

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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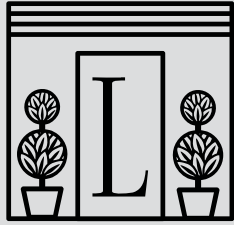
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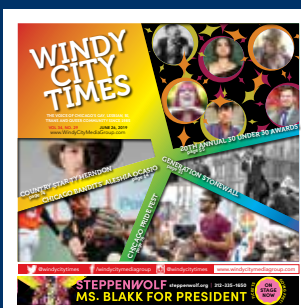


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SISTER ACT

The Veronicas—composed of identical twin sisters Lisa and Jessica Origliasso—discuss music and marriage equality.
Photo (left) by Brian Ziff

FEEL THE HEAT



WCT feels the heat in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona.

Photo by Andrew Dvaxis

TRIP ADVISOR

Gaywheels urges people to celebrate Pride by embarking on road trips.

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Find out the latest about Billy Porter, Angelina Jolie and Queer Eye.

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Scholar/producer to receive new honor, speaks on life goals

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Aymar Jean Christian, Ph.D., has dedicated his life to communicating with meaning. Now the scholar, producer, founder and writer/director is being recognized for his work with the first Leaders for a New Chicago award, courtesy of The Field Foundation.

Christian grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey. The child of Caribbean immigrants, he was raised to work hard in school.

"It was a context in which my parents sort of knew I was going to be one of the few Black kids in class and wanted me to understand the barriers behind me," said Christian. "But on a day-to-day basis it wasn't like I was ever teased or harassed or called the 'N' word or anything like that, so I was able, I think, to develop a sense of self and, you know, very slowly a sense of confidence in my own abilities in that particular space."

While attending public schools, he was a straight-A student. He then went on to attend the University of Michigan on a full scholarship. It was his first experience of the Midwest and where he realized in an American culture class that writing was something he liked and a skill he had. During his undergraduate years, he was a reporter for the university's newspaper, covering campus and state politics.

"I realized I had a knack for talking to people that I disagreed with, but fairly representing their views and really hearing them and [I] loved it," said Christian.

Christian went on to study communication at University of Pennsylvania where he earned his Master's degree and Ph.D.

"That was about the time that YouTube was starting, so I [thought] maybe I could do video blogs, so I wrote a couple papers on that and it was through video blogs that I discovered people making scripted shows for the web," recalled Christian, eventually deciding to study new media and how people express their identities online in grad school.

Christian is currently a tenured professor of communication at Northwestern University. He and his partner also celebrated 12 years together. When he is not working, the social Christian enjoys Chicago summer activities, music and dancing, watching TV and going out to local events, especially performance art, theater, dance, live music, poetry readings or variety showcases in support of local organizations.

His writing can be seen in his blog Televisual, academic journals, scholarly publications and his first book, *Open TV: Innovation Beyond Hollywood and the Rise of Web Television*, which examines how the internet transformed television. He is also now working on his second book.

"The internet changed how TV could be developed, opening it up to independent producers

without any connection to major stakeholders in Hollywood and making it more culturally sincere and flexible in the ways stories are told, produced and distributed," said Christian. "Open TV charts the democratization of television, especially after the advent of streaming video, a moment when it seemed possible to have TV by and for the people."

"I hope to open people's eyes to the richness of America's creative landscape by introducing them to a ton of new creators, stories, companies, and innovators," said Christian of what he hopes readers take away from *Open TV: Innovation Beyond Hollywood and the Rise of Web Television*.

Christian said he is driven to come up with new ways of understanding culture broadly.

"The way I do that is by working with artists and communities, which is something I think scholars have done throughout the years, but I really wanted to do it to the max, and my hunch was by maybe being in it with artists and communities as we try to create equity in culture would lead me to a deeper understanding of the value of culture, specifically the value of cultures that have historically been undervalued."

Christian founded Open Television (OTV) in 2014 and serves as its head of research and development. With research and development as its mission, OTV is an online platform for various intersectional pilots and series that supports and showcases the work of Chicago artists.

For this project, Christian said he was inspired by Chicago and the many spaces for intersectional artists to perform and exhibit their talents. What he was seeing in Chicago in his own life, was not depicted on television.

"In 2014 there was no 'Pose,' there was no 'Empire,'" Christian recalled. "There were really no shows about Black, queer people, which is what I identify with. ... It really was after 2015 that television started to catch this wave and I don't think it was until after the election that people really started to buy into the avant-garde, innovative, intersectional shows. We were very much ahead of the curve and for me I was just following my instinct and noticing these troubling dynamics of 'there's so much TV, but so many people are still underrepresented.'"

While a large percentage and even the majority of the works on OTV are LGBTQ, Christian confirms the platform is really about intersectionality.

"People can see America on OTV, through the lens of Chicago artists," Christian explained. "Most of the country are women, people of color, queer and trans folks, disabled or undocumented. Chicago artists are skillfully representing the diversity of the American experience, and through that lens we see a global, culturally specific yet universally relatable type of TV platform we've never yet seen."

Christian said OTV is expanding and preparing



Aymar Jean Christian.

Photo by Glitter Guts

for even more things. He explained that when people watch OTV, he wants to see their minds expanded and for them to "yearn for more representation and the possibility of seeing all of America on screen."

He enthusiastically named a few shows that appear on OTV that he wants people to tune into, including: *Kissing Walls*, a show about being young, Black and queer in Chicago; *Just Call Me Ripley*, OTV's first scripted series from trans, masculine-identified creator Shannon Noll who uses they/them pronouns; and others.

"I want people to watch OTV and ask themselves why doesn't all the rest of my TV look like this," said Christian. "Why are there now 500, almost 600, shows released every year across all these platforms, many of us are now paying to get these shows, and while it's wonderful that we have 'Pose,' that's been renewed for season three and we have 'Special' on Netflix, intersectionality on TV is still the exception rather than the rule and for the fraction of the budget of television, you go on OTV, you have 62 programs from all different kinds of people who, generally speaking, are not really represented on TV."

"I love showcasing emerging artists and believe that any true platform provides an opportunity for new voices to emerge," Christian added. "I

use my research and development skills to show people the beauty and necessity of cultivating talent at the local, small scale level, because it's critical to the health and sustainability of the culture as a whole."

In June, the Field Foundation named Christian as one of 14 recipients of the inaugural Leaders for a New Chicago award. The award is supported by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to grow the definition of leadership in Chicago.

The Leaders for a New Chicago award acknowledges a range of established and emerging leaders who work across boundaries to create a Chicago that is responsive and more racially equitable.

"I think it's so great that the Field Foundation and the McArthur Foundation recognizes that local leaders in Chicago do a lot of unpaid labor and give a lot of themselves to work for their communities," Christian said of the award. "What's so great about this award is it awards both the leader and the organization."

"It feels very validating and feels like the work that I've put into this project was not in vain," he added.

To learn more about Aymar Jean Christian, visit ajchristian.org.

Lambda Legal celebrates



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WE'RE HERE WITH PRIDE

Lori Lightfoot discusses first month on the job

BY MATT SIMONETTE

After about a month on the job, Mayor Lori Lightfoot is settling into her new job on City Hall's fifth floor.

Never before has a Pride-month celebration been so important for the city's mayor. Lightfoot, Chicago's first Black openly lesbian mayor, will be grand marshal in the Pride parade on June 30.

The mayor sat down with Windy City Times to discuss her administration's plans, her thoughts on Pride and how her family is managing her new job.

Windy City Times: How has it been having Pride coincide with your first month on the job?

Lori Lightfoot: It is obviously has taken on a lot of meaning with my being in office, with my being the first LGBTQ+ who's ever been mayor of the city. ... We met earlier today to talk about preparations for the Pride march. My wife and I are very excited about this opportunity.

WCT: Speak a bit about what your main priorities will be for the city's LGBT community in the months ahead.

LL: What I look forward to is executing the issues that we laid out in our LGBTQ+ policy, particularly focused around our youth and the trans members of the community.

WCT: Have you been able to get anything started?

LL: The biggest thing we can do is make sure that we are reaching out to folks and providing for their safety. Fundamentally, you know the statistics—we've a number of unsolved homicides and assaults against trans women in particular. So I want to make sure that we're doing everything that we can to make sure that the police are much more diligent and that we are providing a web of safety, but I think those members of the trans community are particularly vulnerable. We need to be much more diligent there.

We come into office mid-budget cycle, so we're trying to do what we can to give promise to having liaisons to the community—a number of people are doing double-duty. There are a number of out folks in my administration ... but I want to make sure that as, part of the engagement process, there aren't just people serving only the North Side Boystown or Andersonville [areas] but also other parts of the city.

WCT: What can the community expect from your administration in terms of insuring equity for all parts of the community?

LL: I'm excited that Candace Moore is going to start soon [as the city's chief equity officer]. We announced her early in my administration. She's been following up in divesting herself of her previous employment. She knows and embraces the fact that equity inclusion also includes our community. So I look forward to working with her as she frames out her vision of the community.

But, across all of our deputy mayors and senior staff in the mayor's office, the idea of equity inclusion is going to be a consistent, guiding force.

Candace will have a part in framing that and looking at the major initiatives, but it's going to be part of our public engagement—when we look at education and human services—[as well as] economic development. Those themes and realities of equity inclusion are going to be a central part of what we do as an administration.

WCT: What have you done so far on the issue of housing stability?

LL: One [thing] is hire a really good housing commissioner, Marisa Novara. She comes to us from the Metropolitan Planning Council [MPC], where she did a lot of work on equitable housing issues. She was one of the lead authors on the MPC's report on the cost of segregation. She knows that making sure that we are looking creatively at ways we can open up affordable housing options for vast numbers of constituencies and that it's quite important—whether it's seniors, or the members of the Latinx community, who've been particularly hard hit.

Families are having a hard time staying in the city, so she has a very clear mandate from me, as well as the voters to get this right and come up with a housing policy that really starts reverse this trend that we're seeing—which is that people are beginning to feel like they can't afford to live in the city anymore.

WCT: You told WTTW a few weeks back that you've been "pushing" Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson in terms of deploying preventative anti-crime measures. How are you going to approach public safety to carry those measures out while making sure that particular populations are not over-policed?

LL: I think that's really important. This is an iterative process, of course, but I think it's important that, one, we have a diverse group of officers that's reflective of the community. We still have a lot of work to do in that area, in recruiting, retention and training of officers, to make sure that they are representative of the community.

Another thing is that we need to have liaisons—plural—into various communities. For a long time—I think, still—we have only one LGBTQ+ liaison officer, which is woefully insufficient. That's something we're going to be looking to change by expanding the number of liaisons for our community. Ideally, I'd like to see somebody of rank—meaning not just a line officer, although that's important, too—but the police department is a paramilitary organization with a chain of command; it really matters a lot. You can tell how important an issue is by virtue of resources devoted, particularly the rank of the officer who is the point person.

More generally, we have to continue engaging our community in the hard and important work in their public safety. That requires an ethos within the department that is a respectful, constitutional engagement with the community. That's the most valuable tool. What that looks like, and how those relationships are formed, and the depth of those relationships, will vary by community. What



Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

Photo by Matt Simonette

one community may need—and feel is needed for the right parameters of a relationship—might vary. But the engagement has to happen, be ongoing and real, and be something that the department is fully onboard and committed to.

WCT: Do you have a timeline established for getting the new liaisons in place?

LL: I don't have a specific timeline. I will tell you, I'm pushing the police department on so many different fronts. Obviously, right now, our primary concern is making sure that we're keeping the community safe. But in my mind's eye, I'd like to get a lot of these things in place before the end of the year.

WCT: Will the city's investigations into discrimination cases—I'm speaking here of the Commission on Human Relations—change under your administration?

LL: I've started the conversation with [Commissioner] Mona Noriega. It's a work in progress. I think her work is incredibly important and I want to make sure that she has the resources that she needs to be successful. So, stayed tuned on that. I have great confidence in Mona; she's a member of our community, but I do know that she needs additional resources.

WCT: In the past month, certain businesses

in Boystown have faced backlash thanks to allegations of racist actions by those businesses. What should be the response from the city, and what's the best response by the community?

LL: I've followed it tangentially and don't know all the particulars. I have to say that I'm energized by the fact that members of the community are saying, "We're not going to put up with this. We're going to deal with this at the community level." I think that's the sign of a really healthy community.

Many times, residents suffer in silence. Things happen at the community level, and then you only know about them when they explode. So the fact that these come into the public view shows to me that the community is active and dynamic, and I'm going to do what ever I can to be a mediator and be supportive. But I think these issues are best resolved at the community level, and if need be we'll come in and support it.

WCT: How can Chicago Department of Public Health's resources be best deployed to address HIV/AIDS and other health challenges for the LGBT community?

LL: It's good that you asked me that—that's a question that I have. [CDPH Commissioner] Dr.

[Julie] Morita is going to New York for I think what she would describe as her dream job. We've got Dr. [Allison] Arwadi stepping up as acting commissioner and I know that she is really committed to these public health issues. I'm going to be working with her and her team.

We think the size and scope of the public health department is too small for what we need. We're going to be looking at some additional outside resources to determine what best practices and the framing should be for the department. Clearly a priority has to be making sure that we're getting PrEP into as many hands as possible. You know that there's always been a racial and an economic disparity in the way that HIV preventative measures are meted out—that continues to be a disparity to this day. We know this issue will be an issue for Dr. Arwai, and we're going to do what we can to try to make sure that we can try to reach as many people as we can, and try to have as a goal to get to zero [new HIV transmissions].

WCT: What has the past month been like for your family?

LL: There's been a surreal aspect from it. We were in the glow in the immediate aftermath of the inauguration. ... Very quickly, we got down to business and a week after the inauguration we had our first city council meeting.

[My wife and I] are trying to check in with each other. We're trying to carve out good family time, because this is absolutely a marathon and not a sprint. We haven't been going at the same pace as we were going during the campaign. But we want to make sure that we have time individually and as a family to savor this incredible experience.

WCT: What's been particularly surprising for you since you started?

LL: It's kind of a long list. Look, I place a really high premium on having a well-managed organization. Anything that I've ever been a part of, whether it's a small piece of litigation, or a board member of an organization, anything that I've been involved in, I'm going to make sure that we understand what we're involved in, that we're focused on that, and that we're managing every aspect well. That's the sensibility that I've brought to the job as mayor. There's some things that are really well-run in our city, and there's some things where we've got a lot of room for growth.

It's really, really a deep honor for me to be the mayor of this city. The support and optimism that I'm experiencing across the city gives me energy every single day, and I think it's important for us in our community to really savor this moment. I don't think many people thought this was a possibility. I know that for a lot of people, I kind of came out of nowhere. But I'm committed to making sure that our community is safe, that we get the resources that we need and that we fight against the hate that is out there.

It's unfortunate that in this time we still have to worry about people demonizing our community, and that is a reality, but I am going to be one that stands tall in the city for something different. I think that we are, can be, and should remain a beacon of hope for people who are in different circumstances, who can't live their authentic life. Chicago has got to be that beacon of hope and light, and I'm going to do everything I can to make that happen.

Mayor Lightfoot hosts Pride reception

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Hundreds gathered in Preston Bradley Hall in the Chicago Cultural Center as Mayor Lori Lightfoot hosted an LGBT reception in honor of Pride month.

Center on Halsted's Vanessa Sheridan introduced the proceedings with a reminder of the historical contribution of activist Marsha P. Johnson: "We would not be standing here tonight ... if not for the courage of an African-American transgender sex worker."

Sheridan added, "The Stonewall rebellion still has reverberations for our community today," adding that, "We can [now] celebrate that we have a mayor and a first family who is part of our community."

The mayor was introduced by her wife, Amy Eshleman. She recalled walking in the Pride parade last year, when Lightfoot was a mayoral candi-

date. She called the event "one of the most profound and humbling experiences of my life," and looked ahead to the 2019 parade on June 30.

Lightfoot thanked Equality Illinois co-founder and Sidetrack owner Art Johnston, as well as activist/consultant Mary Morten. She also recalled contributions by the late activist Vernita Gray.

The mayor further discussed how Chicago functions as a "beacon of hope" for persons looking to be open about who they are, whether that means moving to the city or just visiting.

"Chicago is a place that people from all over the world come to be themselves, if just for a weekend," she added.

Lightfoot also spoke at length about difficulties facing various members of the LGBT community, particularly young people who are experiencing homelessness, and trans people.

"We have to keep doing the work—the hard work—for them every single day," she added.

Nevertheless, she encouraged the audience to enjoy the moment in advance of the upcoming Pride celebrations: "We should have pride for where we are. ... This is what pride looks like."



Amy Eshleman at reception.
Photo by WCT

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Nursing student writes the book on trans healthcare

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A nursing student who graduated this year from Resurrection University wrote a manual on healthcare delivery for transgender and gender non-conforming persons during her undergraduate clinical work.

Naomi Blumenthal, a Chicago native, had been involved with LGBT activism since she was 14 years old. When she began her undergraduate work at Resurrection University, she noticed a significant lack in nursing textbook information about LGBT-related healthcare-delivery.

"I approached the university about additional supplemental education opportunities for students," she recalled. "They were really open to the idea, and back in November they allowed me to bring in a speaker on sexual orientation and gender identity considerations in healthcare."

Throughout her clinical experiences, Blumenthal was aware of a number of challenges facing transgender patients and healthcare personnel charged with delivering services to them.

"I had seen misgendering occur, people giggling at the nurse's station, or just things you wouldn't see with cisgender patients," Blumen-

thal said. "I've also heard from many friends that they fear going to receive healthcare at places besides Howard Brown."

Blumenthal began a capstone project at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's clinical role transition program in her last year. The hospital had just begun accepting patients for gender-affirming surgeries, so she saw the opportunity for creating a resource manual for those procedures. She did an extensive literature review and studied procedures published by organizations such as Boston-based Fenway Health.

Blumenthal was looking to compile important terminologies as well as offer a comprehensive explanation of the transition process, listings of Chicago-area resources, and guidelines for standard care from transgender and gender nonconforming persons.

"The very first day that I was a student on the surgical unit at Northwestern, I approached the manager of the unit in the morning," Blumenthal recalled. "She was very open and excited about it as well."

Blumenthal also compiled information from two surveys of the Chicago LGBT community; one asked what community members expected from



Naomi Blumenthal.

Photo courtesy of Blumenthal

their nursing care, while the other investigated what information nurses already were aware of.

"I got a lot of positive feedback from those nurses," Blumenthal said. "They were excited to receive a manual giving them information about that population prior to caring for them."

Her ultimate goal was "to create standards of care taught within nursing school, so all patients are prepared to take care of all patients compe-

tently, without giggling, misgendering, or any of those sorts of things."

Blumenthal has been weighing what to do next. She said she's received some job offers but is considering graduate work to further investigate the specifics of healthcare delivery for transgender and gender non-conforming persons.

"Every person should feel comfortable receiving care at every organization," added Blumenthal.



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Schakowsky, Howard Brown host health talk

On June 14, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Illinois) hosted a press conference following a roundtable discussion with leaders in Chicago's LGBTQ health community.

Panelists at the event, held at Howard Brown Health, included Howard Brown President/CEO David Munar as well as patients and an Illinois Primary Health Care Association representative.



U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (center) and Howard Brown's David Munar (right) at the event.

Photo courtesy of Miguel Ayala

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Women's lawyer group installs new leader, has trans-focused program

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Wochner Law Firm LLC partner Corinne Cantwell Heggie recently became the Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) president, having previously served as its first vice president and chair of a number of events and committees since joining the association. Heggie will, like those before her, serve a one year term.

Heggie's law firm is focused on helping individuals and businesses preserve their wealth with

according to its website, "to promote the interests and welfare of women lawyers and also to aid in the enactment of legislation for the common good and in the administration of justice. Its activities have always been divided between burning controversial social and political issues and the practical need to help its members gain employment. The WBAI was one of the first minority bar associations to extend its membership to males."

"I am looking forward to being the president of



Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) President Corinne Cantwell Heggie.

Photo courtesy of Heggie

estate and business plans. This includes preparing wills, trusts, powers of attorney and a variety of estate planning documents as well as administering estates and handling probate cases. Heggie explained that her years practicing financial services law, first as a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and later as counsel at Scharf Banks Marmor LLC were a foundation for her work in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration and probate. She received her Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law.

WBAI began in 1914 with nine women lawyers who were practicing in Chicago and was founded,

the largest statewide bar association dedicated to promoting and advancing women in the legal profession," said Heggie. "I am committed to furthering that mission over the next year."

In her roles with the WBAI, Heggie has spoken about diversity within the legal profession at the Northwest Suburban Bar Association and St. Louis University College of Law. She has received a number of honors including an Illinois Super Lawyer earlier this year, an Illinois Rising Star in 2017, Best Lawyers named her a national "Woman of Influence" in 2017 and she was chosen one of DePaul Magazine's "14 under 40" due to her mentoring of young lawyers and contributions to the legal profession.

The first event Heggie furthered her outreach was through WBAI's upcoming panel discussion that she spearheaded—"Transgender in the Workplace: The Status of the Law and Leveraging the Power of Authenticity for Business Success," which took place June 20 at Alliance Bernstein, 227 W. Monroe St. Suite 5500.

Bernstein Private Wealth Management LGBTQ Community Ambassador, WBAI Diversity Chair and LAGBAC Member Franco LaMarca moderated the event, which featured panelists Center on Halsted Gender Equity and Inclusion Director and Transgender in the Workplace author Vanessa Sheridan as well as LAGBAC Board of Directors member and first out transgender judicial candidate in Illinois Jill Rose Quinn. Bernstein was

also a presenting sponsor.

While Heggie is WBAI's president, the association will also celebrate the 19th Amendment's centennial with a luncheon Wed., Oct. 16, at the Union League Club. WBAI and the Illinois State Bar Association's Women in the Law Committee have formed an ad hoc committee to serve as a resource for state, county and local agencies to find qualified women to serve agency and commission vacancies. Heggie said willing and capable women in these positions will bring new eyes to issues facing Illinois, Cook County and Chicago.

For more information about these events, contact WBAI at wba@wbaillinois.org or 312-341-8530.

LGBT Chamber, Loop Alliance host business panel on inclusion

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA) teamed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall with a panel event on June 12 at the Palmer House Hilton.

The event, titled "50 Years Later: A New Way of Doing Business," fostered discussion around the evolution of diversity and LGBTQ+ inclusion, being part of large corporations or small businesses that are inclusive in hiring and consumer practices.

"Obviously, the title of the event is '50 Years Later: A New Way of Doing Business,' so I really wanted us to be able to have a conversation, to talk about how companies have evolved in engaging LGBTQ clients, customers, employees and what that has looked like, but still where we have to go, of course," said Jerome Holston, director of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. "So I wanted to recognize that progress, but still have a moment to reflect about where we have to go before us."

The panel included David Martin, senior advisor of diversity and inclusion at BMO Harris; activist Pat McCombs; Jill Rose Quinn, attorney and counselor at law; and Marty Grochala, associate director of development and senior director of major and planned gifts at Goodman Theatre. Chicago Reader Publisher, Windy City Times founder and LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois founder Tracy Baim moderated the event.

"I love that the panelists all brought a little bit of a different perspective," said Sarah Morse, director of membership relations and events for CLA. "I kept looking up there being like 'this is truly what diversity looks like.' The people up on stage were a good representation of why we're here and what we're talking about, but also who makes up our members and who makes up the Chamber's members."

The panelists shared their own work experiences, describing what it is like in their specific fields and being an LGBTQ individual. Each an-



David Martin.

Photo by Melissa Wasserman

swered different questions that allowed them to speak on various topics including past and present obstacles, observations, recognition, things that fuel them in their work, corporate activism, selecting business partners, networking with diverse organizations, diversity among employees, diversity and inclusion initiatives within the workplace and things they would like to see in the future.

"We wanted to get as many different industries as possible," Morse explained about putting the panel together. "Because we were talking about the business community, it wasn't necessarily like we were just talking about this one thing. The business world in Chicago is obviously very diverse and we wanted to make sure that everyone in the audience could maybe have a speaker to identify with."

Following the panel, attendees participated in a question-and-answer session and networking event.

Holston emphasized and agreed with what was said on the panel that while it is a good first step to be engaged during pride month, companies have to identify other ways to be more active and more engaged beyond having a float in the Pride parade and sporting rainbow buttons.

"You have to think about year-long engagement strategies to be really inclusive and be more active toward the LGBTQ community," said Holston.



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Softball player reflects on sexuality in sports, teamwork

BY MACKENZIE MURTAUGH

From morning to night, Chicago Bandits pitcher Aleshia Ocasio commits herself to two things: softball and benevolence.

During the season for the National Pro Fast-pitch team, she bustles away during training, practice and under the ballpark's lights. During off-season, Ocasio can be found out of the field and into communities, using her skills to coach and train young athletes, in an effort to help mold the skills of the future of professional softball.

Since graduating from the University of Florida last year, Ocasio has not let any post-grad lull hit her. This past spring, Howard University hired her as an assistant coach to the school's softball team. Ocasio honed in her skills to bring the confidence she knew the players had; they just were not able to achieve it without a little encouragement. Coaching and giving back are things that Ocasio sees herself continuing to do as she gets further into her professional career.

"I want to be that person for younger athletes that I needed when I was younger," Ocasio told Windy City Times.

Her work with Howard helped their winning percentage increase by over 100 percent. Ocasio takes pride in assisting alongside the other coaches with this victory, but her humble nature doesn't let her take credit for their success.

"I want to help prepare them for the future and to empower them to make them believe that they can do whatever they want as long as they work hard and put their mind to it, up their work ethic and live out their truth," Ocasio said.

For Ocasio, working with aspiring professional athletes is an empowering moment for both her and the young athletes. She desires to give back to the sport that brought her to where she stands now, and she wants to replicate those coaches who prepared her for a professional career.

"There's just so much to be learned in this world, and it's not going to be butterflies and rainbows," Ocasio said. "[I want them to] just live out their truth. I have found myself in my journey, and I want them to stay true to who they are when they grow up and how to work and be successful."

As an openly bisexual woman, Ocasio finds some solace in softball, as she says that many individuals in the sports community are also a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"Playing in this sport and being around the same people every day who a lot of identify as

LGBTQ+, I'm blessed to say that I've been comfortable with the process of coming out and being in an environment where I feel supported."

Along with the frustrations and hardships of a certain type of social life projected by college campus culture, Ocasio felt some discomfort in expressing her sexuality. Her biggest obstacle, similar to other LGBTQ+ individuals, was coming out as bisexual—the orientation she has always identified as. Ocasio came into her own confidence somewhere during college with the help of her closest friends and allies. Now, Ocasio is in a relationship with Natasha Cloud, a player on the Washington Mystics of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). The couple seems to be very busy, as Cloud currently qualifies for the WNBA's All-Star game and the Bandits qualify for next year's Olympics—a landmark that Ocasio called one of her proudest moments.

Her earliest introduction to the sport was when her mother took her to the local ballpark to watch her cousins play. After this, she began playing Little League when she was seven-years-old. Ocasio's passion for softball came after she was "grandfathered in"—her words.

"You just build so many different relationships, not only with your teammates, your coaches, the people who you meet just playing this sport," Ocasio said. "Softball is a team sport, it's different from tennis or from running a marathon. You have got to work together and do the same thing every day."

The transition from the college game to professional was something that was surprisingly easy for Ocasio. From one day balancing training, practice, games, homework and a social life, the occupying life of a student-athlete is not something to be overlooked.

"Here, you have a commitment from when you wake up until you go to bed at night," Ocasio said. "Meetings, team meetings, the sport itself. [In college], the fact is that you go home and you have to do homework, so I think it's been a little less stressful without having the school aspect."

June 16 marked Ocasio's one-year anniversary since she went professional and joined the Bandits. When asked about what this past year has taught her, she reflected on her growth as not just an athlete but as an individual.

"I've learned how to work on my own, how to get what I need to perform to the best of my ability."

The Chicago Bandits' schedule can be found at <https://chicagobandits.com/>.



Aleshia Ocasio.

Photo courtesy the Chicago Bandits

30 Under 30 Awards to be held June 26

Windy City Times will again mark Pride Month with its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

The ceremony will take place Wed, June 26. As in the past few years, the event will take place at Polo Cafe and Catering, 3322 S. Morgan St.

There will be a 5:30 p.m. reception, with the program being 6-7:30 p.m.

Honorees are 30 years or under as of June 30, and have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

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.

Boystown threats send man to prison

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A man who invoked the Pulse nightclub shooting while making threats against Boystown nightclubs and various individuals has been sentenced to seven concurrent 42-month prison terms.

The June 21 sentencing of the man making the threats, Shane Sleeper, was first reported June 22 by the CWB Chicago website.

Sleeper pled guilty to four counts of harassment, threatening to kill; three counts of telephone harassment, threatening to kill; impersonating an attorney; and impersonating a police officer. Various other charges, among them making false terroristic threats, were dropped in a plea deal.

Sleeper was initially arrested for making the threats Feb. 20, 2018, then was mistakenly released on May 1 of that year. He was apprehended in Uptown two days later.

CWB's report is at <http://www.cwbchicago.com/2019/06/threats-of-mass-shooting-at-boystown.html>.



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Esteem Awards taking place July 7

PrideIndex.com's 12th annual Esteem Awards will take place Sunday, July 7, 1-3 p.m., at Light-house Church of Chicago, 2335 N. Orchard St.

Three organizations and eight individuals will be honored. The honorees—selected by a committee of past honorees who reviewed an array of nominations—will receive their awards at the Fifth Annual Black Gay Pride Worship Service Brunch. The event is free and open to the public.

Awardees include:

Chicago

—Outstanding Service, Male: Antonio V. King, public health administrator/LGBTQ health & outreach liaison for the Chicago Department of Public Health

—Outstanding Service, Female: Imani Rupert-Gordon, executive director of Affinity Community Services

—Outstanding Service, Transgender: Channyn Lynne Parker, manager of external communications at Howard Brown Health Center

—Future Leaders/Outstanding Millennial Award: Ka'riel Gaiter, community engagement coordinator for Youth Empowerment Performance Project

—Outstanding Social Services/CBO: Brave Space Alliance, the first Black-led, Trans-led LGBTQ Center on Chicago's South Side

—Special Recognition Award: The Gene Siskel Film Center, for its inclusion of films to promote



Imani Rupert-Gordon.

Photo courtesy of Rupert-Gordon

understanding and awareness by/and for filmmakers of color, the LGBTQ communities and people of color everywhere

—Outstanding Spoken Word: OUTspoken!, Chicago's monthly spoken-word phenomenon at Sidetrack celebrating the uniquely personal stories from across the LGBTQ community.

National

—Outstanding Service, Male: Steven G. Fullwood, documentarian, public archivist, writer and photographer

—Outstanding Service, Female: Alexis Pauline Gumbs, feminist, educator, and essayist.

—Future Leaders/Outstanding Millennial Award: Perre L. Shelton, Spoken word performance artist, educator, mentor and founder of The Lamar Method (TLM)

—Special Recognition Award: Sampson McCormick, stand-up comedian, writer, actor and producer

Since 2007, PrideIndex.com's Esteem Awards has honored local and national organizations and individuals for their continued efforts in supporting the African-American and LGBT communities in the areas of entertainment, media, civil rights, business and art.

Citywide Pride now a nonprofit organization

Citywide Pride has announced its launch as an independent nonprofit organization.

Since its founding in 2002, the Citywide Pride series of programs have aimed to advance LGBTQ workplace equality and inclusion. A press release added, "For the past 18 years, Citywide Pride has raised awareness as well as educated and engaged thousands of Chicagoland employees, human resources and diversity professionals and their allies at more than 200 company- and organization-sponsored events."

SCC, an independent creative and technology agency, worked with Citywide Pride to design its new brand identity.

For more information about Citywide Pride and its event series, visit the new website CitywidePrideChicago.org or email citywidepridechicago@gmail.com.

STONEWALL AT 50 NYC Pride March names grand marshals

NYC Pride—the official host of WorldPride 2019 | Stonewall 50—has announced its five grand marshals slated to lead both the 50th NYC Pride March on Sunday, June 30, and this year's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a press release noted.

The cast of the FX show *Pose*, Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, Gay Liberation Front, The Trevor Project and Monica Helms will head this year's celebration.

—*Pose* (which features the largest trans cast in TV history) is a dance musical, set in the 1980s, that explores the juxtaposition of life and society in New York: the ball-culture world, the rise of the Trump era. and the downtown social and literary scene.

—Opoku-Gyimah (also known as Lady Phyll) is the core of the award-winning celebration and protest that is UK Black Pride.

—Gay Liberation Front was the very first LGBTQ activist organization formed after the Stonewall Rebellion.

—The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide-prevention and crisis intervention organization for young LGBTQ people.

—Helms is a transgender activist, author and veteran of the United States Navy, having served on two submarines. She is also the creator of the Transgender Pride Flag, in 1999, and subsequently donated the original flag to the Smithsonian Institution in 2014.

WorldPride 2019 | Stonewall 50 will be composed of more than 25 different events for LGBTQIA+ people during June. Visit WorldPride.org.



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Dignity/ Chicago prepares to host national conference

BY MATT SIMONETTE

For more than 50 years, DignityUSA—which has a prominent Chicago-based chapter, Dignity/Chicago—has been the “go-to voice for gay Catholics,” said Chicago-based national President Chris Pett.

The group will hold its 24th organizational conference, titled True to Ourselves, True to Our Spirit, in Chicago, beginning Friday, July 5, at the Westin Michigan Avenue downtown. Speakers include feminist theologian Mary Hunt and attorney/activist Urvashi Vaid, the co-founder of the Creating Change conference.

Many LGBT Catholics have a frustrating and difficult relationship with their church, should they even choose to retain their membership. Even as church laity in many nations become accepting of LGBT persons and their issues, the Vatican has frequently dug in its heels, opposing their rights and issuing potentially harmful directives.

Helping bridge that gap between the institutional church and the Catholic community is where the Dignity chapters come in, Pett said.

“Catholic identity is deeply cultural for someone like me,” said Pett. “It’s a strong and embedded part of me. The institutional church is not reflective of so many of us. I still will claim that identity.”

He further asked, “Shouldn’t we try to change

from within?”

DignityUSA chapters predated the Stonewall uprising, having started in early 1969. Chicago’s chapter began in 1972; the local organization was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 1997.

The real origins of the Chicago chapter began in 1970, when Chicagoan Mary Houlihan, a member of the Legion of Mary, began to consider the spiritual need of gay Roman Catholics. The first mass was held in October of that year. Eventually the group settled into a longtime home at St. Sebastian Church.

Great strife came in the ‘80s, however, when the Archdiocese clamped down especially hard on its anti-gay stance and said that members should accept teachings on homosexuality. A number of individuals simply walked away from the church after that. But Dignity/Chicago refocused its energies on not just on observances and community projects but in effecting change in the church itself.

The organization plays an active role in advocating for various progressive stances; among those causes, for example, is supporting the idea of female priests.

“People were very responsive to that idea,” noted Pett. “When we made the decision, the ma-



Christopher Pett.
Photo courtesy of Pett

majority of the people asked, ‘What have we been waiting for?’”

Another longtime principle has been using gender-inclusive or gender-neutral language in the liturgy, he added. The group now is based at Broadway Methodist Church in Lake View, and has been active in supporting Bonaventure House

and the Legacy Project, among other causes.

When the late Cardinal Francis George was in office, Dignity/Chicago members met with him three times. They’ve tried to meet with Cardinal Blase Cupich three times, but have been turned down, Pett said.

Pope Francis came into his role years ago seeming to want to “bridge the pastoral and doctrinal” roles of the church, Pett noted. But the pope nevertheless has done little but reinforce the church’s already-established stances on LGBT issues. In early June, he released a guidance decrying contemporary views on gender identity that many saw as potentially harmful to transgender persons; activists noted that choosing to release the guidance during Pride Month functioned as an extra slap in the face to the community.

“If they can put out these statements, we need a Dignity,” said Pett, who added that, for the LGBT Catholics to claim their identity, “There needs to be voices and a witness.”

Survey shows link between suicide, conversion therapy

The Trevor Project released a new survey showing that 57 percent of young people who experienced conversion therapy attempted suicide in the last year.

The National Survey on LGBTQ Youth: Mental Health 2019 is consistent with the results of a peer-reviewed study published last year that found that LGBTQ youth who are subjected to conversion therapy are nearly three times as likely to attempt suicide as those who have not been subjected to conversion therapy.

Another noticeable result: Two in three LGBTQ youth reported that someone tried to convince them to change their sexual orientation or gender identity, with youth who have undergone conversion therapy more than twice as likely to attempt suicide as those who did not.

In a press release, Born Perfect co-founder and conversion-therapy survivor Mathew Shurka said, “These heartbreaking figures underscore the urgent need for states to take action to protect LGBTQ young people and their families from the devastating harms caused by conversion therapy.”

“Conversion therapy is fraudulent and harmful. No young person in this country should have to fear being subjected to such a dangerous and unethical practice, and no family should have to fear that a licensed therapist will subject their child to a discredited treatment that has been rejected as ineffective and unsafe by every leading medical and mental health organization in the country.”

National Center for Lesbian Rights Legal Director Shannon Minter added, “As this new data confirms, the evidence that conversion therapy

puts LGBTQ youth at risk of serious harms is overwhelming. No issue is more important to the health and well-being of LGBTQ youth than putting a stop to this invidious practice once and for all. We call on state and local policymakers to take immediate steps to educate parents about the harms caused by conversion therapy and to ensure that no licensed therapist can engage in these dangerous practices.”

The survey is at <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-Trevor-Project-National-Survey-Results-2019.pdf>.

HRC releases sex-bias report

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) published its “Inclusive Interpretations of Sex Discrimination Law”—a report that outlines how federal courts have developed a consistent legal narrative regarding discrimination against LGBTQ people as constituting unlawful sex discrimination under our nation’s civil-rights laws.

The introduction to the report reads, in part, “Recent efforts by the Trump administration to narrow this interpretation at the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Education run counter to legal precedent and existing Supreme Court precedent regarding the interpretation of Title VII to include classes or characteristics not originally considered by the 1964 Congress.”

“Inclusive Interpretations” includes sex-discrimination cases, federal-agency actions, an explanation of why statutory codification of certain case law is essential and more.

The report is at <https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/HRC-SexDiscrimination-Report-Final.pdf>.

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HRC Chicago holds Equality Act panel discussion

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago hosted a panel discussion, "The Equality Act & Me," May 29 at Morningstar Inc. to highlight the ways the Equality Act would improve the lives of every LGBTQ person in the United States.

Chicago Sun-Times columnist and ABC Chicago political analyst Laura Washington moderated the event, with panelists U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly, Pride Action Tank Executive Director and AIDS Foundation of Chicago Policy and Advocacy Operations Senior Director Kim Hunt, Wintrust Bank Vice President Don Cortelyou, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Director Jerome' Holston and Loyola University student, first openly transgender Illinois General Assembly page and Equality Illinois Community Advisory Group member Grayson Alexander.

Ahead of the panel discussion, HRC Regional Organizing Lead Deon Young played a video outlining examples of discrimination that persists nationwide due to the lack of federal protections for LGBTQ people since only 20 states (including Illinois) have both sexual orientation and gender identity named as protected classes of people. Young explained that according to studies about 63 percent of LGBTQ people say they have experienced some form of discrimination. He said 70 percent of the entire U.S. population supports legal protections for LGBTQ people nationwide.

Young explained that the Equality Act has additional categories of protections that were not listed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and these would help not only LGBTQ people, but also women in general and people of color. He said the House of Representatives recently voted on the bill and it passed with bipartisan support—236 to 173 with eight GOP members voting for it and all Democrats present voting yes.

Morningstar, Inc. Global Director of Design David Williams and HRC Steering Committee member and Area Representative Justin Koziatek also spoke ahead of the panel. Williams announced that Morningstar had recently joined the Equality Act Business Coalition.

Washington queried Kelly on the status of the bill and steps forward.

Kelly said she is thrilled the bill passed the House and credits its sponsor, Rep. David Cicilline, for moving it forward, however, there will be a fight in the GOP controlled Senate to bring this to the floor for a vote. She explained this is "really a civil-rights bill."

Washington asked Alexander to describe his page job and what he got from the experience.

Alexander explained that pages are the "little cogs no one sees" running errands for the non-partisan clerk of the Illinois General Assembly and he learned a lot about how things really get done legislatively. In terms of him being the first openly transgender page, Alexander said he is

honored to hold that status and have had the opportunity to meet the legislators who were putting forth the Birth Certificate Modernization Act and advocate for it when he was not on the clock.

"It made me appreciate how well protected I



From left: Laura Washington, Grayson Alexander, Robin Kelly, Don Cortelyou, Kim Hunt and Jerome' Holston.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

am as LGBTQ person in Illinois," said Alexander.

Alexander said he still is concerned for his transgender friends in Missouri who have to worry about passing everyday because they have no state-wide protections.

Washington asked the other panelists to outline how their area of expertise dovetails with what the Equality Act will provide and what they are doing now to address these issues.

Hunt said that, in recent years, she learned the biggest concern for aging LGBTQ people is affirming senior housing facilities since most places are not ready for them to reside there. She explained that many LGBTQ seniors are going back into the closet in these housing facilities. Hunt said this has been addressed with a bill that adds protections for LGBTQ and HIV-positive people to the existing Illinois Elder Care Law and it is awaiting Gov. Pritzker's signature.

Holston explained that there are currently about 300 LGBTQ business owners or inclusive employers in Illinois that the chamber supports in various ways. He said the Equality Act will improve the quality of life for these LGBTQ

good interest rate. Cortelyou explained that the Equality Act would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes of people.

In terms of arguments against the Equality Act, Kelly said the biggest obstacle is Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell even though, according to Sen. Tammy Baldwin, it could pass the Senate if it was put to a floor vote.

Hunt said many people do not know this is an issue because they think LGBTQ people are already protected on a federal level so public awareness campaigns are vital. She explained that the provisions the Obama administration put into place are being stripped away, especially for

Chicago Dyke March in Little Village on June 29

The Chicago Dyke March Collective will present the 23rd Annual Dyke March in the city's Little Village neighborhood on Saturday, June 29.

A gathering will take place at Little Village Academy, at 26th Street and Lawndale Avenue, at 1:30 p.m., with the march starting at 2:30 p.m. There will then be a rally at Piotrowski Park, at 32nd Street and Keeler Avenue, at 3:30 p.m.

According to the event's Facebook page, the march "is a celebration + manifestation centering queer and trans people of color for and by community. We gather to create space and community while supporting local POC centered art, music, and performance. We are anti-capitalist,

anti-state, and anti-police and do not accept funds or donations from state, corporations or oppressive institutions."

See "Dyke March 2019!" on Facebook.

Inaugural Pride South Side set for June 28-30

The Pride South Side Organizing Committee will hold an inaugural pride festival on Friday-Sunday, June 28-30, in partnership with various local venues.

Those venues include:

—The Stony Island Arts bank, 6760 S Stony Island Ave.;

—The DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl.;

—The South Shore Cultural Center Beach, 7059 S. South Shore Dr.;

transgender people, and the Equality Act will reverse this.

Alexander, Cortelyou and Holston echoed Hunt's comments that education and publicity campaigns about the Equality Act will hasten its passage in the Senate and having it signed into law by the president.

A Q&A session followed.

—Gallery Guichard, 436 E. 47th St.;

—The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West; and

—Jeffery Pub, 7041 S. Jeffery Ave.

The weekend will kick off with a film screening, in partnership with OpenTV, at the Stony Island Arts Bank on Friday, June 28, 8-10 p.m. The opening night will also include a kickoff party curated by Melloe Drama at Gallery Guichard at 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

On Saturday, June 29, The DuSable Museum will host the main event—a concert and festival at 12-9 p.m. After the festival on June 29, four different venues (The Promontory, Jeffery Pub and two others TBA) will host various after-parties.

On Sunday, June 30, The South Shore Cultural Center Beach will host the closing event, "Beachnic; Queering in the Parks."

For tickets and more information, visit Pride-SouthSide.com.

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Addict learns to overcome obstacles, thanks to foundation

BY ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

When Spencer was 11, he came out to his family as gay. However, his family took the news as a shock and thought it was just a phase, so Spencer (who requested we not use his last name to protect his privacy) went back into the closet, convinced it was just that—a phase that would go away.

But it did not feel that way. To cope with suppressing his identity and the overwhelming thoughts in his head, Spencer began to drink alcohol and abuse drugs. When he was in high school, he began smoking marijuana, which led him to cocaine and, later, heroin.

“Lying to yourself is an eternal pain [and a] dark rabbit hole,” Spencer, now 29, said looking back on his adolescent years.

He tried to fill the hole with alcohol and drugs but after almost 10 years of substance abuse, he decided to seek help and stop living a lie in his head. He went to rehab at 20—and that was when he embraced his true identity.

“I wasn’t scared to say I was gay anymore so when I got out of rehab I was practically wearing a unicorn suit,” Spencer said.

Substance abuse in the LGBTQ community is higher than the general population, according to the Center for American Progress. In a 2012 study, an estimated 20-30 percent of gay and transgender people have a substance abuse disorder, compared to 9 percent of the non-LGBTQ population. The study indicated that stress from daily battles with discrimination and stigma is a principle driver of these higher substance use rates.

Spencer experienced this first-hand and, after rehab, he worked to change his lifestyle and stay clean from alcohol and drugs, but it was not an easy path. During a visit to the ER, he was handed a flyer about Gateway Foundation, a Chicagoland addiction recovery organization. He decided to check out its services in 2017, and it has since remained a constant resource in his life and helped him on his path to recovery.

He said the local organization attracted him because it has a volleyball league, which Spencer loves. It is also a great way to connect with other people who have suffered from substance abuse and learn from them, he said.

“Gateway helps me by seeing people [and it] sponsors different meetings and activities,” Spencer said. “Whether you’re being held accountable or preaching something that you need to hear yourself, it helps you more than the person you are helping [by] giving back.”

Gateway, which has been helping with addiction for over 50 years, will be expanding its LGBTQ services to Lake Villa in September with a residential treatment unit. This effort will better help the health organization grow with new research, reach vulnerable populations and support the LGBTQ community, said Karen Wolownik Albert, executive director of Gateway Foundation Lake County Services.

“We look at this population as one significantly in need of specialized services,” Wolownik Albert said.

Wolownik Albert, who has been with Gateway for nine years, said more resources like the residential unit will help the progress of the LGBTQ community, which still faces inequitable health-



The Gateway treatment center at Fox Lake.

Photo courtesy of Gateway Foundation

care challenges compared to other groups and is more likely to suffer from substance abuse because of discriminatory practices from family, in the workplace or their own doctors

“Patients are not willing to come forward because they are worried about some of the stigma and biases they may encounter from their own doctors and other healthcare professionals,” she said. “It’s important to look at practices that are inclusive and knowledgeable of unique needs of all populations.”

Gateway’s 14 Chicago-area locations aim to help with withdrawal management, partial hospitalization, intensive rehab centers, medication-assisted treatment and an alumni/aftercare component, of which which Spencer is a part. Wolownik Albert said the foundation helped serve about 6,000 residents in the Chicagoland just last year.

Spencer said he was sober for two years after joining Gateway but recently relapsed in March. Now he has been sober for three months and is working to stay strong, though he recognizes that relapse is part of the addiction and healing process.

In addition to finding a support system, Spencer said he regularly goes to the gym and found faith; he now prays every day.

“I always thought I was going to burst into a ball of fire if you spoke the word faith,” he said.

This year, Pride means something different to Spencer since he is clean. Formerly, he admits it used to be a time to “get obliterated, get lost and go on adventures,” but now it represents a stronger tie to his identity and an appreciation for the LGBTQ community’s history.

“Now it’s showing a huge group coming together no matter what they look like—black, white, purple—they are all coming together for a common thing: love,” he said. “I love that it’s growing and becoming more acceptable.”

Looking back on how far he has come since he was a teenager, he remembers feeling alone and isolated. Gateway taught him that was false,

and he wants to remind others struggling with substance abuse or acceptance from family and friends that they are not alone.

“Because I am more butch than normal gay people, I guess I thought I was unique but sadly not,” he said with a laugh. “I thought there was no one like me and I ended up finding someone just like me and now I’m getting married to him.”

And the future for Spencer looks bright. For example, he and his fiancée are getting married in July—with a mini-German Shepherd as the ring bearer and a Great Dane as the best man.

Gateway Foundation can be reached at its 24-hour hotline at 877-505-4673, or at GatewayFoundation.org.

Mineral Point to display AIDS Quilt

In Wisconsin, as part of Mineral Point’s 3rd annual Pride celebration, sections of the internationally celebrated AIDS Memorial Quilt—the 54-ton, handmade tapestry that stands as a memorial to more than 96,000 individuals lost to AIDS—will be on view Aug. 8-10 at the boyoyoboy! contemporary art gallery, 22 High St., Mineral Point.

Mineral Point Pride is hosting this free display of the quilt.

Established in 1987, The NAMES Project Foundation is the international organization that is the custodian of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. The quilt began with a single three-foot-by-six-foot panel created in San Francisco in 1987. Today, The quilt is composed of more than 49,000 individual panels of that size—each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS.

The gallery describes itself as an art collective specializing in contemporary South African art.



The main house of the new Lake Villa residency will be open in September.

Photo courtesy of Gateway Foundation



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Gay entrepreneur hopes to reach others through digital marketing

BY JAKE WITTICH

After 24 years navigating the corporate world as a marketing professional for corporations like AT&T and Petsmart, Chris Hofstetter was ready for reinvention.

Looking to start “act two” of his career, Hofstetter moved to Chicago with his husband and dog, a Shih Tzu rescue named Louie, to start his own digital marketing company. Louie Inc., named after the dog, launched on Nov. 7, 2017. Since then, Hofstetter has found a new sense of purpose as someone who can serve the LGBTQ and small-business communities.

“I never thought I’d like what I’m doing for work in my life,” Hofstetter said. “I’m so grateful to find a spot in this world where I feel comfortable to be me and have the knowledge to help people.”

Some of Louie Inc.’s services include improving businesses’ online presence, website design, email campaigns and brand or logo development. Hofstetter said the agency differentiates itself from others by offering “remarkable” customer service that draws on his experiences in the corporate world.

“I’ve managed agencies for years in all those corporate jobs, so I learned all of the things — things I won’t repeat — that I didn’t like as a customer,” Hofstetter said.

Hofstetter said most of Louie Inc.’s clients are small- to medium-sized businesses seeking help with social media management, websites, search engine optimization and email marketing campaigns. He offers these services at affordable prices so he can help the businesses grow.

“It’s critical for small businesses to be able to compete at the level of corporations that have money for the best websites, social media or advertising,” Hofstetter said. “I’m trying to take my clients to that level, and I’m excited to help them grow because I know the pain.”

Hofstetter said he grew up in Middlefield, Ohio, a small town about 45 miles east of Cleveland. His parents owned five different jewelry stores in the neighboring small towns, so he grew up in a small-business world. He combines this experience with the knowledge he learned in the corporate world to run Louie Inc.

Hofstetter said he plans to expand Louie Inc. in its second year by recruiting a few corporations as clients and hiring more employees. Right now, he oversees a team of one part-time and one full-time employee, as well as various contracted developers and designers.

In the long-term, Hofstetter plans to grow Louie Inc. into a “comfortable, medium-sized business” that’s respected nationwide, he said.

“I don’t know that I’m pulling to be some extra-large company, because the last thing I want is to find myself in a position where I’m removed and can do nothing but run the business,” Hof-



Chris Hofstetter.
Photo courtesy of Hofstetter

stetter said. “I always want to be on the ground, working with clients directly.”

The agency is also in the process of receiving its National LGBT Chamber of Commerce Certification, Hofstetter said.

“We are an LGBT-owned and operated business and are committed to practicing diversity forever,” Hofstetter said. “That informs the company culture, too. I want my employees to work in a flexible environment where they can be themselves and be happy.”

According to Hofstetter, one of his main goals as CEO is to give back to the LGBTQ community. He’s a member of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, where he’s volunteering his time to work on its website and database. He also plans to take on more LGBTQ-owned small business clients to help them prosper into larger companies.

“As someone who grew up gay in a small town where there were no gay people I knew of, I’m grateful to finally be free to be who I am and give back,” Hofstetter said. “I didn’t start out with a focus on the LGBT community, but it’s the direction I want to go.”

Louie Inc.’s website is at <https://www.louieinc.com/>.

Zoe Spears is 10th trans woman killed this year

Zoe Spears, a 23-year-old Black transgender woman, was fatally shot in Fairmount Heights, Maryland, Out.com reported.

She is the 10th trans woman reported murdered this year in the United States.

On June 1, Johana “Joa” Medina Leon, 25, was found dead in Immigrations and Customs Enforcement custody; and Chynal Lindsey, 26, was found dead in White Rock Lake in Dallas, Texas. On June 6, Chanel Scurlock, 23, was fatally shot in Lumberton, North Carolina. And most recently, Layleen Polanco, 27, was found dead in Rikers Island Jail in New York.

In a statement, National Black Justice Coalition Executive Director David J. Johns said, “This senseless killing of Black trans women must end. Spears is yet another Black trans woman who has been murdered during Pride Month—and the month is not over.

“The continued deaths of Black trans women begs the question: how can anyone celebrate Pride Month when so many members of the community are dying? Black trans women are disproportionately affected by violent crime and deserve to live without fear. Twenty-six transgender people were killed in 2018. Since the start of 2019, ten Black trans women alone have been killed. There must be justice for Black trans women like Spears and Carmon.”

The Out.com article is at <https://www.out.com/news/2019/6/15/zoe-spears-fourth-black-trans-woman-found-dead-pride-month>.

Indiana school refuses to fire gay teacher, loses Catholic status

The Archbishop of Indianapolis asked a Jesuit school to fire a teacher who is in a same-sex marriage—but it refused to do so, CNN.com reported.

And because of the Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School’s defiance, Archbishop Charles Thompson has decreed that the Indianapolis institution will no longer be recognized or identified as a Catholic institution within the archdiocese.

The Catholic catechism teaches that “[same-sex] acts are intrinsically disordered” but also that LGBT people “must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.”

“What the leaders of Brebeuf and the Midwest Jesuit Province did is exactly what our Catholic faith teaches,” said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, a national pro-LGBT Catholic group. “They honored the dignity and human rights of the teacher, as we expect they would for any member of the school community. We applaud their integrity

and bravery.”

However, another Indianapolis school has gone a different route and fired another teacher who is in a same-sex marriage, The Indianapolis Star reported. Cathedral High School, announced it is terminating a gay teacher in order to avoid a split with the archdiocese.

The CNN article is at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/us/jesuit-school-indianapolis-gay-teacher/index.html>. The Star piece is at <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2019/06/23/cathedral-high-school-indianapolis-archdiocese-fires-gay-teacher/1543384001/>.



Ald. Maria Hadden.
Photo by Ryan Edmund

Progressive Reform Caucus announces new leaders

The Chicago City Council Progressive Reform Caucus elected new leadership. The caucus now has 17 members.

The new officers are 10th Ward Ald. Sue Sadlowski-Garza (chair), 4th Ward Ald. Sophia King (vice chair), 40th Ward Ald. Andre Vasquez (secretary) and 49th Ward Ald. Maria Hadden (treasurer).

Hadden, who identifies as queer, was elected this year, defeating longtime Ald. Joe Moore.

The caucus now includes: Ald. Daniel LaSpata (1st Ward); Ald. Sophia King (4); Ald. Leslie Hairston (5); Ald. Roderick T. Sawyer (6); Ald. Michael Rodriguez (22); Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza (10); Ald. David Moore (17); Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20); Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25); Ald. Chris Taliaferro (29); Ald. Felix Cardona Jr (31); Ald. Scott Waguespack (32); Ald. Rossana Rodriguez (33); Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35); Ald. Andre Vasquez (40); Ald. Matt Martin (47); and Ald. Maria Hadden (49).

A TIP FROM A
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Looking back—and forward

OP-ED BY MARIANNE WILLIAMSON
EXCLUSIVE TO WINDY CITY TIMES

As we look forward to the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and celebrate PRIDE month, I think about progress made—but also about work to be done.

Our Declaration of Independence holds that the inalienable rights of, “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” are endowed to ALL humans by their creator at birth. Marriage equality became the law of the land, yet there is still no federal law explicitly protecting LGBTQ communities from discrimination. These communities, therefore, do not enjoy the full breadth of freedoms that this country espouses to guarantee to each and every citizen.

This is not only unacceptable; this is in direct violation of our founding principles.

People have long fought to rid our country of the “except for’s”—“except for Blacks,” “except for women” and so forth. Today, we are challenged by the ongoing prejudice that seeks to repudiate the fundamental American dedication to freedom and equality for all. The idea that there should be God-given life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, “except for them,” is a stain on our national character.

Rights are rights. I have been working for fundamental rights for LGBTQ communities since the 1980s and, as president, I will continue that work.

I have been an HIV- and LGBTQ-rights activist since the 1980s, when I founded Project Angel Food, which has now served more than 11 million meals. When I began speaking in 1983, I was at a place called the Philosophical Research Society



Marianne Williamson.

Photo courtesy of the campaign team

in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. Not long after I began speaking, the AIDS crisis burst onto the scene. Organized religious institutions were profoundly silent for quite a while. Los Angeles was so hard hit by AIDS and there was a young

woman, myself, who talked about a God who loved us no matter what, and who works miracles. So, people affected by the virus, particularly gay men, began flocking to my lectures. And that was simply the river that flowed to my door.

The suffering, death and illness around me gave me the idea of starting a nonprofit organization to provide non-medical support services to people with life-challenging illnesses. When I first did it, I wasn't even thinking about AIDS specifically. But, at our first fundraiser, when I saw who showed up, who gave the party, who did the work, I looked around and I thought, Oh my god. This is the AIDS community. I knew that Project Angel Food was theirs.

At that time, for some of those young men, telling their parents they were gay was as traumatic as telling their parents they were dying. So it was like being in a war zone, and all we had was love for each other. It was a very profound experience. I was marked forever by that experience.

The love I felt from those days propels me now to continue working for full rights and fair treatment for all as I run to be your president.

Love,
Marianne

Marianne Williamson is a best-selling author, lecturer non-profit activist and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate.

Psychoanalytic group apologizes to LGBTQs

The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) has issued a statement apologizing for its past views that pathologized homosexuality and transgender identities.

The statement read, in part, “In 1969, homosexuality was considered a mental illness and sexual orientation was conflated with gender identity by the mental health field. This led to many being coerced, either by force or choice, into traumatic and harmful methods to ‘cure’ homosexual desires and non-conforming gender identities. This belief also contributed to widespread discrimination and prejudice in housing, employment, healthcare, and in society at large.”

“Regrettably some of that era’s understanding of homosexuality and gender identity can be attributed to the American psychoanalytic establishment,” said APsaA President Lee Jaffe. “It is long past time to recognize and apologize for our role in the discrimination and trauma caused by our profession.”

MWRD raises Pride flag

In what some believe to be a first, the rainbow flag was flown at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago headquarters, 100 E. Erie St.

On June 20, the flag was raised, and there was a reception that included the presentation of a resolution. Also during the ceremony, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois was honored.

LGBT members of the MWRD include commissioners Debra Shore and Marcelino Garcia.



Gathering at MWRD.

Photo courtesy of the MWRD



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Brad Lippitz: Real-estate expert talks twists, love and politics

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Like many people's lives, Brad Lippitz's has taken some intriguing twists and turns. In this case, it was a switch from law to (ultimately) real estate that changed his life.

Lippitz, a luxury real-estate broker at The Brad Lippitz Group at Compass, told Windy City Times he started practicing law at two firms (Sachnoff & Weaver, Ltd.; Schiff Hardin LLP) before opening his own real-estate brokerage in 1994. In particular, he praised Sachnoff, saying, "It was a terrific firm. We did a lot of progressive public-interest work and pro bono work, and there were a lot of smart, credible people who believed in the public interest. It was a good match, and I don't think I could've been happier at any other firm."

However, Lippitz still didn't feel quite as fulfilled as he thought he should. "Law didn't seem like a long-term thing for me," he said. "But at the side of my desk I kept a file called 'Project H'—and it stood for 'Project Happiness.' At the time, I was doing fairly complex real-estate transactions, and all that's required of lawyers to become brokers is to take the exam. So I took the

exam, and I got my brokers' license."

At this point, Lippitz decided to take a leave of absence—and revealed yet another pursuit while discussing his life: "I'm also an artist as well, and I opened a studio in Fulton Market, where Yoni [husband Jonathan Pizer] and I lived. I made furniture and accessories that I shipped around the country, and I also did art shows. However, it started feeling too much like a company, and it just wasn't as enjoyable anymore.

"So I started focusing on real estate. I helped a few friends look for houses and, before I knew it, I had this thriving business, thanks to [word of mouth]. It just grew organically. At that point, Yoni and I moved to a modest townhouse that's across the street from where I live now. But we didn't have kids at this point [he and Pizer have two teens now, along with a dog, Astro] and little debt, so I figured this was the time to take a chance. I decided that if I could live with the worst-case scenario—that I failed at everything, including law, and living a simple life—that I could live with anything."

And, regarding real estate, "I was pretty much considered the 'un-broker,'" Lippitz said. "I was



Brad Lippitz (left) and husband Jonathan Pizer.
Photo by Alina Tsvor



Brad Lippitz.

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Pizer

never pushy and I didn't consider myself the typical way. I worked out of our house for a long time. Then a friend of mine, Gary Zickel, suggested we get an office together. I eventually got the space at 3323 N. Broadway; there have been a few awnings on it—but this is the last one."

There were also twists involved when it came to dating Pizer. "I wasn't out at all [in 1986], and Yoni had just moved to Chicago from Wisconsin, and he was living in Hyde Park," Lippitz related. "At that time, I was at law school at the University of Chicago. I actually was in a comedy troupe; I was living in Lincoln Park and I decided to have the members of the troupe over—and there was one guy there who I really hit it off with. I wasn't out to anyone, and I didn't know if he was gay." What ensued was Lippitz pursuing Pizer when the latter worked at Marshall Field's and a dinner in which they "spent the entire night dropping hints about our sexuality," Lippitz said, adding that there was one slight bump—Pizer had to break up with someone he was briefly dating at that point.

Obviously, that split worked in Lippitz and Pizer's favor, as the couple have been together for more than 30 years—and have even worked together for several years. (They've married twice, in 1995 and 2003.) "This just happens to be our family business now, even though he had his own business for many years," Lippitz said.

And regarding their interests, one of them is politics, with the couple hosting fundraisers for politicians ranging from presidential candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg to Chicago's own chief executive, Lori Lightfoot. Asked if their political leanings have ever conflicted with business, Lippitz replied, "Occasionally, my clients' politics won't [mesh] with my own—but, to a large extent, I don't care. Politics and making a difference in the

world mean more than money. In the end, I care about the world and justice, and you can see that on my social-media accounts—so if someone's going to hold that against me, then so be it."

Regarding what Lippitz does, what exactly constitutes luxury real estate? "That's such a good question," said Lippitz, who works in areas such as the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park and Wicker Park. "Luxury real estate is more of a state of mind. You can have a luxury condominium for \$3 million or for \$300,000, depending on how it's presented. It's just marketed expensively."

As for the best and worst parts of his job, Lippitz said it's the same thing: technology. "It's the iPhone," he said. "The worst part is that you have to be available 24/7/365. To be one of the top-10 teams, you have to be responsive. But on the flip side, I can do a deal from anywhere. I was biking in Cambodia recently, and I was calling and texting; I can be in the bathtub or at my son's piano lesson now."

Asked if there are any myths about the real-estate business, Lippitz immediately came up with one. "Even though the barriers are pretty low, I think it's short-sighted to think you're going to make a quick buck," he said. "Yes, I shifted gears—but when I started, there was no internet and you had to flip through books of listings. The perception now is that it's easy, but it's not an easy business."

Lastly, does he have any advice for real-estate newbies? "Be realistic and be patient," said Lippitz, who added that he sees himself manning the company for quite some time to come. "And understand that you're taking on risks. Be sure to look at the worst-case scenario."

The Brad Lippitz Group can be reached at 3323 N. Broadway and at <https://www.bradlippitz.com>.



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'Out at CHM' event explores current, past activism

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago History Museum closed the 16th season of its Out at CHM LGBT-focused programming June 13 with "Quiet as a Riot," a discussion of the past and current states of LGBT activism in the city.

Participants included Chicago Human Relations Commission Commissioner Mona Noriega; community activist Precious Brady-Davis; and Legacy Project Executive Director/founder Victor Salvo. Activist and consultant Mary Morten moderated the discussion.

Noriega reflected on her past activism when she was a principal member of the now-disbanded community organization Amigas Latinas, which had to reach a constituency that was at the time largely closeted. She called the group "a really different way of organizing—you had to call people on the phone [and] you had to actually talk

to people."

She noted that, while the group focused on same-gender loving women, "If you said you were a 'lesbian' group, you could scare people away."

Both Brady-Davis and Salvo recalled their early times in activism. Brady-Davis, a Nebraska native, said she was inspired largely by taking an LGBT history course at Columbia College. She started working in social justice, she added, in response to the local Take Back Boystown movement.

Salvo's activism began when he worked on activist Ron Sable's political campaign for Chicago alderman in the early '80s. He also discussed his work in HIV/AIDS activism that decade: "We were battling a plague and society wanted the plague to win," he recalled.

Each person recalled the impact that gay bars had on them. Salvo described how bar owners—many of whom didn't want a "buzz killed" by becoming involved with HIV/AIDS activism. That



From left: Mary Morten, Mona Noriega, Precious Brady-Davis and Victor Salvo. Photo by Matt Simonette

gradually changed as the disease took a toll on the community, he noted.

"You could not run a bar without a social conscience," he said.

Noriega added, "Bars were an opportunity to see beyond the constraints of what I was told I could and could not be."

Brady-Davis recalled that bars offered her the chance to become a drag performer: "Everything I was told that I could not be, I found in drag."

Noriega noted that the discussion of bars would not be complete without adding an acknowledgment of the anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando.

"We must remember that we still fall victim to targeting and hate crimes," she said.

The participants also discussed racism within the LGBT community at length. Morten noted that the current discussion, prompted by recent events in Boystown echo discussions she had as part of the organization The Color Triangle years ago. She said many people are surprised that an oppressed group would perpetrate misogynist or racist viewpoints, but, she added, "Those who are oppressed often know how to do it best."

But Brady-Davis optimistically noted that those opposed to the current presidential administration can draw inspiration from the LGBT movement: "Our community has led the way in resistance."

The program ended with performances by entertainers Lucy Stoolle and Naysha Lopez.

Berwyn Pride Walk on June 29

For the third consecutive year in a row, the City of Berwyn is holding its annual Pride Walk along Berwyn's historic Depot District, on Saturday, June 29.

The family-friendly event aims to celebrate the growing LGBTQ+ community, as well as the thriving diversity in Berwyn. Participants will meet at the James Joyce Irish Pub, 7138 W.

Windsor Ave., at 2 p.m. and will march along the Depot District with a ceremonial gathering at Karasek Park, 6844 W. Windsor Ave.

There will be an after-party at Lavergne's Tavern, 6546 W. Windsor Ave..

For more information, follow "Berwyn's 3rd Annual Pride Walk 2019" on Facebook as well as the BUNGALO Pride in the Park Picnic event on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2337889303122083/>).



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Andrew Reynolds.

Photo by Martha Hoelzer

BOOK REVIEW

The Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ Politicians Changed the World

By Andrew Reynolds
\$34.95; Oxford University Press; 354 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Your eyes are on 2020.

One election is past and thoughts are on the next one: votes equal change, and you're ready for it. You'll be the next in a long line of changers, as you'll see in the new book "The Children of Harvey Milk" by Andrew Reynolds.

In the latter part of June, 1978, Harvey Milk, the "Mayor of Castro Street," called former Army nurse and Castro Street "fixture" Gilbert Baker and asked him to make something special for the upcoming Gay Freedom parade. At that time, the rainbow flag was "a rebel flag," but Baker subsumed it into a symbol of pride.

By the end of that year, Milk was dead and rainbow flags were still "rare and exotic," as were openly gay politicians. Just a handful of "LGB" people were in office around the world at that time; it would be years before the first openly trans individual would be elected.

Here, Reynolds tells their stories, and others, world-wide.

He begins with a battle in New Zealand's Parliament that was narrowly-won, followed four years later by marriage equality victory in nearby

Australia. He writes of two gay politicians who squared off in Great Britain, noting that laws against buggery were still on the books when they did battle. He tells of a Dutch politician who, by mere months, preceded Harvey Milk as the world's first openly gay man to serve in office. And he shares a story of politics in Ireland, "the first country in the world to pass gay marriage by popular referendum."

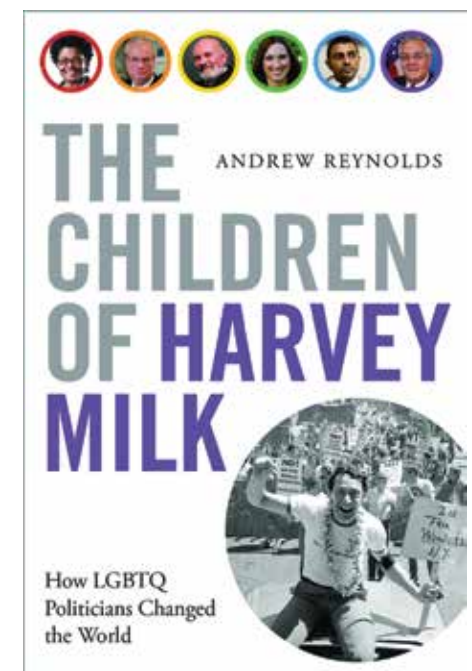
Closer to home, Reynolds writes about Barney Frank, his "first political battle" for civil rights in Mississippi, and the "undercelebrated" woman who inspired him. Reynolds recalls the beginning of the AIDS crisis, and what it was like to be active in politics then. He writes of trans politicians Sarah McBride and Danica Roem, and the fierce but highly ironic story of Pauli Murray, whose great-aunt's land donation helped build a university that ultimately denied bathroom access to trans individuals.

If you see *The Children of Harvey Milk* on a shelf somewhere, you may be confused by the title. No, author Reynolds isn't referring to small humans; his title instead refers to babes in political office, world-wide, who happen to be gay.

For some readers, that could present problems: fully half of Reynolds' book is about politics overseas, and some of it won't make sense unless you've got basic knowledge of how other governments work. Without it, you may not fully appreciate the significance of what you'll read—and if that makes you feel a tinge of regretful isolationism, know that, happily, Reynolds is a good teacher. Here, readers will easily learn, and what they learn is absolutely inspiring.

For political animals, this book is an easy choice. For the slightly clueless, it's a know-your-history book that doesn't dwell strictly domestically. For a casual reader, it may be challenging but in the end, "The Children of Harvey Milk" could be the most informative book you'll lay eyes on.

Want more? Then look for *Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death*, by Lillian Faderman; or *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Steven Salerno.



GENERATION Stonewall

The journey to LGBTQ equality in Chicago—to the point where we have an openly lesbian mayor—was made possible by the courage of several generations of activists.

Starting with postal worker Henry Gerber and the short-lived Society for Human Rights he helped launch in 1924, there have been tens of thousands of activists who have made progress possible.

But in the last century, prior to the Stonewall riots in 1969 sparking a new surge in the push for LGBTQ equality, there were just a few dozen brave individuals who allowed their faces and real names to be associated with Chicago's fight for "homosexual" rights.

Most of those people have died, including Gerber. Pioneers from earlier eras included jazz musicians Tiny Davis, Ruby Lucas, and Tony Jackson; bar owners Chuck Renslow, Jim Flint, and Marge Summit; attorneys Pearl Hart, Renee Hanover, Ralla Klepak, William B. Kelley, and Ed Mogul; and activists Vernita Gray, Marie Kuda, Jackie Anderson, George Buse, and Henry Wiemhoff.

In this week's editions of the *Chicago Reader* and *Windy City Times*, we are looking back at a

few of the "Stonewall Generation" who are still alive and able to tell their stories. The people below are just a small slice of the community, from activists to cultural pioneers, but they represent the names and voices of thousands of others.

The movement grew after those riots at the Stonewall gay bar in New York City 50 years ago this month. But it did not grow from nothing—many of the people below helped plant the seeds, while others provided the nourishment to help them grow.

If you want to know more about Chicago's LGBTQ history, you can read my book *Out and Proud in Chicago*, watch the companion film WTTW produced, or check out the website ChicagoGayHistory.org for oral histories. Owen Keehnen and I wrote biographies of Renslow, Flint, and Gray, and I have a collection of Kuda's essays, *Kuda: Gay and Proud*, now available. More information on many of these pioneers is also available at the LGBTQ Hall of Fame website. Other resources include the Gerber/Hart Library, the Leather Archives & Museum, and books by Sukie de la Croix and Owen Keehnen.

—Tracy Baim, publisher of the *Chicago Reader* and owner of the *Windy City Times*



Gloria "Mama Gloria" Allen

Gloria "Mama Gloria" Allen

Gloria Allen, now in her mid-70s, has been an out-and-proud transgender woman fighting for rights and dignity for decades. But it has only been in recent years that her life has been amplified through a play and, soon, a documentary.

"You can't fit me into a pigeonhole," she told *Windy City Times* in 2015. "I'm just a person who's out there, in love with life. I really do everything that I can when I can, and if I'm needed to be there, I'm there."

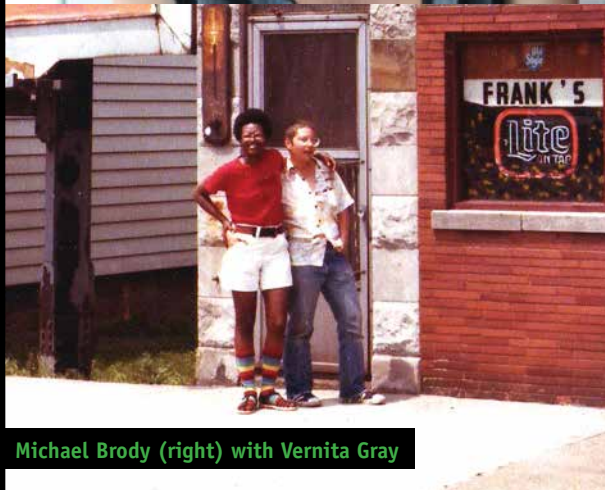
"So many trans women of color don't make it to my age. There's a few out there, and you can count them on your fingers. I am blessed and proud to be here to talk, because older trans women should be heard. We walked that long mile to get here."

"The [1963] March on Washington had a big impact on me," Allen said. "I remember Martin Luther King coming to Cicero. But if I went over to Cicero, I would have either been lynched or murdered. The north side wasn't any better. Blacks coming up north were all carded and profiled [by the Chicago Police Department]. We had to have at least three pieces of ID with the same name on it. Halsted had so many clubs and a lot of gay men, but transgender girls just did not exist."

Allen spent her weekend evenings performing at clubs on the south side. "There was the Bonanza Club and the Burning Spear," she said. "The girls would put on shows there. My mother gave me her old dresses. But they were good clothes, designer clothes."

She moved to New York's Greenwich Village in 1969 looking to perform on Broadway, a dream that would be forever deferred. She did experience the NYPD of 1969. "The police were vicious," she said. "They'd arrest you if you rolled your eyes at them. The violence against transgender women was horrific. They were being stabbed and found in garbage cans with their bodies chopped up. The police were killing us too. They would raid the clubs and drag us out. It was like living in Salem during the witch hunts. If you were Black and transgender, it was bad."

She recalled June 1969 at the gay Stonewall Inn: "We just got tired of it. The girls decided, 'We're going to fight,' and we fought because we weren't going to take it anymore."



Michael Brody (right) with Vernita Gray

"Trans people weren't in existence at all," she said. "A lot of people would come to the clubs just to see the trans girls perform, and we would put on a good show. They put us into categories—sex workers or entertainers. They didn't realize we were educated. The lesbians hated us and we couldn't understand why. It's changed now, but when I was coming up, lesbians would fight us just because we were trans girls. The gay men didn't like us because we were feminine."

She returned to Chicago in 1974 and started working the clubs, but citizens and police alike targeted transgender people. "A lot of trans girls were being murdered," she said.

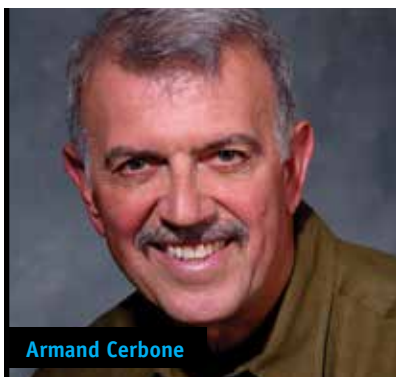
The next enemy that knocked on the door was AIDS. "When AIDS came out, everyone I knew were dropping like flies," she said. "We didn't know what was going on."

"I'm not ready to stop," Allen told *WCT*. "I'm ready to give people what was given to me. These kids are my babies, and if my mother, aunt, and grandmother were here now, they'd be helping out."

Michal Brody

Michal Brody, PhD, born in 1948, is an activist and author inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame for her work as a founding member of the groundbreaking Chicago Gay Liberation group in 1969, a founding member of Chicago Lesbian Liberation in 1970, and her 1985 book *Are We There Yet?*, a history of lesbians in Chicago.

"I got involved in the first organized gay liberation in Chicago in November 1969, when it started," she wrote in an e-mail. "Although the group was organized by University of Chicago students (Henry Wiemhoff, principally) and used the *Chicago Maroon* for publicizing meetings, the people who came to those early meetings were mostly non-[U. of C.] people and pretty much reflected general south-side demographics; that is, a broad class spectrum, and many Black folks. I think that's really significant and generally overlooked. A lot of conversation went to how to not get harassed or busted by the Chicago cops—the women, for not wearing enough 'women's' garments, and the boys, for being too swish. Activism really began there; I don't think the concept of rights was even on the horizon."



Armand Cerbone



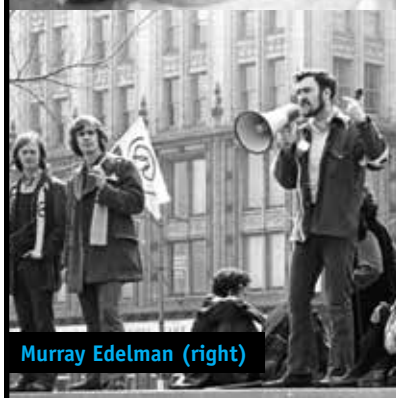
Gary Chichester (left)



John D'Emilio



Veronica "Ronnie" Drantz



Murray Edelman (right)

Armand Cerbone

Armand Cerbone has been an advocate and activist on LGBTQ mental and physical health issues for several decades, including as a leader in the American Psychological Association.

Cerbone, in solo practice since 1978, is among the first psychologists to offer affirmative psychotherapy to the LGBTQ community. In the mid-1980s he organized the Midwest Association of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists to provide support to lesbian and gay psychologists in the field and to foster affirmative psychotherapy.

Cerbone has been a longtime Illinois Psychological Association member and was its first out gay president from 2004 to 2005. He held leadership positions at the APA, including chair of the board of directors.

Gary Chichester

Born in 1946, Gary Chichester came out in 1964.

"I am fortunate to have come out early in my life with the support of my friends and eventually my family," he said. "The 1968 Democratic National Convention radically changed my life, so by the time Stonewall took place, I was set to fight for my rights as a human being. Becoming involved with the Gay Liberation Movement and, later, Chicago Gay Alliance, I had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most dedicated people in the movement.

"I believe the early years of the movement built a strong foundation to build on. I never thought I would live to see marriage equality, an open lesbian mayor of my city, and an open gay man running for the highest office in the country. We must remember that there is still much to do."

John D'Emilio

Longtime LGBTQ historian and professor John D'Emilio said his first organized effort to move "gay liberation" forward came in 1973, "when a group of gay men and lesbians in New York City came together to figure out how research could be a tool for liberation. Soon we had formed the Gay Academic Union. By 1975, almost a thousand people attended our annual conference. And I was launched on a lifetime path of researching and writing about LGBTQ history."

Veronica "Ronnie" Drantz

Veronica "Ronnie" Drantz, born in 1943, started her activism in 1970 at the Astro Restaurant in the heart of Chicago's gay neighborhood at Clark and Diversey (aka Diversity).

"While waitressing there in the summer of 1970 the boss commanded me to overcharge two customers and told them to never come back because they were gay," she said. "I reported this to Chicago Gay Liberation. The result was 35 CGL members picketing and leafletting the Astro for nine consecutive days, starting August 7, 1970—the first Chicago gay protest of its kind. My favorite sign was 'Up Your Astro.'"

Murray Edelman

Murray Edelman, born in 1943, came out in 1965. By 1970, "we came out to friends, family, and colleagues, not knowing the consequences, for we hoped to be future role models for others. We stood up to the Chicago police, expecting to have our heads bashed. Looking back, I don't know if I was courageous or foolhardy. But I do know that I am very proud of what we did."

James W. Flint

James "Jim" Flint was born in 1941 and came out in 1954. He worked in Chicago gay bars in the 1960s and was arrested dozens of times during bar raids. He opened the Baton Show Lounge in early 1969, and it still stands today, in a new Uptown location after 50 years in River North.

"Stonewall made us all more diligent and active in gay rights," he said.

He participated in the country's first gay march to commemorate Stonewall, held in June 1970 in Chicago. In the later 1970s he participated in the anti-Anita Bryant protest at Medinah Temple, and he led a march on City Hall to stop police raids and harassment.

Flint helped distribute AIDS education information in the early years of the epidemic, and he was very active in the gay sports scene locally and nationally. He was also among the first openly gay men to run for office, seeking a seat on the Cook County Board in 1987.

Tom Gertz

Born and raised on the northwest side of Chicago, Gertz became involved in the homophile community prior to the 1969 Stonewall riots.

Gertz joined the Chicago-based gay group Mattachine Midwest in 1967, serving as vice president and president through 1973. In 1973, he joined the staff of the Akron Forum, a human sexuality learning center in Akron, Ohio. For almost 25 years, Gertz lived there, where he was involved in starting and developing HIV/AIDS organizations.

As a sexologist, he was involved in many professional associations and conferences, helping to advance the cause of LGBTQ rights.

Joel Hall

Joel Hall has been an openly gay activist since the early 1970s. He also founded the Joel Hall Dancers. His advocacy has included work on African American gay issues, LGBTQ rights, and AIDS causes.

He recently stepped down after nearly 40 years heading Joel Hall Dancers, where he debuted more than 70 new works and collaborations.

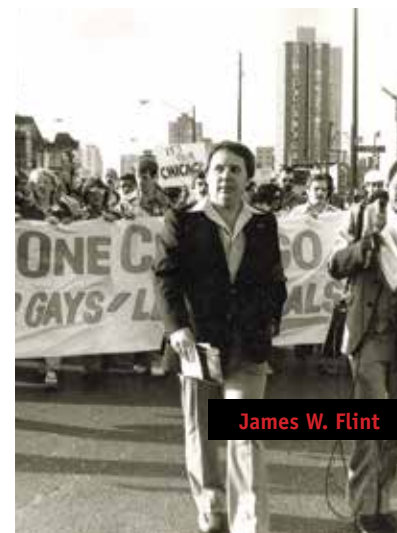
He was locked up at age 14 by a judge who wanted to "correct" his homosexuality. After he got out at age 17, his dance training began in Chicago in 1968. He moved to New York in 1969 to work with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

He wrote a groundbreaking essay for the journal *Gay Sunshine* in 1971 that was republished in 1973 in *The Gay Liberation Book* by Ramparts Press, along with works by Gore Vidal, Huey Newton, William Burroughs, and Allen Ginsberg. He's writing his own book now.

Eunice Hundseth

Eunice Hundseth, who was born in 1942, was the owner of Susan B., a feminist restaurant around the corner from Augie's women's bar on the north side of Chicago, which opened on Thanksgiving 1973.

"I came to Chicago from Canada to study art when I was 18," Hundseth said. "I was a medical photographer when I got interested in women's issues and women in the late 1960s. Moving from a miniskirted front-desk 'girl' to a raging full-blown feminist lesbian took place in a short span of time. My activism was to serve food to the women who had helped change my life so much."



James W. Flint



Tom Gertz



Joel Hall (left)



Eunice Hundseth



Mary Ann Johnson



Lucina Kathmann (right)



Lola Lai Jong



Alexis Martinez

Mary Ann Johnson

Born in 1944, Mary Ann Johnson began her activism in the early 1970s. She is president of the Chicago Area Women's History Council and former director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

"I had my first serious lesbian relationship beginning in 1963," she said. "It ended badly; I was devastated and had no one to talk to. Drank myself nearly to death. Then I met some young lesbian feminists in the early 1970s and was shocked to learn they thought being a lesbian was okay—even good! I joined the Lesbian Feminist Center on Halsted Street when it was starting up and began coming out. A long process."

Lucina Kathmann

Lucina Kathmann, along with Kathleen Thompson and Nick Patricca, was among a group of activists organizing marches in the early days of the movement.

"Most of us lived above and behind Pride & Prejudice Bookstore on Halsted Street in 1970-'71. It was also a center of many women's activities: pregnancy testing, silk screening, dance workshops, publications. [It was] amazing what all went on under one roof."

Nicholas (Nick) Kelly

Born in 1942, Kelly came out in the early 1960s. In 2019, he gave a speech about his activism to a gay student group in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he now lives. The speech, "After Stonewall: A Lifetime of Gay Activism," recalled his decades of work.

"I was invited to the first Chicago gay-lib meeting in around September 1969 by a friend," he said. "We had no idea what we were getting into except that it was a gay-movement group that had come out of the Stonewall confrontation in June 1969.

"Going to my first meeting with lots of gay men sitting on the floor of an apartment all talking to each other—and it wasn't a gay bar—the energy was fantastic. Political zaps were popular in those days, and the group decided that they would plan their first activity as a zap against the Normandy—the biggest gay bar in Chicago run by the Mafia—since they did not allow dancing in the bar. We wanted to dance, so we leafleted and picketed the bar for three nights until the owners finally let us dance there. But no slow dancing. And no touching. That was one of the conditions by the owners."

Lola Lai Jong

Lola Lai Jong has worked for many decades making sure that Asian LGBTQ people are represented, both within the LGBTQ community and the mainstream. She has been part of many movements and organizations, including one she helped found, Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, "a community-based organization that celebrates and affirms Asians & Pacific Islanders who identify as LGBTQQ in the Chicago area."

Alexis Martinez

Born May 10, 1950, Alexis Martinez came out to her family in 1964. She has been active on transgender issues in Chicago for many years.

"In 1969 I was living in San Francisco's Chinatown," she said, "and while the Stonewall uprising was in the news, I remember that a few of us trans women later tried to join the Harvey Milk campaign for San Francisco supervisor. They turned us away—they felt we would not fit into the straight-passing white male image that Milk thought was necessary to succeed. Though we have had many advances in the last 50 years, trans persons are stepchildren of the LGBT community."

Patricia "Pat" McCombs

Pat McCombs, born in 1949, started her activism in Chicago in the 1970s, when she first fought back against racial carding in the bars. She was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame for her volunteer work for lesbian groups, and for launching safe social spaces for women. As part of Executive Sweet, she and business partner Vera Washington created places where African American lesbians and their friends could safely socialize.

"I was a volunteer for the Lesbian Community Center on Halsted and a building on Barry and Clark," she said. "Working mainly on the women's hotline speaking to lesbians wanting info in some type of crisis. I marched and protested with NOW for women's rights, for the ERA. Made a few contributions of poetry to *Lavender Woman* newspaper. I helped to form numerous womyn-of-color rap groups. These were social gatherings and meet-up groups of lesbians seeking to discuss topics of interest."

In her retirement, she continues to speak up and advocate for women of color and the LGBTQ community.

Edward Mogul

Attorney Edward Mogul, born in 1945, came out in the late 1960s.

"In the late 1960s, a group of law students met to combat the harassment of gay men in the cruising areas around the Lincoln Park lagoon and on Pine Grove," he said. "It was risky for law students to be out because it was not clear what effect being known as a homosexual would have on being licensed as an attorney. The police were indifferent and in some cases hostile. But it was the beginning of the baby-boomer cohort of gay men taking action in Chicago."

Mogul has continued to assist both LGBTQ people individually and LGBTQ institutions with legal help for 50 years.

Nicholas Anthony Patricca

Nicholas Patricca, born in 1941, joined the University of Chicago Gay Consciousness Raising/Sexual Liberation group organized by Murray Edelman and Kevin Burke, among notable others, in 1968.

Self-identified as queer, he said Stonewall "caused me to realize I had to move to the north side of Chicago to find political and artistic and queer opportunities not readily available to me in Hyde Park and the south side.

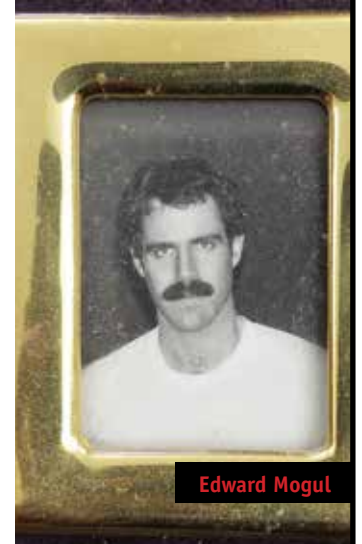
"I reconnoitered the north side from the Red Line, getting off at various stations to surveil the neighborhoods. When I investigated the Belmont-Clark-Broadway area I knew I had found the right place for me.

"In the spring of 1970 I rented the entire building at 3322 N. Halsted, which is still there. My friend Lucina Kathmann moved in with me, continuing her work with other women dancers exploring the themes of women's liberation. My friend Kathleen Thompson also moved in and opened up the first feminist bookstore in Chicago—Pride & Prejudice—on the ground floor. I participated in the first gay Pride Parade and worked with the gay community center run by Gary Chichester.

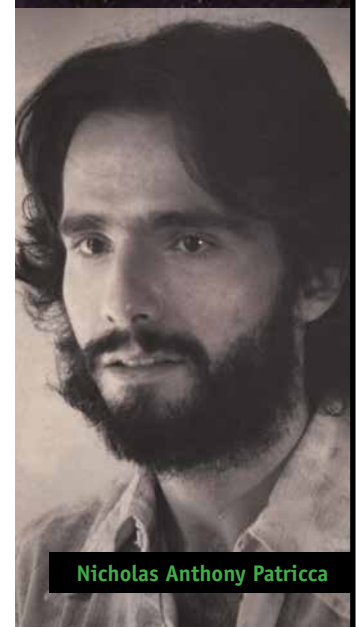
"We were all philosophers and artists committed to exploring the meaning of sexual liberation for ourselves and for everyone, across all boundaries: mental, physical, political, emotional, social, economic, cultural, and ethnic. I like to think of us as among the very first pioneers of the queer artistic and social movements that took root and blossomed on Halsted and then throughout the city."



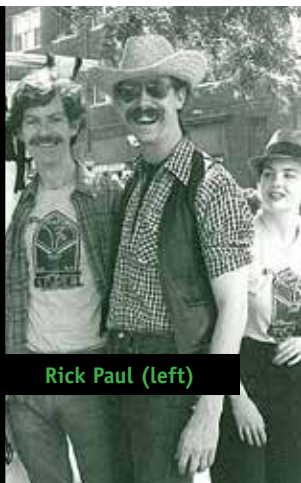
Patricia "Pat" McCombs



Edward Mogul



Nicholas Anthony Patricca



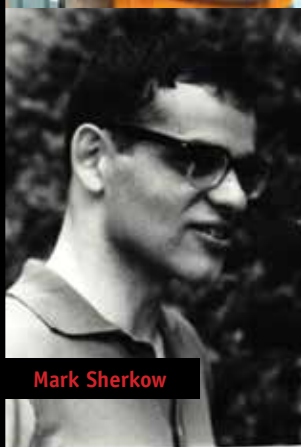
Rick Paul (left)



Chilli Pepper



Rich Pfeiffer



Mark Sherkow

Rick Paul

Rick Paul, born in 1945, started his activism in 1971. He was working as stage manager of a drama arts camp when he sabotaged the sound as a comedian tried to tell homophobic jokes. On his way to the 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, he met veteran George Buse, who was telling stories about his experience in World War II. Paul suggested a play would be great, and Lionheart Gay Theatre Company was born.

Paul has worked for more than 40 years as a scene designer for theater and film. "My work has been seen in every state and on other continents as well. I also produced, acted, wrote, and directed for theater," he said.

At Lionheart, Paul writes: "We put ourselves totally as a service to all the organizations of the time. Giving 100 percent of the box office to the groups each of our 40 productions was benefiting."

Chilli Pepper

Chilli Pepper has been a performer in Chicago since the early 1970s, primarily at the Baton Show Lounge. She transformed the concept of drag, and in the process became a transgender icon, appearing on dozens of television shows and other broadcasts, including popular 1980s and 1990s talk shows.

Pepper was Miss Chicago in 1974, and the first Miss Continental, one of the top transgender pageants in the world, created by the Baton's founder, Jim Flint.

As Zackary Drucker wrote about Pepper for *Vice*: "Chilli's iconic onstage persona, which she refers to as her 'cartoon,' is soulful, unapologetic, and disinterested in anyone else's judgement. In 2015, I encountered the electrifying presence of Chilli Pepper in the flesh for the first time the same way millions of people before me discovered her, on the stage at the Baton Nightclub. Living up to her name, she looked to be on fire, pantomiming, shifting through emotions; her fluid movements seductive and self-possessed; an artist in her zone. . . . For those in the LGBTQ Chicago nightlife universe, Chilli is the ultimate star, famous for her ostentatious jewelry and impeccable style. But speaking with Chilli, I was struck by her deep tranquility and reflection, as well as her reverence for fellow performers at the Baton, past and present."

Rich Pfeiffer

Rich Pfeiffer is best known as coordinator of PRIDE Chicago, which has organized the annual Pride Parade from the early 1970s through the present day. Other organizational involvement from the 1970s through 1980s includes the Chicago Gay Alliance, Gay Horizons (now the Center on Halsted), the Gay Speakers Bureau, campus gay groups at Harold Washington College and the University of Illinois-Chicago, and a gay couples networking group. He was also a writer and columnist for *Chicago Gay Crusader* and *Gay Life* newspapers.

During the 1980s and 1990s, he was a member of the Mayor's Advisory Council on LGBT issues under three different mayors. Pfeiffer has been with his life partner, Timothy Frye, since 1971, and together they contribute to various LGBTQ causes.

Mark Sherkow

Mark Sherkow, born in 1945, came out in the summer of 1969.

"I came to Chicago in August 1967 to start a Master's degree program at the University of Chicago," he said. "I came out after my second summer in that area. Before I actually came out, I went to a gay dance held in a big room in a dormitory. It was jammed full of people and had signs such as 'If someone asks you to dance and you don't want to, then just say "no" and "You are beautiful."' I did not dance or talk to anybody but just sat and watched—and felt comfortable. A little while after that, I saw a news report on the *CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite about gay liberation, focusing on a gay dance at the University of Minnesota, and it gave me the final push I needed to come out."

Maxsonn C. Smith

Maxsonn "Max" Smith was born in 1954 and became interested in Stonewall almost immediately. The *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch* ran a picture of the riot on its cover with a brief caption and no accompanying story, "Yet it made me feel very hopeful," he said.

"I came out at the first Michigan State University Gay Liberation Council meeting, freshman year, in September 1972," Smith said. "Donald Goddard and Jane Phillips led the 25 to 35 people attending weekly meetings. Gay Lib scheduled panel discussions with many classes. The East Lansing, Michigan, city council voted three yes, two no, on Monday, April 16, 1973, to pass America's first gay rights law."

Smith has been an activist in Chicago's LGBTQ community for decades, including work empowering African American gay men through such groups as Adodi.

David Stienecker

David Stienecker was a critical 1960s and early 1970s Chicago activist who fought back against police harassment. He was arrested for writing about a specific police officer in the *Mattachine Midwest* newsletter. He later moved to New York.

As the *Chicago Reader* recalled, "On the snowy afternoon of Wednesday, February 25, 1970, [Gay Lib held a protest] outside the Loop headquarters of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. The group was hosting a program on youthful offenders with a Chicago police officer, Sergeant John Manley, as guest speaker. But for us, the offender was Manley himself. The blond, muscular cop was notorious for entrapping gay men in Lincoln Park restrooms; wearing street clothes, he would pretend to solicit guys for sex and then arrest them if they responded to his invitation. *Mattachine Midwest*, an established 'homophile' organization in town, published Manley's picture in its mimeographed monthly newsletter and mockingly suggested Manley himself was a closet case."

"If I were gay and I didn't want anybody to know, and I felt very, very guilty, I think I might get a job where I could cruise in the public interest," Stienecker wrote. On February 7, 1970, Manley made an early morning appearance at Stienecker's third-floor apartment to arrest him for criminal defamation.

"After I unsuccessfully attempted to make a phone call," Stienecker later told the *Reader*, "Manley called for a police van and I was escorted from my apartment in handcuffs." The case was eventually thrown out, but Stienecker lost his job as an editor at *World Book Encyclopedia*.

Margaret "Marge" Summit

Marge Summit, a legendary bar owner and activist, was born in 1935 and came out of the closet 13 years later: "I knew I didn't want to play with dolls, but loved wearing six-guns."

In the mid-1970s, Summit helped Guy Warner start a Chicago group that is now known as PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

In the 1980s, as owner of His 'n Hers bar, she welcomed people from all parts of the LGBTQ community for food, music, and fun. She held a famous open mike for gay musicians to have a stage for their music, and produced an album called *Gay and Straight Together*. It is in the Smithsonian Museum.

Out of that bar, with fellow bar owner Frank Kellas, she launched the Gay \$ campaign, where individuals and businesses stamped currency. Summit and Kellas experienced pressure from federal officials for their efforts, but it raised visibility for the community.

Summit also fought the city of Chicago to adopt a child in the 1970s, and started a group called QED, which included gay men and women running benefits at the bar to raise money for organizations.



Maxsonn C. Smith



David Stienecker



Margaret "Marge" Summit

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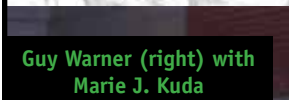
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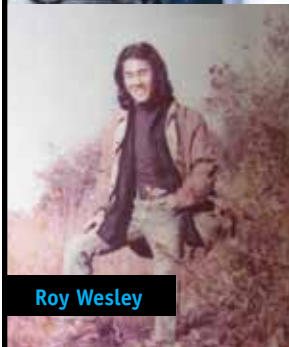




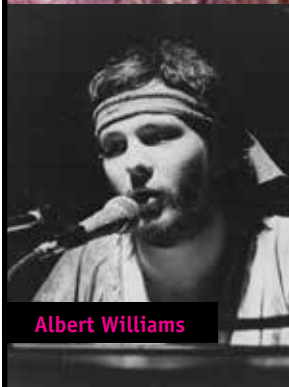
Kathleen Thompson



Guy Warner (right) with Marie J. Kuda



Roy Wesley



Albert Williams



Donald M. Bell

Kathleen Thompson

Kathleen Thompson, born in 1946, was the owner of Pride & Prejudice bookstore on Halsted in what is now Boystown, from 1970 to 1973.

"The early 1970s were an exciting time to be a part of the gay community, although being bisexual was controversial and often uncomfortable," she said. "My feminist bookstore, Pride & Prejudice, was a center of activism and eventually turned into the Women's Center. As the Center became more separatist, I fought the attempts to exclude women who had connections with men. Eventually, the group got very small, and I didn't bother anymore. I just left."

"The best things were Susan B.'s restaurant, Marie Kuda's lesbian writers' conferences, and the parades.

"I barely knew Stonewall happened. In 1969, I had approached one woman sexually and been politely refused. A year later, I was very different. I had opened Pride & Prejudice, and was sleeping with [a woman]. By 1971, I had met Marie Kuda, who began to educate me. A year later, I encountered Penny Pope and Irene Lee, Millie Leonard, and other women in Chicago Gay Liberation, Women's Caucus. They all knew what Stonewall meant, and I learned."

Guy Warner

Guy Warner was one of the founders of the first support group for the parents and friends of members of the LGBTQ community in Chicago, in the 1970s. The group later became part of the national PFLAG movement. Warner was also involved in other critical 1970s groups, including a coalition of gay and lesbian groups and businesses. He served as president of Mattachine Midwest, and the LGBT Hall of Fame credits him with "reinvigorating" the group.

Roy Wesley

Roy Wesley, born in 1942, experienced the early years of the Japanese internment camps the U.S. created during World War II, something that shaped his life of caring about social justice. He came out as gay in 1970.

"It's hard to remember that 50 years ago America was not accepting of LGBT peo-

ple," he said. "I was part of that culture, and hid being gay to all except those men who had the same strong urges that needed to be expressed. Pleasure and happiness were surrounded in guilt and shame. I'm so grateful times have changed thanks to Oscar Wilde, Lambda Legal, SAGE, *Windy City Times*, and so many others!"

Albert Williams

Albert Williams was born in 1950 and came out in 1969. "As a student at Columbia College Chicago in the early 1970s, I was involved in two movements that blossomed in that era and fueled each other—Gay Liberation (we organized the first Stonewall anniversary march, among other activities) and the Chicago off-Loop theater scene (as a member of the Chicago Free Theatre)—which paved the way for my career as a journalist and teacher in the 1980s and continuing today."

Donald M. Bell

Donald Bell, born in 1949, said he first came out in September 1968.

"I was a 19-year-old university student returning to my sophomore year when I had my coming out experience," he said. "I had lived a heteronormative life, as had most men then, and even had a steady girlfriend from home who had just become my fiancée over the summer. When I returned to campus early as an orientation leader, I met my resident advisor and fell in love at first sight. That began a special relationship that has lasted over 50 years."

"I first had to come out to myself, and that was not romantic it was traumatic! My identity exists at the intersection of race and sexual orientation, so it has never been a singular issue. Being gay, although it had been decriminalized in the state of Illinois in 1961, could still get one summarily dismissed from the university since the U.S. Supreme Court had not yet established that due process applied to public colleges. That could cost the loss of a student deferment and land one in Vietnam. As if the threat to one's personal and professional life wasn't sufficient, homosexuality was still in the DSM [*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*] and could result in mandated mental health treatment. At least these things are no longer at risk today. That's progress!"

PHOTO CREDITS: Mama Gloria photo by Kate Sosin; Armand Cerbone photo by Hal Baim; Gary Chichester and his late partner, Patrick Jordan, at a Daley Center gathering circa 1974. Photo courtesy of Chichester; Murray Edelman with the megaphone at the first gay liberation rally in Chicago in April 1970. Photo by Margaret Olin; Tom Gertz at Mattachine Midwest meeting in early '70s. Courtesy M. Kuda Archives; Lucina Kathmann at the Istanbul Gay Pride Parade in 2015, the last of such event before a crackdown. Kathmann (right) is pictured with Gulsen Yagmurdereli. Courtesy of Kathmann; Lola Lai Jong photo by Hal Baim; Rick Paul (left) with Lionheart members, circa 1980 at the Pride Parade. Courtesy M. Kuda Archives; Rich Pfeiffer photo by Ross Forman; David Stienecker photo by Tracy Baim; Albert Williams in *Dangerous Teachings: Songs of Exile and Revolution*, Chicago Free Theatre, 1973. Courtesy of Williams. All other photos courtesy of subjects.

EARLY PRIDE: Photos from early-'70s Chicago's Pride March



Photos by Eunice Hundseth



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HRC Chicago gets 'Social' about 50 years of LGBTQ history

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago's event "Social!" celebrated 50 years of LGBTQ history at the Edelman offices in the Aon Center on June 13.

"Social!" is a monthly event of socializing and networking, held in different Chicago neighborhoods. This month, Edelman's employee resource group Edelman Equal hosted the Pride edition of HRC "Social!"

"We really love having people just coming in a safe space and being able to be their true, genuine self," said HRC Community Engagement Co-Chair Pablo Villarreal of "Social!"

The evening was a celebration of LGBT rights and the "Movers and Shakers" in the fight for equality through the years.

The Legacy Project kicked things off by talking about the organization's current projects and efforts.

"With the two big news worthy issues coming up this month, the historic landmark status and the Illinois Inclusive Curriculum bill, we realize this is a moment when we really need to take

hold of our story and be able to share that more broadly than we ever have before," said Scott Lundius, a board member and director of strategic development of The Legacy Project. "So we're adding to the wonderful work that our founder Victor Salvo has already been doing for the last 30 years..."

Events like this, Lundius added, are a good opportunity to spread the message of the walk and bring it recognition for people who may not realize the rainbow pilons display stories of people from history.

"[We are] trying to make as much of an impact as we can of this message of lost stories and reclaiming their lives and captivations of LGBT people to world history," Lundius said of The Legacy Project and its Legacy Walk.

Villarreal then moderated a panel discussion focused on activism. The panel included Channyn Lynne Parker, manager of external relations for Howard Brown Health; Kina Collins, national organizer for Physicians for National Health Program, community activist, author of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls Act and congressional candidate for IL-07; and Vanessa Sheridan, direc-



From left: Channyn Lynne Parker and Vanessa Sheridan.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

tor of gender equity and inclusion at Center on Halsted and published author.

"I was really happy with our panelists here, to have Kina, Channyn, Vanessa," said Villarreal. "Three individuals that are very strong in their own way and doing great things for the community and LGBT+ community, in general."

"I think being a transwoman of color, to have this conversation, particularly with HRC, I think

is really important," said Parker. "I think that we know that trans people cannot wait, that our needs can't wait, that everyday we're being killed, our lives are at risk and it's time for trans people to be in the forefront of these conversations and encourage folks to invest real change and have real investment in our community."

Collins emphasized it is important that people show up as allies. She added she wants to con-

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tinue her work in the LGBTQ community and continuing learning.

"That means we get out the way, we pass the microphone, but most importantly we learn from communities that we're not a part of, so that as a whole and as a collective, we're stronger, we're better, we're more efficient and we're not leaving anybody behind and so I was honored to be on the panel," said Collins.

Following the panel, attendees socialized with food, drinks and a musical performance by local artist Co-Stanza.

"It's so important that we encourage folks to have open dialogue, that we encourage differences of opinion and that we begin to call up opposed to calling people out," said Parker. "I think it's also important for me to remind folks that pride really was created based off of a battle cry. It was a rally cry. It was something that was created by trans women who said 'Enough is enough'—more specifically, trans women of color..."

"I would hope that people were a little more educated, I hope they were woke," said Villarreal about what he hopes attendees took away from the event. "I think Kina and Channyn made some really great points. They're very passionate about what they do in their life and I hope that it kind of challenged individuals to speak up, make some stride within the community and if change needs to be done, it starts with you. So, I hope they get involved somewhere that they're passionate about and I hope today we kind of inspired them to do so."

For more information, visit HRCChicago.org.

WTTW hosts 'Scare' screening, talk

During the Cold War era, fear and hatred of communism was extended to those who might be seen as susceptible to blackmail, including gays who worked for the federal government. The belief that "sex perverts" were a threat to the security of the country became part of a witch hunt that started with Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigations and led to a federal policy signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 authorizing the dismissal of tens of thousands of federal employees.

A screening of Josh Howard's film on the

era, *The Lavender Scare*, was sponsored by local PBS affiliate WTTW and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events on June 15 at the Chicago Cultural Center. The film was followed by a panel discussion with historian John D'Emilio and Reader publisher Tracy Baim, with WTTW's Alex Silets moderating the event.

The film, based on David K. Johnson's book *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*, focuses on Frank Kameny, a Harvard-trained astronomer who was fired from the federal govern-

ment and for decades continued to write letters to fight his dismissal. He took on the cases of other federal government employees who had been dismissed and his fight became an early spark for the "homophile" movement, attracting activists from other parts of the country for the early "Annual Reminder" pickets in Philadelphia.

More information is at <https://schedule.wttw.com/episodes/477816/Lavender-Scare>.



From left: Alex Silets, John D'Emilio and Tracy Baim.
Photo by Sara Polonsky

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'Lavender Scare' director on very real tragedy

BY ROBERT CHIARITO

In 1953, in the midst of the Cold War, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order that banned gays and lesbians from federal employment, under the pretense that they not only were immoral, but they were susceptible to blackmail from foreign governments because of their immorality.

After the order, investigators scoured the government rolls, looking for telltale signs like women who didn't wear lipstick or dressed 'manly,' and men who had 'jellyfish handshakes' and proceeded to fire or force those who were and those who were suspected of being gay or lesbian to resign.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the order was enforced on most level of government employees—later it would only be enforced in jobs that required security clearances—but it would stay on the books until 1995, when President William Jefferson Clinton would outlaw it in his own Executive Order.

Little was known about Eisenhower's order because victims were often hesitant to talk about it, fearing not getting a job somewhere else. That is, until a few fought back with the help of gay-rights pioneer Frank Kameny and also when documents from the 1950s began to be unclassified in the 1990s. That, and the publication of a book

called *The Lavender Scare* by David Johnson in 2006. A few years after that, retired 60 Minutes producer Josh Howard would read Johnson's book and learn about a story that would bring him out of retirement to make a documentary. Howard's documentary, also called *The Lavender Scare*, took him 10 years to make but will open in June in New York and Los Angeles and air nationally on PBS later that same month.

Recently, *Windy City Times* talked with Howard about the story, his film, and its relevancy to current issues.

Windy City Times: Everyone knows about the Red Scare and Sen. Joe McCarthy. Why isn't this story well-known?

Josh Howard: Well, the fact that it's not really well known is what really drew me to it. I think there are a couple of reasons. One, is that LGBTQ history generally has not been taught as part of mainstream American history. The other reason is that when this was going on, it was in everybody's interest to keep it quiet.

The people who were getting fired didn't want to tell friends and family and potential employers why they had been fired. And after an initial burst of publicity, the government stopped talking about how many people were being fired because it became an embarrassment for the government that they had hired these people. It was kind of a conspiracy of silence and it wasn't



Producer-director Josh Howard (right) interviewing Frank Kameny. Image courtesy of PBS

until the 1990s when documents from this period started to become unclassified that the scope of what happened started to come into focus.

WCT: When did you first learn about it?

JH: In 2009 I came across David Johnson's book *The Lavender Scare* which had been out for a couple years by then. I had the same reaction most other people had. I was surprised to learn this. I thought I knew American history and gay history. I was actually retired from a long career in television news and wasn't looking for something to work on, but I just found this story so compelling that I looked up David Johnson and we got together and found ourselves working on this documentary.

WCT: This started in 1953 and was in place until President Clinton outlawed it in 1995 with his own executive order. How many people did this impact?

JH: As the 1970s and 1980s progressed, different parts of it got chipped away and were enforced less and less, but it was officially on the books, particularly for jobs that required a security clearance that if you were discovered to be gay, you were out.

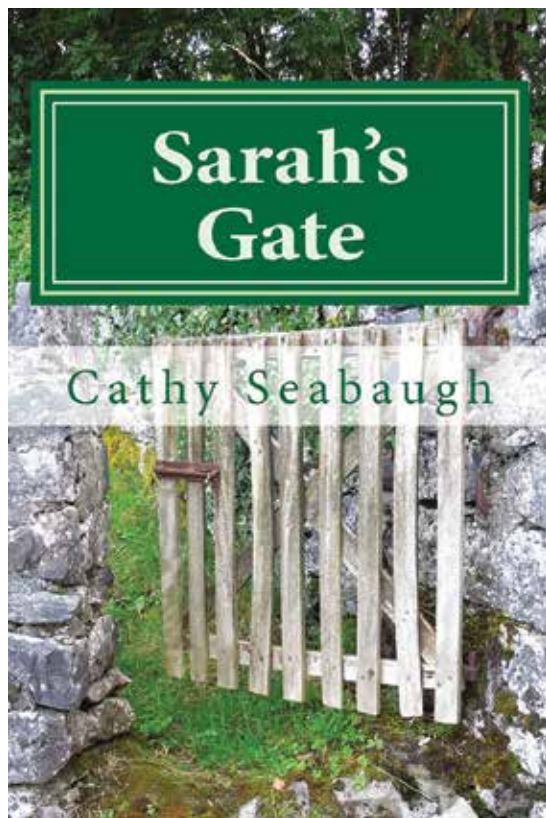
It's really impossible to know how many people were impacted. We know from the documents that a number in the thousands were fired be-

cause they were found to be gay. But there was a huge group of people who resigned rather than have it go onto their record. You also have a lot of people who were found to be gay during pre-employment background checks that didn't get the jobs. We have no idea the number on that, or the number of people who never applied for jobs because they were afraid of being found out. The historian John D'Emilio says it's conservatively tens and tens of thousands of people who had their lives effected by this.

Part of the executive order said that private companies that did business with the government were required to investigate their employees and fire those who were found to be gay, and no statistics exist on how many of those people were fired. Additionally, the U.S. demanded that all of our NATO allies purge their country employees as well. It really set off a wave of homophobia and it's incalculable how many lives were effected.

WCT: It's fascinating that you were able to talk to both victims of this policy and the government investigators who enforced it. How were you able to track them down?

JH: Most of the victims had been interviewed by David Johnson in his book, so working with him we were able to get their stories on film. For the government investigators, I had a terrific re-



Cate McGuire's life in Chicago was fulfilling, successful and nearly all she ever dreamed for herself.

Big-city journalist from a small, rural community, she felt like an integral part of the world, a contributor to society. Her beautiful life partner was igniting change through the public school system. They were happy. Life was good. Cate learns she does not always get to write the story the way she wants it to go.

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searcher and associate director Jill Landis working with me who was able to track them down. To our surprise, they were quite pleased to go on camera and defend what they did. To a person they said what they did was the right thing to do for those times. A couple of them acknowledged that they wouldn't do the same thing today, but they felt that's what the times called for and they were not shy about defending it.

WCT: Was it hard to get them to participate?

JH: It, surprisingly, wasn't. With trepidation, Jill and I discussed how we should approach them in a letter or whatever and every one of them wrote back and agreed to talk to us. We were pleasantly surprised because we wanted to include their perspective in the film.

WCT: What does it say that so many are still alive?

JH: Well, there weren't that many, actually. We started filming in 2010. We interviewed Frank Kameny in 2010 and he died the following year. Most of the people who we interviewed have since passed away, so we were lucky to have started the project when we did.

WCT: I saw a short article from 7 years ago that said the film would be out the following fall. Was the delay because of funding?

JH: It was hard to raise funds. This was my first independent project. I had worked for CBS and NBC so I was used to having a support staff and other people to depend on, so I think I underes-

timated how long it would take working alone. I read David Johnson's book and I tracked him down, he was living in Florida. He was coming to New York so I met him there in July of 2009. We are approaching our 10-year anniversary since we first discussed this project. At that first lunch, I told him that it should take a year to 18 months, but it finally is done now.

WCT: The lack of due process and lack of empathy is stunning. One investigator is quoted in the film saying, "Get rid of that son of a bitch. Put him on a bread line." Do you see any similarities with anything today?

JH: I do. And I think that's one of the important messages in the film. As important as I felt it was to capture this moment in LGBTQ history, I think there's a broader message for society in terms of the ease in which we can demonize any minority in the name of national security or patriotism.

WCT: There wasn't much if any pushback from the media back when this started, nor from the ACLU. What changed?

JH: I think they finally came to their senses that this was not a security threat. There were no cases of gay people giving government secrets to foreign agents. I think it was partly a matter of education. I think one of the important reasons to study gay history is that as the broader population learns more about the history of LGBTQ people, there's a greater understanding.

WCT: It's amazing how easily someone could be accused—simply by not wearing lipstick or appearing "mannish" for women or "having a jelly handshake" for men. It's almost laughable but scary at the same time.

JH: Definitely. The government had these investigators who thought they could identify gay people by how they looked or walked or how they dressed. Not wearing lipstick was a sure giveaway in those days for a woman.

WCT: It was interesting that in the 1930s, two decades before Eisenhower's executive order, gays and lesbians had it easier in Washington. So, was the Lavender Scare something that the Red Scare morph into or was it something that the Red Scare simply enabled?

JH: That's a great question. It's really a combination. I think during the Depression and during the war years there were other things on people's minds than other people's sexuality. I think as we got into the 1950s, society in general became more conservative and more concerned about national security. That's when the idea that gay people might be a danger to us really took hold. I think it's another important message in the film, that what happened in the 1950s with The Lavender Scare was a reaction to that earlier time period when there was more acceptance to homosexuality or at least less discrimination. I think that's another important message for the times we are living in now, that for as much progress

as we've made over the past decade or more, the struggle for equality doesn't necessarily continue in a straight line. There are setbacks as well as advancements and I think it's important to know that history.

WCT: You have Glenn Close narrating it and we hear the voices of Cynthia Nixon and David Hyde Pierce reading letters and diary entries of victims. What does their participation bring to the film?

JH: I think they are all great actors. In earlier rough cuts, we had anonymous people reading those parts and as good as they might have been, there is a certain talent in being able to deliver the lines. So, I think artistically it raised the film to another level and their names and their celebrity is helpful in attracting an audience.

WCT: Although you started on this a decade ago and it will be out in June, in a weird way it's almost fitting. Do you know what I'm getting at?

JH: Definitely. I now like to say that this was my plan all along. [Laughs] Not only because of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, but I think it has more relevance now than it would have a few years ago.

The Lavender Scare recently aired nationally on PBS, and can be pre-ordered at <https://educate.tugg.com/titles/the-lavender-scare>. The movie will be out on DVD/Blu-ray and VOD later this year.



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viewpoints



The bleaching of Stonewall

The theme this Pride Month is “Looking back, Loving forward. This week leads up to the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots that took place from June 27-29, 1969, in the Greenwich Village section of New York City. The event is well-known because it galvanized LGBTQ+ activist organizations and movements here and abroad.

When I look back at the first night of the Stonewall Inn riots, I could have never imagined its future importance. I couldn’t have imagined the whitewashing of the event either. As with all iconic narratives, though, apocryphal tales abound, along with questions about the truth.

According to many LGBTQ Blacks and Latinx, one of the reasons for the gulf between them and whites, and what prevented a united front against homo/transphobia in local and national politics from forming, is how the dominant white queer community rewrote and continues to control the narrative of Stonewall. Like with Pride events, for example.

The Stonewall turbulence started on the backs of working-class African-American and Latinx queers who patronized the bar. Those Brown and Black LGBTQ people are not only absent from the photos of that night, but they have been bleached from its written history.

The first night of the riots played out no differently from previous riots with Black Americans and white law enforcement officers. And so it was underreported.

letters

Time to act

June 12 marked the third year since the shooting at Orlando’s Pulse nightclub left 49 people dead and 53 wounded. At the time, it was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. It remains the largest targeted attack against the LGBTQ community to date.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, concerned citizens and advocates for commonsense gun violence prevention measures looked toward their elected representatives for help. None came.

Meanwhile, the shootings have continued.

Since June 12, 2016, more than 100,000 people have been killed by gun violence in the United States. Despite numerous proposals and legislative efforts by lawmakers to pass measures to stop the bloodshed, no major gun violence prevention legislation has been signed into law since 1994.

It isn’t for lack of trying.

Various members have introduced bipartisan legislation to ban bump stocks, temporarily keep guns

But I was there!

Friday, June 27, was the last day of school that year. My middle school cronies and I looked forward to a summer reprieve from rioting against Italian, Irish, and Jewish public school kids for being bussed into their neighborhoods.

However, the summer months in Brooklyn’s African American enclaves only escalated rioting between the NYPD and us. During this tumultuous decade of Black rage and white police raids, knee-jerk responses to slights quickly set the stage for a conflagration, creating both instantaneous and momentary fighting alliances in these Black communities across gangs, class, age, ethnicity and sexual orientations—against police brutality.

That night of June 27 started no differently than any other hot and humid summer Friday evening in my neighborhood. Past midnight, folks with no AC or working fans in their homes were hanging out. The news came from one of our neighbors that “pigs”—a term we called white police officers in the 1960s—“across the bridge in Greenwich Village are beating up on Black [F-word]s—right now!”

African-American and Latinx patrons frequented the Stonewall Inn heavily and thus comprised the largest percentage of protestors on the first night of the riots. For homeless youth and young adults who slept in nearby Christopher Park, the Stonewall Inn was a stable domicile. And its being raided was nothing new.

In the 1960s, gay bars in the Village were routinely raided. As one commenter on T-VOX, an LGBTQ+ support forum, noted, “Race is said to have been another factor. The decision by the police to raid the bar in the manner they did may have been influenced by the fact that most of the ‘homosexuals’ they would encounter were of color, and therefore even more objectionable.”

In the ‘60s, riots between white police officers and Black citizens took place in our neighborhoods, just as they still do today: Ferguson, 2014 (Michael

away from people who might be dangerous and strengthen background checks.

But none have been signed into law.

While the House of Representatives passed two pieces of legislation earlier this year—the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, requiring background checks for all gun sales and a bill that would close the “Charleston Loophole” that allowed the mass shooter at the Charleston AME Church to obtain his firearms—they are both languishing in the Senate, where Sen. Mitch McConnell has refused to bring them forward for consideration.

Days after the Pulse shooting, Democratic lawmakers filibustered for 15 hours on the floor of the Senate in an attempt to stop people on terrorist watchlists from purchasing firearms. The proposals were defeated largely along party lines.

The inaction of Congress is at odds with a majority of American voters, who believe in commonsense gun-violence prevention measures. According to a 2018 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 57 percent of adults agree that current gun laws don’t go far enough.

Brown); Baltimore, 2015 (Freddie Gray); Louisiana, 2016 (Alton Sterling); Minnesota, 2016 (Philando Castile), to name a few. On the first night of Stonewall, many of us who went to the Village did so to retrieve our loved ones and leave. It takes white privilege to fight the police, expect to walk away alive, and create a hagiographical narrative of white heroism.

For example, Roland Emmerich’s long-awaited 2015 film Stonewall”spurred both shock and disappointment in moviegoers, historians, and LGBT activists, including myself. The film failed to depict an accurate story, and in its place presented a revisionist history. Emmerich apparently felt a more captivating narrative should center around a blond, blue-eyed, “straight-acting” Midwestern protagonist, likely in order to appeal to mainstream audiences.

“I didn’t make this movie only for gay people; I made it also for straight people,” Emmerich told BuzzFeed. “As a director, you have to put yourself in your movies, and I’m white and gay.”

In doing so, Emmerich’s doppelganger, Danny, re-inscribes the trope of the white savior and action hero. Danny throws the first brick, setting off the riots while shouting “GAY POWER!”. Even though in real life, the shakers, movers, and brick throwers were poor and working-class Black and Latinx LGBTQs. I was disturbed by Emmerich’s Stonewall—not only because of its whitewashing, but also because of the enduring nature of this revisionist history.

Still today, trans communities of color are relegated to the margins of Greenwich Village. Nonetheless, many force their way in to become a visible and influential presence in our lives, leaving indelible imprints despite being confronted with transphobia and “trans-amnesia.”

The dominantly white control of the Stonewall narrative, meanwhile, must relinquish its hold to give way to a broader truth.

Yet, far too many lawmakers continue to offer “thoughts and prayers” instead of taking action to put an end to the violence.

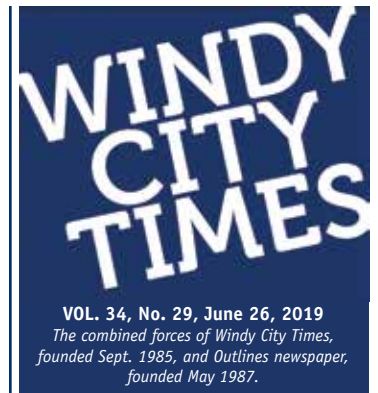
A lack of federal legislation means that the onus of preventing gun violence and restricting access to firearms is left up to the states. In 2018 alone, 26 states and the District of Columbia enacted 67 gun safety laws.

While state and local measures have started to advance in many states laws predictably differ across state lines, creating a patchwork of protections that cannot fully address the problem.

As we mark the third year since 49 lives were taken senselessly at Pulse, Congress must finally act to curb the growing epidemic of gun violence in the United States.

For more information about the impact of gun violence on the LGBTQ community and HRC’s work to support policies that effectively reduce and prevent gun violence, visit <https://www.hrc.org/resources/gun-violence-prevention>.

Human Rights Campaign



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TAN ABOUT TOWN 'QUEER EYE GURU PENS NEW MEMOIR

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Tan France.
Photo by Marcus MacDonald

THEATER REVIEW

Elizabeth Rex

Playwright: Timothy Findley

At: Oak Park Festival Theatre at

Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave., Oak Park.

Phone: 847-; \$15-\$35.

Runs through July 21

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Who knew that Queen Elizabeth I liked to slum it with lowly actors? Even one with visible sores from a sexually transmitted “pox” who had the audacity to challenge her womanhood?

These are some of the puzzling plot points in Elizabeth Rex, an overly analytical and historically dubious 2001 drama by the late gay Canadian novelist and playwright Timothy Findley.

Last seen locally at Chicago Shakespeare Theater in 2011, Elizabeth Rex is now receiving a shaky outdoor revival by director Barbara Zahora for Oak Park Festival Theatre.

Elizabeth Rex oddly begins with William Shakespeare (Michael Joseph Mitchell) waxing poetical on the details of his own death. Then Shakespeare questions how to dramatize an extraordinary moment in 1601 when Queen Elizabeth I (Wendy Robi) supposedly got all chummy with his acting company, The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.

The flashback show the aftermath of a royal command performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The actors are all sequestered in a barn due to a curfew imposed on the eve of the execution the Earl of Essex, the Queen’s former favorite, who led a failed uprising against her.

Turn to page 49

Niko Kourtis and Wendy Robi in Elizabeth Rex.

Photo by Jhenai Mootz



THEATER REVIEW

Something Clean

Playwright: Selina Fillinger

At: Sideshow Theatre and Rivendell

Ensemble at Victory Gardens

Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-871-3000;

VictoryGardens.org; \$20-\$30

Runs through: July 21

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

My parents divorced after 24 years of marriage. No infidelity, no abuse, no obvious cause other than growing apart. My dad didn’t grow apart from my mom (he was blindsided) but she grew away from him. She needed to find out how to be her own person.

That’s the point of this three-character, 85 minute play although it pretends to be about something else, thereby splitting its focus. Also, its minimal expository information prevents the audience from quickly understanding what’s going on.

Charlotte (Mary Cross), a middle-aged wife and mother, begins volunteering at a sexual crisis counseling center where the ebullient director, Joey (Patrick Agada), helps her break down some personal barriers. Meanwhile, life at home is increasingly tense with hard-working husband, Doug (Guy Massey), who’s troubled by Charlotte’s growing distance and erratic hours. Late nights Charlotte sifts through garbage in back of a university frat house. In tiny fragments we learn that Charlotte and Doug’s 20 year old son is in prison for sexual assault linked to the fraternity; but we don’t learn specifics nor do we have this

info early enough to understand Charlotte’s motivations.

What we DO see is a woman who, like my mother, began growing apart from her husband long ago, with widening divides of communication and intimacy. Doug appears gentle, caring if undemonstrative, and trying to understand. He admits he’s not good with words, but vows to do anything for Charlotte ... except kiss her knee, which becomes a symbolic point. This is the real play. Once author Selina Fillinger reveals it to us—later rather than sooner—it’s so self-apparent and true that Charlotte’s eccentricities vis-à-vis the crisis center and fraternity dumpster ring false. There certainly is an important play to be written about how parents respond to a child who commits a sexual crime, but this isn’t that play.

The three actors give lovely, nuanced perfor-

mances, with Agada in the showiest role (his character is gay, wouldn’t ya’ know). Agada’s bright moments notwithstanding, the overall tone under director Lauren Shouse is understated, perhaps responding to the circumscribed nature of the writing. Arnel Sancianco’s clever scenic design suggests the flatness of life: a neutral colored backdrop with oversized but mundane household objects embossed on it, ably lit by Diane D. Fairchild.

Many plays deal with couples drifting/growing apart, often without a specific crisis. Sarah Ruhl’s *The Vibrator Play* comes to mind. Indeed, Ruhl’s play ends as *Something Clean* ends, with the couple tentatively making a new start. But the son’s crisis in *Something Clean* is an excuse, not a reason, and is unnecessary therefore. Charlotte and Doug would have reached the tipping point sooner or later, as I have observed firsthand.

THEATER REVIEW

The River

Playwright: Jez Butterworth

At: Greenhouse Theater Center,

2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: Bohotheatre.org

Runs through: July 28

BY KAREN TOPHAM

It’s both simple and impossible to state exactly what *The River* is all about.

The short, enigmatic 2012 play by Jez Butterworth (whose *The Ferryman* just won the Tony Award) is, at least on its surface, about a man who takes his girlfriend (girlfriends?) fly fishing on the one moonless night in August each year when the sea trout are running. However, like fishing itself, *The River* is all about deception and illusion, and Butterworth’s at times over the top poetic language (along with the inclusion of poems by other authors in the script) practically demands that we look at the whole thing as a metaphor.

Joe Lino plays the Man, a fishing enthusiast who waxes lyrical on several occasions about what fishing means to him and about the powerful experience of catching his first fish at 7

years old. It is the night of the late summer new moon. Butterworth has the Man utilize Ted Hughes’ poem “After Moonless Midnight” to entrance his new girlfriend, called, naturally, the Woman and played by Christina Gorman. The Woman, however, is interested in a different kind of poetry: the beauty of the sunset and the writing of Virginia Woolf. She does not seem much interested in fishing, no matter how entrancingly the Man describes it. Still, when she leaves the stage after the first scene, it seems that she might go with him after all.

The second scene begins with the Man frantically calling the police because his girlfriend is missing. When she enters, though, it is not the Woman but the Other Woman (Chelsee Carter) who walks through the door. And Butterworth is off and running in a circular puzzle of a play, which sometimes seems to be a romance, sometimes a thriller, sometimes perhaps even a ghost story, but always fascinating and mysterious.

We are never absolutely sure of what is happening as we watch the Man seek to lure in each woman in the same way. Are they in fact two women? Is a mysterious woman glimpsed by one of them while out walking a third? All we can know for sure is that the characters are freely lying to each other, especially the man,

who professes that he has only ever taken one woman to his uncle’s cabin on the river ... to two different women, both of whom find evidence that this is not true.

There is solid acting here from all three cast members, and Boho’s production of *The River* is true to the playwright’s language in all of its design aspects as well. Director Jerrell L. Henderson maintains a rich kind of enhanced melancholy throughout the play, aided nicely by Eric Luchen’s stark cabin that would not be out of place in any scary story you’ve ever heard, Kaili Story’s moody lighting, Eric Backus’ sound design, which ranges from realistic (crickets) to ominous in various scenes, and a ground fog that rolls in at specific moments.

It does not seem as if Butterworth really desired to bring clarity to his creation; rather, he wanted to write something with a darkly poetic feeling that invites the audience to try to unwrap its hidden treasures themselves. Is it a play about relationships? Is it a play about the deceptions lovers (and fishermen) use to achieve their goals? Is it meant to make us wonder about the Man’s true motivations? There are no easy answers, but if you enjoy thinking and debating about the play you’ve just seen, *The River* will reel you in and not let you go.

CRITICS’ PICKS

La Havana Madrid, Teatro Vista @ The Den, extended through 30 June—Last two weeks to see this thrice-remounted musical about Chicago’s Latinx history, presented in the hottest performing arts multiplex in town. Arriba! *MSB*

Four Places, The Den, through June 30—Aging children and parents struggle to reconcile past grievances, even though the matriarch (Meg Thalken steals the show) is the most toxic harridan since Violet Weston in August, Osage County. *MSB*

Queen of Mist, Firebrand at The Den, through July 6—In 1901 Annie Edson Taylor shot Niagara Falls in a barrel and lived. Michael John LaChiusa’s musically challenging storytelling is brilliantly realized by Firebrand and Barbara Robertson as Taylor. *JA*

For Services Rendered, Griffin at The Den, through July 6—It’s a rare chance to see W. Somerset Maugham’s 1932 drama attacking British indifference to its WWI veterans and civilians whose futures the war altered. Particularly well acted by the women. *JA*

—By Mary Shen Barnidge and Jonathan Abarbanel

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THEATER

The Second City salutes Pride

BY JERRY NUNN



Second City Salute to Pride.
PR photo

The Second City's Salute to Pride is waving a welcoming flag this June with an all-LGBTQ cast. At the UP Comedy Club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, there will be drag queen Lucy Stoolie presenting a show with a variety of people from the LGBTQ community. The troupe combines sketch comedy, improv, music and drag to create a show that's inclusive to everyone.

Evan Mills is one of the openly gay cast members and is also the creator and writer of *Queer Eye: The Musical Parody*, running this month at The Playground Theater on Halsted St. If that's not enough, he also performs as a comedy music duo Evan & Mary Jane.

Mills met up after a recent performance to give readers a behind the scenes story.

Windy City Times: Where are you originally from?

Evan Mills: Michigan. I am half-Filipino and half-white. I came to Chicago in 2010. I was pursuing film and had gotten a degree in film and photography. I stumbled upon this place in 2012. I got a job here and started watching shows every single night.

I had no original plans of doing this when I moved to the city, but I am glad I am doing it!

WCT: Did you come out of the closet at a young age?

EM: I came out when I was 22. I was living here. I told my dad first on the phone. Mom was coming to visit me on the same day. I knew I had to tell her or she would be really mad!

WCT: What does Pride Month mean to you?

EM: It's very important to me. My dad is also gay. He came out when I was four. My parents separated. I learned at a very young age what their relationship was and how my dad was, but it took a while for me to figure it out myself. When I did come out, luckily I have the most supportive family. I am an only child, so there's more pressure on me when I am the only kid. I was really nervous about coming out. My family was a hundred percent supportive and really wonderful.

Pride is super important to me. I celebrate it every month! I love doing a Pride show. My parents are coming to see it closing weekend.

WCT: Did you tour some with Second City?

EM: I did the Bob Curry Fellowship two years ago, from that I went to DC and did a summer show called *Generation Gap* there at the Kennedy Center. In December, I started understudying for the touring company. Now I am an official member of the touring company. I am on it with Jordan Stafford, who is in the Pride show with me.

WCT: How did the troupe create this show?

EM: A few of the cast members were in the show last year and that was all archived material. This year, they took three cast members from the last show and three brand new ones, which was me, Jordan and Laurel Zoft Pelton. We spent about three weeks writing it together. It's all original content, which is amazing. This building is known for its archive material and improv, but this time it's all new.

It's fortunate that all six of us were really good friends prior to the show. It was easy to work with each other. All six of us have such a unique style and voice. It was really great seeing everyone bring in their own point of views and meld it together.

Having Lucy Stoolie in here was unbelievable.

We asked her if we could write her into some sketches and she said, "Bitch, please!"

WCT: What topics did you want to focus on?

EM: I came in and just really wanted to collaborate. I wrote the song I did based on a real thing that happened to me two months ago. There were



Evan Mills.
PR photo

a lot of things we wanted to say and I liked that we did it together. People came in with ideas and we molded it as a group. As a collective we came together and made it our own show.

WCT: Does improv happen within the show?

EM: Kind of. Now that we are set in what we are doing, we like to play around with each other. We think something will work and we try it. Audiences can tell when it happens because it throws everyone off. Someone will break up onstage.

It's fun because we all trust each other. There is no set spots for improv, but there's definitely moments of it.

WCT: So this only runs in June?

EM: Yes, but we are saying it shouldn't just be

a Pride show. We would love to do the show in lets say September. Why box us in? Let's just do a regular gay show for Second City!

WCT: How does your project the Queer Eye parody work with copyrights?

EM: When I started it I brought on my music composer, who works in the industry. We found ways to get around it, especially in the title. As long as you say "parody" you are okay, since it's based on characters and not real people. We did a lot of research on what we could get away with. We are not making fun of them. We are heightening their tropes.

It's been really great. We sold out our entire last run, now we are back for Pride.

WCT: How are you doing both shows?

EM: We schedule Queer Eye around my schedule [laughs]—well, and everyone else's schedule, too. It runs Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

WCT: Who do you play in Queer Eye?

EM: Tan France. Jonathan Van Ness got us fourth row tickets to his recent show. He reposted our story on his Instagram.

WCT: Have you met any of them?

EM: We haven't, but we wrote in Betty Who and she said she would try to come see it when she's in town. The cast is very active on our social media and they are aware that we exist.

WCT: Do you have a favorite song in the parody?

EM: "Bobby's Song." It's the first song I wrote for the musical. I won't give too much away, but we know he's the interior designer and gets the least amount of screen time, although e does the most amount of work. We pick on him during the show, but I wanted a redeeming number.

People cry and go crazy after the song is over. It feels really good to know people are getting the message. The response for this show has been great. I would like it in a bigger theater or travel it around the country.

Salute to Pride tickles funny bones on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June at The Second City's UP Comedy Club, 230 West North Ave. Tickets start at \$26, and are available at 312-337-3992 or SecondCity.com.

Queer Eye: The Musical Parody marches on at ThePlaygroundTheater.com with more information and schedule on the website.

REVIEW from page 46

Actually it was Richard II that was performed. Historical records show that Essex's cohorts had paid for a Globe Theatre revival of Shakespeare's history play about the usurped king right before the coup attempt to rally supporters. So the next royal performance of Richard II was a way for the Queen to show that she had her eyes on Shakespeare's company.

Rather than explore this tense conspiracy angle, Findley imagines a too-relaxed meeting of the Queen with Shakespeare's company to question gender dynamics of men playing women on stage and women ruling as monarchs. Findley also goes out of his way to draw very obvious parallels to the 20th century AIDS crisis via the imaginary and flamboyantly gay actor Ned Lowenscroft (Niko Kourtis), whose devil-may-care be-

havior is tied to his failing health and grief over his deceased military lover.

Alas, all of this analysis doesn't make for compelling drama. Aside from Robi's witty and steely Elizabeth I, Zahora's acting company largely flounders with Findley's stop-and-start script that falls back on Shakespearean recitations to give it a level of grandeur that is lacking elsewhere.

Elizabeth Rex does boast glorious period costuming by designer Rachel Lambert, plus a handsome barn set by designer Nicholas James Schwartz. Yet some of the lighting shifts by designer Avi Sheehan were too choppy and confusing.

Elizabeth Rex does explore some interesting concepts on gender and power. But as a drama, it's far too intellectualized to be compelling theater.

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e nina jay.
Photo by Hal Baim



POETRY

e nina jay aims to help women shed shame

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

e nina jay wants women to stop feeling shame.

"I think about how much we, as girls and women, waste being ashamed," the Black lesbian poet said via phone. "How many conversations don't happen and how many wounds don't get healed. Our society was created in a way that we feel ashamed for how we look, how we smell, how we taste. We could have so much more power if nobody felt shame, and that's what I want [readers] to walk away with."

jay celebrated the release of her second book, the poetry collection *Bricks Blood & Water*, June 20 at Mary's Attic. The poet described *Bricks Blood & Water* to Windy City Times as "a walk through my valley."

"I tried to plan the walk in a way that you don't get stuck in any one place [and] you can always take a route out if you need it," she said. "I think it's a really good picture of how I look on the inside right now, and I like the way I look. I think it's funny and painful and angry."

It's anger that got her writing in the first place. "Pain was my inspiration initially, pain and rage," jay said. At first, she kept her work to herself. "I would write and write and write and I never shared anything. I didn't think it was very

good."

As jay was planning her own suicide, a friend encouraged her to share her writing. "[My friend] suggested I not die with all those notebooks in my apartment," she said. "Writing was a way I could pull myself up and feel like I wasn't gonna fall."

Although she is no longer suicidal, jay continues to write "because it's almost become like breathing to me," she said. It's also therapeutic.

"Sometimes I write something and I won't read it for days because I'm scared," she said. "Then I read it and I was like, I didn't know I needed that. There's a freedom in that particular space because you don't give a s---. I love when I can get myself there, where it doesn't matter and I remember I can say anything I want."

jay published her first book, *Body of Rooms*, in 2016. The following year, former Windy City Times editor Tracy Baim persuaded her to adapt the book to film, which Baim then directed.

"She spent a couple [of] months convincing me to do it," jay said. "I was terrified because I don't like to be looked at, but it was exhilarating because I could just talk [using] poetry." *Body of Rooms*, which consists of jay performing her book to the camera, was filmed in one day. "It was liberating, and I will always love Tracy for

pushing me," she said.

"My favorite moment is when I finish reading and a woman of 75 will come up to me and tell me she was raped when she was 15, and she never told anyone about it," she added. "I love that kind of moment. We whisper all these things and we all whisper the same shit. I want to do away with the whispering."

At these times, jay calls upon her experience as a rape survivor and her past work as a rape crisis counselor. "I haven't been in emergency rooms in 20 years, but women are still in crisis, and I find myself counseling. Invariably I open some wounds and it's my responsibility to tend to them as well."

When it comes to representation, jay is encouraged by the recent election of Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot. "I think a Black lesbian mayor is going to do a lot visually," she said. However, she remains cautious. "I've kind of blocked out politics and politicians right now," she said. "I'm overwhelmed by the absurdity of it all. I like hearing that Chicago has a Black lesbian mayor, but... [what that means] remains to be seen for me. I'm a cynic in that way."

She was far more optimistic about her then-upcoming book-release party. "I feel like I'm giving birth to a new baby, letting everyone know what we've been thinking about—the girls and women in me," jay said. "I want to create intimacy in a crowd of women. I'm craving it."

For more about the author, including books, DVD and speaking engagements, visit facebook.com/eninajay or contact eninajay@gmail.com.



e nina jay performs at Mary's Attic.
WCT photo

Trevor Project gala raises more than \$2M

On June 17, The Trevor Project hosted its 2019 TrevorLIVE New York gala at Cipriani Wall Street. With actress/comedian/writer Nicole Byer and actor/director/digital producer Eugene Lee Yang co-hosting, the event helped raise more than \$2 million.

Actress-model Cara Delevingne received the Hero Award, which recognizes individuals who inspire LGBTQ youth or increase visibility and understanding of the LGBTQ community. Also, talk-show host, actress and producer Kelly Ripa and her husband, actor/producer Mark Consuelos, were honored with the Champions Award; EY received the 20/20 Visionary Award.

Delevingne accepted the Hero Award from Queer Eye co-hosts Antoni Porowski and Jonathan Van Ness, and shared a poem she wrote when she was 15—before surprising the audience with a special duet performance of *Sonnentanz* (*Sun Don't Shine*) with Will Heard.

As part of the celebration, Grammy-winning multi-platinum singer/songwriter Daya and the cast of the Tony-nominated Broadway musical *The Prom* performed. The star-studded gala also featured appearances by Jonathan Tucker (actor), Miss J Alexander (TV personality), Jake Shears (singer), Ashley Benson (actress), Samira Wiley (actress), Christian Siriano (fashion designer), Geena Rocero (model), Milk (RuPaul's *Drag Race*), Tyler Oakley (digital creator), Aaron Philip (model) and more.

Nicole Byer and Eugene Lee Yang at the TrevorLIVE New York Gala.

Photo by Getty Images for the Trevor Project



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Janet Mock.
Photo by
Aaron
Tredwell

Janet Mock signs historic Netflix deal

Author/director/producer Janet Mock has signed a historic deal with Netflix—making her the first out transgender woman who can call the creative shots at a major content company, *Variety* reported.

The multimillion-dollar deal, which spans three years, gives the streaming giant exclusive rights to her TV series and a first-look option on feature film projects.

Mock will serve as an executive producer/director on Ryan Murphy's forthcoming Netflix series *Hollywood*. However, she can still continue as a writer-director on Murphy's FX series *Pose*, an LGBTQ drama set in New York City's competitive ballroom scene during the '80s and '90s.

Mock said she hopes the deal "will be a huge signal boost, industry-wide, to empower people and equip them to tell their own stories."

The *Variety* item is at <https://variety.com/2019/tv/features/janet-mock-netflix-deal-pose-1203246917/>.

'Queer As German Folk' through June

The project "Queer as German Folk" takes the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots as an occasion to examine the current status of the gender diversity discourse on the basis of the history of the queer movement.

It focuses in particular on the German LGBTQ-IA+ movement generated by the respective civil societies. It is also intended to correct historical perspectives and to question a traditional cis-male narrative.

In Chicago, the exhibition will be shown in three parts and neighborhoods: on the South Side at the Packingtown Museum at The Plant in Back of the Yards, in the Loop at the Goethe-Institut Chicago, and on the North Side at the Leather Archives and Museum in Edgewater.

For more information, see <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/chi/ver/qagf.html>.

Dyke Delicious series ends at Filmmakers

For 16 years, film editor, professor and LGBTQ activist Sharon Zurek has run an annual Dyke Delicious film series, featuring works by and about lesbians and beyond.

On June 8, Zurek said a bittersweet goodbye to the series on its last screening night—appropriately featuring the film *Stonewall Rising* during the month of Stonewall's 50th anniversary. Brenda Webb (right)—executive director of Chicago Filmmakers, where the screenings have been held—presented Zurek with flowers to thank her efforts not just with the series, but as board president of Filmmakers.



Muffy Fishbasket (left) reads while Sutton holds up the pictures for the audience.
Photo by Matt Simonette

Drag queens host Pride storytime

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicagoans of all ages gathered at Shapiro Ballroom, 1627 W. Chicago Ave., the morning of June 23 as performers Muffy Fishbasket and Sutton hosted Drag Queen Story Hour.

The event was presented in conjunction with the June 21 debut of *The Bravest Knight* on the Hulu streaming service. That animated program depicts a pumpkin farmer-turned-knight happily married to a prince. The program's first episode was also screened June 23.

Drag Queen Story Hour is a national program wherein drag performers host story readings at local libraries and other community venues. Chicago events are held monthly.

According to the DQSH website, the events "[capture] the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models."



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ART

Magalie Guerin showing her unique art in Elmhurst

BY JERRY NUNN

Wicker Park resident and queer artist Magalie Guerin is bringing her work to the Elmhurst Art Museum this summer.

The exhibition is titled "With a Capital P: Selections by Six Painters" and presents the curations of six local painters in six rooms.

Originally from Quebec, Guerin received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011. She has shown in New York and LA, as well as Chicago, most recently during January 2018 with a solo show called "Magalie Guerin: bunker" at the gallery Corbett vs. Dempsey.

She published a book in 2016 called Notes On that was a diary depicting her daily practice in the studio to pair with a past exhibition called Copy Drawings.

Windy City Times: You are originally from Montreal. What is the art scene like there and how does it compare to Chicago?

Magalie Guerin: I left Montreal 20 years ago, so I couldn't tell you what the art scene is like now but I remember when I first moved to Chicago after living in New York for a decade, that I said to myself, "This city has a Montreal warmth to it!"

That said, I have a show opening in Montreal on May 25 at Galerie Nicolas Robert—my first in a gallery over there—so I'll have more of a sense of it after that.

WCT: How do you feel the queer artist community is here locally?

MG: It's a nice community, although I always wish for it to be larger!

WCT: Is there a medium you have not work with but would like to?

MG: I'm dying to work with ceramic, but I'm afraid of what that'll do to my paintings!

WCT: What artist have you been compared to, and who has influenced your work?

MG: At some point, in grad school at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, my work was described as having a conversation with Charline von Heyl. We now show at the same gallery here in Chicago, Corbett vs Dempsey, and have since become friends.

WCT: Talk about how sculpture fits into painting for a showing.

MG: Oil paint is very sculptural in its application. I mold the paint into the shapes I want to see. And the sculptors I chose for this exhibition think about surfaces in a painterly way. It's all connected; the sensibilities are very similar.

WCT: Do you have advice for young upcoming artists?

MG: Think [about the] long term: "How can you create space for a sustainable studio practice, if you use a studio, in the years to come?"

WCT: Where do you see the arts scene in Chicago going?

MG: I see Chicago as being more and more included in the larger conversation. There seems to be a big difference from 10 years ago—more people/institutions are looking at what is being made here.

WCT: You have an upcoming show in New York?

MG: I just had a show in New York with Chapter NY that closed on March 24th so nothing upcoming for a while!

"With a Capital P: Selections by Six Painters" is on display through Aug. 25 at Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave, Elmhurst. See <https://elmhurstart-museum.org>.



Magalie Guerin.
PR photo

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RECKONING
BY *traci godfrey*

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A colorful moment from Pride Fest.

See many more photos of the two-day event starting on page 78.

Joseph Stevens Photography

WHAT TO DO FOR PRIDE

IN ADDITION TO THE PARADE, CHECK OUT THESE BIG PRIDE EVENTS FROM ALL OVER THE CHICAGO AREA

Pride in the Park festival June 29

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, Dream-brite Productions presents the inaugural Pride in the Park festival, at Butler Field in Grant Park, Saturday, June 29, 1-10 p.m.



Todrick Hall.
Photo by
Jerry Nunn

A cavalcade of stars will entertain, including Tamar Braxton, Taylor Dayne, Todrick Hall, Kathy Sledge, Gia Woods, local rapper KC Ortiz, Miss DJ Meg and co-headliners Iggy Azalea and Steve Aoki. Also, expect drag performances from Coco Montrese, Alexis Michelle and Chicago's own Shea Coulee.

The list of hosts reads like a who's-who of Chicago drag, including T-Rex, Dida Ritz, Ruff N' Stuff, Mimi Marks and many more.

Get tickets and info at <https://prideintheparkchicago.com>.

Navy Pier Pride taking place June 29

Navy Pier Pride Presented by American Airlines will have various events taking place Saturday, June 29, noon-11 p.m.

There will be LGBTQ programming, including music, arts and crafts, storytelling, educational resources and more.

The schedule is as follows:

- 12-2 p.m.: Chicago Children's Museum Family Resource & Activity Station: Make a rainbow bracelet to show pride and learn about the museum's LGBTQ inclusion resources for parents and teachers
 - 12-4 p.m.: PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Resource Station
 - 1-2 p.m.: Story Time with Drag Queens
 - 2-2:30 p.m.: Lakeside Pride Marching Band
 - 2-11 p.m.: Various DJs
 - 3-4 p.m.: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
 - 4-6 p.m.: Wave Wall Wax weekly DJ series with DJ All the Way Kay
 - 10:15 p.m.: Aon summer fireworks
 - 11 p.m.: "Radio Ga Ga" finale
- See <https://navypier.org/event/pier-pride/> for more information.

Back Lot Bash returns June 29-30

The girls are coming out to play once again in the Cheetah Gym parking lot for two days of music and mayhem.

On Saturday, attend the Flagship Festival, with hosts Rose Garcia and Kat Florek, presenting music by Devmo, DJ Zel, Ultrabeat, Fiat Lux, Mel Sense and headliners The Veronicas.

After the parade on Sunday, head back north for the Post Parade Bash, featuring Catfight, Dorian Electra, Psalm One, DJ All the Way Kay, Gemini Jones and headliner Jackie Cruz.

The weekend also includes a Family Fest on Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., complete with children's-music performers, face painting, family photos, balloon artists and a petting zoo.

Go to www.backlotbashchicago.com for complete information.

Organized Pride June 28-30

The Organized Grime Crew is curating Organized Pride with several events to help Chicago celebrate 50 years of the Parade.

They include:

—Friday, June 28, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.: Bike Zambia Sunset Fundraiser at the Woof-Top Deck, 5646 N. Kenmore Ave. (with \$50 tickets);

—Saturday, June 29, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.: Organized Pride main event at Cerise at Virgin Hotels Chicago, 203 N. Wabash St.;

—Sunday, June 30, 5-10 p.m.: CUN-Tea (a post-parade tea dance) at Spybar, 646 N. Franklin St.; and

—Monday, July 1, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.: AFTER THOTs at The Jackhammer Complex, 6406 N. Clark St.

For tickets or more info, visit OrganizedPride.com.

Lighthouse Pride Party June 28

Homewood is hosting the 3rd annual Lighthouse LGBTQ+ Pride Party on Friday, June 28, 5-9 p.m. in Martin Avenue Square as part of the village's Pride Month Celebration.

This will be the first time Homewood is hosting the party and celebrating Pride during June with rainbow flags decorating the downtown area.

The Homewood Business Association is sponsoring the commemorative flag program that kicks off at the Homewood Artisan Street Fair on Friday, June 7. The Lighthouse Pride Party is free and open to the public. More information is at HomeSweetHomewood.com.

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.

'Chicago is a Drag' June 28

A Queer Pride presents the inaugural Chicago is a Drag festival, Friday, June 28, in the Cheetah Gym parking lot in Andersonville, starting at 4 p.m.

The event will be hosted by TS Madison and Tiffany "New York" Pollard and will feature special guests Raja, Candis Cayne and Spikey Van Dykey. Emceeding the show will be Auntie Chan, Dida Ritz, Khloe Park, Lucy Stooles and T Rex.

Among the 40+ acts slated to perform are Sheri Payne, Tenederoni, Alexis Bevels, Dusty Bahls, Mokha Montrese, Monica Beverly Hillz and many more.

Tickets available at <https://do312.com/chicagoisadrag>.

Pride North festival June 29-30

Rogers Park's Pride North festival hits Glenwood Ave. for two days of DJs, dancing and (with any luck) sunshine. Now in its fifth year, Pride North has expanded to two days for the first time. The event will feature two stages of DJs. Following is a complete schedule, which applies to both days:

312 Goose Island stage:

—1-2:30 p.m.: DJ Ron S & DJ FR80

—2:30-4 p.m.: DJ Eric Daly

—4-5:30 p.m.: DJ Byrne Twins

—5:30-7 p.m.: DJ Sandra Suave

—7-8:30 p.m.: DJ Scandall

—8:30-10 p.m.: DJs Laura B & Val (The Spinsters)

Ketel One stage:

—Noon-1:30 p.m.: DJ Riley York

—1:30-3 p.m.: DJ Jerry Featherstone

—3-5 p.m.: DJ Rich Tunnel

—5-6:30 p.m.: DJ Ron Geronimo

—6:30-8:30 p.m.: DJ DigiMark

—8:30-10 p.m.: DJ Ricky Sixx

Visit www.pridenorth.co for more information.

Inaugural Pride South Side set for June 28-30

The Pride South Side Organizing Committee will hold an inaugural pride festival on Friday-Sunday, June 28-30, in partnership with various local venues.

Those venues include:

—The Stony Island Arts bank, 6760 S Stony Island Ave.;

—The DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl.;

—The South Shore Cultural Center Beach, 7059 S. South Shore Dr.;

—Gallery Guichard, 436 E. 47th St.;

—The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West; and

—Jeffery Pub, 7041 S. Jeffery Ave.

The weekend will kick off with a film screening, in partnership with OpenTV, at the Stony Island Arts Bank on Friday, June 28, 8-10 p.m. The opening night will also include a kickoff party curated by Melloe Drama at Gallery Guichard at 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

On Saturday, June 29, The DuSable Museum will host the main event—a concert and festival at 12-9 p.m. After the festival on June 29, four different venues (The Promontory, Jeffery Pub and two others TBA) will host various after-parties.

On Sunday, June 30, The South Shore Cultural Center Beach will host the closing event, "Beachnic; Queering in the Parks." For tickets and more information, visit PrideSouthSide.com.

ART

Derrick Woods-Morrow collecting underwear for exploration of labor, play

BY JAKE WITTICH

Queer artist Derrick Woods-Morrow wants your underwear. Clean, dirty, new or heavily worn—it doesn't matter to him; he's more interested in the work you put in while wearing them.

For the last two months, Woods-Morrow (a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree last year) has been collecting people's undergarments for an upcoming art project. Sourcing from friends, teammates, gym patrons and other people in his circle, the multidisciplinary artist has collected about 30 pairs so far. He plans on using them to create paper, carpet, sculpture and more, in collaboration with artist Charles Long.

"I'm investigating the space between play and labor, and even more specifically how it functions for bodies of color in relation to other bodies," Woods-Morrow said. "Everyone's labor and play is consumed or captured in the garments they wear, and oftentimes we politicize the garment, but it's just underwear. We all have them."

Woods-Morrow said he started by collecting 100-percent cotton black briefs, because a cotton blend is needed to make paper, and he wanted to make black paper. However, he is open to collecting anything, no matter the color, material, fit or type of garment, including socks, T-shirts, bras, boxers, swimsuits or more.

With each pair of underwear, Woods-Morrow is asking for a small note card letter explaining the labor or play that was done in them, no matter the type of labor and play or whether it's profane or mundane. Woods-Morrow said he's keeping the prompt open-ended.

"I want to see the dialogues that are happening because I'm specifically interested in what people consider to be labor versus play, and how they feel about giving me their underwear," Woods-Morrow said.

Underwear donations Woods-Morrow has received so far have ranged from raunchy to mundane, he said. He's received underwear from people he's met at sex parties or dungeons, who wrote "some of the sweetest, non-sexual notes about their first lovers in these garments." Other donors have worn the same pair of underwear every day for a week before giving them, unwashed, to Woods-Morrow.

"I'm giving the option for you to wash them or give them to me the way they were used—I don't have a preference," Woods-Morrow said. "I hope to receive underwear from all types of gender identities, sexualities and races. I'm interested in how anonymous people choose to remain and what they're willing to give."

Woods-Morrow said he's interested in seeing what people consider to be labor and play, and where those acts overlap. Labor and play exist in tandem with each other, Woods-Morrow said.



Derrick Woods-Morrow.
Photo courtesy of Woods-Morrow

So what does that look like for people of varying backgrounds?

"I think about what would be the hardest thing to exist as in America. For instance, a Black, disabled, lesbian, polyamorous woman would never stop laboring in America," Woods-Morrow said. "Just to exist would always be labor in this country as it is right now, so where is the play for that person? Don't they deserve to have fun and exist beyond the fact that they must always labor?"

Woods-Morrow said he hopes to foster discussion around these questions and more as he collects more undergarments for the project. So far, he and Long have created a few sheets of paper,

but Woods-Morrow said he hopes to see the project continue as a series.

Anyone interested in sending garments to Woods-Morrow for his project can do so by mailing them—along with a handwritten note card explaining the type of labor/play done in them—to P.O. Box 408679, Chicago, IL, 60640. Submissions can remain anonymous, he said.

"It's just underwear," Woods-Morrow said. "That underwear gets meaningfully charged with subjectivity when you think about what was done in them, but that doesn't matter to me. That matters to you."

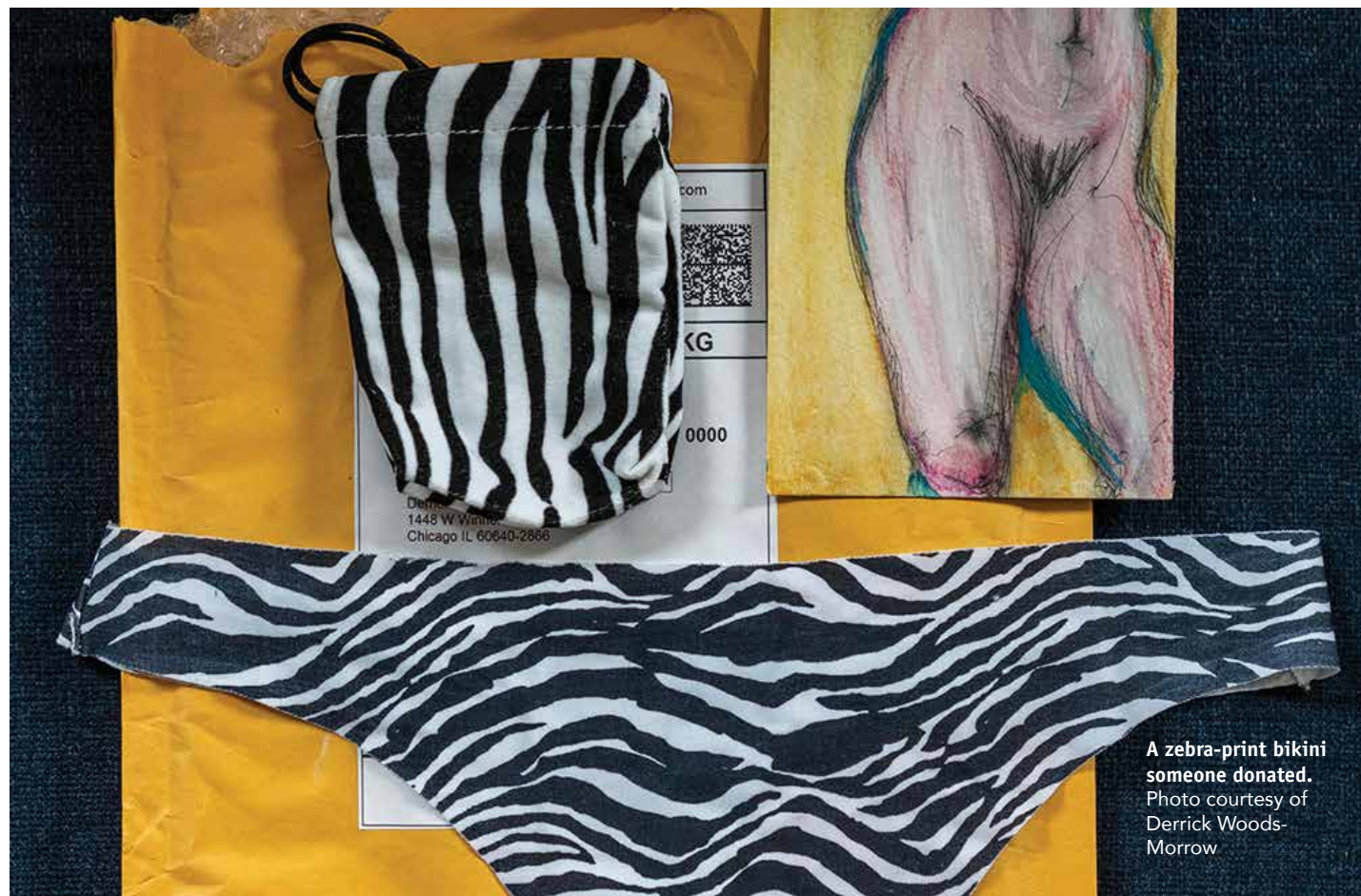
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A zebra-print bikini someone donated.
Photo courtesy of Derrick Woods-Morrow

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JAMES ANTHONY

James Anthony is director of marketing and communications at Chicago Children's Theatre, Chicago's premier professional theatre company dedicated to young people and families. They have a degree in Mass Communications and Theatre, and an MA in Speech/Theatre. James is a licensed Zumba Instructor, a member of Actors' Equity Association, a spoken word artist and a choreographer/dancer.

They're an advocate and champion for arts accessibility, diversity and inclusion for the arts -- not only on the production/creative side, but on the business and admin side as well.

Did you know? James was almost homeless, so they sold all of their belongings, hopped on a bus, and moved to Chicago from New Orleans.

LIZZY APPLEBY

Lizzy Appleby is a facilitator who works with youth and adults to build a more welcoming, inclusive, and kind world. A licensed clinical social worker, Lizzy oversees the Pride Youth Program at Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, providing social, support, and leadership programs to more than 200 LGBTQ+ youth ages 4-24 and their families across the northern suburbs.

This fall, Lizzy also launched a podcast, "The Third Space," with co-creator Nat Duran. The Third Space focuses on supporting youth work-

ers in developing their skills and strategies for working with young people outside of school and home.

Did you know? Lizzy loves culinary pursuits of all kinds, including eating, cooking, baking, and preserving; currently, she's working to perfect her pastry for the best possible pie crust.

ASHLEY BROWN

Ashley Brown is the graphic designer at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. She graduated from DePaul University with a degree in art history and later received a graphic design certificate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Largely self-taught, she is passionate about advancing social justice through graphic design and communications, especially issues involving health equity and the LGBTQ community. For the past two years, she has led creative direction and brand development at AFC, where she also contributes video and editorial content.

Ashley also freelances with various nonprofits and companies in Chicago and around the country, and creates digital illustrations and personal projects in her spare time. She is especially interested in representing strong women and the important cultural contributions of diverse women throughout history in her work.

Did you know? Ashley is actively seeking volunteer opportunities around design and illustration for the Chicago nonprofit community.



MONICA BROWN



ROBIN REID DRAKE



JAYDEN EPPS



PATRICK CROSSON



LARS EBSWORTH



JULIO FLORES

MONICA BROWN

Monica Brown is TGNC youth intervention specialist for the Voices team at Broadway Youth Center. She has been working in the HIV field for little over a year doing HIV and STI screenings, Outreach and Tabling events. She also works in evening programming such as Triple S, Tyra, and After Hours. Monica oversees all interventions such as TWIST (Transgender Women Involved In Strategies for Transformation), Community Promise—which is a story telling intervention—and the Peer Advocates program.

Did you know? Monica's favorite color is pink. She has eight pets, and enjoys working for the community from which she came.

PATRICK CROSSON

Patrick Crosson is the immediate past chairman and founder of Stonewall Sports Chicago, an LGBTQ and ally community-based, non-profit sports organization that strives to raise funds for local non-profit organizations through organized sports.

Patrick formed Stonewall Sports Chicago in 2014, expanding it into an organization covering the entire metropolitan area. The league values each player for who they are and what they bring to the league's community.

Patrick led the organization through expansion, incorporation and filing of their own 501c3 status. The league started with 6 kickball teams (140 players). Stonewall Sports Chicago now has 36 kickball teams (860 players), two seasons of dodgeball, two seasons of bowling, and a season of bocce. The league serves over 1,000 individual LGBTQ and ally members and raises funds for a variety of different charities. The organization has donated more than \$150,000.

Did you know? Patrick is currently the owner & executive producer for PC Events & Experiences as a corporate event planner based here in Chicago.

ROBIN REID DRAKE

Robin Reid Drake is an artist and educator from "the Blue Ridge Mountains [and] the Great Dismal Swamp of North Carolina." Currently living in Logan Square, they hold an MFA in Writing from SAIC and are a recipient of a 2019 Ragdale Residency.

Robin Reid has co-developed and led anti-oppression & writing workshops with adults & youth in numerous settings. They are a former curator and host of Asheville, North Carolina's Juniper Bends Reading Series and have performed in many venues.

In 2018, Robin Reid came together with long-time Chicago artist Diana Solís, to develop and teach curriculum engaging CPS High Schoolers with intersectional queer and trans histories through poetry and art making. They currently work as a teaching artist and development associate with Changing Worlds, who supported the development of Solís and Drake's program.

Did you know? Robin Reid has been spreading the Gospel of Dolly Parton for almost their entire life and has never been taken to Dollywood, which they think is tragic.

LARS EBSWORTH

Lars Ebsworth is a Chicago-based actor/singer/dancer. Originally from Baltimore, ze studied ballet, tap, jazz, modern, dance team competition styles, voice, children's theater and piano, all of which eventually lead to zir transition into the musical theatre world. Ze graduated cum laude with BA's in both Musical Theater and Theater (double minor in Music and Dance) from North Central College. Lars also works "behind the table" with Trans Voices Cabaret CHI, the Chicago chapter of the New York City-based franchise Trans Voices Cabaret. That cabaret-showcase hybrid provides a space to sing whatever songs fit their gender identity, and a casting resource for industry professionals to learn how to include the TGNC performer community in their productions.

Did you know? Lars spends time playing with zir rescue Lhasa Apso/mix named Sir Aaron Carter and inventing new recipes, both good and bad.

JAYDEN EPPS

Jayden Epps is the pro bono and development associate for Lambda Legal, the oldest national legal organization working to secure the civil rights of LGBTQ people and everyone living with HIV. Jay's work supports the efforts of the Development team in the Midwest Office and nationally.

In their off hours, Jayden is a theater artist who primarily works as a stage manager. Jayden is also currently an ensemble member of the project FatFolx that centers and lifts the stories of larger-bodied individuals.

Did you know? Jayden is an avid singer. It is not unusual to find them belting along to songs as they commute across Chicago.

JULIO FLORES

Julio Flores was born in Guanajuato, Mexico, and at the age of 12, he moved to the States.

While living in Milwaukee, Julio began volunteering with various organizations that support the LGBTQ+ community. At age 23, he decided to move to the Chicago area. Following his passion, Julio started working at the Broadway Youth Center, where he is able to help young people that are experiencing homelessness and daily oppression from society. Julio wants every person he works with to be able to have options to become the person they truly are and to believe in their own potential.

Did you know? Julio's motto in life is, "You do what you have to do in order to do what you want to do."

MAURICE GREEN IV (MO)

Maurice Green IV (Mo) is currently the director of public affairs at the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Mo has worked in Illinois politics for several years now, having served as the director of community engagement for Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, senior community outreach coordinator for Sen. Tammy Duckworth, and in various capacities for several political campaigns.

Mo graduated with honors from the University of Chicago in 2014 with a degree in Political Science and wrote his senior thesis on community policing in Chicago and the relationship between constituents of color and the Chicago Police Department. While in college, Mo served as President of the Friends of Washington Park Tutoring Organization, a university program that pairs University of Chicago students with local public-school students and academically tutors and mentors them on a tri-weekly basis.

Did you know? Mo has a 110-pound Great Pyrenees Mountain Dog named Koda. Together, the two love long walks, outdoor brunches and afternoon naps.

ALEX HANNS

Alex Hanns serves as deputy press secretary for Governor J.B. Pritzker. He joined Pritzker's gubernatorial campaign in its first weeks and has been a member of the communications team ever since. Prior to that, Alex managed state Rep. Ann Williams's re-election campaign in 2016 and served as communications director for state Sen. John Mulroe. A proud DePaul University alumnus, he received his bachelor's in public relations and advertising in 2017. Alex spends his free time volunteering for Democratic and LGBTQ candidates and organizations.

Did you know? Alex has a nose for rooftop bars and has great Springfield recommendations

NICOLE HOLMES

Nicole Holmes is manager of the State of Illinois AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline at Center on Halsted.

Nicole received her Bachelor of Science in health education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. A native of Chicago, her passion work is rooted in supporting sexual health and overall wellness in marginalized communities, including Black women/girls/femmes, by educating about health disparities; that includes the bi community as well. She currently serves as both a voting member for the Illinois HIV Planning Group and an impact producer for the Black sexuality organization, Sex Kiki.

Previously, Nicole interned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program (CUPS) through Morehouse College. She credits her mother Suzanne, sister Alex, aunt Donna and partner Adrian as being her primary cheerleading team, rooting her on in every aspect of her life.

Did you know? Nicole is a former competition swimmer. She considers building her swimming skills to be one of the great accomplishments and challenges of her life.

D'ANGELO D'ONTACE KEYES

D'Angelo D'Ontace Keyes is an advocate within the Black LGBTQ community. He serves at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, where he mobilizes communities to thrive beyond HIV.

D'Angelo previously served as a commissioner with Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, where he assisted in developing the first government report addressing racism and discrimination in Philadelphia's LGBTQ community. An artist and student, Keyes also received his MBA from Philadelphia University, and a formal arts education from the University of the Arts and Chicago Academy for the Arts.

Did you know? Keyes was a key organizer of Philadelphia Black Pride and architect for MOBI (Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative) NYC.

TIMMY KNUDSEN

Timmy Knudsen is a Chicago attorney with one foot entrenched in law and the other in Chicago politics.

At Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Timmy mixes a legal practice in venture capital transactions with a deep commitment to pro bono work, particularly LGBTQ asylum cases. Timmy recently represented a Russian gay man who is seeking asylum in the United States after being stalked on a dating app in Moscow and beaten for his LGBTQ status. In addition, Timmy recently won an asylum case for a gay Palestinian client with similar persecution.

Timmy started working on Democratic political campaigns when he was 19, and most recently served as a member of Lori Lightfoot's Mayoral Campaign Finance Committee. Currently, he advises several other local candidates and has a deep commitment to community engagement in Lincoln Park's 43rd Ward.

Did you know? Timmy loves home renovations—and was featured on an episode of HGTV's House Hunters in 2018.

KATHERINE KOO

Katherine Koo is a recent graduate from the Masters of Science in Health Systems Management Program at Rush University. With that background in public health, she has worked in the Office of Community Engagement at Rush University Medical Center for the past two years to address the 16-year life expectancy gap on Chicago's west side. She also helped lead efforts to expand access for gender-affirming primary and specialty services at Rush, completed the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index survey, and conducted research on trans and gender non-conforming medical curriculum in the Rush Medical College.

Did you know? Katherine is the principal double bassist (not the guitar) for the South Loop Symphony Orchestra, which offers free concerts three times a year.

MAURICE GREEN IV (MO)**NICOLE HOLMES****TIMMY KNUDSEN****ALEX HANNS****D'ANGELO D'ONTACE KEYES****KATHERINE KOO**

JACK LADD



KELSEY MCGRATH



ROXANNE MEYER



CATHERINE MILLER



KEVIN MORRISON



JOSE NATERAS

**JACK LADD**

Jack Ladd is a gay digital strategist and writer from Alexandria, Virginia. He moved to Chicago in 2013 to pursue studies in journalism and intercultural communication at DePaul University. He's worked at Hauswirth/Co since its inception in 2017, managing digital strategy for advocacy and political organizations. Empowering Illinoisans to vocally support progressive legislation, issues and organizations through online action has been the highlight of his career. He currently sits on the Advocate Board of Chicago House and is a member of the Equality Illinois Emerging Leaders' Circle.

Did you know? Jack performed at the Kennedy Center in *Something's Afoot*, an Agatha Christie-inspired murder mystery musical, as eccentric man-about-town Nigel Rancour, at 17.

KELSEY MCGRATH

Kelsey McGrath is a fiercely optimistic producer, actor, and writer. Their monthly salon, *The Newness*, is an intersectional, interdisciplinary event that amplifies LGBTQ+, POC and Femme artists in a space that advocates vulnerability, story telling and community. *New Pages*, *The Newness's* new play initiative, brings together artists across identities to develop new theatrical work. Kelsey has written with *Perform.Ink* and *Newcity Stages* to shift the contemporary theater criticism paradigm to empower folks of all experiences to engage in arts criticism.

Did you know? Kelsey is a regular member of Bucktown CrossFit and was a competitive Irish dancer for 10 years. They wish love and gratitude to Mama, Austin, Bodhi and Regina.

ROXANNE MEYER

Roxanne Meyer is an underwriter of healthcare facilities and providers for CNA Insurance. She determines who can be insured and at what price, while offering additional services to help improve patient safety.

Roxanne has also never shied away from leadership positions in the LGBTQ community. At work, she serves as chair of CNA's LGBTQ Employee Resource Group (ERG), *Pride@CNA*. Under her leadership, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois recognized *Pride@CNA* as the 2018 ERG of the Year. In the community, Roxanne is the co-chair of the Women's Action Council social events committee for Center on Halsted, and board member of the Legacy Project.

Roxanne also loves to volunteer—she cooks dinner every Thursday for the Center on Halsted Youth Program, work for which the Center awarded her the 2018 Youth Program Volunteer of the Year.

Did you know? Roxanne was born in Paraguay, but doesn't speak Spanish. Instead, she's fluent in French and can read Hebrew.

CATHERINE MILLER

Catherine Miller is a queer non-binary casting director originally from San Diego, California. After Catherine came out, they realized the lack of representation on local stages of non-binary and trans individuals. They began advocating and educating theatre companies about breaking the binary in casting and make audition rooms safe spaces for all. Over the past two years, they've been invited to speak on panels and create workshops for Director's Lab Chicago, The Theatre School at DePaul and Steppenwolf Theatre.

Catherine is a company member at First Floor Theater and most recently has cast for Raven Theatre, Jackalope Theatre, and Red Tape Theatre. They are a nominator for the Kilroy's List and were featured on *New City's* 2019 *Players: The Fifty People Who Really Perform* for Chicago. Catherine holds a BFA in Dramaturgy/Criticism from The Theatre School at DePaul. They also happen to be in the *Fly Honey Show!*

Did you know? When Catherine was ten, they won an all expense paid trip to Universal Studios Islands of Adventure by entering a contest at Target.

KEVIN MORRISON

Kevin Morrison had an historic election win in 2018 becoming the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected to the Cook County Board. He represents the 15th District of Cook County.

Once sworn into office, his first priority was to pass a resolution and hold a public hearing condemning the Trump Administration's treatment of transgender individuals. He also established a committee to make recommendations on addressing bias, equity, and cultural competency in county government. Kevin is additionally working on legislation to support LGBTQ people living in Cook County including updating the Human Rights Ordinance to be more inclusive of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and to establish a LGBT designation for the supplier diversity program at Cook County.

A native of Chicago, Morrison studied political science, environmental science, and LGBTQ Studies at DePaul University.

Did you know? Kevin speaks 3 languages. Besides his native English, he also speaks Spanish and Italian.

JOSE NATERAS

Jose Nateras is an "actor/writer et al." with his MFA in Writing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and a BA in Theater from Loyola University Chicago. Throughout his career, he's acted at theaters such as Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and American Theatre Company and on television programs such as *Chicago P.D.* and *Proven Innocent*. Jose has also written plays, worked as a director, performed on improv teams and done stand-up.

He additionally self-published a chapbook of poetry and has been a storyteller for *Mortified*, *The Sidesplitter* and others.

From teaching both English at Truman College and Playwriting at CPS high school, to freelancing as a journalist and completing his debut novel (which is set for release at the end of 2019), Jose has continued to stretch himself as an artist and an educator, all the while embracing his identity as a queer person of color and giving voice to his experience as a gay Latino.

Did you know? Jose was born on a military base.

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

Christopher Nolan is the system manager of community health and benefit at Rush University System for Health. Christopher is also an Instructor in Rush's College of Health Science, where he co-directs the elective "Health Equity and New Models of Care." He is also a member of Rush's Diversity Leadership Council, where he chairs the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) Leadership Council.

Did you know? Christopher moved to Chicago after only having visited one time for an interview, and having no connection to the city. He fell in love with everything Chicago has to offer, and enjoys trying new restaurants and bars, volunteering with area nonprofits, and running along the lake. Christopher will run his fourth marathon this fall.

ANGELINA NORDSTROM

Angelina Nordstrom is a two-spirit woman of trans experience who works as a receptionist for Center on Halsted. Known as one of the most free-spoken lyricists with a story to tell, she has shared many of her poetic pieces on stage in many open and safe spaces. She is also a part of the emerging ensemble (Cycle 6) of Youth Empowerment Performance Project, which she's been involved with since 2017.

Angel also has been serving on the Northside Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Howard Brown Health since 2016. She has also served as facilitator and vice president on the Board of Directors for the DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance) LGBT-Chicago support group since 2015. Angel is currently enrolled at Harold Washington College and her set goal is to practice law as an advocate for the TGNC community and for all marginalized communities.

Did you know? Angel interned with Cook County State's Attorney's Office under the leadership of State's Attorney Kim Foxx and served with AmeriCorps at the same time in 2018.

MARKUS PITCHFORD

Markus Pitchford leads public policy efforts for the Mayor of Waukegan, Illinois. His policy experience covers economic development, infrastructure, climate change and sustainability. He has held a multitude of executive leadership roles in Illinois to state-wide campaigns including Kwame Raoul for Attorney General and Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus. Markus was also the youngest elected delegate in the 2012 Democratic National Convention of Illinois.

He chairs the Board of Directors for Campus Pride, an organization working to create a safer college environment for LGBTQ students and sits on the executive board of Men4Choice. Markus recently joined Congresswoman Robin Kelly's LGBTQ Task Force as well.

Did you know? At the age of 6, Markus "fired" his friends in kindergarten when they didn't play tag at recess. You could say he was always a natural leader.

ARI PIZARRO

Ari Pizarro is a recent graduate—with degrees in sociology and the study of women and gender—who engages in the world of activism through photography. As a self-proclaimed "foodie," they spend their free time tasting their way around Chicago, as well as curating new designs and products for their small LGBT art shop.

Did you know? Since 7th grade, Ari's all-time favorite show has been Adventure Time.

BINDU POROORI

Bindu Poroori has called Chicago home for nearly eight years, but is originally from sweet sweltering Chennai. She is proud to be part of 47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin's team, and part of the organizing collective Chicago Desi Youth Rising. Bindu was most recently interim producer for Steppenwolf Theatre's LookOut series, and prior to that was a New Americans Democracy Project Fellow with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Indo American Center. They are also Lead Curator for the Fly Honey Show, and will always call Salonathon their "curatorial home." Bindu's personal artistic and social practice is at the intersection of poetry, civic dialogue and racial justice. She is always looking for home.

Did you know? Bindu learned to play Indian classical violin for six whole months when she was 12, and will very enthusiastically play you scales on any violin you give her.

JASEAN PURDIS

Jasean Purdis is a youth leader for the organization Q-yes (Queer Youth Exploring Spirituality). Q-yes' mission is inviting youth to learn about or create spirituality within a safe space. Jasean also is involved as a youth leader at Center on Halsted. He recently joined the House of Lauren and has started to help them out with community events. Jasean says that, at the end of the day, he's there to help you out whenever you want.

Did you know? Jasean likes to draw, and enjoys opportunities to stand up for youth who might not be able to stand up for themselves.

**CHRISTOPHER NOLAN****ANGELINA NORDSTROM****MARKUS PITCHFORD****ARI PIZARRO****BINDU POROORI****JASEAN PURDIS**

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6:00pm Performance
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Photo © Todd Rosenberg Photography, Dancers: Ari Israel & Greig Matthews.
Attire: Chiara Boni La, Petite Robe provided by Neiman Marcus.



KRIS ROSENTEL

TOMMY SCHAFER

ASHLEY TOLLIVER

KRIS ROSENTEL

Kris Rosentel is a researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3) at the University of Chicago.

Kris's research focuses on improving the health and well-being of LGBTQ communities, using an intersectional, structural, and harm reduction lens. Kris's past work has included exploring inequities in the spatial distribution of LGBTQ services in Chicago. They currently serve as the project manager for the Work2Prevent intervention study, a series of employment skills workshops for LGBTQ youth. They are also pursuing a research project examining the Chicago Police Department's enforcement of sex work criminalization laws and its impact on the trans community.

Did you know? The five things that would summon Kris are saucy tofu, puzzle games, their comfy egg chair, maps and Tony Hawk Pro Skater 3.

TOMMY SCHAFER

Tommy Schafer is a non-binary queer person from rural Illinois. Tommy is the Program Evaluator at Howard Brown Health, where they coordinate the FOCUS opt-out HIV screening program, which seeks to institutionalize and normalize HIV screening in primary care settings.

Tommy developed several abstracts that have been presented nationwide showing that opt-out screening benefits LGBTQ+ people by lowering barriers to knowing one's HIV status, more rapidly suppressing HIV viral load following diagnosis,

easing conversations with providers about sexual health and promoting the practice of hepatitis vaccination and screening. They also work with local emergency departments to implement HIV screening in that setting.

Tommy, who studied at University of Illinois at Chicago, currently evaluates programs seeking to provide employment to LGBTQ+ youth and increase access to healthcare for folks working in cash and gig economies, as well as aspects of a community-based participatory research project which is establishing a database for national transgender health research.

Did you know? Tommy is an avid knitter, house plant enthusiast, guinea pig mom and a marathon/triathlon runner for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's charity Team 2 End AIDS.

ASHLEY TOLLIVER

Ashley Tolliver was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago in the Englewood neighborhood. She is the youngest of 11 sisters and four brothers.

Her overarching career goals are supporting the liberation of Black cis and trans women and girls, and she hopes to influence healthcare policies in Chicago neighborhoods and beyond. Ashley has a 1-year-old baby daughter named Alora Jolie. Ashley's current role is at the Broadway Youth Center as the Health Advocacy Coordinator, where she supports young people navigating their way through the healthcare system.

Did you know? Ashley is afraid of the dark, the progression of time, fish and birds.



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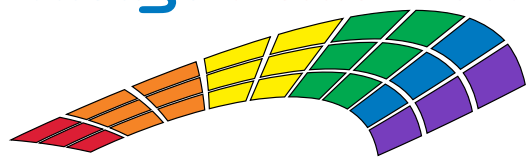
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Chicago Pride 2019



**STONEWALL 50
MILLIONS OF MOMENTS
OF PRIDE**

PARADE INFORMATION

courtesy of PRIDEChicago
50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade

Sun., June 30

For changes or updates: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org •
PrideChgo@aol.com • 773-348-8243

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

Photo by Vern Hester for Windy City Times



MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT

Mayor Lightfoot's bio is well known to the public who, in record numbers, voted for her in the mayoral election. Her background and vast experience in both federal positions and local positions with previous administrations is also part of the public record. Mayor Lightfoot will be marching near the front of the parade (directly behind the front banner and color guard carried by the Scout troops) as did her predecessors, Mayor Daley and Mayor Emanuel. She is the first open lesbian mayor in the city's history.

YOUTH GRAND MARSHAL

MOLLY PINTA

Youth Grand Marshal is a 12-year-old middle school student who lobbied to have a Pride Parade in her hometown, Buffalo Grove, and came out as a lesbian to her parents, friends, teachers and world-at-large. Molly is the result and a shining example of the hard work and sacrifices made by those generations of activists who for 50 years have toiled before—and leading up to Stonewall.

Molly attended last year's Aurora Pride Parade and decided to plan for a parade in Buffalo Grove. She and her family have long been advocates for social justice in her town. Molly is also a longtime actor, singer and dancer. She has aspirations to be a teacher like her parents and to continue running their new nonprofit, The Pinta Pride Project, to keep Pride coming to Buffalo Grove every year and to support other young people in bringing their own events.



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Pinta

ORGANIZATIONAL GRAND MARSHAL

The "Indivisible" group, the Aurora Pride organizers who coordinated the first Chicago-area suburban Pride Parade in history last year, and worked hard, with community help and support, to secure their second parade this year after they initially had to cancel it due to an increase in their city fees. The second annual Aurora Pride Parade is scheduled for June 9. For more information: www.aurorapride.org

PRIDEChicago 2019 GRAND MARSHALS

LEGACY GRAND MARSHALS

JIM FLINT

Community activist, best known as the owner of the Baton Show Lounge. Jim's involvement in local Democratic Party politics; on fundraising during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s; his involvement in the sports community (he was a founding member of the Windy City Athletic Association) and his many other awards and accomplishments are best spelled out in the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame web site: www.GLHollofFame.org



Photo by Hal Baim for Windy City Times



Photo by Tracy Baim for Windy City Times

MARGE SUMMIT

Community activist, best known as the owner of the former His 'n Hers bar. Marge has contributed time, energy and resources to numerous community organizations over the years, including pre-Stonewall's Mattachine Midwest, PFLAG, produced and appeared in several educational LGBTQ+ video projects and initiated the "Gay\$" project that pointed out the spending power of the LGBTQ+ communities. But she is best known as owner of the the former His 'n Hers bar that brought LGBTQ+ womyn and men and our Allies together for entertainment, good food and camaraderie. For more information: www.GLHollofFame.org

JOEL HALL

Community activist who was founder of the Joel Hall Dancers in 1974. He has been a composer, teacher, adviser and so many other things in his life. His community involvement, list of accomplishments, creations and awards over the past 40+ years are so long and inspiring that we refer readers to joelhall.org to see the life's work of this accomplished individual who more than deserves to be called a Legacy Grand Marshal. For more information: www.GLHollofFame.org and the more updated: www.joelhall.org

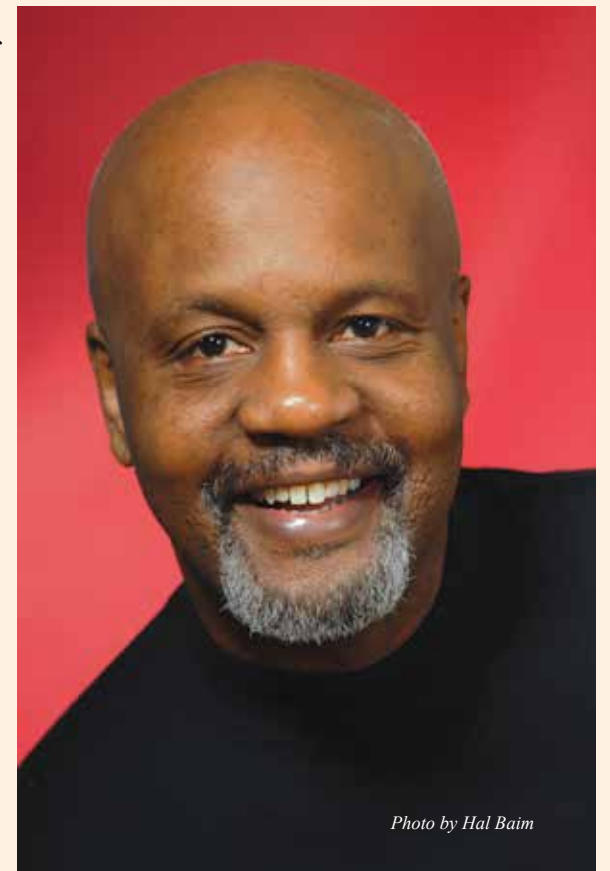
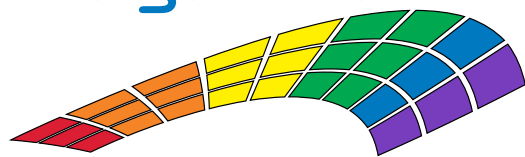


Photo by Hal Baim

Chicago Pride 2019



STONEWALL 50
MILLIONS OF MOMENTS
OF PRIDE

PARADE INFORMATION

courtesy of PRIDEChicago
50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade

Sun., June 30

For changes or updates: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org •
PrideChgo@aol.com • 773-348-8243

DATE: Sunday, June 30

TIME: 12 Noon

STARTS at: Broadway & Montrose.

LINE UP: North Broadway (both the east and the west curb lanes, from Montrose to Wilson); West Montrose (both the north and south curb lanes from Broadway to Clark); Sunnyside Ave. from Broadway to North Sheridan Rd. and North Sheridan Rd., between Montrose and Wilson.

ROUTE: Step off from the Broadway/Montrose corner, proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

CONTENT & DESCRIPTION:

The parade will feature 150 registered entries, including floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, a marching band and walking contingents.

The entries represent community organizations, businesses, governmental officials and individual community members. Crowd estimates each year are in the hundreds of thousands. So the plans are to line the parade route with barricades on both sides of the street from beginning to the end of the parade route. Spectators will be required to remain behind the barricades. (Only parade registrants traveling down the middle of the street, police officers, other city

officials, security staff, parade marshals and credentialed media reps will be allowed in the street). In recent years, the City of Chicago has required that several large city parades, including the Pride Parade, line their parade routes with barricades at our own expense. Police officers and parade marshals will be stationed at various points on the street in front of the barricades along the parade route.

Police officers will also be in the area surrounding the parade. In addition, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence along and surrounding the parade route.

\$1000 FINE FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, \$1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles.

Public urination is also grounds to receive a ticket.

PARADE DAY HEALTH/SAFETY:

Bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, and dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

STREET CLOSURES: (on parade day, Sunday, June 30) include:

ASSEMBLY AREA: Tentative time: 10:30 a.m.

PARADE ROUTE: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. The parade starts at 12 Noon at the Broadway/Montrose corner proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive. **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

NO PARKING: Both the Assembly Area and Parade Route (listed above) will be posted with temporary signs indicating "NO PARKING ON SUNDAY JUNE 30, 2019, FROM 5:00 am TO 8:00 pm. - Both sides of the street, unless otherwise indicated." Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation, citations, and towing will start at 5 a.m. promptly.
Montrose Ave. - Greenview Ave. to Hazel St.

Broadway - Leland Ave. to Grace St.

Sunnyside Ave. - Broadway to North Sheridan Rd.

Halsted St.* - Grace St. to Belmont Ave.

Belmont Ave. - Racine Ave. to Broadway

Broadway - Melrose Ave. to Diversey Pkwy.

Diversey Pkwy. - Broadway to Cannon Dr. (Sheridan)

Cannon Dr. - Diversey Pkwy. to Fullerton Pkwy.

Addison St. - 736 W. Addison St. to Sheffield Ave.

Waveland Ave. - Halsted St. to Broadway

Grace St. - Halsted St. to Fremont St.

Clifton - Montrose Ave. to Sunnyside Ave.

N. Sheridan Rd. - Sunnyside Ave. to Buena Ave.

Buena Ave. - Sheridan Rd. to Broadway

Wellington Ave. - Clark St. to Sheffield Ave.

N. Sheridan Rd. - Montrose Ave. to Wilson.

* Please note that parking on Halsted and Belmont will be restricted until 4 a.m.

Monday, July 1

For updates and corrections: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

TOWING: Begins at 5 am. Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation citations and towing will start at 5 am - Promptly. **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

CROSS STREETS: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. After stepping off at Noon, the parade will take approximately two and one-half hours to finish crossing the Broadway & Montrose corner. After this time, the floats will still be winding their way to the end of the parade route at Diversey & Sheridan. This year there will NOT be a Buffer Zone on Halsted Street after the parade ends. Police will work to re-open the streets to vehicular traffic as soon as cleaning crews are finished and the streets will not remain open to foot traffic. **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: From the Red Line: Wilson, Sheridan, Addison or Belmont all provide access via a short walk to the parade route.

PLEASE NOTE: The Belmont station (and

the surrounding area) tends to become the most crowded, so you are encouraged to consider watching the parade from the other parts of the route, including areas toward the start of the route—such as Broadway, south of Montrose—which are served by both the nearby Wilson and Sheridan stations on the Red Line. In addition, a number of lakefront bus routes including the 146 and 151 provide convenient access from the north, the Gold Coast/North Michigan Ave. and downtown to areas east of the parade route.

Extra service will be provided on the 'L' on parade day to accommodate the large numbers of people who attend the parade. Due to the increase of local traffic and a number of bus reroutes, potential parade spectators are advised to make use of the L or the various bus routes.

BUS REROUTES:

8 Halsted, 22 Clark, 36 Broadway, 76 Diversey, 77 Belmont, 78 Montrose, 151 Sheridan, 152 Addison.

Also see CTA web site or call them for updated information concerning the train and bus routes. CTA: 1-312-836-7000 www.transitchicago.com

Other information on public transportation: 1-312-322-6777 www.metrarail.com. **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:

For updates: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

There will be at least nine cross-over streets:
Montrose Ave. at Broadway
Irving Park Rd. at Broadway
Grace St. at Halsted St.
Addison St. at Halsted St.
Roscoe St. at Halsted St.
Wellington Ave. at Broadway

Aldine St. at Halsted St.

Cornelia Ave. at Halsted St.

Oakdale Ave. at Broadway

At each corner of the streets listed above there will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians to cross the parade route. **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

NEEDS AND SPECIAL NEEDS:

1. Portable Restrooms - are stationed along both the parade line-up street and the parade route. Included at several locations are restrooms for the physically challenged.

2. Physically Challenged Area/Wheel chair Accessible Area/Seniors - for people who need or want more space: the sidewalks of W. Diversey Pkwy. (near 600 W. Diversey). Traditionally this area of the parade route has fewer spectators than other sections of the parade route. Spectators in these areas generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

3. Seniors (outdoor) - The area mentioned above in #2 (600 W. Diversey sidewalks) is a designated OUTDOOR area for seniors. Spectators in this area generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

4. Cooling Busses:

Halsted, south of Belmont; Addison, west of Halsted; Belmont, east of Broadway; Wilton, north of Belmont

5. Chicago Fire Department First Aid Stations: **For updates:** www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

901 W. Addison St.; 765 W. Roscoe St.; 3165 N. Halsted St.; 561 W. Surf St.; 802 W. Roscoe St.

For changes or updates after this publication went to press:
www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

BOOKS

Tan about town: 'Queer Eye' guru pens new memoir

BY TONY PEREGRIN



Tan France.
Photo by Marcus MacDonald

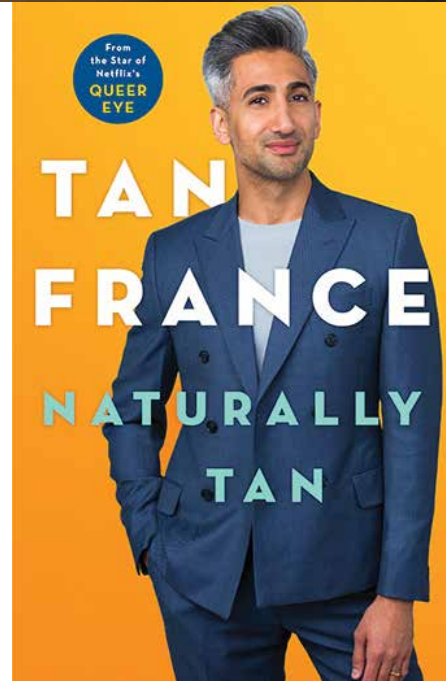
The title of Tan France's new memoir, *Naturally Tan*, refers to the *Queer Eye* star's aim for authenticity—a mindset that once eluded the first openly gay, South Asian man on television. In the new book, France reveals that, as a 10-year-old boy, he would steal skin-bleaching products from a cousin due to the shame he harbored regarding the color of his skin.

"I haven't had the balls to tell her I took it because, since then, I've been ashamed of the fact that I succumbed to the pressure," he writes in his memoir. "I kept the dirty little secret to myself. I'd only use it at night, before bed, when no one else was going to catch me. Let me tell you, that shit hurt."

"It was hard when I first got to *Queer Eye* because it felt like a lot of pressure," France told *Windy City Times*. "I spent many, many a year trying to be as private as possible, to not shock anybody by my mere existence. But now I'm on a show where I'm very openly myself, and very authentically me. You don't get to see the full version of me on *Queer Eye*—it's a 44-minute show and there are five of us plus a hero who we are focusing on—so *Naturally Tan* is my story, told my way."

Windy City Times: What was the driving factor for writing a memoir at this stage in your life and career?

Tan France: Well, I never wanted to do a style book. Somebody suggested that to me early on, and I was, like, "That's never going to happen—I'm not that person." I couldn't care less about that. But I had to learn to accept the fact that that's what a lot of people come to me for. They



just want some very simple, basic fashion knowledge.

So, *Naturally Tan* includes touchstones for people who are seeking fashion advice, but I also wanted people to be able to read this book and realize "Okay, I'm going to learn some things about what it's like to be a person of color." Or maybe if they're already a person of color, what it feels like to feel not so alone.

WCT: In *Naturally Tan*, you write about the

"art of not being a bitch at work." Why do you think managing your inner bitch is so fundamental to success in the workplace?

TF: When I first started my business and I had my first employee, there was no one for her to bitch to other than me. So I made it very clear—you do not bitch in this workplace. If you're not happy about something, tell somebody at home, don't tell me. If there's a problem, tell me and we'll try and correct it, but don't just bitch. And when I hired my subsequent employees, I made it very clear that being a bitch is going to get you nowhere.

Bitching does nothing. Yes, it's great to vent, but that's what your friends are there for, that's what your family's there for—not your colleagues. And thankfully, it created a really positive work environment, and I'm happy to say my employees are still very close friends. Best friends at this point, which is wonderful to see.

WCT: Speaking of close friends, you've said that before *Queer Eye*, you had no gay friends—and now you have four gay besties via the show and you're also one of most highly visible queer, Asian men in the United States.

TF: So, when I was applying for *Queer Eye*, that was just after I had retired, so literally a few days after. And up until that point, I was working around the clock. I have friends, but they were my husband's friends. I didn't have time to make new friends because all I was doing was working. And so, a gay circle of friends was something I never tried to find and find and cultivate.

With *Queer Eye*, it's different. When I went to

an audition and I got an in-built group of boys who are now my, well, they're my family. And so it feels really empowering to have people around me that have similar experiences. The majority of my friends up until this point were heterosexual, and I love them very much, and they are equally my friends as my *Queer Eye* boys. But, my gay friends have experiences that I share, and that feels really important that they understand exactly what I'm referring to when I'm referring to something. And so that's why it's been important to continue to gain gay friends. I didn't realize what I was missing when I didn't have them.

WCT: When you first meet *Queer Eye* participants, you encourage them to ask you anything they want to know. Why turn the tables on them from the get-go?

TF: You know when I first did that on *Queer Eye*, somebody who was on the production team said, "Well, we need the show's focus to be about the heroes, not on you. We need to start asking them questions instead of starting with you." And I said, "Well, you clearly don't understand my style of communication. This person's never met me before. They don't know that they can trust me. I'm not going to ask very intimate details of their lives without them know that they at least have somewhat of a friend in me." It's a way for me to break the ice, and for me to show them that, although I am on a show, although I'm in the public eye, this is a situation where we are completely equal. We are just two humans having a conversation. Ask me whatever you want, and then I'll ask you what I want.

WCT: The Chicago stop on your book tour [which took place June 11] was sold out [with a 200-name waiting list]. What are some of your favorite things about the Windy City?

TF: The river is gorgeous. I think it's on St. Patrick's Day when you dye it green, right? I was there once when it was St. Patrick's Day, but not for the parade. I just so happened to be there and it was green, and I love, I love the celebration at that time of year.

But the city in general, I love it. I love downtown. It feels like a much cleaner, friendlier New York City. I visited for the first time about eight or nine years ago and I've been back three or four times. However, I'm done with The Bean. I enjoyed it for a moment, but it's very touristy. [Laughs] I tried to go a few months ago, and I definitely can't be around The Bean. There were already so many tourists, and then they get very excited.

WCT: Are you able to walk into [Boystown nightspots] Sidetrack or Roscoe's without being recognized?

TF: If I'm wearing a very low cap and if I wear prescriptive glasses—with those two things, and a big scarf to hide the back of my hair, I can usually get away with it.

WCT: I love that you can still get away with going to gay bars incognito. While we're on the topic of gay nightlife, I have two fashion-related queries for you. The first is: What fashion advice do you have for men over 50?

TF: It's not actually about the age. I don't think it matters. If it makes you feel good, if it makes you feel confident, go for it. I had somebody comment a few days ago on my Instagram,

Turn to page 68

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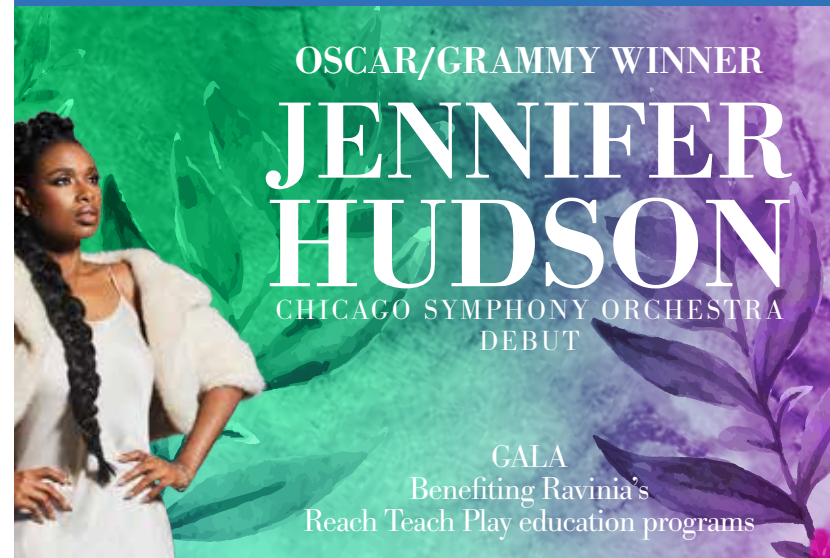
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BOOKS

'In the City' author talks storytelling, Stonewall

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

Taylor Saracen always had a passion for storytelling. Her parents warned her writing was not a lucrative profession so instead she chose teaching, she told Windy City Times with a humorous irony in her voice.

After 11 years of teaching, Saracen turned to writing, publishing three novels in 2018 that includes her new adult Rise Up series.

Her latest book—*In the City by the Lake*—has striking parallels to the period of time that spawned the Stonewall Riots, which mark their 50th anniversary this year. The book is work of historical fiction focused on the emotional journey of a 21-year-old closeted mobster living in Chicago during the LGBT emergence of the late 1920s to early 1930s, a period deemed the “Pansy Craze.” In the mid-1960s, New York City Mayor John Lindsey wanted to clean up the city with the advent of the World’s Fair taking place there. Many consider the Stonewall police raid an extension of this policy.

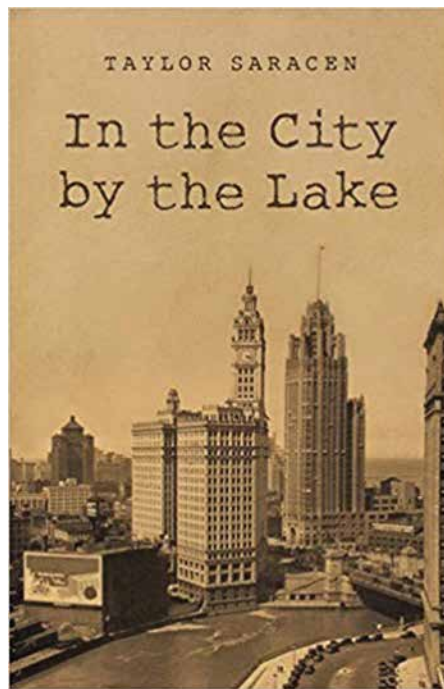
Windy City Times: There are amazing the parallels between the Chicago Pansy Craze in the 1920s, the 1969 Stonewall Riot, and the current political climate for the LGBT community.

Taylor Saracen: I’ll say. Some things change. Some do not. And I wasn’t explicitly thinking about the connections. I wrote the book over a period of time. It’s more that we’re going backwards in our current political environment.

WCT: The doorman at the Stonewall, a mob guy, is a closeted gay man.

TS: And my character Viktor Mikhailov, who follows in his father’s footsteps in the Russian mob, takes on an assignment none of his comrades want. He’s secretly pleased.

WCT: At the time, Chicago is a cesspool of organized crime, with several outfits fighting for a piece of the Prohibition pie—and Viktor’s slice is the openly gay Towertown, also known



as Boystown?

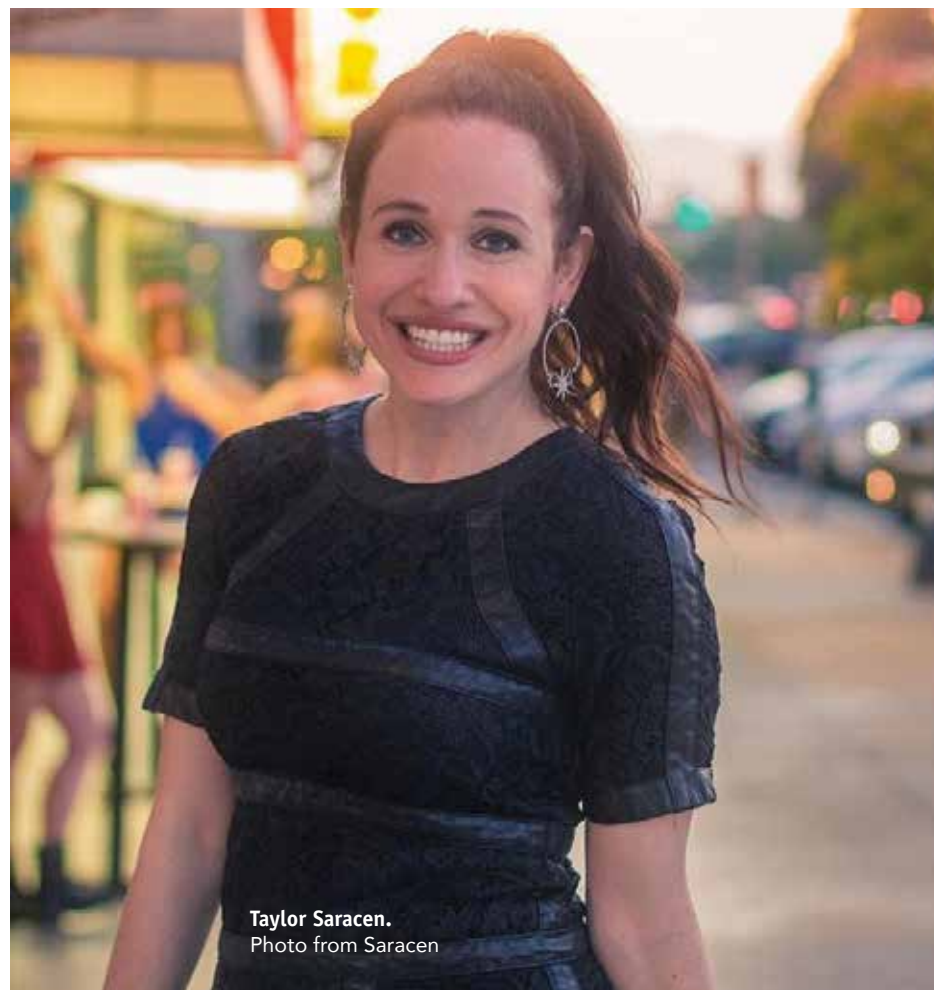
TS: Yes, Viktor’s job is to provide whiskey to the queer clubs he covertly frequents. He gets rich while finding himself in an unconventional relationship with his top client’s muse, an enigmatic redhead named Calvin Connolly.

WCT: And they’re very different men?

TS: They are. Calvin, and his throng of idealists who pack the pansy parlors—believe they stand on the precipice of a revolution. Viktor is not convinced.

WCT: Viktor is conflicted?

TS: He’s a skeptic by both nature and lack of nurture. He questions the conservative culture’s capacity for real change while still hoping broad acceptance is imminent. Maybe then he could accept the parts of himself he hides.



Taylor Saracen.
Photo from Saracen

WCT: And the collision of circumstances, same as today, creates problems for Viktor?

TS: The repeal of Prohibition leads to financial issues for Viktor. Generally, the Depression-era disapproval of 1920s liberal lifestyles ushers in a slew of deeper problems. Sensationalized news stories regarding a rash of sex crimes paint homosexuals as depraved monsters.

WCT: The backlash then, as now under the Trump administration, precipitates laws against the queer community?

TS: The government’s intent is not only to eradicate pansy parlors—but homosexuality entirely. Eventually, Viktor arrives at a decision he feels unprepared to make, he struggles with the rami-

fications.

WCT: How so?

TS: It seems so regarding religion, especially with trans issues and general civil rights.

WCT: Why now? Why a backlash from the momentum gained by marriage and military service rights?

TS: In a down economy, those feeling left out grow scared. They need enemies to blame.

WCT: And the Enemies List seems to be growing...

TS: It’s not just queer folks. There’s also Anti-Semitism. I see it. I never liked it. In some ways, the Fascist writing is on the political wall. Everything’s fine until it isn’t.

TAN from page 66

saying, “You’re too old to be wearing that.” And my retort was, “I couldn’t care less. Look how happy I am in that picture.”

And that’s how I feel. If you decide to wear an oversized hoodie and some board shorts, it’s not the look I would suggest, but if it brings you joy, go for it. If it makes you feel like the best person you can be, go for it.

And if you are really struggling to find your style, maybe use this as a jumping off point. If there’s a person in the public eye, whether it be in sports, or an actor, or whatever, that you think, “He dresses well. I like his vibe”—start with that. Google images of that person and try

and find alternatives to what they’re wearing. There’s always a cheaper alternative available to what someone in the public eye is wearing.

WCT: My second fashion-related query: What advice do you have for gay men who relentlessly and continuously post shirtless selfies?

TF: I wouldn’t have style advice. I’d just think, “Gosh, if that’s what you want to post, and you feel confident enough to do so, and that’s your vibe, go ahead. Do that.” If you are posting those pictures, just know that you’re going to have to keep that up, because when you don’t, people are going to call you out for it. And I don’t do that kind of pressure. [Laughs]

For me, it’s different. I’m married. I’ve been married for a long time. I want people to know that, yes, I’m still young and sexual—but there’s

so much more that I want you to know about me.

I’ve been guilty of posting a picture where you can see the upper part of my chest. It’s not very often I’ll show anything lower than that. You’ll read in my book where I felt really embarrassed by my skin for many, many years, and it took me a long time to feel like I wasn’t less than because of my skin color. So, when I’m posting those pictures it’s to show people that I am very proud of my beautiful, brown skin.

WCT: You’re hosting an upcoming new competition series on Netflix called Next in Fashion. How is the hosting gig an exciting new direction for you to explore from a creative standpoint?

TF: I love Queer Eye and it brings me so much joy because I feel like I’m part of a movement.

Next in Fashion fills this need in me for design in fashion. I love to watch new designers create something incredible. I don’t have that luxury anymore. I don’t have a brand anymore, and so being part of that process feels incredible.

Next in Fashion is the first time I got to host-host. As I mention in the book, I am very new to this industry, and this is the first time I got to host in the traditional sense. We are five hosts on Queer Eye, but it’s reality television. Next in Fashion is the first time I get to use a teleprompter, and there’s a live audience, and it’s just... I love the show so much, and my co-host, Alexa Chung is just formidable.

Naturally Tan, published by St. Martin’s Press, is now out in bookstores and on websites.



MUSIC

Lizzo, Kim Petras help celebrate Pride in Chicago

BY JERRY NUNN

June 20 proved to be a jam-packed night for the LGBT community with events all over the city to celebrate Pride month.

The AT&T Chicago Flagship store on Michigan Avenue hosted an exclusive Pride event with singer-rapper Lizzo. Starting at 8 p.m., the outspoken performer met with the first 50 people in a line that snaked down East Ontario Street.

She sang several tracks from her third release *Cuz I Love You* such as "Juice," "Jerome" and "Tempo." Lizzo was moved to tears at one point

after an emotional Instagram post dealing with depression earlier the same day and seeing the support from the crowd. The mood quickly changed, as fans were brought up onstage to dance and express themselves.

AT&T's Turn Up the Love events continue annually during Pride season booking guests that support and are popular with the LGBT community.

Meanwhile, at 8:30 p.m. across town at Lincoln Hall, trans pop singer Kim Petras packed the venue with a concert that sold out within minutes of announcement. The Broken Tour simply did not

need to be fixed with bubblegum gems such as "Hillside Boys" and "I Don't Want It at All" that had ticket holders jumping and screaming.

Afterward, Petras headed to Roscoe's Tavern for a late night appearance that included "Sweet Spot" and a lively meet and greet.

Both artists had played Pride festivals this year with Lizzo at Indy Pride Festival and Petras at PrideFest Milwaukee. By strange coincidence, both shows were once again on the same night on June 8. Coincidence or competing for our dollars? All we know is don't expect these

artists to play at venues this size in the future as their careers are both on the upswing.

Without a doubt, Lizzo loves Chicago as she returns with a visit to Gallagher Way, 3635 N. Clark St. by Wrigley Field, on Saturday, Aug. 10, and again at Aragon Ballroom on Saturday, Sept. 28-29, after two sold-out shows at The Riviera Theatre earlier this year.

Visit CuzILoveYou.LizzoMusic.com and KimPetras.com for more on these rising performers.



Kim Petras.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



Lizzo.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

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BOOKS

Assisted-reproduction book's author hopes to help LGBTQ parents

BY JAKE WITTICH

Kim Bergman has helped bring more than 1,700 babies into the world throughout her 30 years working in the assisted-reproduction field.

She and her wife Natalie, who celebrate their 36th anniversary this October, also have two daughters of their own, Abby and Jenna, who were both born through assisted reproduction.

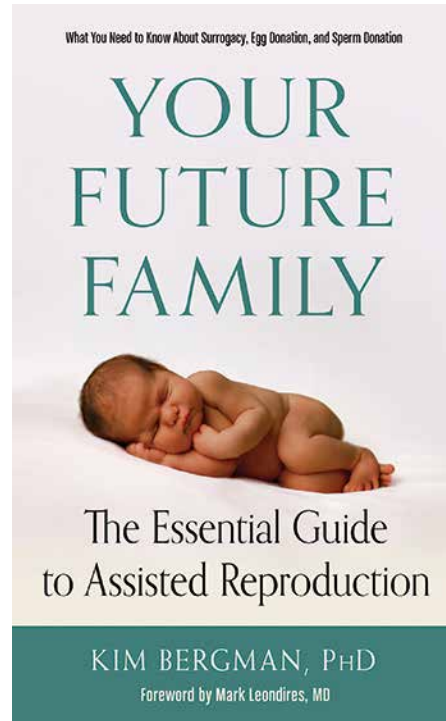
Creating Strong families is Bergman's life's work and with her new book, *Your Future Family: The Essential Guide to Assisted Reproduction*, she hopes to help welcome even more children into the world by empowering soon-to-be parents.

"This is a sort of guidebook on third-party assisted reproduction that also goes into personal anecdotes and the emotional side of things," Bergman told the Windy City Times while in Chicago visiting her daughter Abby, who graduates from the University of Chicago with a master's degree in Social Science Research this month. "So I cover the logistics of third-party reproduction, what all the ingredients are—lawyer, psychologist, insurance or surrogate donor—and then the emotional side of this."

Bergman said the book's audience is anyone who's looking to have a child through third-party means, but LGBTQ people especially can benefit from reading, because assisted reproduction is the only path to parenthood besides adoption.

She said the book includes many anecdotes of same-sex couples who had babies through assisted reproduction and includes a chapter on who to talk to children about their birth story and family makeup.

"LGBTQ people have a lot more planning and extra steps to reach parenthood," Bergman said. "Because of that, many LGBTQ people feel they



need to be even more ready, having dotted every "i" and crossed every "t" to make sure they've planned. It's an unfair burden because they just want to have kids."

Bergman said she hopes readers, both LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ, will not only receive all the necessary information to move forward with assisted reproduction, but will realize from the patient anecdotes and Bergman's own family that they can have the same.

"I hope readers at the end of the book breath a

sigh of relief and feel like this is not only doable, but they can absolutely manage this process and go for it," Bergman said. "If I can help anyone move a little further along in the process and journey, that's what I want to do."

Kim Bergman's daughter, Abby Bergman, said she proud of her mom for creating the book and inspired by her mom's drive to have a positive impact in her field, individual families and the greater LGBTQ community.

Abby Bergman, who after graduating will start work at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, said she thinks of the most important parts of the book is the section on how to talk to children about their life story.

"My mom encourages people to bring their honestly when talking to kids about how they were created, which gives the kids and parents so much power in creating their story in a way that the kids can grow up feeling proud of their family," Abby Bergman said.

Abby Bergman said anytime she had a question about her birth, she got an age-appropriate answer. This knowledge helped her explain her family to other children who might not understand and feel proud about it, she said.

"There was never any big secret part of my identity, and that's what I think she brings to other people," Abby Bergman said. "She teaches parents how to be comfortable enough in themselves and not let the parents' fears of homophobia toolor how they talk about their kid's story."

Conari Press published *Your Future Family: The Essential Guide to Assisted Reproduction* May 1. It can be purchased online at <https://www.amazon.com/Your-Future-Family-Essential-Reproduction/dp/1573247464>.



Kim Bergman.
Photo from Ann Kaiser

Ms. Blakk' now running thru July 21

Due to popular demand, Steppenwolf Theatre Company has added seven more performances to the run of *Ms. Blakk For President*.

Now playing through July 21 at Steppenwolf's Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., this new work was conceived of and directed by ensemble member Tina Landau (*SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical*) and created by ensemble members Tina Landau and Tarell Alvin McCraney (the Oscar-winning film *Moonlight*).

Tickets (\$20-\$94) to the extension are available at 312-335-1650 or Steppenwolf.org.

Ms. Blakk for President.
Photo by Michael Brosilow



BOOKS

'Great Believers' out in paperback

Chicago-based author Rebecca Makkai celebrated the paperback release of her novel *The Great Believers* June 8 at Unabridged Books. Author Owen Keehnen moderated a discussion with Makkai about the book, which has won numerous awards and in part focuses on the mid-1980s gay response to AIDS in Chicago.

Photo by Katharine Solheim





Sara Naomi Goodman.
Photo by Jim Jam

POETRY

Artist fuses video, poetry to inspire psychedelic experience

BY KELSEY HOFF

Poet, new media and sound artist Sara Naomi Goodman's latest performance was "Deep Dream: An Evening of Poetry and Video Synthesis," followed by a Q&A at Slate Arts and Performance on June 25.

The piece combined a live poetry performance with video elements to explore Goodman's own complex relationship to technology. They have previously performed the piece at the Red Rover Reading Series at Outer Space Studio and the Her Environment series at TCC Gallery.

"Each time kind of changes a little bit. ... It's a long poem that I've written but the way I perform it keeps evolving," Goodman said. To create "Deep Dream," they used a neural network artificial-intelligence system created by Google about five years ago that uses Google Images to "paint" or create new images.

Goodman has always been a big fan of science fiction and technology; they grew up reading sci-fi and cyberpunk novels, which has led to their current inspiration by the inundation of modern technology and the preservation of older technology as a resistance to obsolescence. They use vintage mixers from 1980s-90s with multiple sources and effects processors, but people were experimenting with this kind of video synthesis and feedback technology as early as the 1970s. Some of the hardware Goodman uses is brand new, but inspired by earlier technology.

For their source material, Goodman sometimes remixes footage from old DVDs and VHS tapes until it's unrecognizable, or they film people and things around Chicago. Pure synthesis is another

method of generating video through modular synthesis and waveforms that create new shapes and colors.

"I think through technology being used in ways it wasn't built or intended to. That's sort of my interest, when technology goes awry—using those errors to find beautiful images or patterns that are unexpected," said Goodman, noting that glitch art can have an element of queerness in this way. "The poem 'Deep Dream' has elements of that in it, but it's more a long poem about me. ... Having a lot of issues with using tech in my work but also feeling like a prisoner of it, too."

Goodman also aimed to create a psychedelic experience for the viewer in "Deep Dream." Slate's event page describes it as "a space where color, texture, and landscape can help the mind to relax and expand with easier access to extra dimensions."

"One of the reasons I fell in love with video feedback and old video mixers and synths and stuff is because I literally feel like I'm being transported when I work with that tech," said Goodman, "and you can find spaces in video feedback that look like portals or wormholes and project them or have them play on multiple screens. When I'm watching that I feel like it has the same effect that a psychedelic drug would have, but I don't have to take a drug to get there. I can actually use technology to get into that kind of expansive headspace."

As tech-heavy as their video synthesis process is, Goodman describes their writing process as more organic. The poems often come first, with video accompaniments created afterward, but sometimes a video clip will inspire poems. Tech

terminology from the glitch art world such as "pixels" also crops up in Goodman's poetry. They have an MFA in poetry from Columbia College Chicago, and they are the author of the chapbook "Universal Texture" published by Dynatop Ministries as well as the full length poetry book "Starfish" from The Lettered Streets Press.

Goodman collaborates with musicians and other artists for live performances and installations; they perform regularly as part of AV duos Interference//, ethereal_interface and Cruising

Utopia. They are a co-founder of S H R I N E New Media Collective, described on their website as "the idea that technology can be sacred, and that it deserves to be up on a pedestal" and "the celebration of obsolete and repurposed technology."

They also teach video art exploration, creative writing and literature classes at Fusion Academy in Lincoln Park.

For more about Goodman, visit <http://sara-naomigoodman.squarespace.com/>.

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 **DOUBLETREE**

ART

Local lesbian artist on being banned from social media

BY JULIA HALE

Religious LGBTQ+ youth have a higher risk of suicide than their heterosexual counterparts, according to the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Chicago artist Abby Zeciroski wanted to use her art to raise awareness about this correlation for Pride, but restrictions on Facebook and Pinterest blocked her from advertising her art on their platforms. “I call it ‘art activism,’” said Zeciroski, 44. “Twenty years I’ve been an activist in Chicago for LGBT rights, police brutality, the drug war, animal rights. About four years ago I came down with a couple of diseases and I wasn’t able to be active or organize as much. I [wanted] to still be a part of making a difference and raising awareness about social justice issues, so I started making political art.”

Making the most of social media is imperative for artists nowadays, especially political artists who want their work seen by as many people as possible. Zeciroski has an art-business page on Facebook, where instead of just posting her work she submits it as an advertisement. “For five dollars, you can have your work seen by thousands of people and they’ll give you the analytics,” she told Windy City Times. “So basically you do this promotion, you can say, ‘Okay, I want people in Paris that like contemporary art [to see this].’ And then Facebook, between one minute to 24 hours, will decide if you can sell [your work] to a larger audience.”

This June, Zeciroski tried to advertise a piece titled, “Are they really pro-life? Religion, Suicide and Hypocrisy” on Facebook. The piece was accepted at first, but then the platform took it down. “They’re saying it accidentally went through,” she said. “It went through and it got 200 likes, and then Facebook said ‘Hey, you have a perfect 10.’ If you’re an artist, when your ad goes up, they’re gonna rate it between a one and a 10. If it’s a 10, they’re going to tell you that it’s doing [better] than most ads. They offered me a great deal. So I took the deal, I spent the money, and then [Facebook] said, ‘Sorry, we shouldn’t have let this through.’”

The association of religion with LGBTQ+ youth suicides is an issue that’s personal to Zeciroski. “Somebody young in my family, around 10, confided in me that she identifies as LGBT, and she hasn’t come out to her parents,” she said. “When she told me she was coming out, I was, like, worried. She could be homeless because of this, she could be kicked out of the house, her rates of attempting suicide and drug abuse are gonna go up just by identifying [as LGBTQ].”

Zeciroski’s art also draws from her own, personal experiences with religion, being a lesbian. “I’ve been with my partner for over four years and she’s an amazing, kind, loving person, and

her family hasn’t spoken to her for four years because she’s with a woman. She hasn’t been able to go see her nieces and nephews grow up. Just because that’s how we identify, we’re shunned.

“Her family identifies as Christian. A lot of people that hate us are from religion and religious backgrounds,” said Zeciroski. “I was reading numerous studies, [and] basically found that if you are LGBT and you had a religious upbringing or you had religion around you, that you had such a high rate of thinking about suicide [or] contemplating suicide.

“So my point was, with all this research, is that these church people, they have blood on their hands. They’re responsible. You’re supposed to be coming from a loving place, that’s what I think religion should be. Heterosexual kids that are religious, they don’t have a suicide problem. Religion is helping straight youth. My point was that when the priest turns his back on [homosexuality], he’s turning his back on children. And he or she has blood on their hands.”

This isn’t the first time Zeciroski’s art has been banned for advertisement on social media. Since March, she has tried and failed to advertise political art regarding Trump on Facebook and Pinterest. “Any political art, anything with Trump on it, Facebook and Pinterest doesn’t allow,” said Zeciroski. “It said that my artwork shows violence or gore, they say that it’s offensive, violent, vulgar, sickening, politically, culturally [or racially] divisive and insensitive and that I’m capitalizing on a tragic event.”

“I put [Donald Trump] in a straitjacket because there’s so many reasons why he should be tied up or restrained, being a pussy-grabber,” she said. “So when [Facebook or Pinterest] say that that’s shocking or offensive, I find that offensive, because I’m reacting. Being a woman, being an LGBT person, I am outraged by this administration. So, when they’re telling me that my reaction to religion, or to this administration, can’t be political, they’re basically telling me that if you’re going to be a thinking individual that cares about things, and you wanna raise awareness, you can’t do that [with your art].”

Some of Zeciroski’s non-political art is being banned for advertisement on social media, too. “[The piece is] about time,” she said. “My mom was very sick the past three years and died from MS. I put a wheelchair with a baby in it. [It’s] kind of looking at death and life; It’s dealing with the issue of time and death because you do have an interesting perspective when you see somebody so sick.”

“It was not political, and Pinterest banned it. They said that it was offensive, profane, vulgar and sickening. They said it was disturbing and they want [Pinterest] to be an inspiring place. Pinterest is very important for artists because [it’s] one of the biggest search engines,” said

Abby Zeciroski and her work.
Photo courtesy of Zeciroski



Zeciroski. “So, I put a pin up and [wrote], ‘Pinterest banned my art, please go to my website.’ Then they rejected that, and they put a bunch of reasons; they said grammar, spelling, pixels. I redid everything and then they came back and they said, ‘Oh, sorry, you can’t use our logo.’ So then all I put is, ‘Pinterest banned my art.’ They rejected that because they said it was vulgar.”

“They said that I’m capitalizing on a tragic event,” she said. “They’re telling me that I can’t talk about my past or how I see the world. Who decides [this]?”

“I feel I’m dealing with my experience as a [lesbian]. I feel like that’s a big part of why this is happening,” said Zeciroski. “They know that it’s wrong.”

Zeciroski said she knows that while her identity is a factor, there is another force at work, too: resistance to change. “My artwork said important things, and I think that some people—like Trump supporters—they don’t wanna see it,” she said. “I’m saying something that people don’t want to

be said.”

“[Facebook and Pinterest] say that they want social media to be a positive thing. For me, making this art is a positive,” said Zeciroski. “It’s no different than writing an article about this, somebody writing a book about this, or somebody writing a study about it.”

As far as raising awareness about art censorship, Zeciroski has a few ideas. “I’m going to start a petition, and there is another petition out there,” she said. “Even just put on your social media, ‘I don’t believe in art censorship.’ Social media is a huge platform.”

Additionally, Zeciroski has some advice for those who find her work offensive: “If you don’t like it, scroll on. I don’t like country music, but I would never think that I should attack country musicians and say that they don’t have the right to express themselves.”

Windy City Times has reached out to Pinterest and Facebook. Pinterest spoke off the record, while Facebook has yet to respond.

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Ty Herndon.
Photo from Missing Piece Group



MUSIC

Out country singer Ty Herndon discusses what matters most

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Ty Herndon may have been in the music business for more than a couple decades now—but he's not slowing down at all.

For Pride Month, he's released a re-recorded version of his 1995 breakthrough hit song "What Mattered Most"—complete with gender change. And on Friday, Aug. 23, Herndon will release *Got It Covered*, a 10-track album that features reimagined hits and covers of some of the musician's favorite songs.

Windy City Times: Congrats on the [recent] 5th Annual GLAAD + Ty Herndon Concert for Love and Acceptance. How did it go for you?

Ty Herndon: Thanks! Once again, there was a class-act line-up—and this year, there were people who just showed up backstage to hang out. That's an awesome thing as well. Hunter Hayes jumped out and sang, and Tim [McGraw] and Faith [Hill] hung out backstage. We want to create an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

WCT: So let's talk about this new version of "What Mattered Most." What emotions did you feel while recording this?

TH: Well, first I want to say that Rolling Stone named it one of the top 10 songs to hear—and that kind of blew me away. [Editor's note: That list is at <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-country/best-country-songs-this-week-tanya-tucker-trisha-yearwood-847941/>.] And I noticed that on that list they're getting back to are singers—people like Tanya Tucker and Trisha Yearwood.

As for the emotions, they were the same that I had when I recorded it [initially]—some fear. But every time I [experienced] fear, I thought about that 14-year-old kid that I was when I watching the country awards; I couldn't relate to the songs, but I hoped that one day I could. And that took the a great deal of the fear away.

My main goal was to celebrate 25 years of that song. It was a nice birthday present—and it's on the album *Got It Covered* that's coming out Aug.

23. There'll also be a version for the straight folks that I recorded as before.

WCT: When I interviewed you in 2016, I asked if you thought you'd ever record a more gay-specific song one day. [Herndon came out in 2014.] You said, "Absolutely," and then you added that you'd love to duet with another male artist you respect—even a straight one who'd be willing to do it. Is the duet coming?

TH: There is a duet coming, but it's coming from a completely different angle. I'm recording a gorgeous song with my "sister," [out singer] Chely Wright. I can't let the cat completely out the bag, and that's on this album. And in November, I'm releasing my 20th original album, and we'll be truly stretching the envelope with that one; we're not only gender-specific on that one, but in some parts we're gender-free.

WCT: With *Got It Covered*, how did you decide which songs to cover. I know you've released versions of "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" and "Walking in Memphis" recently, among others.

TH: Uh-huh. Well, on this album, seven of the songs are mine; they're just re-imagined. But at the same time, at my shows, I always sing others' songs—like ones by Carrie Underwood, Tanya Tucker and Marc Cohn. So I just look back at what I've sung. I think "Walking in Memphis" has been recorded about 30 times; I always joke that Cher

mic into the Mac, and sang my part. I sing louder than everyone else; you definitely hear me in the chorus. [Laughs]

WCT: I'm sure you heard about Taylor Swift's new video for the song "You Need to Calm Down." At the end, she asks viewers to sign her petition to support the Equality Act. What are your thoughts on celebrities getting involved in politics?

TH: Well, I love that her video got the point across. I think a lot of people of the younger generation are loving that. My comment was, "Didn't we have this record already? Wasn't it called 'Shut Up and Drive?'" [Laughs]

I love the concept of the record—that we all need to calm down. It reminds me of something my grandmother said: "If you put a hundred hearts on a table—just the hearts—you won't be able to tell if they're Black or white, gay or straight. They're just hearts." People should be able to do whatever they want.

The flip side is that, as campy as that video was, there are lawyers, doctors, mechanics and other folks who are just living their lives. I am an advocate for that. And as campy as we can be—and Lord knows I can be campy—I love that it's about just doing your thing.

I also love that Pride festivals are family-friendly and keeping it PG—at least until the afternoon, when people can go crazy. I'm the first per-



Ty Herndon (left) and Cody Alan at GLAAD's 5th Annual GLAAD + Ty Herndon Concert for Love and Acceptance.

Photo by Rick Diamond Photography

made him the most money on that song, and that I'll make him about 30 more cents.

WCT: I also wanted to ask you about a tribute song you took part in called "Hands." It sounds like a modern version of "We Are the World," with people like Jennifer Lopez and Mary J. Blige taking part.

TH: [Laughs] Yeah. I was on vacation in Italy and told them I couldn't be a part of it because I couldn't find a studio there. I was vacationing with some of my musician friends and they said, "What world are you living in? Just play the track, get a microphone, put it into your Mac and send the vocal to them." So that's what I did: Standing in a vineyard in Italy, I plugged the

son to put on a big wig and go on the dance floor, but I love that this generation... Well, let me tell you about my nephew. He's 15, and he told his mother one day, "You know, Uncle Ty is just a plain ol' gay guy." [Laughs] I just love that.

WCT: With this being Pride Month, what does "pride" mean to you?

TH: Just being able to get up every day and be my most authentic self. I'm awfully proud that I can just walk on any stage. I'm really proud that I can be a vessel and teacher for equality.

The video for the new "What Mattered Most" is at <https://youtu.be/tSnGDePzppE>. For more on Herndon, visit TyHerndon.com.

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Christopher Palu.
Photo courtesy of Palu

FASHION

Christopher Palu: 'Runway' alum talks designing for drag

BY JERRY NUNN

JourneyCare Foundation is presenting for the first time an Allstars of Project Runway event with designers from the hit TV show. Five former celebrity designers are coming to town and raising funds with a runway show including their 2019 collections.

Among them is Christopher Palu, who competed on season 10 of Project Runway, winning

four challenges and competing at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week. He returned to the series on season three of Project Runway All-Stars, finishing fourth.

In 2016, he launched Christopher Palu New York and has shown at New York Fashion Week ever since.

Windy City Times: Where in the world are you?

Christopher Palu: I'm in Jersey City, technically.

I just moved from Brooklyn. This is my first time out of New York. I am just 20 minutes from the city.

WCT: You were raised in New York?

CP: Yes, I was born in Brooklyn and raised in Long Island.

WCT: Where is your last name from?

CP: It's an Italian name.

WCT: When did you come out?

CP: I came out freshman year of college.

WCT: Were you studying fashion then?

CP: I had myocarditis after high school and I missed class so my art teacher failed me. I didn't get into the Fashion Institute of Technology because of that. I went to a community college for a semester then eventually got into FIT.

WCT: Was it tough to get on Project Runway?

CP: I was a receptionist at a hair salon while in college. One of the stylists encouraged me to get on the show. The application process was a crazy nightmare. There was a clause that said if I died on the show that they weren't liable for my death!

I just wanted to be on TV. People will sign anything when they are that young and want an opportunity. The contract was very intimidating and long.

From there, I had to go through rounds of interviews including a psychiatric test. I met with a producer then another round where I went to the hotel and met with past contestants. I had Seth Aaron and Mondo Guerra on the panel for Road to the Runway. Seth Aaron won my All Stars season and I am really good friends with Mondo so I am in the group. It's so weird!

WCT: It sounds like it's easier to get on RuPaul's Drag Race than Project Runway.

CP: I did Shuga Cain's final look. That's what I have been doing the past few years. I make custom designs for the queens and some Broadway stars. I did a couple of gowns that were on the Tonys. It is very client based and I'm not really focusing on the runway shows.

What you will see in Chicago at the event is my latest collection over a year ago. How I do my collection is that the different aesthetics can be mixed and matched together. I will pull pieces from four different collections and put them all together.

The main theme of it will be Joan of Arc. I blew up a stained-glass picture of Joan of Arc from a church in London and I printed it on fabric. I used that for a dress and a really long gown. I did it right before the Met Gala with Heavenly Bodies. I did a whole catholic church collection.

That gets me out of my comfort zone. I love black, sequins and feathers. I will incorporate those elements from my other collections into this collection. It will all make sense!

WCT: What did you think of Project Runway being back on Bravo and the new season?

CP: I haven't watched it much. When Christina Siriano was announced as mentor I had to shut the TV off. I was so distraught I couldn't even look at it.

He's worked very hard to get where he's at, but on the other hand they gave him the money to start his line because they were seeing drops in people auditioning for the show.

They made him succeed so people would want to be like him. Stupid me at 23 years old said on

the audition tape that I wanted to be just like him!

WCT: Nina Garcia told me he hustled after the show and sent out his work to become noticed so that is why he did well.

CP: Absolutely he does now because he has a team to send out gowns to red carpets. With Tim Gunn leaving the show, it all rolled into a beautiful bow for him, which is crazy because we are all working that hard.

They should set up every winner the way they set up him. They had an amazing party after he won. They didn't have that any other season. Isn't a little ironic how successful he is? Hello!

Michael Costello, who was on season eight, is finally now dressing JLo and Beyonce. Christian started immediately after his season.

WCT: Do you think the casting is more about personality than design?

CP: You have to think of it from a producers point of view because they have to make a show. They have to balance the creativity with a personality. If they didn't, you would see amazing work, but it wouldn't be entertaining. You need the sassy, fun and the drama or you don't have a show.

They hit gold with Siriano and his catch phrases. On my season you had Dmitry Sholokhov, Fabio Costa, me and Gunnar Deatherage. There were so many big personalities.

WCT: What did you think of the YouTube videos of your funny moments?

CP: Those clips are so fun. I'm so happy people took the time and made them. I'm honored by that!

WCT: What are you working on next?

CP: Just working with private clients. I did Miz Cracker, Eureka O'Hara, Monet X Change and Alex- is Michelle.

WCT: Is it different dressing a drag queen, as opposed to other clients?

CP: I treat a genetic female the same as a drag queen. We meet, we sketch and talk about budget. We talk about timing and when we will have the next fitting. It's a business. It's not like we have more fun necessarily. The clothes are fun, but it's professional.

Working with a queen, they know what they want and what is best for them. It does take time to suit up for a fitting. Sometimes there's a corset, padding and tights. There can be a whole production with a fitting. They blur the lines between fashion and costume.

I always take a client shopping with me. We will meet for coffee and show them sketches. From there, we will go look at the fabric in person. To me, that's part of the experience. I love the collaboration.

WCT: Alexis Michelle will be at Pride in the Park the same night you are in town!

CP: I have never been to Chicago before so I want to take advantage of the festivities. We should all meet up. How fun to have multiple reality show contestants all together celebrating Pride.

Catch Palu on Friday, June 28, at 6 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Chicago, 11 E. Walton St., for a VIP cocktail meet-up or at the main event Saturday, June 29, at 5 p.m. at Theater on the Lake, 2401 N. Lake Shore Dr.; visit JourneyCare.org/Runway.



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Chicago Pride Fest - Day One

On Saturday, June 22, Halsted shines on day one of Chicago Pride Fest, Northalsted Business Association's annual kickoff of Pride in Boystown. The beautiful weather amped up the colorful crowd as they enjoyed entertainment from such acts as Catfight, Inaya Day and Alex Newell. Photos by Joseph Stevens Photography



Pride Fest fights rain with rainbows

BY JERRY NUNN

The 19th annual Pride Fest took over Boystown running down Halsted St. from Addison to Grace on June 22 and 23. The weather remained unpredictable over the weekend ranging from sunny, cloudy and dark to downpours of rain with varying temperatures. This became a challenge for many scheduled performers, although the rain only slightly delayed some set times.

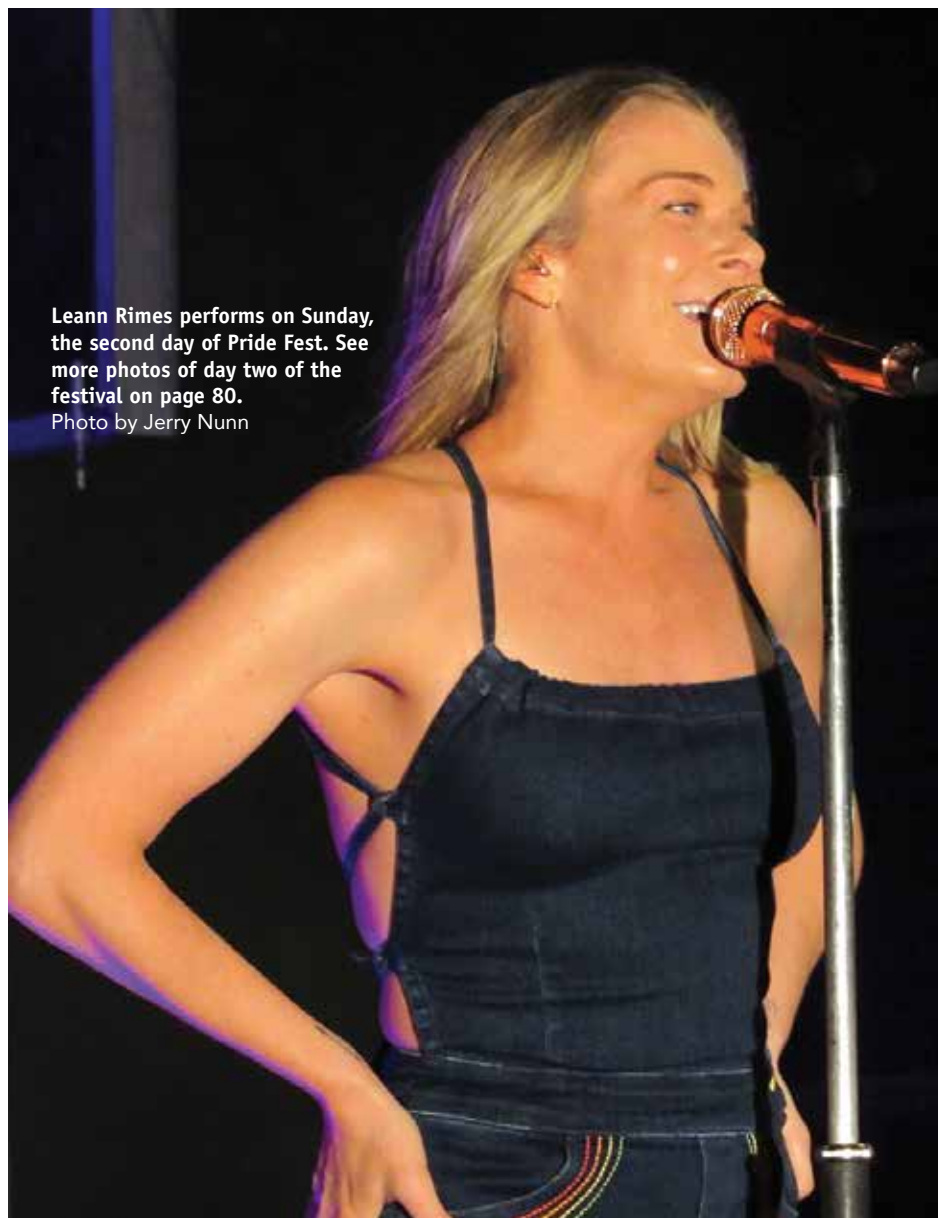
The packed two-day festival had musicians singing on three stages with pop songs from Betty Who and country pop on Sunday night with LeAnn Rimes. Drag performers such as Khloe, Mimi Marks and Ruff n' Stuff kept the crowd entertained at the Papa John's North Stage. Miss Foozie's Pet Parade was bigger than ever and this year was the first time for 103.5 KISS FM's Rainbow Run that had contestants running in heels to

hopefully take home \$1,000.

Some of the major sponsors to the festival included Bud Light, Nissan and U.S. Bank.

New additions this year included Papa John's Pizza and a United States Olympic Team activation. Among the many vendor booths there were a few that sold thirst quenching beverages including samples from the fiber infused hellowater and Barefoot Wines had a huge two-story deck for a view of the surroundings. Official merchandise for Pride Fest was also sold at several locations along the way.

A \$10 suggested donation benefitted the Northhalsted Business Alliance that works to stimulate the district's commerce. Stay tuned to NorthHalsted.com for information on next year's Pride Fest and the upcoming Northhalsted Market Days street festival on Aug. 10 and 11.



LeAnn Rimes performs on Sunday, the second day of Pride Fest. See more photos of day two of the festival on page 80.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Chicago Pride Fest - Day Two

In between blasts of rain, the crowds at Pride Fest soaked up the entertainment by drag queens galore (including many of Halsted's own and Morgan McMichaels of 'Drag Race' fame), Adam Barta, Betty Who and headliner Leann Rimes. Photos by Jerry Nunn



KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox

SO...I FINALLY CAME OUT TO MY PARENTS TODAY.

REALLY? HOW'D THAT GO?

I DON'T KNOW. WEIRD.

MY MOTHER WAS, LIKE...CRYIN' AND ALL THAT.

BUT SHE SAID SHE STILL LOVES ME.

HE JUST LOOKED SO...DISAPPOINTED.

MAYBE THEY NEED SOME TIME, BRAD... TO PROCESS IT.

SO, ANYWAY... HOW ARE YOU DOIN', JAIME? HOW'S TENNESSEE?

GREAT, BRAD. THE TEAM'S REALLY DOING WELL THIS SEASON.

YEAH. MAYBE.

I KNOW. I'VE BEEN CHECKING YOUR STATS.

I SURE WISH YOU COULD BE HERE, BRAD.

MY FATHER, THOUGH...HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

UM... YEAH. ME TOO.

I MET SOME-ONE.

OH, UH... REALLY?

HER NAME'S ABIGAIL.

SHE GOES TO BIBLE SCHOOL HERE IN LAKEVILLE. AND SHE'S A HUGE BASEBALL FAN, TOO!

I WANT YOU TO MEET HER SOMETIME. I KNOW YOU'LL REALLY LIKE HER!

YEAH, I... I GUESS.

BRAD... YOU AND I HAVE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YOU...

...WHEN I WAS LEAVING. AT THE TRAIN STATION... REMEMBER?

YEAH, JAIME... I REMEMBER.

I MEANT IT. IT DID FEEL LIKE I WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU.

HAVE YOU TOLD ABIGAIL ABOUT THAT?

NO, I... I DON'T THINK SHE'D UNDERSTAND.

I'VE NEVER HAD THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS FOR A MAN BEFORE.

AND I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER WILL AGAIN.

SHE AIN'T THE ONLY ONE...

Website - www.kylecomics.com E-Mail - gregfox727@gmail.com
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KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox

SO, JEREMY... ARE THINGS HEATING UP WITH YOU AND MANNIS?

I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT QUITE THAT WAY, RICHARD.

OH? I SAW YOU TWO KISSING IN THE GARDEN.

OKAY, THAT WAS KIND OF HOT, BUT...THAT'S ABOUT AS FAR AS IT'S GONE.

WE'VE BOTH BEEN SO BUSY WITH OUR JOBS...

...WE'VE BARELY SEEN EACH OTHER FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

WELL, IF YOU WANT THINGS TO GET SERIOUS... YOU NEED TO HAVE A PROPER DATE.

I'M NOT SURE IF I WANT THINGS TO GET "SERIOUS", RICHARD.

"N.I.A.?" YOU MEAN "N.I.A.?"

NO, KYLE...I'M NOT MISSING IN ACTION.

THEN WHAT'S "N.I.A.?"

OH, KYLE... POOR NAIVE, SHOCKINGLY OUT-OF-TOUCH KYLE.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT "N.I.A." IS... IS...

...WAIT A MINUTE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, EITHER.

"NOT INTO ANAL".

YOU MEAN... YOU DON'T...?

NOPE.

BUT WHAT IF--?

NO.

HOW ABOUT--?

UH-UH.

NOT EVEN IF--?

NEVER.

OH. BUT... WHY?

WHAT THE HELL IS "N.I.A.?"

I JUST DON'T ENJOY IT. TOP OR BOTTOM.

FOR SOME GUYS I'VE DATED...IT'S NOT AN ISSUE. FOR OTHER GUYS, THOUGH...IT'S A DEALBREAKER.

MAYBE HE'LL BE FINE WITH IT, JEREMY. THIS WOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE FOR ME.

REALLY? WHAT ABOUT YOU, RICHARD?

HONESTLY, SWEETIE? I DON'T KNOW IF I'D BE SATISFIED BEING WITH SOMEONE WITH YOUR...RESTRICTIONS.

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

I'VE GOT IT! YOU COULD TELL MANNIS YOU'RE SAYING YOURSELF FOR MARRIAGE!

RIGHT. AND WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY END UP GETTING MARRIED?

WELL...THAT'LL GIVE US A WHOLE LOT OF TIME TO COME UP WITH A NEW EXCUSE!

YEAH, I'M...NOT GOING TO DO THAT...

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the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Mango Pickle; Somerset

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In the last issue of Windy City Times, I reviewed the new progressive Indian spot Rooh—and concluded it is good (albeit expensive) and needs to get its act together.

Rooh, a West Loop spot, could learn a lesson by looking north to a more experienced restaurant: **Mango Pickle** (5842 N. Broadway; <https://www.mangopicklechicago.com>).



Mango Pickle's unwrapped samosa.

PR photo

Mango Pickle, a smaller spot, features reimagined Indian dishes courtesy of Chef Marisa Paolillo—an Italian-American who fell in love with Indian

cuisine while residing in Mumbai with her husband for nine years. And what she's brought back from her trip constitutes a journey for more adventurous guests.

My friend and I were treated to the prix fixe items—she had the vegetarian menu while I took the more carnivorous route. What resulted is that both of us thoroughly enjoyed our dishes—even if our heat limits were pushed a bit.

We both started with delightful paneer pops, accompanied by apple-coriander chutney. Then, our paths diverged. My friend had unwrapped samosas (tasty, but pretty spicy), steamed idli (a delicious rice cake with peanut chutney), and spring vegetable khichari (solid, but probably my dining companion's least favorite item).

After the pops, I had the sable fish paturi steamed in a banana leaf (an acquired taste, but one I liked more as I progressed), chicken chettinad (shredded chicken leg in patty form—and probably my favorite dish) and lamb chops (cooked very well).

From there, we both had a sorbet and soda—but, of course, it wasn't the standard, as ingredients involved campari, orange and roasted meringue. The lovely pot de creme (served on a saucer instead of a cup or pot) featured chocolate ganache and brûlée banana. But that was not all, as Paolillo's husband, Nakul Patel, poured us Lake Effect's chai masala barleywine—which I couldn't stop sipping.

Did I mention that the prix fixe menu is \$55 (\$45 for the vegetarian line-up)?

However, if prix fixe is not your thing, there are plenty of a la carte dishes, ranging from the spring vegetable clay pot to lamb biryani to masala shrimp salad. Whatever you pick, you're very likely to go on a gustatory adventure—and like the trip.

Somerset

Not as exotic—but just as satisfying in many ways—is the contemporary American cuisine at the Gold Coast spot **Somerset** (1112 N. State St.; <https://www.somersetchicago.com>).

Housed in the Hotel Viceroy, the food is impressive—even with items that may seem pretty basic. The spring-pea hummus, with seeded crackers and feta, is absolutely delightful; and I underestimated the sweet corn-and-salt cod fritters, which I could've eaten all day. Other lunchtime items—ranging from grilled asparagus tartine to the wood-grilled bass to the steak frites—will have you feeling sated. Also, regarding dessert, the chocolate cake and budino are must-haves.



Somerset's chocolate cake.

Photo by Andrew Davis



JACKHAMMER

Seasons change at Solstice: Seasons of Lust.
Joseph Stevens Photography

Also, here's another reason to check out Somerset: Throughout the summer, people can stop by there for **Somer Socials** each Sunday at 5-7 p.m. Chef Meg Galus serves flavors from her ice-cream cart like Brown Sugar Cookie Dough, Toasted Marshmallow, Mint Chocolate Fudge, Rainbow Sherbet, and Peaches & Cream. Items are \$4-\$6 each.

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



PROFILE BY
TONY PEREGRIN

DRAG PROFILE OF THE WEEK
VERONICA POP

NAME

"I got my name from one of my

biggest inspirations:

Britney Spears. I love the

name Veronica and Britney is

a POP star, so that is how I got Pop!"

FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"I started doing drag about 6-and-a-half years ago in Orange County, California. It all started in 2012 at a Halloween party!"

DRAG INSPIRATION

"My biggest inspiration—strong women in the industry like Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga, and Britney Spears. I love women that are survivors [despite their] struggles."

GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY A CROWD

"If you ask anyone, they will tell you [laughs]! 'Into You' by Ariana Grande! It's such a bop and it has every element a drag queen song should have: a slow intro; a hyper chorus and a strong ending. It's my favorite song to perform. Funny story, at my home bar—Charlie's Chicago—we have a DJ that mixes during my shows and he has a rule that I can only perform that song once every six months! [Laughs.] I hate it!"

FUN FACT

"I'm a film major. I went to college for film and photography for almost three years."

GUILTY PLEASURE

"Staying home and watching documentaries about the most random things, like how candy is made, or what happens to old cars. I will stay up 'til, like, 6 am on YouTube watching them!"

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"You can catch me performing/hosting at Charlie's Chicago every Friday for #POPOFF and every Saturday for #POPular. Catch me on Sundays at The River for our Brunch of Bitches Drag Brunch."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @vickypop

Twitter: @martinthelamest

Facebook: veronicapopofficial

Photo by
Guys and
Queens



BILLY Masters

"What? Really?"—Renée Zellweger's reaction to learning she's a gay icon. Ironically, I had the same reaction when I heard this news! Renée added, "A great deal of my closest friends are gay people"—not to mention several of her exes.

In the years I've been writing this column, I've noticed scandals rarely happen in the summer. I dunno why—maybe it's the heat. Perhaps since it's been a particularly cool (and rainy) June, we're getting more dish than usual. Seems to me something is happening daily. Don't get me wrong—something is happening every day of the year. But I can't be bothered with most things. Call me old-fashioned, but I like a good, juicy sex scandal.

It has been nearly three years since **Kevin Spacey** allegedly groped an 18-year-old busboy at the Club Car club in Nantucket. When Will Little texted his girlfriend during the evening, she responded, "Are you kidding? Sounds like he's hitting on you." Will said, "I'm not gay—but I think Spacey is." I'm curious—why does he need to tell his girlfriend "I'm not gay"? Will added, "He's grabbed my [BLANK] 8 times." And I think we all know what [BLANK] is! The question is—how long are you staying with a person grabbing your [BLANK]? Your choices are: a) long enough for him to grab you eight times, b) as long as he keeps buying the drinks or c) I'm not gay.

Let me make something perfectly clear—I believe Will's story in terms of Spacey. My first question is: Why did Will stay? Another question was brought up to me on NECN's "The Take": Why were the bartenders serving a fellow employee who they knew was not of age? Some of these could be answered with Will's cellphone. Spacey's attorney argues that the timeline of the messages as well as the content are crucial, pointing out the text messages do not "indicate the interaction was unwelcomed."

It's also been reported that Will's mom may have redacted some content that didn't paint her son in a positive light. The judge ordered that the phone be turned over to Spacey's team for examination by July 8. So far, they have not complied. Why not? Will's father says he has no recollection of ever receiving the phone back from the police. The family's attorney claims that they have "searched all the places where such a phone may have been stored. They have not found the phone." The judge has ordered Mr. Little to appear in court if the phone doesn't turn up. Something smells rotten in Nantucket.

Then there's **Nicholas Sparks**—author of those dreadfully saccharine and syrupy stories where straight white people fall in love after overcoming horrific obstacles. Last week, Broadway producers announced that they were doing a reading of a new musical based on *The Notebook*. This has the potential of being a huge moneymaker for the author. But not so fast. The very next day, the former headmaster of the Christian school Sparks founded claimed that the author tried to



Billy has some thoughts on Kevin Spacey's (above) sexual-assault case.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

ban LGBT clubs and protests.

In fact, the former headmaster is suing Sparks, stating that he "unapologetically marginalized, bullied, and harassed members of the school community whose religious views and/or identities did not conform to their religiously driven, bigoted preconceptions." What would one expect from Epiphany School? (Yes, that's the name of the school.) And Sparks did find it, so it's his way or the highway (likely not the highway to heaven). In an email, Sparks accused the headmaster of having "an agenda that strives to make homosexuality open and accepted." Lest you think his vitriol was limited to the gays, Nick also said the school had few minority students because they were "too poor and can't do the academic work."

Once this story went public, Sparks did some fancy footwork via Twitter: "As someone who has spent the better part of my life as a writer who understands the power of words, I regret and apologize that mine have potentially hurt young people and members of the LGBTQ community, including my friends and colleagues in that community." Being Sparks, he goes on and on, but you get the gist. In fact, the only thing he didn't address was the racist accusations. Anyhoo, the producers of the musical were satisfied, and said (in part), "We are encouraged that Mr. Sparks has made a strong statement of support of the LG-BTQ+ community today." And, on with the show.

Sir Ian McKellen is bringing his latest one-man show to Broadway. "Ian McKellen On Stage: With Tolkien, Shakespeare, Others ... And You!" will play the Hudson Theatre on November 5th as a one-night-only benefit for Only Make Believe—a charity which puts on interactive shows for kids in hospitals and care facilities in the United States. On the other side of the spectrum, McKellen started a new UK organization: Pride in Aging. It will help LGBTQ people over 50 who need help in social services and health care. I know which one of these resonates with me.

Every year, Broadway Bares raises money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and stars some of the hottest bodies in the Tri-State Area. This year's 29th installment was subtitled "Take Off" and focused on world travel. Once again, the show topped itself—I topped myself once, but that's another story—and brought in \$2,006,192!

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Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Chet in Detroit: "I'm totally in love with **Conner Bobay**—he's my ultimate twink. I hear he's been naked on his website. Do you have any photos or videos?"

Thanks to my fans, I learned something. Apparently Conner Bobay is one of those social-media stars who sings, blogs and poses in underwear. Once I saw he has an OnlyFans site, I knew he had to also be peddling nudes (not that there's anything wrong with that). Sure enough, last week there was a dick-slip. Upon further investigating, I seem to have found several other sizeable additions to the collection. Check them out on BillyMasters.com.

When Conner is grabbing his own [BLANK], it's definitely time to end another column. Have you noticed our nude subjects keep getting younger and younger? But you won't find any underaged boys on BillyMasters.com—the site that doesn't interest Kevin Spacey! If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Will Little and his girlfriend appear in the musical version of *The Notebook*! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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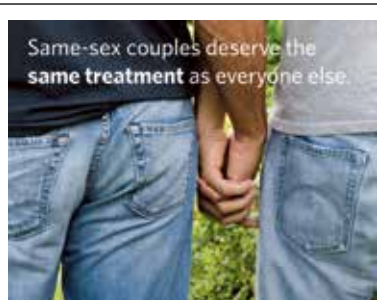
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SPIRITUALITY

DIGNITY/CHICAGO Supporting LGBTQIA Catholics, their committed relationships, families, friends + allies. Mass Sunday at 5pm, 3344 N Broadway, Chicago. Visit www.dignity-chicago.org for more info. (10/30/19-13)

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WINDY CITY TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., June 26

Windy City Times' 30 Under 30 Awards

Honors 30 who are 30 years or under as of June 30, have made substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas. 5:30 p.m. reception. 6:00pm - 7:30pm Polo Cafe, 3322 S Morgan St, Chicago

C. Heike Schotten, author of Queer

Terror Critique of U.S. settler-colonial empire that draws on political, queer, and critical indigenous theory to situate Bush's either/or moralism and re-frame the concept of terrorism. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Salute to Pride, (Not Safe for WERK)

ll-new, all-queer variety show performed entirely by an all-LGBTQIA+ cast. Hosted by Chicago drag queen sensation Lucy Stoolie and directed by Mick Napier, this epic werk-out of saucy sketch comedy, song, and drag is a bonafide rainbow of entertainment flavors. Henny, sashay your way right into this outrageous party that celebrates all things Pride!. Tickers funny bones on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June. \$26 8:00pm The Second City's UP Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave. 312-337-3992 <http://SecondCity.com>

Thursday, June 27**National HIV Testing Day, testing and counseling**

No appointment needed, results delivered on-site. Test-site locator at the link 10:00am - 7:00pm Walgreens, 3646 N. Broadway www.greaterthan.org/free-hiv-testing-walgreens-2019/.

HIV Lunch n' Learn, All About Bik-

tary Hosted by Gilead. Complimentary lunch is provided. RSVP at link 2:00pm - 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/lunchnlearn?erid=9833893&trid=c810a633-3fa5-4121-a925-4d03307c35e7>

Tell Me About It Author Discussion

St. Sukie de la Croix and Owen Keehnen discuss their new oral history book, Tell Me About: LGBTQ Secrets, Confessions, and Life Stories 6:30pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

National HIV Awareness Day at The Logan

Theatre Project VIDA Speed Dating, HIV Testing, & Screening of 'A Fantastic Woman'. 18+ \$10. Those who participate in the screenings will also receive a \$10 Logan Theatre gift card and free entry into the 10:30pm showtime of A Fantastic Woman. 8:00pm The Logan Theatre: 2646 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago Tickets: <http://www.TheLoganTheatre.com>



FEEL THE VIBE

Sunday, June 30

The annual Chicago Pride Parade will take place in Uptown and Boystown.

Photo by Tim Carroll Photography

Friday, June 28

Pride South Side Events stretching from Bronzeville to South Shore, films, DJs, beach party. (Also see Pride South Side Fest at DuSable Museum). Various prices. June 28-30. Various locations; <http://pridesouthside.com>

Chicago Is A Drag Festival Outdoor fest with RuPaul's Drag Race winner Raja and Tiffany Pollard plus a wide variety of performers. 4:00pm - 11:00pm Cheetah Gym's parking lot, 5248 N Clark St. <http://www.chicagoisadrag.com>

Lighthouse LGBTQ+ Pride Party Live music including the HF High School and the Lakeside Pride Ukulele Ensemble; great food and drink options and lots of free activities including rainbow crafts, cookie decorating. Local organization provides support to teens and young adults in the South Suburbs. Free and open to the public 5:00pm - 9:00pm Martin Ave Square, Homewood <http://www.HomeSweetHomewood.com>

The Logan Square Arts Festival June 28-30. Benefits Logan Square Preservation 5:00pm - 10:00pm Around the Illinois Centennial Monument on Logan Square

Center on Halsted's annual Pride Kick-off Celebration on the roof Kicking off Pride Parade Weekend and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising with Prince Poppycock performing "Baroque and Roll" as we celebrate the work of those who have paved the way. Live DJ. \$25 tickets include 1 drink, bites and performance. 21+ 5:30pm - 10:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pridekickoff?erid=10031097&trid=1b08eff3-df18-4dcf-8daf-60c6ea8e9063>

50 Years Since Stonewall: Collaborating to Achieve Health Equity The LGBTQ Health & Outreach Program of the Chicago Department of Public Health hosts

a Pride Health Reception to celebrate the many triumphs that have improved the overall health and well-being of the Chicago LGBTQ community over the past 50 years. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E Washington, Chicago Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/50-years-since-stonewall-collaborating-to-achieve-health-equity-tickets-62667208307>

Organized Grime Bike Zambia Sunset

Fundraiser DJ Harry Cross, with decor, ambiance, and laser-light show by Fun Dad, Marmot & Friends. \$50 includes 4-hour hosted bar powered by 30lives Vodka, Dobl Tequila, WhistlePig Whiskey, The Brooklyn Brewery, 21st Amendment Brewery, & Hydrate Nightclub 8:00pm The Woof-Top Deck, Edgewater <http://organizedpride.com> Tickets: <http://www.OrganizedPride.com>

Steamworks: The Musical! Annual show. Wide-eyed Al searching for love in the skeezy Boystown bathhouse. A bite of Chicago's gay history. \$28. 8:00pm Annoyance Theatre 851 W Belmont Chicago <http://theannoyance.com>

Saturday, June 29

Proud to Run Raise funds for choice of beneficiaries. 5K Walk/Run: \$45, 10K Run: \$50, Half Marathon*: \$60. Half Marathon begins at 7 a.m., 5K Walk/Run and 10K Run begin at 8 a.m. 7:00am Montrose Harbor <http://frontrunner-schicago.com/2019-event-info/>

Back Lot Bash Chicago 2019 Two day music fest pass available. IP VIP Meet & Greet with the Veronicas available. 21+ with valid ID 10:00am Parking Lot Behind Cheetah Gym Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4071183>

Joliet PrideFest Will County National Organization for Women Legal and Education Fund (NOW LEF), Community Alliance and Action Network (CAAN), Maneuvers & Co., and many other organizations creating a family friendly picnic to celebrate the incredible diversity and inclusion of Joliet. Find Joliet PrideFest on Facebook 12:00pm - 4:00pm Bicentennial Park, 201 Jefferson, Joliet

Pride North Chicago Live entertainment, dance, DJs, food and drinks. Find Pride North Chicago on Facebook 12:00pm - 10:00pm Glenwood Ave. between Morse and Lunt, Rogers Park

The Logan Square Arts Festival June 28-30. Benefits Logan Square Preservation 12:00pm - 10:00pm Around the Illinois Centennial Monument on Logan Square

Rainbow Tour Bar Bounce, Pride 2019 Gather at Sidetrack, divide into teams and get T-shirts in the color of your starting bar. Collect bracelets at each bar. \$10 with proceeds going to Howard Brown Health. 1:00pm - 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.tickettailor.com>

Pride in the Park Chicago Held the day before Chicago's annual Pride Parade, this fest in Grant Park celebrates gay pride and the LGBT community with music acts including Iggy Azalea, amar Braxton and Taylor Dayne. Food and ven-

dors. \$20-\$50 2:00pm - 10:00pm Grant Park 205 E. Randolph Dr <http://prideintheparkchicago.com/>

23rd Annual Chicago Dyke March Gathering 1:30 p.m. Rally follows 2:30pm Little VillageElementary School, 2620 S Lawndale Ave. http://www.facebook.com/events/354193711901868/?active_tab=about

Rally following Dyke March Follow the march to the rally location 3:30pm Piotrowski Park, 32nd and Keeler http://www.facebook.com/events/354193711901868/?active_tab=about

Songs That Speak Pride Month party Chicago Fringe Opera and United Pride party feature intimate musical program composed and performed by members of the LGBTQ community, including world premier of a piece by Chicago composer, Kyra Leigh. Also performing Megan Fletcher, Michael R. Oldham, LaRob Payton, Jonathan Zeng. \$50 / \$100. 4:00pm - 7:00pm Private home Tickets: <http://www.chicagofringeopera.com/event/sounds-of-pride/>

Music of the Revolution, A Stonewall Dance Party The Legacy and Sidetrack celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with the most popular dance music from five decades of LGBTQ Activism. 5:00pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Pride Liturgy Mass Dignity Chicago celebrates with Pride Liturgy Mass 5:00pm BUMC, Broadway & Buckingham, Chicago <http://dignity-chicago.org>

Brandi Carlile show Grammy-winning lesbian singer. Special guest Lucius. Carlile has released seven albums, including The Story (2007), Give Up the Ghost (2009) and By the Way, I Forgive You (2018). 7:30pm Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island <http://LiveNation.com>

Cabaret Queen Denise Tomasello Performing her fan-favorite, signature songs, classics from the great American songbook and show-stopping Broadway numbers, honoring her Gentry Years for Gay Pride Week 8:30pm Drew's on Halsted, 3201 N. Halsted <http://deniseto-masello.com/>

Elevate by OrganizedPride Party in the clouds with the stunning Chicago skyline as your backdrop. Music by Chicago House-Music Legend, Psycho-Bitch and more. EarlyBird \$10, General Admission \$20 9:00pm - 3:00am Cerise Rooftop, The Virgin Hotel <http://organizedpride.com>

Sunday, June 30

Chicago's Annual Pride Parade Chicago Pride Parade Beginning at Montrose Avenue and Broadway in Uptown and finishing near the intersection of Diversey Parkway and Sheridan Road in Lincoln Park. Grand Marshal Lori Lightfoot. PrideChgo@aol.com 12:00pm Montrose/Broadway to the intersection of Diversey/Sheridan 773-348-8243 <http://www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org>

DignityUSA/International Through July

4. Events at the link 12:00pm Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, 513 W. Fullerton Ave. <http://conf2019.dignityusa.net/conference-schedule/>

Pride North Chicago Live entertainment, dance, DJs, food and drinks. Find Pride North Chicago on Facebook 12:00pm - 10:00pm Glenwood Ave. between Morse and Lunt, Rogers Park

TROPiTECA Queer Pride Chicago 2019 Chicago-based tropical, house, techno artist duo, celebrating in partnership with the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks. Barbecue, visuals by ColorSwim, vendors, art installations, a reiki clinic, dancing. All-ages. Free 3:00pm Ping Tom Memorial Park, 300 W. 19th St. <http://facebook.com/events/2404491042897037/>

Asians & Friends Post-Pride Gathering Celebrate Pride and our 2019 AFC Pride Float achievement. Bring a dish to share and memories to make. Cash bar. 3:30pm Atmosphere Bar 5355 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.afchicago.org>

Pro Wrestling Tees Presents: Rise - Pride & Joy A pro-wrestling celebration of Pride!. Anything could go on this card, Men vs. men, women vs. women, and intergender matches. 21+ \$20/\$60 5:00pm - 8:30pm Logan Square Auditorium 2539 N Kedzie Blvd Chicago Tickets: <http://risedtwa.ticketleap.com>

Wed., July 3

Out of the Closets and into the Streets: Power, Pride & Resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement Exhibit continues through Sept. 19, free. Check site for hours. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Thursday, July 4

American Veterans for Equal Rights GLBTQ Veterans Day Dinner Monthly Meeting No meeting this month due to the holiday. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.averchicago.org/>

Friday, July 12

Out of the Closets and into the Streets: Power, Pride & Resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement Exhibit continues through Sept. 19, free. Check site for hours. 12:00pm - 4:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

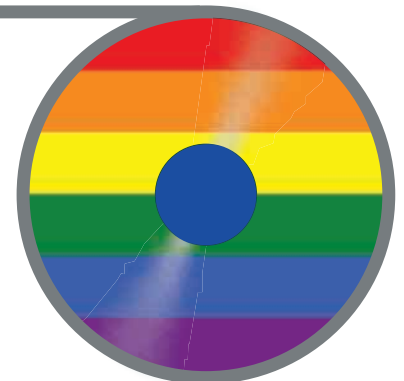
The About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble Celebrates 20th Anniversary with 20/20 Devised, performed by The About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble. Co-Directed by Megan Carney, Donny Acosta. Through July 28, 2019 7:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-784-8565 Tickets: <http://aboutfacetheatre.com>

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– Steve Johnson, Chicago Tribune

FOR TICKETS VISIT:
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THROUGH AUGUST 3

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*About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and
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