welfare services coordinator fired when his employer discovered he was gay.

The third case is *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC*, a Michigan case brought by the ACLU and ACLU of Michigan where the U.S.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Head shot from U.S. Supreme Court website

fairness that should underlie our criminal justice system. To proceed in this matter in the middle of the night without giving all Members of the Court the opportunity for discussion tomorrow morning is, I believe, unfortunate.”

“The Supreme Court’s silence in the face of explicit, anti-gay bias [in the Rhines appeal] sends a deeply disturbing message about the value placed on LGBTQ lives,” said Ria Tabacco Mar, a senior staff attorney for the ACLU which led the

Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled in favor of a transgender woman fired from her job as a funeral director when she informed her boss she intended to transition.

Lambda Legal Senior Counsel and Workplace Fairness Program Strategist Greg Nevins said in a statement, “Title VII obviously requires equal treatment of men and women, so it was wrong to treat Donald Zarda [or Gerald Bostock] differently because of his attraction to men, when a Donna Zarda or Geraldine Bostock would not have endured discrimination for liking men. And when Aimee Stephens’ employer fired her after learning that she was undertaking a gender transition, her employer discriminated against her because of sex. These arguments couldn’t be more straight-forward, and we are hopeful that the Court will confirm that they are correct.”

Suspects arrested in murder of queer journalist

In Northern Ireland, authorities have arrested two teens (aged 18 and 19) in connection with the murder of 29-year-old investigative journalist Lyra McKee, who was killed during rioting in Londonderry, CNN.com reported.

brief joined by the LGBT groups. “As Chief Justice Roberts wrote in a case involving racial prejudice, when bias plays a role in the decision whether to sentence someone to death, that is a ‘disturbing departure from the basic premise of our criminal justice system: Our law punishes people for what they do, not who they are.’ The evidence of anti-gay bias in Mr. Rhines’s case challenges that basic premise.”

The Supreme Court’s denial of review in *Rhines v. South Dakota* leaves Rhines as one of two men on death row in South Dakota. A date for his execution has not been set. A spokesperson for his attorneys said Rhines still has litigation pending in the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals “on whether his expert is allowed to see him in the prison to prepare a report for his clemency petition.”

In other Supreme Court news, the high court has still not indicated whether it intends to review any or all of three cases testing whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act can be read to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace. It has not yet decided whether to take a case testing the right of a business to deny service to a same-sex couple based on the business owner’s professed religious beliefs. And it has not indicated whether it will hear the appeal of students challenging a school policy that allows transgender students to use the high school restroom and locker room consistent with their gender identity.

All five cases were on the court’s list of cases to consider in private conference on April 18. The court was expected to release its next orders list, accepting or declining appeals, on April 22.

©Copyright 2019 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

McKee, who was born in Belfast, is the first journalist to be killed in the United Kingdom since 2001, according to nonprofit organization the Committee to Protect Journalists. At a vigil for McKee, partner Sara Canning said McKee’s “amazing potential was snuffed out by this single barbaric act, adding, “Victims and LGBTQIA community are left without a tireless advocate and activist and it has left me without the love of my life, the woman I was planning to grow old with.”

The suspects were arrested under the terrorism act, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) announced on social media.

In 2016, Lyra McKee was named as one of Forbes Magazine’s 30 Under 30.

According to Autostraddle, McKee wrote for many publications, including BuzzFeed, The Atlantic and Mosaic Science, and had recently signed a two-book deal with publisher Faber and Faber. Her book, *The Lost Boys*—about the disappearance of children in Belfast in the 1970s—is expected to be published next year.

The full CNN article is at <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/20/uk/lyra-mckee-two-men-arrested-gbr-intl/index.html>. The Autostraddle piece is at <https://www.autostraddle.com/queer-journalist-and-lgbt-rights-activist-lyra-mckee-killed-in-a-terrorist-incident-in-northern-ireland/>.

PASSAGES

Richard Wold

Richard David Wold passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home on April 17. He was 62.

After graduating from Maine South High School and attending North Park College, Richard worked for Willow Creek Church as director of drama for many years. He then embarked upon a long and fulfilling career in market research. He retired due to illness after 20+ years with The NPD Group. He was hilarious, kind and generous.

Richard was the best friend of 42 years to Virginia Meredith and adored baby brother of Carol (Ken) Schmidt, Linda (Jack) Herzog and the late Barbara Holtz.

He was also the loving uncle of John (Kristi) Schmidt, Robyn Herzog, Paul (Robin) Herzog and the late Steven Herzog; the great-uncle of Sydney, Sebrina and Sheridan Schmidt as well as Nora, Vivian, and Jacob Herzog. In addition, he was the son of the late Clarence and Violet Wold, and the dear in-law of Marilyn Vanover and Gary Smith.

A celebration of life will be held this summer. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or Cremation-society.com



Richard Wold.
Photo from Wold's Facebook page

Anti-trans Palatine school lawsuit dropped

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Long-running litigation involving public-accommodations access for transgender students in the Northwest suburbs came to a seeming end April 15, when U.S. District Judge Jorge Alonso on Monday approved the dismissal of a lawsuit seeking to bar transgender students from using the locker room of the gender with which they identify at District 211 in Palatine.

An attorney for the anti-LGBT organization Alliance Defending Freedom, which had been spearheading the suit on behalf of a local coalition called Students and Parents for Privacy noted for Chicago Tribune that the students in question had long ago graduated, but did not elaborate further.

District 211 was one of the first fronts in the myriad battles over whether transgender students could use locker room changing facilities or restrooms of the gender with which they identify. A student at the school sued the school district in 2013 for the right to use the girls' locker room to change for her physical education class. Two years later, after the Obama-era federal Department of Education threatened to pull the school's Title IX-related funding, District 211 cut a deal allowing the student to use her preferred locker rooms.

But that was only the beginning of the lawsuits over the matter; Alliance Defending Freedom's suit was announced in federal court in 2016. Yet another suit was filed, this one in state court, in 2017 by another transgender student alleging that the 2015 resolution was only applied to the first transgender girl and

was not reflected in school policy.

John Knight, LGBTQ and HIV-advocacy director for ACLU of Illinois, which had litigated the case on behalf of the first transgender student, said in an April 15 statement that, "We welcome the end of this case, and hope it encourages District 211 to make its schools more welcoming for all students, including those who are transgender. District 211 still has some important work to do to make it a place where transgender students are treated fairly and respectfully.

"Over the course of nearly three years of litigation, one thing remained clear. There has never been any harm to non-transgender students from sharing restrooms and locker rooms with students whom they perceive as different. The only harm has been to transgender students who have been targeted with fear-mongering and misinformation. Students who are transgender have never been a threat to anyone in this school or elsewhere.

Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison, who represents much of District 211, said, "This is an incredible win for the northwest suburbs and I'm happy and relieved for LGBTQ students in District 211. This lawsuit was simply an attempt to turn back the clock and intimidate schools, parents and students who believe in creating an environment that is safe and respectful of all students.

"High school is hard enough without the challenges that transgender students face daily as they try to live authentically. I truly believe that we as a community set the tone and have a shared responsibility to create a safe learning environment and protect all students. We still have a lot of work ahead but I hope this is the last we see of these blatantly anti-LGBTQ lawsuits in the 15th District."

Chicago Tribune's article is at <https://bit.ly/2Giw90v>.

Looking to buy or sell your place?



Brad Lippitz has supported and contributed more to LGBTQ causes and candidates over the years than any other real estate broker in the City of Chicago.

And Brad's team happens to be in the top 10 in all Chicago with over \$80 million sold in 2018. If you need to choose a real estate broker, why wouldn't you choose a community leader who consistently gives back year after year?

Brad looks forward to working with you!



Brad Lippitz Group

773.404.1144

brad@bradlippitz.com

bradlippitz.com

3323 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL

COMPASS

Brad Lippitz Group is a team of Real Estate agents affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed Real Estate broker with a principal office in New York, NY and abides by all applicable Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only, is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, and changes without notice. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of Real Estate brokerage.

Monica Helms discusses trans flag creation, new book, activism

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In 2005, transgender U.S. Navy veteran Monica F. Helms started writing her autobiography, but eventually she set it aside, deciding that “my life was still continuing.”

“Last year, something in my head told me I needed to finish the book, so I went to work on it again, editing and adding new things,” said Helms. “This time I refocused it to cover all aspects of my life, not just my activist work.”

The book, *More Than Just a Flag*, chronicles her journey to what she calls her authentic self, focusing on time in the Navy, working for Sprint, co-founding the Trans American Veterans Association (TAVA) alongside Angela Brightfeather and creating the Trans Pride Flag in 1999.

When Helms was looking at her career plans after high school at the height of the Vietnam War. She had a low draft number and did not want to go to Vietnam, so she chose to join the Navy as a submariner. Her family has a long history of military service so she was carrying on that tradition by joining the Navy.

“I wanted to train in nuclear power because NASA was contemplating nuclear-powered space

flight at the time and I am a big space and sci-fi fan,” said Helms. “Also, they were not shooting submarines down over Vietnam. Besides, it sounded like an adventure I could not pass up.”

Following her military career, Helms worked at Sprint for 25 years. While there, she tried to establish a union in the Arizona facility where she worked.

“After working at Sprint for seven years, I began my transition,” said Helms. “Initially, human resources were supportive and said they would not tolerate any kind of harassment. I did not experience direct harassment; it was subtle bigotry. Nasty notes were put on my locker and at my terminal. When I transferred to Sprint’s Atlanta location in 2000, I had no problems. I retired from Sprint in 2015 with a severance package and now get a pension from them.”

Helms said that her journey toward her authentic self has been “one hell of a journey.”

She explained that she has lived enough of a life for three people and fought every step of the way to live her life on her own terms.

Her mantra is “visibility equals credibility.”

“Being a trans person is misunderstood,” said Helms. “We need more trans people to run for po-



Monica Helms with the original trans pride flag.
Photo by Mara Keisling

litical office and be visible in other professions.”

While working at Sprint, Helms immersed herself in trans-focused activism, which included creating the Trans Pride Flag. She recalled that the colors and their placement came to her immediately after waking up one morning.

On the flag, blue and pink denote the traditional colors for a boy and girl, and white stands for anyone who does not feel they are a part of a binary system.

“The pattern is such that, no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our own lives,” said Helms.

Helms donated the original flag to the Smithsonian in 2014. In 2013, Helms was looking at pictures of Pride celebrations from around the world and realized her flag had become a very popular symbol.

“I decided to start at the top, so I called the Smithsonian and it just so happened they had begun collecting items for a new LGBTQ wing,” said Helms. “They asked me a lot of questions about the flag and my personal history, and then they said they would accept it. I was thrilled to donate it and several other personal items, exactly 15 years to the day when I created the flag.”

In 2003, Helms co-founded TAVA and was the organization’s president for 10 years. The following year, about 50 TAVA members participated in the first Transgender Veterans March to the Wall, where they went to the Vietnam Memorial to honor those who had died.

Helms said she and Brightfeather started hearing stories from other trans veterans about how they were treated by the Veterans Administration (VA) where some were refused any treatment at all, which is what inspired them to create TAVA.

Eight years later, the VA came out with fair and consistent treatment for trans veterans due to the efforts of TAVA and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

“Two days after the directive came out, TAVA got emails from trans veterans telling us that all our efforts had worked,” said Helms. “They were finally getting fair treatment. TAVA has literally saved lives.”

Helms was also instrumental in bringing Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) to Atlanta in 2000 during its third year of existence. The first year 16 people showed up, but attendance has grown every year.

“Now my wife, Darlene Wagner oversees TDOR in Atlanta,” said Helms. “It is a very moving but necessary tradition. Trans people of color are disproportionately the victims of violent crime, and the ceremonies help to honor those who paid the ultimate price for being their true selves, and they also act as a reminder, to the trans community and the world, that we need to be doing more to solve this problem.”

Now that Helms is retired, she has more time to pursue other activities, including launching model rockets and recording nature videos, sending them to stock footage companies to make money.

Helms said when she dies, people will remember her for creating the Trans Pride Flag but she wanted to tell the rest of her life’s story because she did many notable things. She hopes to visit Chicago soon and possibly do a book signing there.

“I hope readers will see [that] if you put your mind to something, you can get it done and make a difference,” said Helms. “I wanted to show that even through bad times, you can survive.”

KEY WEST BUSINESS GUILD
PRESENTS:

KeyWest
PRIDE
June 5-9

STEVE GRAND

Singer-Songwriter

Performing LIVE!
Friday, June 7th, 2019

For more info, visit
www.gaykeywestfl.com/pride
or call us at 1-800-535-7797



Deb Mell.
Photo courtesy of Mell

Rodriguez Sanchez talks about victory over Mell

The Chicago aldermanic runoff races that were initially too close to call have been settled—and lesbian Ald. Deb Mell (33rd Ward) is out while gay Ald. James Cappleman (46th) narrowly retained his seat on the City Council.

In a media statement about her win over Mell, Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez said, “This victory did not come out of nowhere. It came from years of organizing work—by the labor movement, by our immigrant communities, by women, queer and trans people, by neighbors working together for social, racial, and economic justice. What this election showed is that organizing works.

“When working people come together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. We can win good lives for all of us, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

“I look forward to taking my seat next month alongside my fellow Democratic Socialists of America and United Working Families members in a reinvigorated City Council. We are going to take our communities’ calls for change into City Hall and fight for a Chicago for the many and not the few.”

The number of LGBTQ members on the Chicago City Council remains the same as before the 2019 elections (five), thanks to queer candidate Maria Hadden’s victory over longtime incumbent Joe Moore (49th). The other members are Raymond Lopez (15th), Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th) and Tom Tunney (44th).

Foxx reveals thoughts in Smollett case emails, texts

Thousands of emails and other communications revealed that Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx was involved in the Jussie Smollett case—even after she recused herself, The Chicago Tribune reported.

Among other things, Foxx told her top deputy that Smollett was a “washed up celeb who lied to cops” and the number of felony counts he faced (16) was excessive. Foxx’s office made public thousands of internal texts and emails after the Tribune requested them.

Smollett—who is African-American and openly gay—had been indicted on 16 counts of disorderly conduct on charges he staged a hate-crime attack on himself on Jan. 29. Foxx’s office later dropped all charges against Smollett, creating controversy.

Foxx recently penned an op-ed in the Tribune in which she wrote her office was uncertain of a conviction, although she offered no specifics.

The full article is at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-jussie-smollett-kim-foxx-documents-20190416-story.html>.



Kim Foxx.
Powell Photography

Cayman Islands court blocks marriage equality

Days after Cayman Islands Chief Justice Anthony Smellie allowed a same-sex wedding to take place, the Court of Appeal blocked Chantelle Day and Vickie Bodden-Bush from getting married, on April 10, Cayman 27 reported.

The appeal panel—Appeal Court President Hon. Sir John Goldring and Justices of Appeal Hon. Sir Richard Field and Hon. C. Dennis Morrison—ruled in favor of the government.

The justices prevented the judgment from taking effect until the government’s appeal of the chief justice’s judgement is heard in August.

The Cayman Islands is a British overseas territory composed of three islands (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman) in the Caribbean Sea.

The full article is at <http://cayman27.ky/2019/04/breaking-news-appeal-court-blocks-same-sex-wedding-govt-stay-granted/>.

Erection Issues?

Something you probably don't know...

TriMix is considered the most powerful and effective Erectile Dysfunction (ED) drug. Trimix is the “go-to” medication for men who are not responsive or unable to take conventional oral erection medications.

At **Man Up Medical**, we customize Trimix to meet the patient’s specific needs. Not all Trimix is the same—there are numerous formulations and we will find the right medication for you.

TriMix is an easy-to-use, very small, self-injected penile medication. TriMix’s blend of vasodilators cause the penis to expand and fill with blood—you will experience longer and fuller erections in about 5 minutes. We guarantee you’ll have an erection on the first office visit—or there is no charge for the office visit.

Trimix Benefits

- Safe and reliable
- Fast-acting and long-lasting erections
- Affordable compared to oral medications
- Not affected by alcohol consumption

Call today for your private appointment.

773-305-3300

916 West Belmont Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657

info@manupmedical.com
ManUpMedical.com

MEDICAL
UP



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

Sheridan discusses workplace training and new book

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Vanessa Sheridan, who is Center on Halsted's director of gender equity and inclusion, frequently gives public trainings about the transgender community.

Sheridan's goals, she tells her audiences, are twofold: "The first is to give the best, most accurate information possible. The second goal is to keep you off your cellphones for an hour."

Sheridan gave such a training in what would initially seem to be an unlikely location this past fall, when she was asked to speak with employees of the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

An official told Sheridan in early correspondence that the agency "needed to enhance [their] cultural competence around this particular issue," Sheridan recalled. After a series of conversations, she went to Washington at the end of October, where she presented two training sessions.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to share information about a timely and relevant issue, with people who seemed willing to learn," Sheridan said.

After both sessions, various agency employees approached Sheridan and assured her that they "work for the agency and the country, not necessarily for the administration," she recalled. "Presidents come and go, but [agency employees] work for the nation."

She found such remarks refreshing and assuring: "It told me that, 'Yes, this nation is not going to go under, at least not at the State Department! We do have good people working there, good people who love the country, and are interested in learning about trans folks.'"

She also met a few openly transgender State Department employees, including a diplomat, Robyn McCutcheon, who was the first Foreign Service Officer to transition while serving overseas.

"The State Department is an amazing place," Sheridan recalled. The building is mammoth, like it's its own city. ... I did the training in the Dean Acheson Auditorium, which was a remarkable thing—I was speaking where Hillary Clinton used to do her press briefings."

She mostly steered clear of politics, but included one factoid about government officials: "There have been more U.S. Congressmen than trans people arrested for sexual misconduct in public



Vanessa Sheridan.

Photo by Matt Simonette

restrooms. I threw that out there and waited for a response; fortunately the response was a lot of laughter."

Sheridan added, "I've been doing this long enough to feel that I can come across as pretty non-threatening, and people figure out after a couple of minutes that I'm only there to just give

them facts, and let them do with those facts what they want."

Sheridan also had a fourth book recently published, entitled *Transgender in the Workplace: The Complete Guide to the New Authenticity for Employers and Gender-Diverse Professionals*. It's a follow-up to a book she wrote about 10 years ago on transgender equality in the workplace.

"In the last 10 years, we've made some incredible strides as a community," she explained. "So I thought it was time to create a new resource that not only involved the progress that we've been able to make, but also introduces what I believe is a relatively new paradigm."

She intended for the book to be a tool for both organizations and transgender people to leverage what she called "gender authenticity" to mutual benefit. Sheridan defined gender authenticity as "the right of every individual to express their orientation, and/or identity, without fear of coercion to conform to gender stereotypes."

The overlying premise, Sheridan added, "is that if we can get out of this coercion piece—being forced to adhere to expectations that accompany the gender binary—we can also get away from the whole alphabet soup [letter abbreviations representing different community segments] and focus on being authentic human beings. 'Authentic' people deliver higher performance."

Sheridan said she thinks the concept is an idea "whose time is here. I'm trying to introduce it in a way that's accessible, easily understandable and easily implementable. The book is going to be a good tool to help people do that."

Center on Halsted's 'Human First' gala set for May 4

Center on Halsted is hosting its annual signature event, the Human First Gala—which recognizes the contributions of individuals, businesses and other organizations to the LG-BTQ community in Chicago—on Saturday, May 4, at The Geraghty, 2520 S. Hoyne Ave.

The cocktail reception will be at 5:30 p.m., with awards, dinner and dancing starting at 7 p.m.

The 2019 Human First awardees include Christy Webber, Duane DesParte and John Schneider. The Community Spirit Award will be presented to Joel Hall and Olivia Connors.

Tickets are \$350-\$500 each; visit <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/hf/>.

Non-binary license option passes House

House Bill 3534—a measure that allows people to identify themselves as neither male nor female on their driver's licenses—passed the Illinois House on a 67-38 vote, WEEK.com reported.

The bill, which state Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (D-Naperville) sponsored, allows people to identify as "non-binary" on their driver's li-

cense, in addition to male or female. The bill would also require all local governments to offer a "non-binary" option on forms and documents.

The state Senate is now slated to vote on the measure.

The WEEK article is at <https://week.com>.

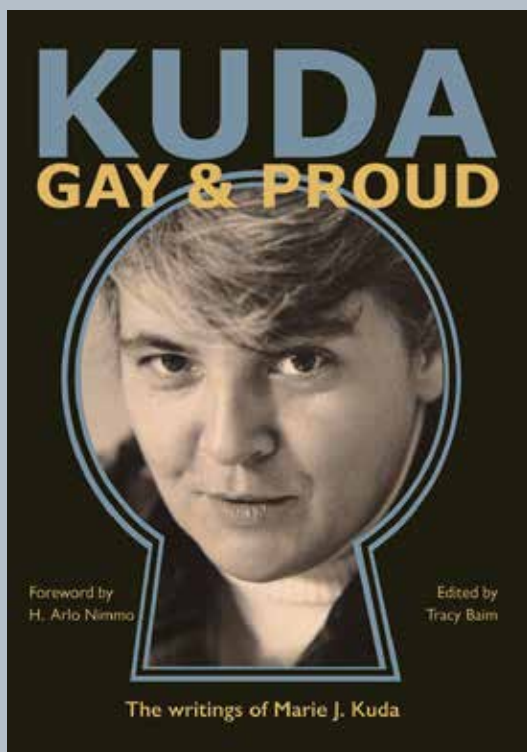
DiProva celebration May 18 at Fox Run

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).



Collection of five decades of Marie J. Kuda's writings on Chicago LGBTQ life and history

Now available from Women & Children First Bookstore

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 contribu-

tions 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.

Chicagoan among Pedro Zamora scholarship 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 helps connect interested individuals with HIV services throughout Chicago, includ-

ing screening and treatment for STIs, housing, employment, food, legal services, medical care and much more. He is pursuing a degree in accounting to work within his agency's finance department and ensure continued funding for HIV programs.

The other honorees include Tranisha Arzah, a freshman at Seattle Central College in Seattle; Kota Babcock, a freshman at Colorado State University in Denver; Mona Bandov, a freshman at UC Berkeley in Berkeley, California; Justin Bell, a junior at Georgia State University in Atlanta; Asamia Diaby, a junior at CUNY Lehman in the Bronx; Grace Gautereaux, a junior at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon; Emily Nold, from Fox Island, Washington, a freshman at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver; Verenice Ortiz-Robles, a freshman at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and, Nicolas Rios, a freshman at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The Pedro Zamora Young Leaders Scholarship is open to current high school seniors as well as college freshman, sophomores and juniors who demonstrate an active commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and taking on roles of public service and leadership. The application open period begins March 1. To learn more about the scholarship and the National AIDS Memorial, visit AIDSmemorial.org or call 415-765-0497.

Trans military ban now in effect

The Pentagon's controversial policy for transgender service members is in effect as of April 12.

The Defense Department has said people can serve if they remain their biological sex. They estimate that nearly 15,000 troops identify as transgender and could potentially be impacted by the policy.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the military could enforce its policy on transgender service members after President Trump called for a blanket ban back in 2017 on Twitter, claiming the military "cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail."

In a statement, the American Psychological Association reaffirmed its opposition to the Department of Defense's implementation of a ban of transgender Americans from U.S. military service. (The implementation took place April 12.) "APA opposes this ban," said APA President Rosie Phillips Davis, Ph.D. "As psychologists, we oppose discrimination that has no basis in science. We urge the administration to rethink this harmful policy."

The statement continued, "Based on psychological science and practice, there is no evidence of a relationship between being transgender and one's ability to serve in the military."

TICKET INFO

GENERAL ADMISSION \$100
VIP \$200
AT THE DOOR \$150
GUESTS MUST BE OVER 21



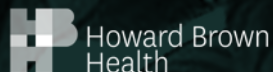
WHEN & WHERE

SATURDAY, MAY 4 2019
7 - 11 P.M.
SOUTH SHORE CULTURAL CENTER
7059 S. SOUTH SHORE DR.
CHICAGO, IL 60649

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH INVITES THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY AND ALLIES TO SUPPORT SERVICES FOR LESBIANS, BISEXUAL WOMEN, TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NONCONFORMING PEOPLE WITH AN EVENING OF DANCING, ENTERTAINMENT, FULL OPEN BAR, LIGHT BITES, AND COMMUNITY.

Tickets and information: howardbrown.org/CHI2019

Howard Brown Health exists to eliminate the disparities in healthcare experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people through research, education and the provision of services that promote health and wellness



For sponsorship and donation information, contact Mindy Neveaux at mindyn@howardbrown.org or 773.572.5117.

Chicagoan recalls challenges of living with HIV

BY MATT SIMONETTE

For Chicagoan Terence Steward II, living with HIV “drove” how he lived his life during his twenties.

“I was super-private, discreet, by myself, depressed, very ‘smoky’ and mysterious,” Steward recalled. “I kept to myself. I was in the Twilight Zone. Coming out of college, I had no idea how to handle myself. What I did was by trial-and-error, and day-by-day.”

Now well into his third decade, Steward has flourished in disciplines and activities that require a strong public persona: modeling, social-media influencer and health advocate. “I to of what I do now is in the public eye. But reaching the point was a challenge.

The Florida native was diagnosed with HIV when he was 21 and a student at Beloit (Wisconsin) College. He half-heartedly decided to get tested when he was taking a public health course. After he did so, however, he was visiting out-of-town friends when he received the call to come back.

“I knew what it was about right away,” Steward said. “It’s like when you get pulled over by the police—you often figure out right away why they’re pulling you over. Three days later I went back to Wisconsin, and drove to the clinic myself. They said, ‘All your tests came back negative.’ I recall dropping to the floor, being so devastated and I couldn’t stop crying.”

He quickly fell into depression, skipping classes and sports practices. It took him a year to start taking medication for the infection; he began official treatment at Howard Brown Health when he

moved to Chicago.

“I’ve always been a private person,” Steward explained, recalling that, when he was younger, he projected his own shame and guilt on others, assuming that they would be distressed where they to know his HIV status. “I was thinking, ‘I’m never going to date again. I’m never going to get a marriage. Nobody’s ever going to love me or like me.’ ... It was all these conspiracies I started to build, and it wasn’t the truth at all.”

Experts say such initial distress is reasonable for persons with HIV, since anti-HIV stigma is still perpetuated by both subtle and direct means among numerous communities.

“Someone may be living in a community where [people] view HIV the same as someone might have used to view leprosy,” said Maya Green, M.D., regional clinical director at Howard Brown Health. “It’s still the disease of ‘Others’—it’s still not very much talked about.”

Steward said that attitude is still somewhat pervasive in the LGBT community as well; he felt that some community members might be accepting towards relatives, friends and acquaintances with HIV, but not if they find out that someone they date or potentially could date had the infection.

“Then it still becomes a taboo,” he said. “They sometimes seem to ask themselves, ‘Why would I show good character? Why would I show empathy, when it doesn’t benefit me? We’re in a world where sometimes people won’t share or give of themselves.’”

Steward sometimes became uncomfortable when home in Tampa, Florida, which he said had



Terence Steward II.

Photo courtesy of Steward

somewhat of a “90s standpoint” on the issue. He noticed, for example, that his barber, who did not know the difference between HIV and AIDS, would nevertheless pontificate on the issue frequently.

“It came from a context that was very social-media driven,” Steward recalled. “Earlier in my twenties, I would feel that that was targeted towards me; I was thinking, oh, that’s just ‘on me.’ Now I just know it’s a matter of little-to-no

education.”

But a key difference between Steward then and Steward now is that he now wants to be a person who can provide some of that education by talking about living with HIV. He praised Magic Johnson as an example who someone giving of themselves so the public could understand more about HIV/AIDS; Steward said that what was most important was Johnson’s willingness to show the world his taking care of himself.

“That’s the number-one most important thing: taking care of yourself as a whole [person]—taking your medication, proper diet, people around you [influencing] the energy you take in and expel, your sleep. There is so much to consider,” Steward added.

Steward said that, even after he began treatment for his HIV, it took some time for his being able to accept that there was a community around him—in that case, staff at Howard Brown Health—that “wanted to see me succeed.”

Green explained that stigma like that Steward had contended with can be just as insidious as any medical condition, referring to it as a “disease of the mind.” She joked that she would like to be a “stigma-practitioner” whose sole duty was helping patients dispel it within their lives and within themselves.

“We have to normalize this,” she added. “We hold that it is abnormal to live with HIV and that is not true—it is perfectly normal to be living with HIV. You are whole.”

Green repeated, “You are whole” two more times for emphasis, and added, “That is the conversation practitioners need to have with their patients. ... I hope that one day it will be normal to talk about living with HIV, and loving with HIV.”

Steward, for his part, plans to keep talking about his experiences in the hope that sharing it will help others.

“It is literally day by day,” he said. “That’s not to say that all your days will be good and great, but your balance will be waiting for you again.”

Suburban Healthcare You Can Trust

opendoor Health Center of Illinois

157 S. Lincoln Ave., Ste. K, Aurora 630.264.1819
1665 Larkin Ave., Elgin 847.695.1093

Open Door offers primary medical care, behavioral health and substance use as well as specialized services to eliminate disparities for patients who:

- are concerned about sexually transmitted infections;
- are living with HIV/AIDS;
- identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

STIGMA FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Primary Medical Care
- HIV Specialty Care
- Behavioral Health & Substance Use
- STI Testing & Treatment
- PrEP
- Hormone Administration & Monitoring

odhcil.org

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

QUEER REVOLT

AN LGBTQ+ STUDIES CONFERENCE MAY 11

Queer Revolt is DePaul’s **first citywide LGBTQ+ interdisciplinary conference**. We aim to increase the **visibility of LGBTQ+ studies** on university campuses, to promote **DePaul’s LGBTQ+ studies program**, and to **commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots**.

Guest speakers include:

Cook County Commissioner **Kevin B. Morrison** and author and University of Chicago professor **Dr. C. Riley Snorton, Ph.D.**

STILL ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FROM STUDENTS UNTIL APRIL 25 AT MIDNIGHT

For more information and to submit proposals, please visit: bit.ly/queerrevolt19

Thank you to our sponsors: The Vincentian Endowment Fund, the DePaul Office for Institutional Diversity & Equality, LGBTQ Studies, Dept. of English, American Studies, Peace & Justice, Women’s and Gender Studies, Dept. of Writing Rhetoric & Discourse, The Dept. of African and Black Diaspora Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies Program, Center for Latino Research

Historic private club reinvents itself to be more inclusive

BY JOHN STADELMAN

The Metropolitan Club, in the Willis Tower, provides networking, dining and work spaces as well as hosts private events for Chicago's business professionals. Last year it underwent a massive reinvention aimed at diversifying its membership, aimed especially at LGBTQ businesspeople.

"Reinvention" is the key word, because the Metropolitan did not just redesign the space.

"It really taps into the brand," said Craig Barnard-El, a membership director at the Metropolitan. "It's prioritizing the opportunity to protect the exclusivity of our club, while assuring that accessibility, diversity and open club membership reflects the community that we serve. As you can imagine, with the diversity of Chicago, the business community is not just one demographic. We have the LGBT community, the minority community, the immigrant community."

Their challenge has been to maintain exclusivity while extending membership to more communities.

"To be successful in creating a home for potential members," said Barnard-El, "we need to ensure that our programming, membership options, club environment, employees, staff and the events that we cultivate actually serve those communities."

One program the club put in place is the Pride Committee.

"It is a committee that prioritizes the wants, needs, programming, social and business interests of the LGBT community," said Barnard-El. "They have a once-a-month social meeting where the committee comes together and it's an opportunity for people to connect and talk and just be present to the experience of an LGBT person here at the club."

"And there's a steering committee within the Pride Committee, focused on, 'What is the agenda? What are the initiatives? What organizations are we looking to connect with? What diversity and inclusion departments have been open to us? What other pride committees and/or diversity programs can we invite here to the club from other companies? what organizations do we want to contribute to philanthropically?'"

For Barnard-El—who is gay and African-American—it is important and fulfilling work.

"It's been great," he told Windy City Times. "The support and the resources that have been given towards me and this department, specifically for the goal of accomplishing diversity and inclusion and tapping into the LGBT community, has been very rewarding. To have the support that I have, not just conceptually but also financially, is really great. There are real resources being put behind this initiative. And those resources are giving me the tools I need to make a real difference."

Speaking further on the Pride Committee, General Manager Simona Blaugh said, "It grew from three to four people having cocktails on the last Friday of every month to 20, 30, 40 people coming together. It includes people we describe as

'straight but not narrow,' who are supporters of the LGBTQ community who help support the Pride Committee, and everyone is welcome to participate. ... It's a hugely robust group that got off the ground in 2018 and that's one of our biggest accomplishments and biggest successes of the year.

"No other club has a Pride Committee and no other club celebrates the LGBTQ community as strongly and purposefully as we do."

"The challenge is always going to be change," said Barnard-El. "When it comes to not only the physical change of the club but the material change of the membership and/or the culture, when you are doing certain things a certain way for maybe a generation, when you change that you're always going to shake up the experience and lose some legacy members. ... Those chal-



The Metropolitan Club.
Photo courtesy of the club

lenges are present and something we deal with."

Despite these challenges, Blaugh said The Metropolitan is entirely dedicated to this bold new direction.

"I'm really so proud of our club, and everything that we've been able to achieve here," she said.

The easiest way to see what the Metropolitan is offering is to simply stop in for a visit.

"The best way of understanding club life and what the club represents," said Barnard-El, "is

just coming to the club, attending a tour, getting one of our member-only events. We host other organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and the Loop Alliance.

"There's a number of non-member events that happen here, but just reaching out to a membership director, connecting with them and expressing interest."

Visit <http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/The-Metropolitan>.

THERE'S PRIDE in QUITTING, too.



1-866-784-8937



ILLINOIS TOBACCO
QUITLINE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION IN ILLINOIS

QuitYes.org

Lambda Legal holds annual Bon Foster gala

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Lambda Legal's tagline at its annual Bon Foster event on April 18 at Morgan Manufacturing was "We're Here."

The annual celebration is named for Robert "Bon" Foster, a powerful voice in Chicago in the early days of the HIV epidemic, and honors his activism in opposing injustice and resisting discrimination, as well as the bequeathing of his estate to found Lambda Legal's Chicago office in 1993.

Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Office Director Brian Richardson explained the mission of the event was to raise money and gain more visibility for Lambda Legal and the work being done.

"For me, I have a 5-and-a-half-year-old son at home who I adore, and I think about my coming-of-age and realizing how many benefits and opportunities I had as a queer man today because of the people who came before me," said Richardson on the importance of the type of work that Lambda Legal does. "I want to make sure his generation has even more opportunities across the board, regardless of sexual orientation, regardless of gender identity and find ways to ensure our society continues to move forward and continues to rise against the challenges that we're facing, so he and every generation after him can

live in a more just, more equitable society."

While welcoming a full house, the celebration provided an evening of food, drinks, music, fundraising and the chance to hear about the work that Lambda Legal and its lawyers are doing.

Richardson described the event as a great opportunity to engage community members and gauge partners. It was a space where everyone could hear the story of Lambda, as well as its continual successes and challenges in Chicago and across the country.

"I think the event went phenomenally well," said Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Office Director Brian Richardson. "It's my first Bon Foster since taking the helm of the Midwest office and it's just been a real honor meeting all of the great donors and community members who supported Lambda Legal over the years and seeing them come out again tonight, but then also all of the new people who are here tonight. I think this evening we may have hit our record in number of people attending because we filled up the entire place with new members, old members, supporters, allies, community partners and it just fills me with a great deal of hope."

Along with Richardson, speakers of the evening included event co-chairs Jason Z. Pesick, Anastasia Kaup, Jordan M. Heinz and Roderick K. Hawkins, Lambda Legal Interim CEO Richard



Bon Foster event speakers.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

Burns and Chicago-based Lambda Legal attorneys Jamie Glikberg, Kara Ingelhart, Scott Schoettes and Camilla Taylor, all who shared details of various cases they are working on within the LGBTQ community.

"The attorneys there are really smart, they're thinking three steps ahead and it's just a great organization, a really high quality organization, high quality people doing great work for a very diverse community," said Pesick of Lambda Legal.

"In the current political climate, attacks on our community are happening at a faster rate than they have for the last decade, including attacks

that bastardize the law in a way to further attack LGBTQ people and that's why we have to continue our efforts in the courts, in state houses, in state courts, on all fronts to fight for LGBTQ equality," said Richardson.

Richardson emphasized that Lambda Legal is about winning rights for the entire community and building a more just and equitable society. Hearing directly from the Lambda Legal attorneys, he said, was both an honor and very powerful.

For more information on Lambda Legal, visit LambdaLegal.org.



TRACY BAIM'S 35th ANNIVERSARY IN LGBT MEDIA

A fundraiser to support LGBTQ journalists at Windy City Times

Tracy started her work as a journalist in May of 1984 at GayLife newspaper, going on to co-found Windy City Times in 1985. In this changing media landscape, it's important to support community media.

WED. MAY 22
SIDETRACK
3349 N. Halsted St

VIP tickets \$100 / General tickets \$75
VIP 5 p.m., includes food and beverages,
General at 6 p.m.
But any contribution level is welcome at the link below.

Make checks payable to Windy City Times and mail to
Windy City Times, 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640-2113

Tickets/donations:
www.windycitymediagroup.com/donate.php

Aurora Pride back on after ambitious online fundraiser

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Officials with Indivisible Aurora—the organization responsible for holding last year's successful Aurora Pride—said that the 2019 parade was back on after an online fundraising effort raised nearly \$20,000 to cover skyrocketing expenses.

"It seems that, barring any unforeseen circumstances, we'll be there June 9," said Indivisible Aurora Executive Director Chuck Adams.

Those expenses, which totaled about \$17,000, covered security and other unexpected costs, nearly quadrupled last year's budget for the event. As such, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin announced its cancellation on April 16, after Indivisible Aurora said it could not meet the new costs.

But Adams mounted an online fundraiser that same day, saying that the group needed to raise the funds within a two-week window. As of April 21, the group had raised \$20,920, more than meeting the new costs.

Organizers won't be able to include a few

hoped-for events in the weekend-long festivities, among them a vendors' market and a 5K run, but there should be enough money to cover a June 8 speakers' series, Adams said.

Adams added that he appreciated not just the community's financial help, but the "passion and intensity" of feedback in support of the event.

"We're glad to be going back to talking about holding a parade, and not just talking about why we're not holding a parade," he said.



2018 Aurora Pride.
Tim Carroll Photography

Buffalo Grove Pride Parade happening June 2

The Buffalo Grove Pride Parade will take place Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

BG Pride is inviting any group or business that supports "love, acceptance and equality for all, according to Illinois Eagle. Business, religious organizations, school groups and clubs, families, sports teams and more are welcome.

Residents in the northern suburb of Chicago started organizing when Molly Pinta, a student at Twin Groves Middle School, was inspired to start a local Pride after seeing Aurora's inaugural Pride celebration.

For more information, email thepintaprideproject@gmail.com.

Woodstock Pride set for June 9

Woodstock Pride is welcoming more than half-dozen local partner organizations to present and sponsor the local Pride fest, in conjunction with the national Pride Month taking place across the country.

The march and rally—making up the first such event in Woodstock—will take place Sunday, June 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Historic Woodstock Square.

In addition to delivering a message of united community, the parade and rally will recognize two key anniversaries of the LGBTQIA+ communities—that of the Pulse Nightclub shootings in Orlando, Florida, which were perpetrated on June 12, 2016; and those who stood during the Stonewall Riots that occurred on June 28, 1969.

Confirmed partners for the Woodstock Pride

Fest Parade and Rally for Unity & Pride include DC Cobbs, Twisted Stem, Cherry Tree Inn B&B, Mix n Mingle, Buffalo Grove Pride, theNational Organization for Women, and Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

More information regarding the Pride Parade can be obtained at [Facebook.com/woodstockpride](https://www.facebook.com/woodstockpride) or WoodstockPride@gmail.com.

Highwood Pride kicks off June

To kick off Pride Month, Celebrate Highwood is "showing its pride on the North Side: at its 7th Annual North Shore Pride Fest on Saturday, June 1, in downtown Highwood, starting at 12 noon.

Benefiting the LGBTQ North Shore School District 113 Spectrum Club, the full day of activities will feature a Pride family picnic, family-friendly drag show, a contest for the best-dressed people and a "Taste the Rainbow" (adults-only) pub crawl with food/drink specials and live music at all stops.

Visit CelebrateHighwood.org.

Joliet PrideFest to take place June 29

The inaugural Joliet PrideFest will take place Saturday, June 29, 12-4 p.m., at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park & Theatre, 201 W. Jefferson St, Joliet.

Some of the events planned include a resource fair of non-profit organizations, food trucks, music sets from a family-friendly DJ, a bounce house, an LGBTQ history display, a traveling zoo, storytime with Miss Foozie and more.

Visit "Joliet PrideFest" on Facebook for more details.



IT STARTS HERE

With its inspiring combination of classic and contemporary architecture, modern design, sweeping vistas, unique history, and incomparable food and beverage offerings, LondonHouse Chicago offers everything you need to make your wedding day something extraordinary.

From our iconic rooftop cupola to the stunning Juliette Grand Ballroom with its views of the Chicago River and city's skyline, LondonHouse Chicago provides the ideal setting for the day your friends will be talking about for years.



LONDONHOUSE
CHICAGO

85 EAST WACKER DRIVE AT NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

312 357 1200 | LONDONHOUSECHICAGO.COM

Buttigieg officially declares run for presidency

On April 14 in his home city of South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg formally launched his presidential campaign for 2020.

Buttigieg is the second openly LGBTQ person to run for president, following Republican presidential primary candidate Fred Karger, who ran in 2012.

"My name is Pete Buttigieg. They call me Mayor Pete," Buttigieg said, to cheers. "I am a proud son of South Bend, Indiana—and I am running for President of the United States."

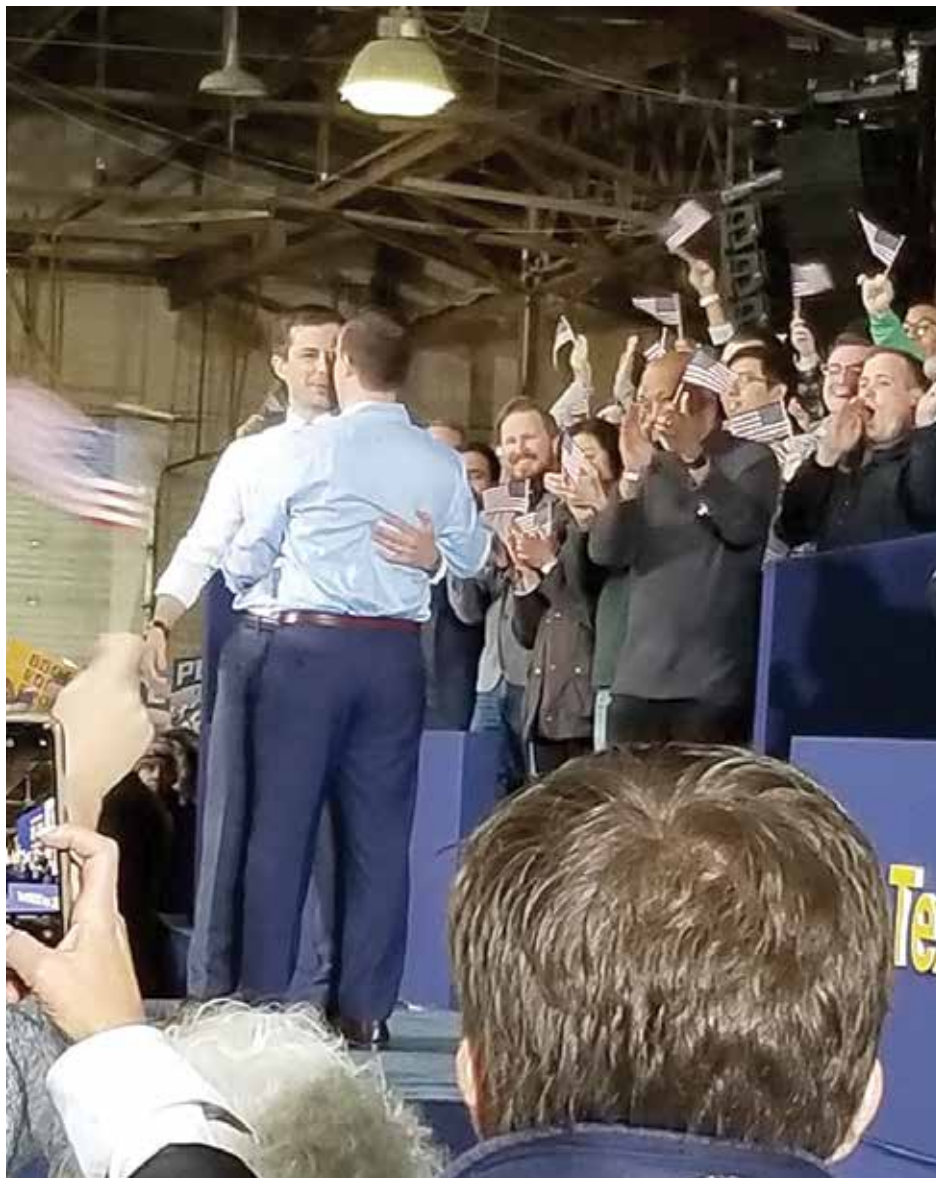
It has been a meteoric rise for Buttigieg, who polled at less than 1 percent just three months ago—but who now finds himself behind only front-runners Joe Biden (who has not officially declared a presidential run) and Bernie Sanders.

In a statement sent April 21, he said, "I recognize the audacity of doing this as a Midwestern millennial mayor. It's more than a little bold—at age 37—to seek the highest office in the land.

"But the forces of change in our country today are tectonic. Forces that help to explain what made this current presidency even possible. That's why, this time, it's not just about winning an election—it's about winning an era."

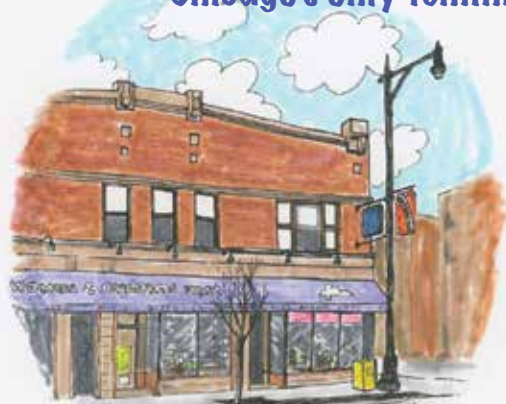
Buttigieg also listed the principles that he said will guide his campaign: freedom, security and democracy.

"Mayor Pete shattered a lavender ceiling once thought unbreakable, becoming the first openly LGBTQ Democratic presidential candidate in American history and our first real shot at the Oval Office," said Mayor Annise Parker, president/CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund, in a separate statement. "There is enormous power in an openly gay presidential candidate stumping at town halls in Iowa and speaking to Americans from the presidential debate stage—it changes perceptions of our community and raises the bar for candidates who seek LGBTQ support."



Left: The crowd cheers as Pete Buttigieg (left) embraces his husband, Chasten. Above: Chasten waves to the crowd. Below left (above): Gary Chichester and Jim Borzenski in the crowd. Below right: West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon (left) with Richard Knight Jr. Photos courtesy of Richard Knight Jr.

**Activism meet-ups,
personal book recommendations,
weekly events, Kids Storytime, and more!**
There are so many reasons to support
Chicago's only feminist bookstore.



**WOMEN &
CHILDREN FIRST**

5233 N. CLARK
CHICAGO, IL 60640
(773) 769-9299

womenandchildrenfirst.com



Judgment rendered in Park District discrimination case

BY MATT SIMONETTE

After years of litigation, a Chicago woman is back to work at the Chicago Park District (CPD) after suing in federal court for wrongful termination on the basis of anti-Latinx bias, and a judgment determining lost wages and damages has been issued.

Lydia Vega, who is lesbian, returned to her job as a CPD park supervisor last December, according to her attorney, Catherine Simmons Gill. Vega was terminated in Sept. 2012 for allegedly falsifying her time-sheets; a jury subsequently determined in 2017 that her termination was discriminatory. Vega and CPD have been in court for years trying to settle on the amounts that Vega is owed.

Judge Jorge Alonso of the U.S. District Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division ruled April 15 that Vega was to be paid about \$561,000 in compensatory damages, back pay and taxes-related expenses. The Park District has 30 days to appeal the ruling; Gill said that legal fees have yet to be determined as well, and would likely entail another series of hearings. Vega's pension has been restored as well.

"If this continues—if they do appeal—there's going to be attorney's fees as long as we continue to prevail," Gill said. "They basically are



Lydia Vega.
Photo courtesy of Vega

going to make this into a nearly 10-year affair on the taxpayers' dollar. The taxpayers are paying the Park District. Taxpayers are paying the Park District's attorneys. Now taxpayers will pay us something."

Vega had no disciplinary actions against her during her CPD employment before the timesheet dispute between herself and district officials. She alleged that investigators following her during CPD's research of the falsification charges mocked her for appearing masculine, but charges of gender-based discrimination against her employers were dropped earlier in the case.

Gill said that returning to work was "strange" for Vega when she went back to CPD in December, but that her client loves the park she was assigned to.

"She's doing good," said Gill.

Flyers about murder victim distributed in Lake View

Cook County Crime Stoppers distributed flyers April 13, starting on the corner of Halsted and Cornelia streets in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood concerning the murder of Kevin Clewer.

On March 24, 2004, Clewer, who was 31, was found murdered with 42 stab wounds in his Lake View apartment. This case remains unsolved with no suspect or responsible person in custody for his death. Investigation conducted by the Chicago Police Department found that Kevin was last seen on North Halsted Street with a person of interest known as "Fernando," who may help in clearing this murder.

In a statement, Clewer's brother Ron said, "In the 15 years since my brother's death, much has changed. But what has not is how much my family's life has changed since Kevin's death. We have no closure and routine thoughts about what happened to my him continually play over in our heads and hearts. Over the years, grief has grown from anger to sadness and a need for understanding and forgiveness. Now we are pleading that someone will come forward and tell us what they know. Please—it is time."

Tips can be left anonymously at 800-535-STOP (7867). If the information helps the police solve the case, the caller can receive up to \$1,000.

Right: Flyer depicting Kevin Clewer and 'Fernando.'

Image courtesy of Cook County Crime Stoppers

COOK COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO SOLVE THIS HOMICIDE CASE \$1,000 CASH REWARD

KEVIN CLEWER **FERNANDO - PERSON OF INTEREST**

On Wednesday March 24, 2004 31-year old Kevin Clewer was found in his apartment murdered. Kevin did not report for work Tuesday and his father went to check on his well being. Kevin was found murdered in the bedroom of his apartment on the 3400 Block of North Elaine Place, Chicago. Kevin died from multiple stab wounds.

Kevin was last seen on north Halsted Street with someone known as "Fernando". The police are looking for Fernando as a "person of interest" to talk to about the crime. This person is described as a male, White-Hispanic, 5'7", slim/athletic build, speaks Spanish and is known as "Fernando".

Cook County Crime Stoppers needs your help to solve this murder. Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 cash reward for information that leads to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for this crime (good for 60-days). If you have information call your anonymous tips into our hotline at 1-800-535-STOP. We don't need your name; you will be given a code number.

www.cookcountycrimestoppers.org

As of 4/13/19 the person(s) responsible for this crime are considered armed and dangerous. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND. Duplication requires written permission from Cook County Crime Stoppers.

ANAL CANCER IS

ON THE RISE

FOR THOSE OF US

WITH HIV

CHECK ME OUT!



ANAL CANCER IS MUCH MORE EASILY TREATED WHEN CAUGHT EARLY, BEFORE SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.

**50% OF HIV+ MEN HAVE
PRECANCEROUS ANAL
CELLS AND ALMOST ALL
ARE SYMPTOM-FREE.**

**WE NEED HIV+ VOLUNTEERS OF
ALL GENDERS WHO ARE 35 AND
OVER TO TAKE PART IN A
NATIONAL ANAL CANCER
PREVENTION STUDY.**

- THOSE THAT QUALIFY WILL BE PAID \$100 PER STUDY VISIT
- YOU WILL HAVE AT LEAST 2 STUDY VISITS PER YEAR FOR 6 TO 8 YEARS

ANAL DYSPLASIA CLINIC MIDWEST
DR. GARY BUCHER
2551 N. CLARK ST., #203
CHICAGO, IL 60614
312-623-ANAL (2625)



letters

You are survivors

My name is Ashwini Krishnakumar, and I am the youth anti-violence advocate at Center on Halsted.

As a woman of color and an advocate for the LGBTQ community, I am very passionate about the work I am doing. People deserve to have a voice, and I work to empower people to share their voice as well as creating spaces that listen. In my role at COH, I provide case management, individual therapy, and group therapy for youth affected by interpersonal violence, sexual violence, and community-based violence. Within the last two months, though, I have noticed that a majority of the clients on my caseload are survivors of sexual assault.

In light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I write this letter to survivors. Society and media tend to focus on the abuser, which is important and necessary to hold people accountable. However, we do not hear or see enough messages intended with survivors in mind. I want to change that. I hope this letter can be a model of how we talk to survivors, and if you are a survivor, I hope this letter makes you feel loved. Because you are.

Dear Survivor,

I am glad you are here. Thank you for being vulnerable with me. I am sorry for the trauma you have endured—you did not deserve it. It was not your fault. It does not matter what you were wearing, if you were drunk, or if your abuser was a friend, family member, spouse, or colleague. I will say this as many times as you need to hear it. This was not, and never will be, your fault. I believe you.

Let's check in with your breath; take a deep breath in and exhale slowly. Repeat as many times as you need.

It is your choice to decide how you want to proceed with recovering from this experience and I am here to assist you every step of the way. This is happening to more people than we talk about. You are not alone. Everything you are feeling is valid. This was not, and never will be, your fault. I believe you. I accept you, and I will not judge you. Be patient with yourself and lean into those emotions. This is how we heal. Take a moment to accept the feeling that is coming up.

Let's check in with your body; move your legs around, move your torso side-to-side and front to back, give yourself a hug, move your head and shoulders, move as it feels good for you.

Right now, you may feel frozen by your experience. Your experience does not define you. You may want to run away. Run here. You might feel angry. You have every right in feeling that way. The effects of trauma affect everyone differently. Your experience could affect your ability to stay grounded and be present. Your mind might drift to deep levels of self-doubt—inviting the effects of fear, which distance you from the support you deserve. You are surviving. You are not broken. You are not defected. This was

not, and never will be, your fault. I believe you. It is sometimes challenging to connect and feel safe with others when you feel you are holding your trauma with you everywhere you go. You decide how and when to share your story, and you are not obligated to voice your experience without feeling affirmed in doing so. If you find that substances are helping in managing high levels of anxiety and distress, I am here to help you observe those patterns and develop new ways to cope.

Let's check in with your thoughts; this is not your fault, we believe you, you are loved, you are supported and you can feel safe again. The AVP team at Center on Halsted are here to provide compassionate support during your time of healing.

Once again, this was not, and never will be, your fault. I believe you. We believe you.

*With care and regard,
Ashwini*

Note: The Anti-Violence Project at Center on Halsted can be reached Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., via its resource line (773-871-2273) and email (avp@centeronhalsted.org). There are also walk-in hours on Monday-Friday at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Trans healthcare, part I

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing Oliver Knight's account ("Catholic bishops stopped my surgery because I'm transgender" 4/10/19) as yet another disturbing example of how homophobia and misogyny are the cornerstones of Catholic "healthcare" delivery by institutions such as Presence Health.

In addition to treating transgender and gender-diverse people like garbage, institutions such as Presence Health also prohibit the use of IVF techniques for those LGBTQ persons wishing to be parents. When it comes to denying reproductive healthcare, no one does a better job than Presence Health in treating women as second-class citizens by refusing to give rape victims access to emergency contraception following an assault, denying women access to prescription birth control, abortion care and tubal ligation. Medical treatment utilizing stem-cell research is prohibited and advance care directives are ignored.

Adding insult to injury is that all of this offensive and degrading treatment of women and LGBTQ people is perpetrated by an insulated clique of men, with no moral authority in the wake of unending cases of child sexual abuse, tethered to an institution that militantly excludes women and many others from any meaningful decision making, all the while supported by many of our local elected officials with OUR tax dollars. The time to put an end to it is now. As long as Presence and other institutions continue to discriminate in the delivery of healthcare dictated by Catholic bishops, they should not receive a penny

of public support and should be held accountable by every legal means possible for violating our basic human rights.

*Terry Cosgrove
President & CEO
Personal PAC
Chicago*

Trans healthcare, part II

Dear Editor:

At the Center for Gender Confirmation Surgery, located at Weiss Memorial Hospital, we congratulate Gov. J.B. Pritzker in recognizing the importance of providing medically necessary and life-saving care to a population in need. We applaud the governor for his support of the LGBTQI and gender-diverse communities. Illinois is now joining the states and countries that have acknowledged the importance of gender-confirming medical and surgical treatments.

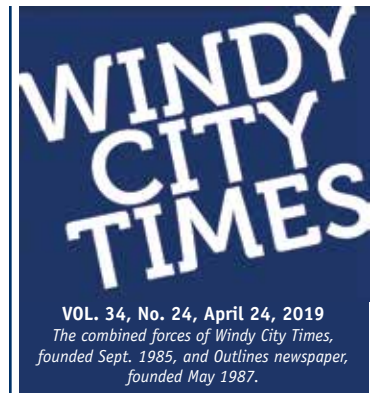
Recognizing gender identities that differ from accepted societal norms or expectations is part of an appreciation of gender diversity across the globe. Gender dysphoria is a medical diagnosis that refers to the distress caused by conflict between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth; gender-diverse identities exist as an example of the rich variety present in our community. Such diversity should be celebrated.

Unfortunately, the healthcare needs of transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) individuals are often overlooked and/or neglected (witnessed by the elevated rates of suicide and suicide attempts in the transgender and gender-diverse communities). TGD individuals suffer discrimination on a daily basis, and this expanded healthcare coverage is a substantial step forward. Gender affirmation/confirmation surgery, previously termed sex reassignment surgery, is a medically necessary life changing treatment for many transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

According to recent population statistics, in the State of Illinois approximately 49,750 individuals identify as transgender and gender-diverse. Expanded healthcare coverage is life-altering news to the thousands of individuals who suffer due to a lack of access to healthcare. We, at The Center for Gender Confirmation Surgery at Weiss Hospital, are heartened that Illinois residents will have access to the healthcare they need.

Sincerely,

*Loren S. Schechter, MD, FACS, Director, The Center for Gender Confirmation Surgery, Weiss Memorial Hospital
Alexander Faquee- surgical fellow at The Center for Gender Confirmation Surgery
Shalyn Vanderbloemen, PA-C
Mira Eballo, PA-C
Rachael Johnson, PA-C*



PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Andrew Davis

MANAGING EDITOR Matt Simonette

DIGITAL DIRECTOR Jean Albright

ART DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kirk Williamson

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR Scott Duff

BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky,

Kirk Williamson, Scott Duff, Kathy Breit

NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media,

212-242-6863

THEATER AND DANCE EDITOR Catey Sullivan

SENIOR WRITERS Jonathan Abarbanel, Mary

Shen Barnidge, Liz Baudler, Charlsie Dewey,

Ross Forman, Carrie Maxwell, Rev. Irene Monroe,

Jerry Nunn, Tony Peregrin, Angelique Smith,

Sari Staver, Sarah Toce, Melissa Wasserman

WRITERS Sarah Katherine Bowden, Ada Cheng,

Sheri Flanders, Joe Franco, Veronica Harrison,

Kelsey Hoff, Aaron Hunt, Eric Karas, Brian Kirst,

Paige Listerud, Billy Masters, Scott C. Morgan,

Amelia Orozco, Ariel Parrella-Aureli, Kerry

Reid, Dana Rudolph, Ana Serna, Karen Topham,

Regina Victor, Sean Margaret Wagner, Lauren

Warnecke, Steve Warren, Lauren Emily Whalen

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Hal

Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Vernon Hester

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright

DISTRIBUTION Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue

and Victor

WEB HOSTING LoveYourWebsite.com (lead

programmer: Martie Marro)

PRESIDENT Tracy Baim

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

Editorial: andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

Sales: terri@windycitymediagroup.com

Calendar: calendar@windycitymediagroup.com

Circulation: jean@windycitymediagroup.com

Art/ad copy: kirk@windycitymediagroup.com

Theater: cateysullivan25@gmail.com

Copyright 2019 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media

Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back

issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included).

Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings,

and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and

no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials.

All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to Windy

City Times will be treated as unconditionally assigned

for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing

and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists,

cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own

and do not necessarily reflect the position of Windy City

Times. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a

person or organization in articles or advertising in Windy

City Times is not to be construed as any indication of the

sexual orientation of such person or organization. While

we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make

this newspaper possible, Windy City Times cannot accept

responsibility for advertising claims.

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,

5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 U.S.A.

(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Biweekly; Deadline every

Wednesday prior to street date

OUT! Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide Online annual

Windy City Times Wedding and Events Guide Annual

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Send columns or letters to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

WINDY
CITY
TIMES

ARTS + THEATER

WEEKLY

RAVINIA NIGHTS

**QUEEN LATIFAH
IS JUST ONE OF
THE MANY ACTS
FEATURED IN
RAVINIA'S
2019 SEASON**

PAGE 22



PR photo

THEATER REVIEW

DJEMBE! The Show

Book: West Hyler & Doug Manuel;
Score: Various artists
At: Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-935-6100 or
DjembeTheShow.com; \$39-\$53
Booking through: June 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

DJEMBE! The Show isn't a typical musical. Instead, it's likely to be the glossiest and most entertaining "Intro to Drumming" class you'll ever experience.

Now if the interactive notion of all audience members at the Apollo Theater Chicago having a full-size African Djembe drum at their seat scares you, don't worry. Sound designer Ray Nardelli ensures that the amplified onstage professionals lead the drumming and control the beat at all times.

So if you or your neighbor has terrible rhythm,



Rashada Dawan in
DJEMBE! The Show.
 Photo by Liz Lauren

it won't be a major distraction to others.

It also helps to have such welcoming drumming teachers offering up lots of encouragement.

The principal "djembe fola," or master drummer, is native Malian Fode Lavia Camra. He also cedes time to another thrilling drummer, Abou Sylla, who also plays the balafon in the background as part of a jamming five-member band led by music director/keyboardist/vocalist Patrick Donley.

DJEMBE! also features a wealth of theater professionals in the mix on stage and behind the scenes, too.

can be repurposed to create monsters, much as an incendiary once associated only with holiday fireworks became the deadly substance we now call "gunpowder."

Our fable begins with Trent and Katja, former high-school comrades in rural New York state who bonded through their communal enthusiasm for online role-play games featuring horticultural battles against marauding vegetables and homicidal flowers. Katja has relocated to the Northwest territories to pursue a high-powered career in high-tech communications, however, leaving her nerd-buddy to brood in melancholy solitude rendering him vulnerable to the influence of websites like "TenClick" favored by likewise isolated males whose sexist piggery quickly escalates to full-bore incel warfare after Katja declines Trent's

make those ideals inconvenient or detrimental to us. The problem manifests when Hannah can't see the actions of her mentor as reprehensible, but has no problem condemning another person (Drew Schad as Baldur von Schirach) for a nearly identical crime. Hannah must rule out every other possibility before she'll see Martin as dangerous.

Hannah Arendt (Christina Gorman) is a Jewish philosophy scholar who is certain that her mentor and sometimes lover Martin Heidegger (Lawrence Grimm) is a genius of the highest order. In her eyes, he is eloquent, passionate, and his theories are sound. So, when Heidegger is tapped by Nazi officials to help develop their ideology, Hannah doesn't immediately condemn him, she just wants to know why. As others, like her later mentor Karl Jaspers (Doug McDade), her husband Günther (Steve Peebles) and her own devoted student Alice (Jazzma Pryor) work to distance themselves from Heidegger, Hannah gives him the benefit of the doubt. To find insidiousness in his alliances now would mean having to examine their past with suspicion, too, and Hannah can't bring herself to do that.

As the "Singer," native Chicagoan (and former touring actress in *The Lion King*) Rashada Dawan shows off a beautiful voice in a number of musical styles from African songs (with projected English translations) to Gloria Estefan's "Rhythm is Gonna Get You."

And then there's Broadway Once alum Ben Hope as the "Emcee," who genially narrates some of the show while also admirably keeping a pace with the star drummers.

All the performers play a part in teaching the

proposal to share in her good fortune.

McGough's fictional scenario is based on a true story, the facts of which may be found under the headline "Gamergate" and its affiliated commentary, but our author is not content with mere talking-heads docudrama. Instead, he maps out his procedural within the fantasy universe where it transpires. Savvy theatergoers will detect early indications of the gratuitous gender-linked hostility that will later blossom into lynch-law psychological terrorism (e.g., when Tank-avatar Feldrick, after Mage-avatar Aria refuses his challenge to kill an innocent bystander, proceeds to casually axe-murder the hapless civilian)—but when a crime is "imaginary," what recourse does the victim under psychological attack have?

A narrative dynamic occurring predominantly

What works for Director Louis Contey in bringing Hannah and Martin to life, is a stage picture in constant motion. Nick Moza's intricate set, a traverse stage sandwiched by the audience, allows the actors to play with angles like a billiards game. I only wish the staging were even more intimate, building on the sense of incapability the script traffics in so successfully. Every character shares one trait; no one can leave an argument unfinished. They'll do whatever it takes to hammer their point home.

Out of a stellar cast, two performers who lit up the stage were Steve Peebles as Hannah's irreverent and slightly audacious husband Günther Stern, and Jazzma Pryor as her student with a much sturdier backbone, Alice. This production's heavy-hitters are undoubtedly Christina Gorman as Hannah Arendt and Lawrence Grimm as Martin Heidegger. They are artfully uncomfortable to watch. They both chase blindly after things that will bring them acclaim, while avoiding the personal revelations that will bring them healing.

difference between bass and tone hits on the drum surface. They're also adept at leading portions of the audience in participatory drumming and restful listening.

There's also some history thrown in to share how African rhythms spread around the world. Of course slavery is brought up, but it's not dwelt on as more emphasis is put on how African drumming and rhythms transformed and influenced all kinds of pop, rock and world music.

Some might find this too glib and basic, but it does serve as a great starting point for those who would want to do more research.

DJEMBE! also shines throughout thanks to its high-tech production design.

Tony-winning set designer Todd Rosenthal provides a colorful backdrop for Rasean Davonte Johnson's abstracted video projections (these images don't fully distract from the performers, which is a plus). And Zach Blane's lighting design is a swirl of movement and color.

So if you've ever had the hankering to try out some drumming, DJEMBE! The Show is something you should consider. It strives to be a welcoming experience for everyone.

on a computer screen makes for a stage picture in constant motion, whether depicting a tree assembled from flat-shape collages, a swashbuckling sword-and-sorcery skirmish with stick-puppet icons, or a swarm of angry posters descending on their prey like wolves taking down a deer. Director Beth Wolf and an ensemble of actors and technicians (in particular, projection designer Alberto Mendoza and fight/movement choreographers Chris Smith and Maureen Yasko) ensure that every second of the 90 minutes needed for McGough to deliver his lesson on the scourge of cyberbullying remains coherent and comprehensible to audiences of all ages, both net-fluent and gaming-illiterate.

The playbill doesn't include a glossary, by the way. Theatergoers unversed in nerdspeak (like me) are advised to bring a teenage interpreter or consult your wiktionaries. Watch out for trolls.

THEATER REVIEW

Non Playing Character

Playwright: Walt McGough
At: Red Theater at the Athenaeum,
 2936 N. Southport Ave.
Tickets: RedTheater.org and
 773-935-6875; \$22
Runs through: May 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In the 100th-anniversary year of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, playwright Walt McGough invites us to consider the ease with which real-life toys

THEATER REVIEW

Hannah and Martin

Author: Kate Fodor
At: Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: ShatteredGlobe.org, or
 773-975-8150; \$15-39
Runs through: May 25

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

In *Shattered Globe's* *Hannah and Martin*, author Kate Fodor and director Louis Contey invite audiences to look back on an era rife with questions we are no closer to answering, almost a century later. What level of involvement makes you complicit in an atrocity? If you escape punishment, what should your consequences be in the court of public opinion? Should those consequences lighten for the people we love?

At its heart, *Hannah and Martin* plays with perspective in a way that instills both frustration and resignation in the audience. This production explores the ideals we want our societies to uphold, and all the circumstances that

CRITICS' PICKS

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey, American Blues at Stage 773, through April 27: Joe Foust commands our rapt attention for 75 minutes in this thriller noir, as he discovers the killer and—more importantly—the legacy of his victim. *MSB*

Lottery Day, Goodman Theatre, through April 28: The final chapter of Ike Holter's seven-play saga about a Chicago neighborhood in crisis. It celebrates victories and mourns defeats, while sending its heroes riding into the sunset to fight another day. *MSB*

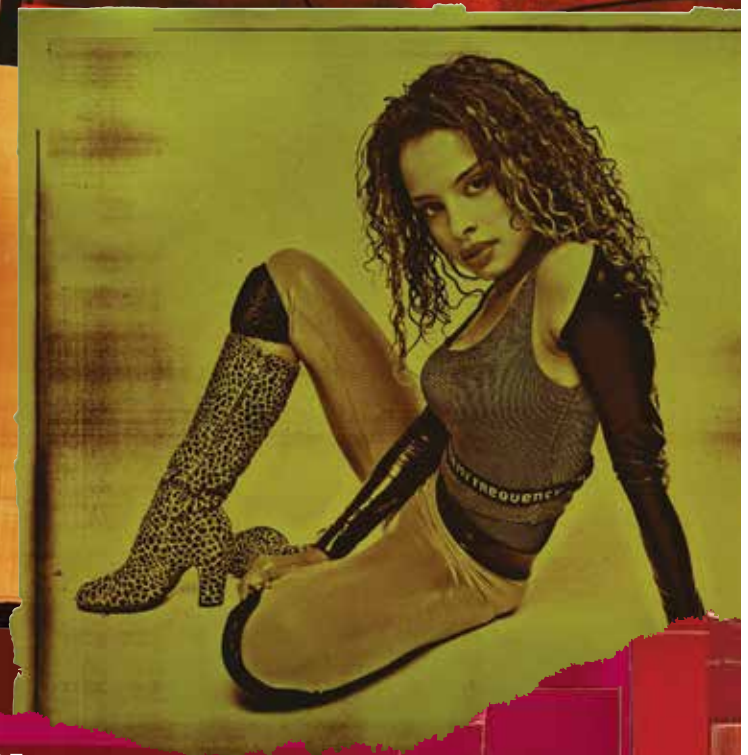
Cambodian Rock Band, Victory Gardens Theatre, through May 5: By turns sassy-funny and harrowing, Lauren Yee's newest play intertwines surviving the nightmare 1970s Khmer Rouge regime, with 1970s-style Cambodian rock music (songs by Dengue Fever) played live. Exciting theater! *JA*

—By Mary Shen Barnidge
 and Jonathan Abarbanel

RENT

20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Photos: Amy Guip



MAY 10-19

BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.COM

800-775-2000 • Groups 10+ 312-977-1710
Tickets available at all Broadway In Chicago box offices



JAMES M. NEDERLANDER THEATRE
24 W. RANDOLPH

THEATER REVIEW

Cambodian Rock Band

Playwright: Lauren Yee
At: Victory Gardens Theater,
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-781-3000;
VictoryGardens.org; \$32-\$65
Runs through: May 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Cambodian Rock Band makes Victory Gardens the go-to, high-energy Off-Loop theater of the moment, thanks to a fictional rock band playing songs composed by Dengue Fever, the real U.S. rock band heavily inspired by 1960s-1970s Cambodian pop/rock. The songs are played and sung by the actors, and it's no mean feat to field an all-Asian cast with both quality acting and musical chops, which wouldn't have been possible in Chicago 15 years ago.

This regional premiere is set in Phnom Penh between 1974 and today, telling two intertwined stories of survival during Pol Pot's unimaginably cruel Khmer Rouge regime, which murdered between 21 percent and 24 percent of Cambodia's entire population in under four years, 1975-1979 (it would be like Trump murdering 65-80 million of us). The protagonist is Chum (Greg Watanabe), a fictional young 1970s Cambodian rocker (bass guitar), who survives the notorious real-life S-21 death prison and lives to have a family in the



Aja Wiltshire and Greg Watanabe in **Cambodian Rock Band**.
Photo by Liz Lauren

United States. The antagonist, Comrade Duch (Rammel Chan), is a still-living real figure—a math teacher-turned-Khmer Rouge leader who oversaw the torture and execution of an estimated 20,000 prisoners at S-21.

The play's themes aren't original: How might radical political change affect your life and future? what would you do to survive? what would you compromise or cover up? Numerous plays have explored these themes, from Shakespeare to Brecht to Arthur Miller to the contemporary Vietgone (coincidentally seen earlier this season at Writers Theatre). What's unique about Cambo-

dian Rock Band is that America's sizable Cambodian-heritage minority is less visible (and less economically viable) than other Asian-American communities, so this play offers a peek behind a curtain of sorts.

Under Marti Lyons's direction, *Cambodian Rock*

Band is smashing. Watanabe and Chan are charmingly deft comedians—playwright Lauren Yee excels at smart, often smart-ass comedy—unafraid to use exaggeration for dramatic effect, but equally convincing at impassioned serious moments. Stand-outs among supporting players are Matthew C. Yee as Chum's lead-guitar bandmate and, especially, Aja Wiltshire as Chum's American-born adult daughter and the band's soaring lead vocalist. Yu Shibagaki's mini-rock concert setting and Keith Parham's lighting provide a neutral scene for fluid and swift storytelling.

Cambodian Rock Band is a play with music (not a musical) and some songs aren't part of the story. The most important two that are come in Act II when prisoner Chum sings two politically-important songs to Comrade Duch (one of them a totally-unexpected American song). Other musical highlights are the Act I closing with its driving drum part (Peter Sipla) and the Act II opening ballad, sung by Wiltshire with Yee's lovely liquid lead guitar. Dengue Fever's style is pleasingly retro, echoing fairly primitive late-1960s-to-1970s pre-metal/acid rock. Matt MacNelly is music director.

NOTE: Dengue Fever, the real band, will perform Wed., May 1, at 9 p.m. at Lincoln Hall (across the street from Victory Gardens). Tickets are \$22 (advance or \$25 (door)); visit www.lh-st.com.

SPOTLIGHT



Every other year, Babes With Blades Theatre Company presents a fully staged Shakespeare work cast entirely with actors who identify as female, trans and/or gender-nonconforming, thereby allowing audiences to perceive the Bard's great works through a new lens. This year, the offering is *Othello*, the passionate tale of pride, prejudice, slander and revenge directed by veteran Mignon McPherson Stewart. The large company features 10 Babes With Blades Ensemble members (plus guest artists), among them Fight Director Samantha Kaufman. Babes With Blades, of course, is Chicago's long-established, female-centric stage combat theater troupe. *Othello* is presented at the Factory Theater, 1623 Howard Street. Regular tickets are \$28, through May 25; visit BabesWithBlades.org. Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

"CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

MAKES VICTORY GARDENS THE GO-TO, HIGH-ENERGY OFF-LOOP THEATER OF THE MOMENT..."

WINDY CITY TIMES



VICTORY
GARDENS
THEATER

YOUR
WORLD
ON
STAGE

A PLAY BY LAUREN YEE DIRECTED BY MARTI LYONS

FEATURING SONGS BY DENGUE FEVER

NOW-MAY 5

GET TIX: 773.871.3000 or VICTORYGARDENS.ORG

Leather Archives exhibiting Bearnot's 'Fruiting Bodies'

The Leather Archives and Museum (LA&M), 6418 N. Greenview Ave., is presenting "Fruiting Bodies," a solo exhibition by Andrew Bearnot in the museum's Guest Artist Gallery (GAG).

The exhibition will include new artwork by Bearnot shown alongside archival objects from the LA&M collection, including important artifacts from Chuck Renslow and Sam Steward, as well as the personal erotic correspondence collection of Robert Gaylor (which the LA&M recently acquired).

"Fruiting Bodies" will run through May 12. Admission to the exhibition is included in museum admission (18 and older only). See LeatherArchives.org.

Karen Mason's cabaret in May

Broadway star Karen Mason will debut her new show, "Karen Mason: For the First Time," May 17-18 at 7:30 p.m. and May 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cabaret Room at Drury Lane, 100 Drury Ln., Oakbrook Terrace.

Mason has performed at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Feinstein's 54 Below and many more venues.

The Cabaret Room features a special small-plates menu including a shareable charcuterie-and-cheese platter and bacon-wrapped dates in addition to cocktails and desserts.

Call 630-530-0111 or TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit DruryLaneTheatre.com.

DANCE

Chicago academy's spring event celebrates Alvin Ailey's legacy

BY ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

The high school hallway is quiet. There is nobody standing at the gray lockers, reading in a corner or chatting by the water fountain. The white walls are lined with old, black and white photographs of dancers and flyers of upcoming art performances, and backpacks and shoes lie unattended on the floor.

It's a scene reminiscent of a typical high school experience, despite one key difference: Instead of chatter, lectures or film sounds coming from nearby classrooms, tapping, clapping, live music and heavy breathing seeps out into the hallway.

At the Chicago Academy for the Arts, it's a busy afternoon of dance rehearsal and artful endeavors. More than 20 aspiring dancers, ages 14 to 18, are practicing in the large rehearsal hall for an upcoming performance that is the first of its kind. The academy and longtime donor/supporter Barbara Levy Kipper will present "Icons of Choreography Dance Series" on Saturday, May 4, which will include work by influential choreographers Martha Graham, Gerald Arpino and Alvin Ailey.

The show—which will act as the school's annual spring performance—is an opportunity for dancers to present work that would usually only be seen in premieres from professional dance companies, said Randy Duncan, the dance department chair and an award-winning choreographer/dancer.

"[We wanted to] start a series of well-known choreographers throughout history, so we went to work," Duncan told Windy City Times.

Thanks to "friends in high places," the department was able to get rights to the famous pieces and show the technique and style of each influential choreographer, he said.

Graham was the first dancer to perform at the White House and received high honors worldwide in her more than 70 years of modern dancing. Arpino was the co-founder of Joffrey Ballet and succeeded Robert Joffrey as its artistic director in 1988 until his death in 2008, and choreographed more than a third of all its commissioned ballets. Ailey's iconic, lavish pieces credited him with showcasing modern dance and revolutionizing African-American participation in 20th-century concert dance. Much of his work focuses on relationships, spirituality and sexuality, including same-sex couples. (Ailey himself was gay.)

Excerpts from Graham's "Diversion of Angels," Arpino's "Kettentanz" and Ailey's "Escapades" will be shown during the spring performance, which will also showcase an original by Duncan called "Initiation."

"Escapades" was originally choreographed for the Centro Regionale Della Danza of Italy in 1983. Duncan said he originally wanted to showcase "Night Creatures" but the Alvin Ailey American



Zachary Jeppsen and Mary Adele Campbell rehearse Ailey duet.

Photo by Ariel Parella-Aureli

Dance Theater still performs it, so the Academy was given "Escapades"—still performed by Ailey II, the second dance company he founded—in-stead.

"I wanted the Ailey work because no one ever does the Ailey work outside of Ailey and the second company," Duncan said.

He remembered meeting Ailey in the '70s after he graduated high school and attended the Ailey School on a scholarship; he became friends with the choreographer and was mentored by him. Duncan said Ailey had influence over many dance companies, choreographers and dancers and expanded the diversity, quality of movement and style of the dance world. He also was a celebrated figure in the Black and LGBTQ communities and remains an icon for his theatrical dance work rooted in activism, history and intimate relationships.

"I was very lucky [to see] things through his eyes," he said. "Everyone knows Ailey."

The high school students recognize his prestigious work and impact on the dance community,

Turn to page 26

JOFFREY ★ BALLETT CHICAGO

ASHLEY WHEATER
THE MARY B. GALVIN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



TICKETS
START AT
\$35

ACROSS THE POND

2 WORLD PREMIERES & 1 JOFFREY PREMIERE

APRIL 24–MAY 5
JOFFREY.ORG
312.386.8905

PURCHASE
TODAY!

2018–2019 SEASON SPONSORS



PERFORMS AT:

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

50 E. Ida B. Wells Dr.
Chicago, IL

Alessa Rogers and Christian Clark. Photo by Kim Kenney, courtesy of Atlanta Ballet.

CULTURE CLUB

RICHARD HOLTON JACOB BARNES
JESSE MONTOYA

PRIDE ARTS PRESENTS
AFTERGLOW
BY S. ASHER GELMAN DIRECTED BY DAVID ZAK

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DANIEL WASHELLESKY
STAGE MANAGER MICHAEL STARCHER
MUSICAL CHOREOGRAPHY REED BENTLEY
COSTUME DESIGNER SHAWN QUINLAN
SCENIC DESIGNER KALLEE TOMASCH
LIGHTING DESIGNER DAN LEWIS

PERFORMANCES
▶ OPENING MAR 28

THE BUENA PRIDE ARTS CENTER
4147 N. BROADWAY

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT
PRIDEFILMSANDPLAYS.COM
OR BY PHONE AT 866-811-4111

THE LEGENDARY SINGULAR SENSATION RETURNS!

A CHORUS LINE

NOW PLAYING
PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG

porchlight
AMERICAN MUSICALS, CHICAGO, ILL.

PINOCCHIO

NOW PLAYING → MAY 19TH • THEHOUSE
THEATRE OF CHICAGO

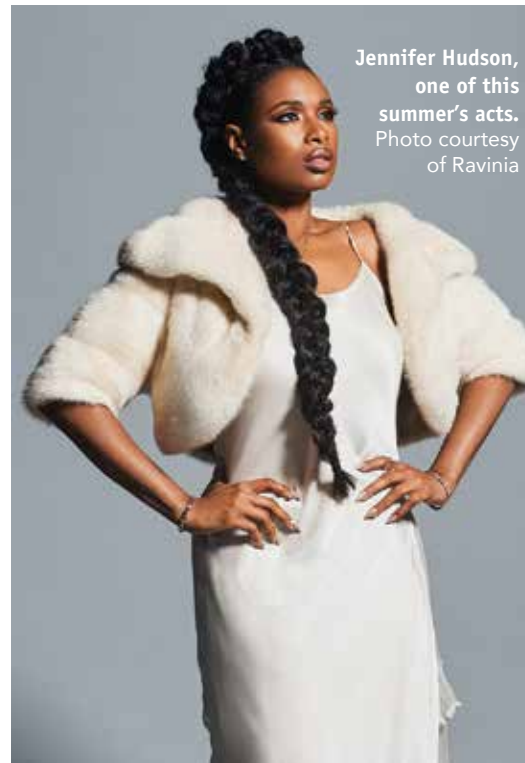
MUSIC

Ravinia CEO Welz Kauffman on upcoming season

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Tony Bennett, Chicago, Queen Latifah and Common, Lionel Richie, Sting, Renee Fleming, Josh Groban, Pentatonix, Jennifer Hudson, Steely Dan, OneRepublic, Kesha, Bobby McFerrin, Sarah McLachlan, Mary J. Blige, Fred Hersch, Matthew Polenzani and Ringo Starr are just some of the musical acts performing this summer at the Highland Park venue Ravinia.

There will be more than 50 artist debuts and 35 festival premieres, including Ravinia's co-commissioning of the last composition of the late Andre Previn, a one-act for Renee Fleming. Nine conductors take the podium for the 84th annual residency of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, including Marin Alsop, returning as curator of Ravinia's multi-season celebration of Leonard Bernstein. (There will also be a Bernstein exhibit.)



Jennifer Hudson, one of this summer's acts. Photo courtesy of Ravinia

Windy City Times recently talked with Ravinia CEO Welz Kauffman—who's helmed the organization since 2000—about this year's acts.

Windy City Times: When it comes to procuring artists for the next season, do you all start immediately after the previous season ends?

Welz Kauffman: That's a really great question. One of the things that makes the process practical and logical is that different artists book at different times.

Classical artists are always way ahead of the game. A great singer like Placido Domingo or Renee Fleming will be [typically] booked six or seven years in advance because they're such big stars. With summer festivals and classical music, it's not THAT far in advance, but I'm pretty much locked for 2020 with [some].

With the non-classical artists—who are about 35-40 per-

cent of what we do—they don't typically like even begin talking with me until Thanksgiving before the coming summer; that's a little bit of a nail-biter. Why do they wait so long? Because if you're Maroon 5 or Lionel Richie or Sting, you're booking six-, eight- or 10-week tours at a time—and box office can [determine] where they go.

And I'm always thinking about who I'd like to have. Stevie Wonder can come whenever he wants to; he's been on my bucket list forever. I've been able to get through most of the bucket list I've had since 2000, which is gratifying. Stevie Nicks came a couple years ago—and she was mad at me because I hadn't been more forceful to get her to come.

I like Joan Baez and Bonnie Raitt summed it up best: They think of Ravinia as a big Park West—which I took as a huge compliment, especially regarding the layout.

This is [perfect] for me. I'm an omnivorous enjoyer of all kinds of music.

WCT: Has the Ravinia line-up always been this diverse? For example, has rap always been there?

WK: I guess one of the questions one has to ask is "How long has rap been around?" It hasn't been around as long as jazz, for example, but you're right. Wyclef Jean and having Mary J. Blige were new to us—but they were such great shows. We want to see many audiences and many different types of people. If they want to see Mary J. Blige one night and Mozart the next, more power to them.

WCT: You're also doing something LGBT-related that's also connected with the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.

WK: So we did [the show "Considering Matthew Shepard"] for the first time last year, and it was the 20th anniversary of his murder. It's a piece I've loved and known for a couple years. No one needs an anniversary to do a piece, but it just came together that way. And this year, we have jazz pianist Fred Hersch; he was out pretty early, and he's a fascinating person and consummate musician.

This year, we're also doing a Leonard Bernstein piece. It's not just that Bernstein was gay or bisexual, but it was a political piece. This was when he and Nixon were battling back and forth; J. Edgar Hoover told Nixon that Bernstein had written lyrics in a secret code to kill Nixon. Also, Leonard was very involved in the times he was living in; he entertained the Black Panthers, for example.

We're not hugely political at Ravinia—but, at the same time, we never shy away from things.

Also, we've collaborated with Center on Halsted, and I've been involved with them [for some time]. Last year, there were some guys named Well Strung, who mix things like Bach and "Call Me Maybe"; they're coming back this year for a farewell tour. We've also worked with the Center on "Considering Matthew Shepard." We were also in the Pride Parade a couple years ago; we had Lea DeLaria, who was the Pride Parade grand marshal, do a show—she's a wonderful singer.

These are wonderful artists. They just happen to be part of the LGBT community.

WCT: You mentioned a bucket list...

WK: ...which includes Bruno Mars.

WCT: What musician do you have retired or even passed away would you have loved to have at Ravinia?

WK: Oh, man. Most recently—partially because I used to work for him—the great composer/raconteur Andre Previn... I would've loved for him to come here, because

Turn to page 29

BOOKS

Inclusive anthology 'Halal' launches at Poetry Foundation

BY KELSEY HOFF

The Poetry Foundation was packed the night of April 11 for the book launch of *Halal If You Hear Me*, a collection of poems and essays by Muslims who are women, queer, genderqueer, non-binary or trans.

The book is the third installment of Haymarket Books' BreakBeat Poets anthology series of writings canonizing poetics in the age of hip-hop. Editors Fatimah Asghar and Safia Elhillo spoke and read their work along with contributors Beyza Ozer, Jacinda Bullie and Edil Hassan.

Asghar and Elhillo read excerpts from each other's forewords—Elhillo reading from Asghar's "Finding the Hammam" and Asghar reading from Elhillo's "Good Muslim/Bad Muslim." Then representatives from an inclusive Islamic community center in the Loop, Masjid al-Rabia, shared their mission and spoke about some of their programs, including an LGBTQIA+ Muslim prison ministry, and facilitated a prayer.

"The poems and essays in The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 3: *Halal If You Hear Me* are the Muslim

community I didn't know I was allowed to dream of. This is the Muslim community my child-self could have blossomed in—proof of the fact that there are as many ways to be Muslim as there are Muslims," Elhillo states in her foreword. She added that it feels good to have this book as an object representing her community that is invisible but nonetheless exists, and she hopes it will help break down walls of compartmentalization on a community level.

"Let us create a poetics that [re-creates] the hammam, where we can come in our real, naked skin, sit in the water, and talk openly. Where all of us—the hijabis, the haraamis, the uncovered, the gender-nonconforming, the queer, the married, the never-married, the virgins, the non-virgins, the brown, the black, the white the yellow—can just be," states Asghar's foreword. According to her, writing poetry has helped her feel "seen." The hammam is a Turkish bath, and Asghar noted in an interview that it would make the perfect place to read *Halal If You Hear Me*.

When asked how many submissions they received for the anthology, Asghar replied, "Way



Safia Elhillo and Fatimah Asghar (seated at table). Photo by Kelsey Hoff

too many." This may have been, in part, due to the number of first-time submitters who felt moved to send in their work because the call was so specific to their identities. It was also a first for both editors, neither of whom had ever edited a major anthology; however, they decided to pursue the idea they came up with together at a Poetry Foundation event in 2016.

The readings covered a wide range of topics, including bodies, borders, death, travel, families, violence, tattoos and more. Readers shared a bit about their identity and why they are compelled to write about it. Coming from Turkish, Choctaw, Appalachian, Sudanese, Somali, Pakistani and Kashmiri backgrounds, they spoke about how their differences from other Muslims and U.S. res-

idents—especially concerning gender and sexual orientation—affected their lives. Many of their poems expressed the beauty and pride they have found in these differences.

The readers adjourned to the Poetry Foundation Library afterward to meet with the audience and sign books. An after-party was held at The Hoxton with music by DJ Cashera, mehndi and tarot.

Because the book was launched during National Poetry Month, it will be available for half off until the end of April through Haymarket Books. A folio of selected poems from the anthology will appear in this month's issue of Poetry Magazine.

See <https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1273-halal-if-you-hear-me>.

BERNSTEIN & SONDHEIM

WEST SIDE STORY

INCLUDING FAVORITES LIKE "MARIA,"
"TONIGHT," "AMERICA," AND MORE!

OPENS NEXT WEEK
MAY 3 - JUNE 2

BROADWAY @ Lyric

A coproduction of Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and Glimmerglass Festival.

Lyric premiere of Bernstein's *West Side Story* generously made possible by Lead Sponsor

The Negaunee Foundation and cosponsors an Anonymous Donor, Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin, Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison, Mrs. Herbert A. Vance and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vance, and Northern Trust. Major in-kind audio support provided by Shure Incorporated.

312.827.5600 | WESTSIDESTORYCHICAGO.COM
SAVINGS FOR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE | 312.827.5720

MOVIES

Director Wanuri Kahiu on groundbreaking film 'Rafiki'

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Director Wanuri Kahiu said there was one main idea that drew her to adapt the 2007 short story "Jambula Tree" for the screen: "It was incredibly important for me to show that falling in love is falling in love, anywhere in the world."

After years of effort on Kahiu's part, the resulting film, *Rafiki*—which translates as "friend," the euphemism many LGBT folks give to their lovers and partners—debuted last year and is just now arriving in many cities in the United States. The film begins a run at the Gene Siskel Film Center on April 24.

Set in Nairobi, Kenya, *Rafiki* depicts the burgeoning relationship between Kena (Samantha Mugatsia), the daughter of a local merchant and city politician, and Ziki (Sheila Munyiva), the daughter of her father's political rival. What starts as an innocent first romance for Kena becomes resistance to one struggle after another. Kena and Ziki must endure homophobia emanating from their church, the toxic masculinity of their male friends and, ultimately, the state itself.

"It was incredibly important for me to make a love story," explained Kahiu. "We don't get to see people from my side of the world falling in love. It's almost assumed that we don't fall in love—we get married and we procreate, but we don't necessarily fall in love."

Kahiu and her colleagues set out to depict Nairobi as an especially sensuous setting in *Rafiki*. Colors pop from the screen in several moments,

from Ziki's colorful outfits to the motorcycle driven by Kena's friend Blacksta. Noises from the cityscape are a constant on its soundtrack, except notably when Kena and Ziki can steal rare and quiet moments together.

"Nairobi is an incredibly colorful place," Kahiu explained. "We had to pay attention to that, and be aware of that. The space we were shooting in it was full of color, and it needed to be part of the technique of the storytelling. We used color ... when the girls were apart from each other, and when they were together, we brought down the colors and made it more subtle and softer, to give them a sense of peace and calm. We did the same thing with the sound."

Rafiki debuted in 2018 as an Un Certain Regard entry at the Cannes Film Festival; it was the first Kenyan film to screen at the festival. But the film's subject matter resulted in it being banned in its home country—except for a one-week run so that the film could qualify as an Academy Awards submission.

"It took seven years to find the financing because people did not want to put money to a lesbian African film," she said. "But we were very persistent, and we were very stubborn. We wanted to create the film, and we also wanted to retain the creative rights to the film. We got some funding from individuals in Kenya, but most of the money came from outside grants and financing."

Kahiu said that she was not surprised by the ban: "They'd banned films before, even cartoons like [Nickelodeon television series] *Hey Arnold!*,



Rafiki.

Stills from Film Movement



for promoting lesbianism or 'gayism,' which is a uniquely Kenyan word, for creating work that goes against norms and values. So we knew that there was a possibility of being banned. A film before ours, called *The Stories of Our Lives* had also been banned. When it happened, I was more disappointed than surprised."

There was "a very, very kind response" from those who did see the film in its brief exhibition window, Kahiu said. "We just received such love, and an overwhelming amount of support."

Kahiu, who said she has both another film and a television series in the works, has been critical

of African filmmakers whose output has largely been formulated in response to non-government organizations and other funders that inadvertently perpetuate stereotypes of African people as Others.

"I make stories of joy and hope," she said. "It's especially important to make stories of joy and hope, especially in the current world, and because we come from a place that is often not displayed with sensitivity and kindness. I have to be quite firm with the way that I create characters and stories that [evoke] the possibilities of what the world can be."

Lakeside Pride Latin Band
presents

"Fiesta de Baile"

Sun, May 5th • 7:00 pm • \$10
Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St

Starting with the very first night of the Stonewall Riots, the Latinx population has been a part of the LGBTQA rights movement. This Cinco de Mayo, the Lakeside Pride Latin Band honors the close relationship between these communities with a red-hot setlist of music. Celebrate with us!

Tickets and details available at
lakesidepride.org/cincomayo

Local designer named Kennedy Center fellow

Local designer Sky Cubacub has been named one of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' newly announced 2019-20 cohort of Citizen Artist Fellows.

Cubacub—a Chicago native—is an artist, designer and the leader of Rebirth Garments, a clothing line created for people on the full spectrum of gender, size, and ability. They are a non-binary, queer and disabled Filipinx whose intersectional identity shapes their art and community organizing work.

Windy City Times recently profiled Cubacub, and the publication named them one of the publication's 30 Under 30 in 2018. They were also named one of the Chicago Tribune's "Chicagoans of the Year" in 2018.

Through a year-long engagement with the Center, Citizen Artist Fellows receive a national platform to advance their work, performance and career-development opportunities, and mentorship from Kennedy Center leadership.



Sky Cubacub.
Photo by Andie Meadows

MOVIES

'Wild Nights' offers novel takes on Dickinson myths

BY MATT SIMONETTE

"Emily Dickinson wished to be published posthumously," says Mabel Todd (Amy Seimetz), the poet's editor, at one point in the new dramatic comedy *Wild Nights with Emily*. "Posthumous" refers to a soul that wishes to more glory in the recognition after death than in life. It's the heaven of the literary world."

But *Wild Nights with Emily* illustrates how such posthumous appreciation implicates an artist's contemporaries for erasing those elements from their life story that they could not fathom.

And in the case of Emily Dickinson—played here by Molly Shannon—that erasure was a literal one, as the references to the great love of her life, her sister-in-law Susan (Susan Ziegler), were indeed physically erased from her poems.

The film sets out to destroy the myth of Emily as a reclusive spinster who never wanted to be published. Set in Amherst Massachusetts, where Emily resided with her sister in a home next door to their brother Austin (Kevin Seal) and his wife Susan, *Wild Nights with Emily* presents Emily and Susan as very much in love, with an ambitious Emily trying unsuccessfully to get published, never finding favor in her lifetime with the (usually male) literary editors who fail to comprehend her prose.

It takes a bit to get with the film's vibe. *Wild Nights with Emily* juxtaposes serious themes of forbidden love and female subjugation with comedic performance styles and direction that would be at home on *The Office* or *Arrested Development*. When Emily presents Susan with a love poem, Susan reads it, guffaws and asks disbelievingly, "Sue forever more? Do you think that speaks to a larger audience?"

What's most incredible about the film, however, is just how well that juxtaposition works. One problem with traditional biopics is that filmmakers for obvious reasons want to be truthful to a story, but must condense and omit details, often leaving behind exposition-laden dialogue. That's not the case here.

Contemporary comedies now trade more in presenting characters in awkward social situations than depicting truly witty repartee. Director and writer Madeleine Olnek does indulge that awkwardness, but she unabashedly uses anachronistic dialogue and performances to highlight what were emotional truths, getting some genuine laughs—a story about Emily and some stray cats, or how Emily arrived at the final version of "Because I Could Not Stop for Death"—along the way.

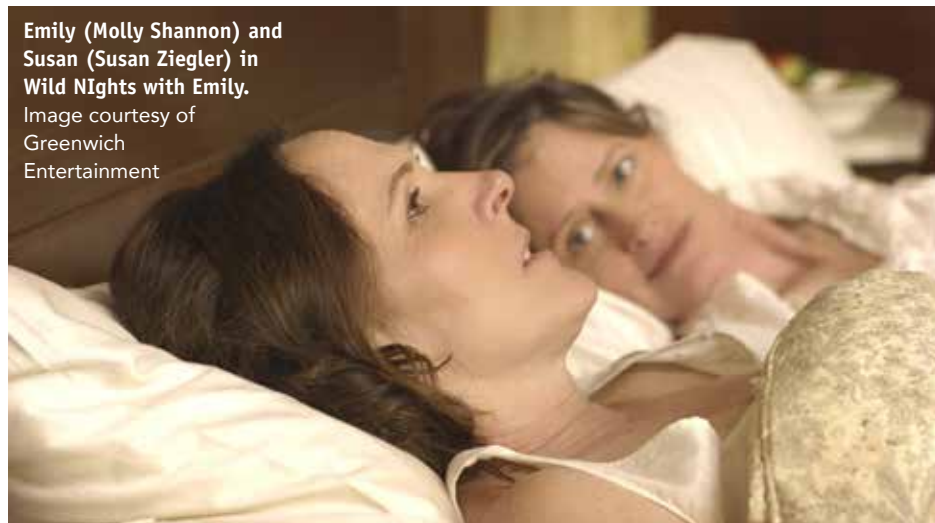
But there are many serious and graceful, even heartbreaking, moments as well; indeed, most of those belong to the married Susan, who in one scene watches from her window as the not-as-

socially-bound Emily trysts with a local widow. It's left to Susan, in fact, to carry out *Wild Night* with Emily's painful finale.

Molly Shannon is excellent as Emily. At times she's oblivious to the implications of her writing, but you know she's not oblivious to the stunted emotions and limited intellectual curiosity of most people around her, save Susan. After an editor patronizes her work for three hours straight, Emily dryly responds, "Thank you for your surgery."

Wild Nights with Emily was obviously shot on a low budget, so don't go expecting Barry Lyndon-

Emily (Molly Shannon) and Susan (Susan Ziegler) in *Wild Nights with Emily*. Image courtesy of Greenwich Entertainment



level production design or cinematography. But Olnek truly has accomplished something special here, mining the history of one of America's greatest poets and locating within it an energy

that's ultimately both funny and sad, but best of all truthful.

Wild Nights with Emily runs this week at Landmark's Century Center Cinema.

RISE!
PRIDEFEST
MILWAUKEE
JUNE 6-9 2019
#STONEWALL50

TICKETS NOW ON SALE PRIDEFEST.COM

PRODUCED BY MILWAUKEE PRIDE INC. /mkepride



INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER

INTERNATIONAL MR. BOOTBLACK

IML 2019

MAY 23-27, 2019 CHICAGO | USA
IMRL.COM

2019 PACKAGES ON SALE NOW

PREMIERE PACKAGE \$240
 CONTEST PACKAGE \$140
 DANCE PACKAGE \$125

*PRICES INCREASE WEEK OF EVENTS
AVAILABLE AT IMRL.COM

FOR IML 2019 WE ARE INTRODUCING A NEW ACCESS POLICY WHICH WILL PROVIDE ENTRY ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE PART OF OUR EVENT AT THE HOST HOTEL. FULL WEEKEND, DAY AND EVENING ACCESS PASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO CAPACITY LIMITS. CHECK WWW.IMRL.COM FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PRICING.

IML LEATHER MARKET

CONGRESS PLAZA HOTEL
 520 S MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO
 FIRST, SECOND & THIRD FLOORS

FRIDAY 12PM-7PM SATURDAY 11AM-7PM
 SUNDAY 11AM-5PM MONDAY 11AM-4PM

PRESENTED BY

LEATHER WERKS

STOMPERS

PLATINUM SPONSOR

alphatribe

SILVER SPONSOR

Harkey's Toys

BRONZE SPONSOR

RYDER GEAR

Touche

WEEKEND PARTNERS

BRÜT AUDITORIUM THEATRE

L&N sportlube

MR. S-LEATHER

f INTERNATIONAL MR LEATHER INC | @IMLCHICAGO | @IMLIMBLIVE

INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER, INTERNATIONAL MR. BOOTBLACK, THE WINGMAN LOGO, AND "IML" ARE ALL TRADEMARKS OR REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER, INC., OR THE RENSLAW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION USED UNDER THE TERMS OF A LICENSING AGREEMENT, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ©2019 INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER

AILEY from page 21

too. Senior Zachary Jeppsen is the male lead in the "Escapades" duet along with Mary Adele Campbell. Jeppsen said Ailey's work taught dancers, especially ballet dancers, how to embrace artistry and not just technique.

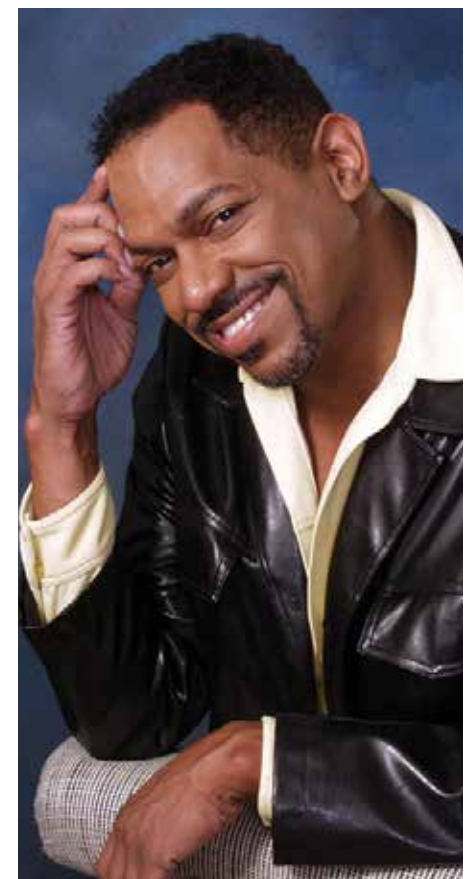
"He is amazing—he has been able to get this jazzy sort of swing and set it on ballet dancers," Jeppsen said. "He opened up a whole new chapter by combining those two art forms and styles of dance that I don't think was not present before."

Jeppsen, who was recently accepted into The Julliard School, has attended the Academy since freshman year and commuted three hours one way from Wisconsin for most of his high school days. Just this year, his parents rented him an apartment in the city to be closer to school. He said working on his dance skills for hours every day has been a growing experience that has led him to Ailey exposure like the upcoming show—which most students do not experience, he said.

Duncan said the department is excited to showcase the incredible work for the first time at the Academy and to have advanced dancers that can perform the pieces.

"With the dance department that we have here, I knew we could do [Ailey's] work great honor," he said.

For more information on the Academy's show and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.chicagoacademyforthearts.org/academy-events/2019/5/4/faculty-and-guest-choreographed-dance-concert>.



Randy Duncan.
 Photo courtesy of Duncan



GRAB A COFFEE. TAKE A SURVEY.
CHANGE THE WORLD.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS EASY.

Take the 13th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey®

Join 45,000 LGBTQ citizens from 150 countries
 to take the largest survey of its kind!

LGBTQsurvey.com

CMI Community Marketing & Insights
Leaders in LGBTQ Research Since 2002

Community Marketing & Insights is Proudly LGBTQ-Operated, Founded in 1992.
 Your survey information is confidential and secure, used for research only.
 You will not be contacted for marketing purposes. Learn more: www.CMI.info



BILLY Masters

"Although my career may seem to glitter with hits, it has also been splattered by plenty of trash. I don't remember who it was that said she only did things she was proud of—I've done SO much I'm not proud of. Oh, I am SO ashamed of SO much of what I've done. And yet, I persevere."—Part of **Bette Midler's** acceptance speech at Variety's "Power of Women" luncheon. She was honored for her work cleaning up NYC with the New York Restoration Project.

Let's start with a clarification. On a recent appearance on NECN's *The Take*, I did not mean to imply that **Joe Biden's** running mate should be **Camilla Parker-Bowles**. Channeling my inner Joan Rivers, I explained, "Camilla, Kamala—whatever!" You can see the full interview on NECN.com or at BillyMasters.com.

Once again, everyone is talking about disgraced former **Rep. Aaron Schock**. Despite all outward appearances, Schock has never once said he's gay. In fact, while in office he supported several pieces of anti-gay legislation. But politics is a complicated business and to have any power, you say what your constituents want to hear. For instance, I know my fans want to hear me call out Schock for being a closet queen, but I won't do it—no siree. There's always a chance he actually believes what he says. Plus, there are gays who support Trump and are Republicans—so, what can I say about them? Not much ... unless they're hot.

But, back to the item at hand. Schock was photographed at Coachella in a group of five hot shirtless guys who have been described as "A-List Gays," which sounds like a terrible show. Two of the buffer bods belonged to openly gay WeHo trainer Keith Anthony and his boyfriend, Tyler Tixier. Does this mean they're all friends? Or do hot gay shirtless guys with single-digit body fat somehow find each other like homing pigeons ... or bats? Then a video was leaked which allegedly shows Schock dancing with and kissing another shirtless guy. And, wait a minute—did Schock's hands disappear into his partner's pants? I think they did. I don't know who the other guy is. To be honest, from the poor lighting and awkward angle, I wouldn't bet my life on the first guy being Schock. What I can do is post the video (and the photos) on BillyMasters.com, and you can decide for yourself.

I would hope it's abundantly clear that I am no expert on Coachella. The last time I was in Palm Springs was for Carol Channing's memorial service, and I was one of the youngest people there. At Coachella, I'd likely be one of the oldest. You can keep the hip crowd. I prefer the hip-replacement crowd—they can't run as fast!

Ryan Reynolds is embracing his feminine side by coveting the tuxedo gown **Billy Porter** wore to the Oscars. Reynolds said, "I loved that guy. He was easily the coolest-looking human of that whole night." When asked if he'd consider such an ensemble, Reynolds said, "You know what? The day is young and, man, he made that look



Yes, Jussie Smollett is still in the news.

PR photo courtesy of The Silverman Group

really good—so who knows?" May I be the first to yell "Cultural appropriation!" on TWO counts—gay and Black. Listen, white straight boy: Back away from the gown unless you've got a secret to share. And, no, waking up in bed with **Brian Beacock** does not count. If it did, scores of studs would be donning dresses right now. It would be an epidemic!

Hot on the heels of his teary interview in *The Boy Band Con* (where I don't believe he actually told all), **Aaron Carter** is changing his tune about **Michael Jackson**. Initially, he was vehemently against anything negative when it came to Jacko. And now? Carter said, "To be honest, after seeing everyone's story unfold, I was a little aggressive when I talked about it at first. Everyone has their own stories, everyone has their own situations. I really can't take away from that. I don't know. In regards to that situation, I actually have my own experience that happened with Michael, so I will be talking about that in the future." Things that make you go, "Hmmm..."

Jussie Smollett—the story that will never die. I think I can say with some certainty, neither will his Empire character. But, future career prospects are looking dim. He was allegedly in the running for a role in the Broadway revival of the play *Take Me Out*, which is being mounted for **Zachary Quinto**. While I don't know how serious the producers were, word is that Jussie is no longer being considered—something I'm told Quinto was adamant about. I mean, really, would you wanna work with him? I wouldn't even trust him doing the lunch run!

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx (who recused herself from the Smollett situation) compared some cases her office worked on. "Pedophile with 4 victims, 10 counts. Washed up celeb who lied to cops, 16. On a case eligible for deferred prosecution, I think it's indicative of something we should be looking at generally. Just because we can charge something doesn't mean we should." In other words—Jussie, you're simply not worth the effort. But the City of Chicago still wants its money. If it's reimbursed for the \$130K spent investigating the "crime," it could all go away. If it goes to court, the system allows the city to demand roughly three times the amount, or \$390K. Tick-tock.

Last summer, the 50th anniversary revival of

SATURDAY
MAY 4

DERBY DAY
 AT
SIDETRACK

WATCH ON THE SIDETRACK
BIG SCREEN

HOSTED BY
 DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT
**BEST HAT &
 BEST DRESSED
 CONTESTS**

DOORS OPEN AT 1PM
 ENJOY DERBY SPECIALTY
 COCKTAILS

NO COVER

WOODFORD
 RESERVE

BLUE MOON

IT'S
DOG DAY AFTERNOON
 IN GLASS, SIDE, BACK & ROOFTOP BARS

3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM

The Boys in the Band was a hit on Broadway. It broke box-office records and recouped its investment, thanked in no small part to an all-star cast and expert direction by **Joe Mantello**. The original cast made history by also appearing in the 1970 film version. This revival will follow suit when it is made into a film, courtesy of Netflix (once again, produced by **Ryan Murphy**). The entire ensemble—**Jim Parsons, Zachary Quinto, Matt Bomer, Andrew Rannells, Tuc Watkins, Charlie Carver, Robin de Jesus, Michael Benjamin Washington and Brian Hutchison**—will spend its second summer together shooting this film in LA. It'll hit the air in early 2020.

When we're already looking forward to the summer, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Did I mention that New England Cable News dubbed me *The Gossip King*? So, my loyal subjects, check out BillyMasters.com—the site where you needn't stand on ceremony. In fact, I always have time for my fans. Reach out and touch me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Schock gets his hands out of my pants! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

ORIGINAL
 CHIPPEWA
 EST. 1801

CHIPPEWA BOOT SALE

35% OFF

ALL IN-STOCK SIZES AND STYLES

Chippewa Troopers
 worn by
 Michael Pacas
 MR. LEATHER & TEN 2015

SALE GOOD THROUGH
 MAY 23, 2019

LEATHER & TEN
 CHICAGO

6410 N Clark St, Chicago, IL
 773.598.0900 | WWW.LEATHER&TEN.COM

the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Le Colonial; Benny's bar bites

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

While that phrase may seem a bit contradictory, it's the truth when it comes to Gold Coast French-Vietnamese restaurant **Le Colonial** (57 E. Oak St.; <http://www.lecolonialchicago.com/>), which has recently undergone a major alteration: namely, its address. Le Colonial has moved from its longtime Rush Street spot—around the corner to Oak Street.

And while a move might cause some disruption or change when it comes to aspects such as quality of service or cuisine, neither has apparently happened with Le Colonial, which still continues to impress on both fronts.

Having lunch there recently, I temporarily felt as if I had been teleported to Vietnam—or even the set of a film such as *Indochine*. Everything from the placement of paintings to the use of certain plants helped convey an almost tropical feel.

As for drinks, the Chanh Day (Grey Goose vodka, passionfruit and fresh lime) is suitably refreshing, and I predict many requests for this during the summer months—and imagine yourself



Le Colonial's bo bia.
Photo by Neil Burger

having one of these while dining on the balcony. Other intriguing-sounding cocktails include the Eternal Spring (Grey Goose Le Poire, Domaine de Canton ginger liqueur, cucumber, pear and basil) and the mango margarita. In addition, there are some cool mocktails (named after the seasons), such as the Mua Xuan ("spring"), which mixes blackberries, lemon juice, Sprite and mint. For those who want beer and/or wine, there are also plenty of choices.

Lunch was delicious, to say the least—and it might be hard for diners to pick a favorite item. Appetizers include bo bia (soft salad rolls with carrots, jicama, bean sprouts, egg, peanuts and herbs, with peanut dipping sauce), cha gio (spring rolls of shrimp, pork and Asian mushrooms, with chili-lime dipping sauce) and banh cuon (steamed ravioli of chicken and mushrooms, with chili-lime dipping sauce).

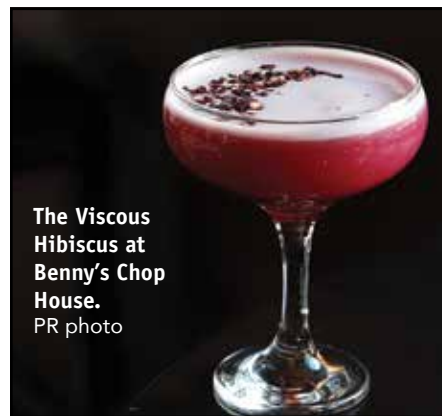
There's also a pretty cool line-up of salads (all served over mesclun greens). Try the goi bun so (grilled sea-scallop salad with egg noodles, garlic rice noodles and lime vinaigrette) or the very good bo luc lac (warm, seared filet mignon over watercress with red-wine vinaigrette). And for the entrees, I urge you to try Le Colonial's signature

chicken fried rice; not only is it delicious in the restaurant—but it tastes wonderful even after taking it home and microwaving the dish. However, there are plenty of other options, including ca nuong (grilled salmon over vermicelli noodles) and com bo (basically, the bo luc lac with egg and tomato rice).

Even dessert is lovely. While I experienced the opera cake (supremely delicious), others may want to try the chocolate mousse cake, creme brûlée, lemon tart and other offerings.

Benny's bar bites

When it comes to deciding where to stop after work, you may want to consider **Benny's Chop House** (444 N. Wabash Ave.; <http://www.bennyschophouse.com/>), which offers cool cocktails (like the Viscous Hibiscus), live music—and some mouth-watering (and affordable) dishes.



The Viscous Hibiscus at Benny's Chop House.
PR photo

Bacon nachos (\$10.99) can feed two or three people, and come with organic blue chips as very thick chunks of meat. However, as good as the nachos are, the lobster grilled cheese (\$16.99) is

almost too good (and rich) for words; I actually had to silently enjoy the first couple bites—and my dining partner understood. Top things off with a lemon tart (and opt for a limoncello with it).

By the way, Benny's has some new dishes, including wild Canadian whitefish, prosciutto-wrapped sea scallops and that aforementioned tart.

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



NAME
"Otter Chaos comes from the slang term for slim, hairy gays: Otter. I used this term to create a pun on the phrase "utter chaos" since I'm hairy and unpredictable."

PRONOUNS
They/them

FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"My first time in gender-fluid drag was when I was 15 and I went to school for Halloween as a Club Kid. I didn't perform in drag until Pride 2011; Otter was born in 2014, when I decided to take my drag back to the gender fluidity that first inspired me."

DRAG INSPIRATION

"Seeing Party Monster when I was in high school—I knew that I wanted to be as fabulous as them. Nowadays, I draw inspiration from everywhere: Pop culture; art; horror; cosplay; or even just looking at an object and seeing its potential as a costume piece. I love playing with gender expression, finding ways to be both and neither."

GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY A CROWD

"If I want to grab an audience's attention I strap on the pointe shoes (I'm a classically trained ballet dancer) and do 'Shatter Me' by Lindsey Sterling."

FUN FACT

"I've performed in a ballet production of the Nutcracker every winter since I was 5 years old."

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"Jackhammer as a cast member in Babes in Boyland, where you can catch me with Monica Beverly Hillz, Lila Star, rotating hosts Dida Ritz and Mikki Miraj, and special guests every Thursday night around 1 am."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: otter.chaos.7
Instagram: /otterlychaotic

Photo by
Jacob Bjorge



Spinning history at the Wax Trax night with
DJs Greg Haus and JenaMax.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTIQUES

Two Great Shows!

CHICAGOLAND'S NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
MILITARY EXTRAVAGANZA

+ Collector Arms
Dealers Association

ARMS SHOW

SATURDAY

APRIL 27

Show Hours: 9am to 4pm / \$9
Early Buyer's 8am / \$25 • Free Parking

• 1,000's of Civil War Treasures •
Revolutionary War • Spanish-American War Indian
Wars • Mountain Men • Bowie Knife
Fur Traders • AND World Wars I & II Memorabilia
Plus! GUNS • Vintage • Pistols • Rifles • Parts
Military • Knives & Swords • Shotguns • Ammo
Zurko Promotions 715-526-9769

www.CADAGunshow.com

www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds
WHEATON, IL

2015 W. Manchester • Wheaton, IL 60189

\$2.00 OFF WITH THIS AD!

ESTATE SALE

BROADWAY, HOLLYWOOD MEMORABILIA. Framed posters, CDs, record albums, books, decorative pieces. Some vintage. Some autographed. Lots of great stuff. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27 at 1335 W. Fillmore St., Chicago in Little Italy. (4/24/19-1)

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT ORGANIZING AND CLEANING SERVICES:especially for people who need an organizing service because of depression, elderly, physical or mental challenges or other causes for your home's clutter, disorganization, dysfunction, etc. We can organize for the downsizing of your current possessions to more easily move into a smaller home. With your help, we can help to organize your move. We can organize and clean for the deceased in lieu of having the bereaved needing to do the preparation to sell or rent the deceased's home. We are absolutely not judgmental; we've seen and done "worse" than your job assignment. With your help, can we please help you? **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (9/16/20-52)**

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME? Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. Michael@BlandTherapy.com / www.BlandTherapy.com (9/26/19-52)**

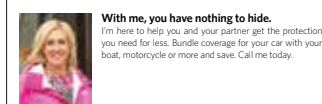
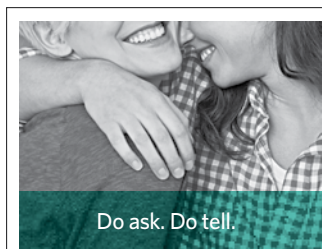
HELP WANTED

WANTED MAN FOR SENIOR Lake Shore Drive resident. Housework, laundry, meals, errands, cat care, elder care. \$100 a day, three days a week. Call 773-935-6016 to arrange an interview. (4/24/19-3)

HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

WE MAKE HOLES IN DRYWALL GO AWAY. We also do Remodeling, Bathrooms, Carpentry, Tile Backsplashes, Painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One-year Warranty. **Free Estimates! Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 www.andyonthecallchicago.com (4/24/19-60)**

INSURANCE



CHAR SCHOENBACH
773-525-3030
3322 N HALSTED ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60657
cschoenbach@allstate.com



Covers vary by product line & state. Subject to terms, conditions & availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Ins. Co., Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. 2715 Sanders Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062. © 2011 Allstate Insurance Co.

LEGAL

Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 248-8887

RAVINIA from page 22

we actually have the premiere of what we think was the last work he ever wrote. That's happening in July with Renee Fleming and the Emerson String Quartet.

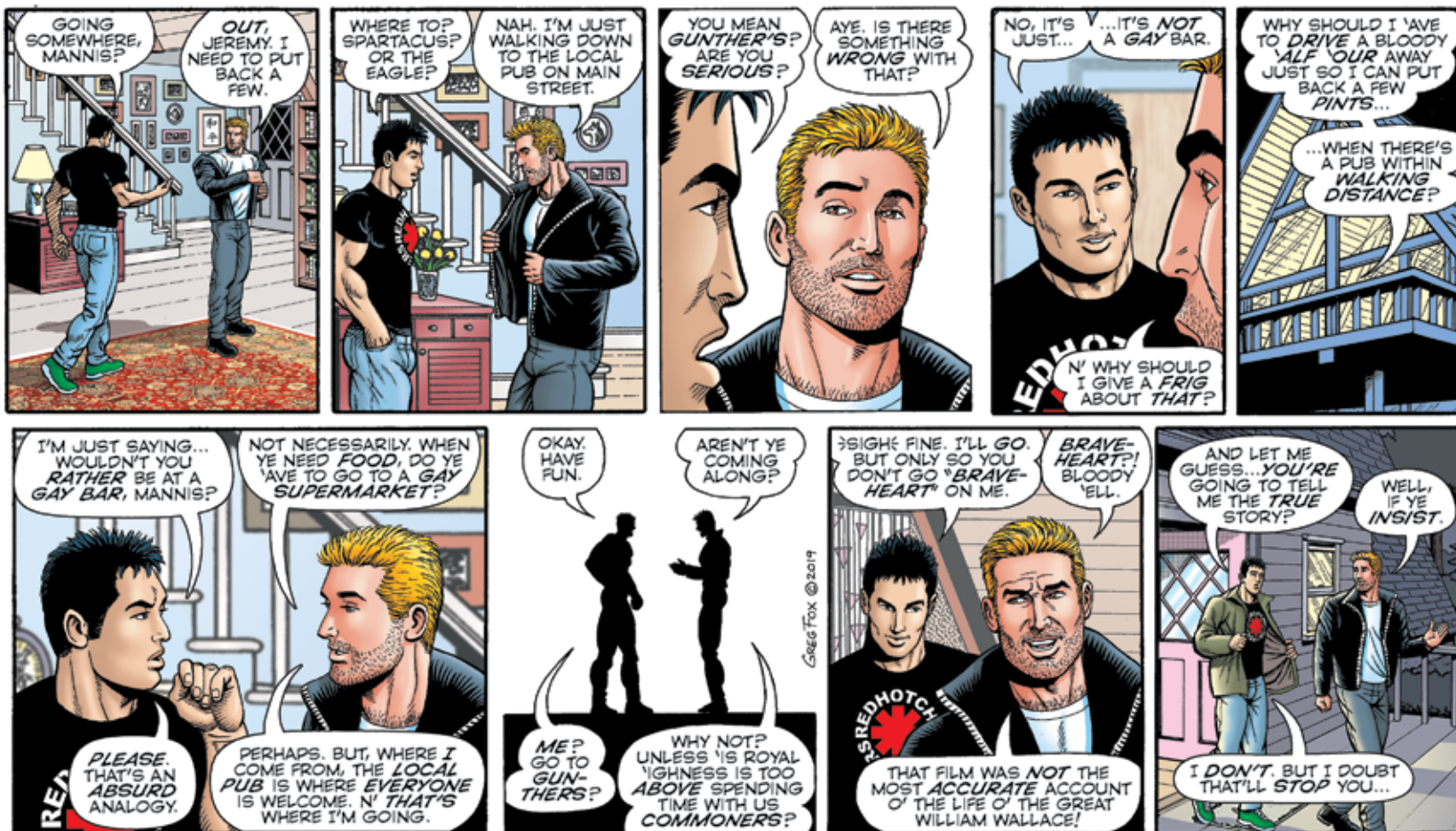
And, Andre revered Bernstein; they were incredibly alike—writing for film, concert hall, Broadway, opera, as well as conducting and being great television personalities. They had charisma, and were witty and super-smart.

Who else? We had Ella [Fitzgerald], Sarah Vaughan, Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington, but would still love to them [again]. Definitely, Tom Petty was on my bucket list; we got close but it never happened. Elvis—why not?

For more, visit <https://www.ravinia.org/>.

KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., April 24

OUT at CHM: Out of This World Kim Hunt, executive director of Pride Action Tank, moderates a panel discussion about the vibrant history of LGBTQIA themes in speculative fiction (science fiction, comics, and fantasy). Reception to follow. \$20, \$15 members and students 6:30pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark Chicago <http://www.chicagohistory.org/event/out-of-this-world/>

Wild Nights with Emily Film about little-known LGBT history of iconic poet Emily Dickinson, starring Molly Shannon. While seeking publication of some of her 1,775 poems, she faces male literary gatekeepers too confused by her genius to take her work seriously. 11:25 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7 p.m. 10:00pm Landmark Century Centre Cinema 2828 N Clark Chicago Tickets: <http://www.wildnightswithemily.com/tickets/>

Thursday, April 25

Dining Out for Life Founded in 1991, the annual, international event raises vital funds for HIV/AIDS service organizations. Participating restaurants donate a percentage of their daily sales to benefit TPA. List of participating restaurants at the link. 9:00am - 10:00pm Various locations <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/city/chicago/>

Friday, April 26

I'm Gonna Pray for You Hard A precocious and fiercely competitive actress with a



JUST FOR LAUGHS
Sunday, April 28

Poppy Champlin will lead the Queer Queens of Qomedy at The Laugh Factory.

PR photo courtesy of Champlin

desperate need to make her father David, a famous playwright, proud and how we build and break idealized versions of our loved ones. Through May 18 7:30pm The Den Theatre 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://firstfloor-theater.com>

Jai Ho: Floral Print by Trikone Chicago Jai Ho! is a queer dance party. Dress in your fantastic florals. Desi music

(courtesy DJ Nevin S. Hersch) and spectacular performances curated by Masala Sapphire. salsalam@trikonechicago.org 10:00pm - 2:00am Big Chicks 5024 N. Sheridan Rd.

Saturday, April 27

Gerber Hart Annual book sale In the Atrium (down the hall from the library, LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ fiction and non-fiction books, videos, and erotica. 10:30am - 2:30pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus's Big Package Auction Live entertainment from Meghan Murphy: The Big Red Show, comedy, music, gourmet food, cocktails, silent and live auctions. Hosted by the Vixen 5:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago www.cgmc.org/2019-events/bpa/?fbclid=IwAR3Jtxs5JDZUX6teDejWPmKr1KucBiiU51qzYk7MjOgR8hPTYmbiQmLFQ

Bi-Queer Poetry & Open Mic Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago Meetup 7:30pm - 9:30pm The Hatchery Chicago, 135 N. Kedzie Ave., <https://secure.meetup.com>

Sunday, April 28

Queer Queens of Qomedy featuring Poppy Champlin All female all lesbian comedy show is back by popular demand with Champlin Sonya White and Gwen LaRoka 4:30pm The Laugh Factory Chicago 3175 N Broadway Chicago www.laughfactory.com/clubs/chicago

Monday, April 29

HRC Social Share stories to share about the recent Lobby Day and Equality Convention in DC and the importance of reintroducing the Equality Act 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cantina Laredo, 508 N. State St [http://www.eventbrite.com/e/hrc-](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/hrc-social-tickets-59140900024?aff=erelexpmlt#tickets)

social-tickets-59140900024?aff=erelexpmlt#tickets

Tuesday, April 30

MCA Women's Board Luncheon, Visionary: Celebrating Judy Chicago MCA Women's Board honors iconic artist Judy Chicago, artist, feminist, educator, author, and influencer known for The Dinner Party, at a luncheon event in support of arts education and public outreach programs that inspire local youth to find their civic voices. 12:00pm Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-397-4017 Tickets: <http://www.mcachicago.org/visionary>

Wed., May 1

Cherrie Moraga, Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir Cherrie Moraga, is a brilliant, pioneering, queer Latina feminist, writer and cultural activist whose work serves to disrupt the dominant narratives of gender, race, sexuality, feminism. Registration is required 6:00pm DePaul University Student Center, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Spring LGBTBE Workshop A day of education and chance to create 30-second video pitch about your business. LGBT business enterprise thinking about certification? Interested in winning a trip to the NGLCC International & Business Leadership Conference in Tampa from Aug. 13-16? 6:30pm - 7:30pm Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, 200 E. Randolph <http://glchamber.chambermaster.com>

Thursday, May 2

Chelsea Clinton, Don't Let Them Disappear Book Signing New book introduces young readers to a selection of endan-

gered animals and provides important tips on what we all can do to help prevent these animals from disappearing from our world entirely. Register online 5:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Saturday, May 4

Energizing Change: Charlene Carruthers and adrienne maree brown in Conversation. 3:00pm - 4:15pm Columbia College, Conway Center <https://www.chicagohumanities.org/events/energizing-change-charlene-carruthers-and-adrienne-maree-brown-conversation/>

Sunday, May 5

Chicago House's Annual Spring Brunch and Fashion Show "Rhapsody on the Runway," will pay homage to the iconic rock band Queen and the 1970s era. Guests can expect a floral market with custom hand-tied arrangements, and a runway experience featuring local Chicago boutiques and design studios as well as nationally acclaimed designers. Emceed by NBC reporter Chris Hush. Three-course brunch 12:00pm Winter Garden at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St. <http://ChicagoHouse.org>

Tuesday, May 7

OUTspoken! LGBTQ Storytelling at Sidetrack Monthly event celebrating uniquely personal stories from across the LGBTQ community. Doors to Main, Cherry and Back Bars open at 6pm (arrive early for Main Bar seating) with Stories from 7pm. 3349 N. Halsted St., <https://www.facebook.com/events/1331510856952670/>

CONNEXIONS

Alan Sanchez, CPA, P.C.

Accounting Services
Tax Consultation/Preparation

3418 North Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657-8589

Telephone 773-871-1256
www.alansanchezcpa.com

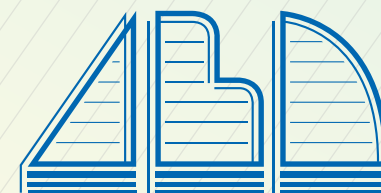
THE LYSTER FIRM

ATTORNEYS
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years

TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL
LysterFirm@aol.com
24/7 Emergency Phone : 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced
attorney within minutes who
will fight for you



ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS
PROFESSIONALS
BUSINESS OWNERS

www.abd-cpas.com • (847) 257-7330

CONNEXIONS

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



PROBATE
TRUSTS
GUARDIANSHIP
ESTATE PLANNING
ELDER LAW

312.985.5938 | rkoenig@clarkhill.com

Clark Hill is a multidisciplinary, national law firm that draws on our attorneys' industry and policy knowledge, our deeply held shared values, and a global network of premier firms and advisors to provide innovative legal solutions and client-service excellence worldwide.

CLARK HILL

clarkhill.com

Loving fully.

Counseling and Therapy
thejunipercenter.com
847.759.9110
info@thejunipercenter.com

Becoming whole.

Park Ridge · Oak Park · Chicago · Northfield · Barrington

FRAMING CHICAGO'S ART SINCE 1991

ilolo
CUSTOM FRAMING

1478 W. Berwyn, Andersonville

The Law Office of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



*When experience counts...
In service to the community
for over 35 years.*

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602
312-263-8800 RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

Ehrlich Dental General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online



Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL
(773) 935-0300

www.EhrlichDental.com



Serving Lakeview & Beyond!

ROOFING • BRICKWORK 773-384-6300

SECOND CITY
ROOFING & EXTERIORS



More than 30,000 satisfied customers
have trusted Second City with their
Roofing & Tuckpointing—for over 40 years.

LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED—IL ROOFING LIC. #104.013526

FREE Estimates • NO MONEY Down! • EASY Financing

SecondCityConstruction.com

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON CAR ACCIDENT, WORK INJURY OR ORTHOPAEDIC INJURY

- BACK
- SHOULDER
- ELBOW
- WRIST
- HAND
- HIP
- KNEE
- ANKLE
- FOOT



GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE AND HAND SURGERY
ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.

Conveniently located at 7200 N. Western Ave., 2nd Floor

312-654-8800

www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com

¡Se habla Español!



Hector Cerda
773-782-6300



Allstate
You're in good hands.

© 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

258018

"Dr. Plawer was warm, welcoming and respectful of my preferences (including pronouns). She made me feel comfortable so that I could share my concerns and questions."
— from a patient

DR. MIRIAH PLAWER,
Board Certified OB-GYN



MIDWEST CENTER FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE
Exceptional care one patient at a time.



Evanston and Glenview offices

www.mcwhc.com

847-869-3300



DINING OUT FOR LIFE | CHICAGO

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Enjoy dinner or drinks at these establishments to support TPAN.

Proceeds from the participating restaurants below* will support TPAN's care and services for people affected by HIV and health disparities across Chicago.

Andies Restaurant
 Angelina Ristorante
 Ann Sather
 Anna Maria Pasteria
 Anteprema
 Big Chicks
 Bistec
 Broadway Cellars Bar and Grill
 Burke's Public House
 Byron's Hot Dogs
 Cherry Circle Room
 Chicago Diner Lakeview
 Crio
 Drew's on Halsted
 Elixir Andersonville
 Elixir Lounge Lakeview
 Ella Elli

Fajita Factory
 Farmhouse Evanston
 Francesca's Bryn Mawr
 Hamburger Mary's
 Hutch American Kitchen + Bar
 Hydrate Nightclub
 Jackhammer
 Koi Fine Asian Cuisine
 Marchesa
 Mas All Del Sol
 Meeting House Tavern
 Mia Francesca
 Nookies Edgewater
 Pub 626
 Replay Andersonville
 Replay Beer and Bourbon
 Lakeview

Rock Bottom Restaurant
 and Brewery
 Rogers Park Social
 Space 519
 The Chicago Diner Logan
 Square
 The Dearborn
 The Lobby at
 The Peninsula Hotel
 The SoFo Tap
 Tricycle
 Tweet, Lets Eat
 Uncommon Ground Edgewater
 Veranda Pizza & Coffee
 Yoshi's
 Z Bar at The Peninsula Hotel

Check tpan.com/diningout for the latest complete listing, or invite your favorite spot to join us!

EAT. DRINK. GIVE.



tpan.com/diningout