

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



RESPONSE

ANN MORRIS DIES

Law librarian was also a member of Artemis Singers.
Photo by Picture Day



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Chicago businesses, theaters and more respond to COVID-19

'MIDDLE' GROUND

Middletown's Sandy Duncan talks with WCT.
PR photo



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PRIMARY FIGHT NIGHT



Jill Rose Quinn.
Photo by Stephanie Marder



Joe Biden.
Tim Carroll Photography

Biden takes illinois; trans candidate makes history

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MARC LOVELESS

Longtime activist dies at 59.



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WINDY CITY TIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

Windy City Times is distributing this edition via our wonderful delivery crew, but only to open locations around the city, and our boxes. It is also available as a PDF download on the top right of our website, www.windycitymediagroup.com, and past issues are under the archives section.

It is almost certain the city will create stronger social distancing rules that will limit our ability to deliver a physical copy of the paper soon, so upcoming issues may just be online.

If we are forced to shut down print because we need to obey orders and protect our team, our full PDF will be available to replace the print for now.

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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COVER PHOTOS: Coronavirus image from CDC on Unsplash; V - Image from Sidetrack by Joseph Stevens Photography; I - Photo of AFC President/CEO John Peller by Carrie Maxwell; R - Photo of Brave Space Alliance Executive Director LaSaia Wade by Vern Hester; A - Photo of Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle by Kate Sosin; L - Photo of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker by Matt Simonette

UPCOMING 2020

WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

April 1, 2020	May 27, 2020	July 22, 2020
April 15, 2020	June 10, 2020	Aug. 5, 2020
April 29, 2020	June 24, 2020	Aug. 19, 2020
May 13, 2020	July 8, 2020	Sept. 2, 2020

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com



LONE STAR SOJOURN

A trip to San Antonio (left) revealed a big city with a small-town feel—along with plenty of cultural attractions.

Photo courtesy of Visit San Antonio

MODERN 'FAMILY'



Out real-estate agent Amrit Kapai is part of the Bravo series Family Karma.

Photo courtesy of Bravo

ENERGY KICK

Debbie Pacchioni has gone from playing soccer to being involved in the renewable energy industry.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Sam Smith, Friday the 13th and COVID-19 cancellations.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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'18 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT7 Passenger, 22K, White P6518R	\$18,995	'13 Forester 2.5iAutomatic, Full Power, Grey, 23642A	\$11,995
'17 Infiniti Q50 3.0T Prem.Leather, Sunroof, 39K, Black, 23672A	\$18,995	SUBARU OUTBACKS / LEGACY	
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'16 Chevy Trax LTAutomatic, Full Power, P6400A	\$12,995	'15 Outback Ltd. 3.6R Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, Tungsten, 23683A	\$17,995
'13 Hyundai Sante Fe 2.0T AWD Automatic, Black, 23734A	\$12,995	'13 Outback Ltd.Auto., Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, Black, 24022A	\$17,995
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ELECTIONS 2020

Biden takes Illinois; trans candidate makes history

BY ANDREW DAVIS
AND MATT SIMONETTE

Former Vice President Joe Biden, building on the momentum he's acquired in the past two weeks, easily defeated U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (and, technically, Tulsi Gabbard) in the Illinois Democratic primary on March 17.

Biden also easily won Florida (and he was projected to win Arizona as well), as Sanders' lack of support was attributed to everything from Biden's overall backing from African Americans to Sanders' throngs of young voters being negatively affected by the COVID-19 situation.

Biden's victory was called early in Illinois (as he was leading Sanders 59 percent to 35 percent at 9:15 p.m. CT), and followed wins in South Carolina as well as most of the Super Tuesday states. (Incidentally, Ohio was also supposed to hold its primary March 17, but pushed it to June, citing coronavirus-related concerns.) The next big contest is slated for Tuesday, April 28, when New York, Pennsylvania and three other states are slated to hold primaries.

On the local front, there was a historic win for Jill Rose Quinn—who became the state's first transgender judge.

Federal races

Most of the Congressional races ran true to form, with Democratic incumbents easily defeating challengers. This included, among others, U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly rolling over Marcus Lewis, incumbent Mike Quigley winning over progressive attorney Brian Burns, and longtime U.S. Rep. Danny Davis sailing by three challengers: Kina Collins, Anthony Clark and Kristine Schanbacher. Others—such as U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood—ran unopposed.

However, the most closely watched federal race was the one involving Democratic U.S. Rep. Tom Lipinski and challenger Marie Newman. Newman claimed victory, stating, "What a journey. I am bursting with pride and gratitude for the amazing coalition who helped bring about much needed change in our district. We are going to work together to lower healthcare costs, to fight climate change, and to continue building a hospitable community for everyone, no matter where you come from." Lipinski made some moves that many Democrats consider controversial, such as recently aligning with Republicans who ultimately want to overturn the abortion case *Roe v. Wade*.

By the way, Casten could be headed toward an intriguing November showdown, as it looked he was slated to go up against Republican Jeanne Ives in the general election. Two years ago, Ives (who is far-right) ran an ad mocking, among other groups, transgender Illinoisans.

County-wide posts

In the local election's most high-profile race, incumbent Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx captured about 48.1 percent of the vote to keep her office. Opponent Bill Conway, who ran an especially aggressive campaign, captured 32.5 percent of the vote, followed by Donna Moore (14.2 percent) and Bob Fioretti (5.1 percent). Foxx competes against Republican Patrick O'Brien in November; he captured 73.2 percent of the vote against opponent Christopher Pfannkuche.

Gay attorney and activist Jacob Meister attempted a second attempt to win the office of the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court, but, as of press time, he trailed his opponents with 13.3 percent of the vote. Iris Martinez (34.7 percent) was in the lead for that post, followed by Michael Cabonargi (27.5 percent) and Richard Boykin (24.5 percent).

State and local races

The Illinois Senate races primarily featured Democratic incumbents who either ran unopposed or did not have serious competition. They include state Sens. Heather Steans (D-7th District), Kimberly Lightford (D-4th), Antonio Munoz (1st) and Dave Koehler (D-46th).

A number of incumbent LGBT state representatives ran unopposed this election cycle and will presumably return to Springfield next term. All Democrats, they include state Reps. Lamont Robinson (5th District), Kelly Cassidy (12th), Greg Harris (13th) and Sam Yingling (62nd).

Harris has been House Majority Leader since early 2019.

Cassidy was co-chair to the campaign of acting state Rep. Yoni Pizer's bid to hold on to the 12th District office—vacated by now state Sen. Sara Feigenholtz. As of press time, Pizer, endorsed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot, (40.3) trailed Margaret Croke (47.6 percent).

Pizer was not the only openly LGBT candidate in the 12th District race; his opponents included James Garfield (5.9 percent), Marty Malone (3.1 percent) and Ryan Podges (3.1 percent), all of whom are openly gay.

Among other LGBT candidates, Ty Cratic, who has worked on a number of political campaigns, lost a bid to represent the 9th District, in an extremely crowded race. That contest seemed to be led by Lakes Collins, who had 46.5 percent of the vote. Cratic had 7.6 percent.

Michelle Darbro, a Norwood Park career firefighter and paramedic won the Democratic spot on the general election ballot to represent the 20th District in November. Having won 64.6 percent of the vote, she'll be up against Republican Brad Stephens.

Denika McMillen, a Naperville social worker lost her bid to represent the 41st District. She received 29.9 percent of the votes while opponent Janet Yang Rohr received 70.1 percent. First-



Jill Rose Quinn.
Photo by Stephanie Marder

time candidate Ken Mejia-Beal ran unopposed in the 42nd District, and will run against Republican Amy Grant in November.

Lesbian Maggie Trevor appears poised to square off against longtime LGBT-rights foe Tom Morrison in the 54th District in the Northwest suburbs once more in November. She defeated opponent Ryan Huffman (19.2 percent) with 80.8 percent of the vote.

Openly gay Woodstock Mayor Brian Sager won 64 percent of the vote against opponent Peter Janko (36 percent). He'll face incumbent Steven Reick in November.

Downstate, Karla Bailey Smith ran unopposed to win the 88th District candidates slot. She'll face Republican Keith Sommar in November. In the 93rd district, Democrat Emiliano Vera (34.6 percent) lost a bid against Scott Still (65.4 percent) to challenge incumbent Republican Norine Hammond in November.

Among incumbents who kept their seats were state Reps. Ann Williams, Jennifer Gong Gershowitz, Robyn Gabel, Michael Madigan (who is also longtime House Speaker), Will Guzzardi and Jaime Andrade.

Judges

LGBTQ judicial candidates had varied results in the primary—but there was a historic finish in the mix.



Joe Biden.
Tim Carroll Photography

Chicago businesses, groups undertake COVID-19 preparations

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As Windy City Times neared its deadline, organizations and businesses within Chicago's LGBT community were readying to cope with measures undertaken by state and local authorities to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus.

Gov. JB Pritzker on March 15 ordered all restaurants and bars in the state to close, effective at the close of business on March 16. The order followed Pritzker and other officials expressed their displeasure with Chicagoans who'd ignored recommendations to avoid bars and large gatherings the evenings of March 13-14, when many were celebrating ahead of St. Patrick's Day. Pritzker's order is effective through March 30.

On March 15, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended no gatherings with 50 or more persons for eight weeks.

Pritzker's order will surely have a significant impact upon local LGBT-owned and operated businesses. Windy City Times will closely follow how the community pulls itself through. LGBT-advocacy organizations related a number of preparations they'd been undertaking as Chicago copes with the virus.

Howard Brown Health announced March 12 that its facilities and walk-in clinics will remain open to patients and keep regular hours, though some meetings will be moved online. Howard Brown officials also said that they are in preparations for outdoor triage stations to assist persons who have flu-like symptoms or who believe they have been exposed to coronavirus.

South Side-based Brave Space Alliance (BSA) announced March 15 that it would be moving its programming online with a "virtual drop-in center" that would incorporate aspects of BSA's workshops.

"To limit person-to-person exposure among the vulnerable populations that the organization services, Brave Space Alliance will be offering 30-minute appointment slots for members of the Black and Brown LGBTQ community on the South and West sides," said BSA Executive Director LaSaia Wade in a statement. "These appointments can be used for assistance with applying for recently expanded unemployment insurance benefits, SNAP and Medicaid, public housing, and other offerings such as career services, and financial planning services. The organization will also be transitioning its support groups and regularly-scheduled mutual aid groups to an online platform."

BSA, in partnership with Center on Halsted, will also be undertaking a "rapid-response crisis pantry" that will collect food donations and compile lists of Chicagoans in need.

In a March 13 statement, the Center's CEO, Modesto Tico Valle, said his organization would

be taking measures "to flatten the curve so that illness does not overwhelm our medical infrastructure as vaccines and cures are sought. Social distancing is key to containment. We are focused on downsizing large events and preparing should a closure be necessary."

Valle said that face-to-face senior social programming will be cancelled for the remainder of the month, but that a limited number of boxed lunches will continue to be available for senior clients on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Youth programming will continue but will be drastically scaled back. HIV testing will be available by appointment only.

In a March 12 statement, AIDS Foundation of Chicago President and CEO John Peller said, "At AFC, we care about our community's health and safety and the impact of COVID-19. We are following the advice from the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health and Chicago Department of Public Health and will make changes based on their recommendations, while having a strong contingency plan in place for AFC."

"AFC is also standing with our Asian and Asian-American community as they—unjustly—have been the target of racism and bias, which only makes it more difficult to keep everyone healthy."

COVID-19 guidelines regarding people experiencing homelessness

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless released recommendations for state and local governmental response to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.

The coalition urges the City of Chicago to immediately identify government resources (city, county, state, federal) to create isolation/prevention housing with supportive services in hotels or federal/military facilities for the following groups:

—Individuals who are staying on the street during the social distancing period, prioritizing those of vulnerable populations (age 60+ or with underlying health conditions);

—Individuals staying in shelter, especially large congregate dormitory type settings, or doubling up and exhibiting symptoms;

—Individuals of vulnerable populations (age 60+ or with underlying health conditions) staying in shelters, even if they are asymptomatic; and

—Individuals who contracted COVID-19 and are discharged from the hospital, but still need to rehabilitate and/or isolate.

See ChicagoHomeless.org.

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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY FOR PrEP

Before starting and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested for HIV immediately before and at least every 3 months while taking DESCOVY. If you think you were exposed to HIV, tell your healthcare provider right away. They may want to do more tests to confirm that you are still HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV tests can miss HIV infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or while taking DESCOVY.
- **DESCOVY does not prevent other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).** Practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to reduce the risk of getting STIs.
- **DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1.** Do not take DESCOVY for PrEP unless you are confirmed to be HIV negative.

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check or give you HBV medicine.

ABOUT DESCOVY FOR PrEP

DESCOVY for PrEP is a once-daily prescription medicine for adults and adolescents at risk of HIV who weigh at least 77 pounds. It helps lower the chances of getting HIV through sex.

DESCOVY for PrEP is not for everyone:

- It is not for use in people assigned female at birth who are at risk of getting HIV from vaginal sex, because its effectiveness has not been studied.
- You must be HIV-negative before and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take DESCOVY for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV infection or if you do not know your HIV status.** If you have HIV-1, you need more medicine than DESCOVY alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only DESCOVY, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat now and in the future.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY FOR PrEP

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with DESCOVY. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.



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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY FOR PrEP (cont'd)

Common side effects in people taking DESCOVY for PrEP include diarrhea, nausea, headache, fatigue, and stomach pain.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners. If your partner is living with HIV, your risk of getting HIV is lower if your partner consistently takes HIV treatment every day.
- Get tested for other STIs. Some STIs make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Practice safer sex by using latex or polyurethane condoms.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about all the ways to help reduce HIV risk.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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

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Activist Marc Loveless passes away at 59

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Activist Marc Loveless has passed away. His death was reported by multiple individuals on social media March 9. Loveless was 59.

Loveless was found unconscious at Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St., late in the evening of March 8. According to a report by CWBChicago, Loveless was later pronounced dead at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital in the early morning of March 9.

The causes of death were given as arteriosclerosis and obesity. (Windy City Times independently verified this.) Another individual, 55-year-old Donald Fraser, was found to be unresponsive at Steamworks just two days before, on the evening of March 6. Fraser passed away at Illinois Masonic later that night.

Loveless, who was the principal organizer for the Coalition for Justice and Respect, was ubiquitous in causes and events for LGBT-rights, especially as they pertained to LGBT Chicagoans of color. He recently attempted to mount a run for the state House of Representatives, which proved unsuccessful, as did a 2015 bid to win office as Chicago City Clerk. He was active with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and frequently worked with U.S. Rep. Danny Davis.

Activists, politicians and advocacy officials who worked alongside Loveless said that he and his work would be missed.

In a statement to Windy City Times, Davis said, "Marc Loveless represented the best of what citizenship means in a free and democratic society. He has been a true advocate for all people to experience the basic freedoms and opportunities due humankind. Marc was never far from the people, but he was always a leader, looking ahead,

organizing for the next battle. Marc's personal life, like his public life was profoundly, selflessly humanistic. He was lovingly co-parenting a delightful four-year-old child he had taken in, who loved him in return with equal passion. Like the hundreds of others who knew and worked with Marc, I will miss him deeply."

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) CEO and President John Peller said, "Chicago has lost an unstoppable advocate, champion for the voiceless and fierce fighter for justice. Marc was everywhere, seemingly at once. Just last week, Marc was at AFC's annual meeting cheering us on. Marc will long be remembered for his incredible legacy of activism on a host of intersecting LGBTQ and progressive issues."

Activist Ben Montgomery called Loveless "a pioneer. He believed in the health and social welfare of the LGBT-plus community. He championed public policy at the city, county, state and federal levels, tackling issues including HIV/AIDS, housing, LGBT-plus youth, needed funding and decriminalization of HIV.

"Marc was my good friend, and he and I often tackled these issues together. The African-American Response Act was reinstated through Marc's leadership of a group of elected officials and community stakeholders, restoring \$3 million to the Act that targets the African-American community. He also championed the Quality of Life legislation in Springfield, along with myself and Michael O'Connor, which resulted in the creation of the "Red Ribbon Cash" lottery ticket that raised over \$11 million in HIV/AIDS grants.

Montgomery called Loveless "a true community organizer" and noted that he at various times brought together community members to discuss health issues, violence in the LGBT community



Marc Loveless.
Courtesy photo

and safe sex.

"The African-American LGBT+ community lost a five-star general who led by example," added Montgomery. "[Loveless] will be missed."

Loveless had a controversial and tumultuous legal history, and faced a significant number of allegations within the community within over the years. When asked about those allegations, Michael O'Connor—himself a longtime activist—said, "All leadership is controversial until they die. That's my comment."

O'Connor, like Montgomery, referred to Loveless as a "five-star general in the fight for justice and respect," and praised him especially for being

willing to stand up to racism within the LGBT community.

"Like all families, we had fights," O'Connor said. "I'd known Marc since we were much younger. Marc was a co-founder of the Rocks Coordinating Committee. We broke the segregation among white gay men along the lakefront. We were told by the alderman at the time that we were not part of the celebration. He wrote a letter telling the park district that. We formed the committee. I still have the letter with the park district's response.

"Marc fought racism—[especially] blatant racism that took place amongst white gay men, who purported to all Black legislators [whose constituencies were] south of Madison, that, in order for them to not be homophobic, they had to support the LGBT agenda. Our response was: 'Not south of Madison without diversity!'

"I went to the Democratic National Convention with Marc, way back when," O'Connor added. "Marc was a brother in the struggle. He knew freedom wasn't free."

Activist Keith Green said in a Facebook post, "While Marc's primary focus was on the lives of LGBTQ people, his ultimate mission was justice and equity for all Black people. Whether you liked what he had to say or not, his voice will undoubtedly be missed."

Green urged the community not to lose sight of the circumstances of Loveless' passing.

"As we grieve his life and legacy as a community, however, we must also grapple with the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death," Green said. "Marc was one of the most sex-positive people I've ever known, so his legacy is in no way diminished by the fact that he was found unresponsive in a bathhouse. But his legacy would be in vain if we didn't demand to know how and why he was the second man found unresponsive in the same bathhouse this past weekend.

"Something is wrong. And, if Marc was alive, he would be all over this. So, in his absence and memory, I can assure you that I will be all over this. And I hope the rest of the community that



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he advocated so tirelessly for will be too (regardless of how you felt about his politics and/or approach).

"RIP, Marc. You deserve it. But I personally won't rest until there are answers—and justice."

Lastly, in a March 15 statement to Windy City Times, Solomon Arnold, founding executive director and board president of In Demand Entertainment, said, "Marc Loveless was far from Loveless. His compassion and dedication to creating and affirming equity opportunities and equal rights for us all was untold. Marc was a great mentor of sorts of mine, who paved the way showing me how to get things done in this town without losing sight of my own accountability. In that,

Marc saw something in me by which he nominated me to be one of the co-chairs for the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality by which, together, it was wildly successful. Furthermore, when it came to LGBTQ+ rights in general, he was always demanding justice and respect—hence the name of his coalition and foundation he founded and led, by which no one holds a candle to how relentless he was."

Arnold added, "Marc, you are gone from the body, but closer in spirit, and we will always love and miss you and never stop for as you used to always say, 'Doing nothing is not an option.'"

CWBChicago's March 9 report on the Steamworks incidents is at cwbchicago.com.

Family and friends raising money for Loveless funeral

Family and friends of activist Marc Loveless are attempting to raise funds for funeral services to mark his passing.

Solomon Arnold, founding executive director and board president of In Demand Entertainment, said, "We plan to hold a candle in [Loveless'] honor, mourn his loss, support his family, help continue to plan his services, and forge ahead to address countless injustices our comrade once led [activism against] and, through his legacy, [will continue] to accomplish numerous initiatives. We ask everyone to

first and foremost respect his privacy, for those who believe in God or a higher power to send your prayers, for those who can donate to his services to send funds via a GoFundMe link organized by his family."

Arnold added that an announcement regarding logistics of the funeral will be forthcoming, and for more information the public can follow accounts on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/Solomon.Infinity> or <https://facebook.com/ide411>; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/idemgmt>; and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/idemgmt>.

The GoFundMe link is at https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-marc-loveless-burial-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_linktip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet.

PASSAGES

Brian Patrick Goodman

Brian Patrick Goodman passed from this life Nov. 21, 2019.

He had just returned from four days in New York City—where, despite his two-year battle with ALS, he saw two Broadway shows and met the casts, toured The Museum of Modern Art and Central Park, and enjoyed time with his two best friends, Kathy Cecchin of LA and Jim Fischer of Bangkok, who flew in to join him.

Brian was born June 18, 1962, in Portland, Michigan, to a large and loving family. He attended Hope College (where he majored in theater) and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He moved to Chicago, acting and waiting tables. In 1988, in the lobby of Steppenwolf Theatre where he worked, Brian met Mike Maliszewski, his partner and husband of 31 years. Together they traveled extensively, throughout the United States and the world: Spain, Italy, France, Mexico, Canada, Thailand, Australia, Cambodia and Peru. Brian became an executive assistant for several prestigious non-for profit organizations until he was diagnosed with ALS in November 2017.

Brian loved theater and kids. His most fulfilling days were spent with The About Face Youth Theatre. As a co-founder and important leader of the program, Brian became a gay dad to hundreds of youth, helping them to find their voices through his example. It was his proudest accomplishment



Brian Patrick Goodman.

Photo courtesy of Michael Maliszewski

and a great legacy. Thanks to the strong foundation that Brian helped to create, About Face Youth Theatre just turned 20 years old—and Brian attended the opening night performance last summer. And, yes, he cried.

Brian's family requests that donations be made in his honor to About Face Youth Theatre. People may do so at <http://aboutfaceheater.com/support-us/donate>, and in the box labeled "Anything you'd like to add?" please mention Brian's name. A Chicago memorial celebration will be held Sunday, April 19; people may register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebration-of-the-life-of-brian-goodman-tickets-96360014397>.

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PASSAGES

Ann Morris

Ann Morris passed away March 7. She was 67.

Ann was born in Chicago on April 5, 1952, and grew up in Texas. She returned to Chicago to attend the University of Chicago where she earned her BA in general studies in the humanities in 1975 and received her MA from the Graduate Library School in 1981.

She became involved in the lesbian feminist community while in college. She was a co-founder of Hot Wire Magazine and a member of Artemis Singers. [Editor's note: The group Artemis Singers is Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus.] She was a founding member of the the Queens Rule Poker Club and helped to design the group's popular card deck, which contains not a queen, lady and maiden instead of a king, queen and jack.

Ann's career as a law librarian began while she was still in graduate school. She served as Head of Circulation at the U of C Law School Library from 1976-1979.

Her additional professional timeline included:

1980-1982: Law librarian, Gardner, Carton & Douglas

1982-1983: Head librarian, Rooks Pitts & Poust

1983-1984: Director of the library, Holleb & Coff, Ltd.

1984-2015: Head librarian, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Ann retired from Skadden et al in February, 2015.



Her professional association memberships included the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL), the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). She was still a member of the AALL at the time of her death.

Ann and her wife, Vada Woods, met through Artemis Singers and were legally wed Feb. 24, 2012. Throughout their 36-year relationship Ann and Vada enjoyed sports—especially supporting women's sports—most recently as season ticket holders with the Chicago Sky since the team

entered the WNBA as well as theater, music and dance concerts, and travel. In addition to Artemis Singers, Ann sang alongside Vada as members of the Sing To Live Choir. Ann was also a member of the Skokie Concert Choir.

In addition, she served on the boards of the Thousand Waves Foundation and the Skokie Concert Choir.

Ann began her battle with breast cancer in 1993 and, after initial surgery and chemotherapy, enjoyed 15 years of good health. In 2008, an examination revealed metastasis and Ann fought a

fierce battle with the disease, undergoing numerous treatments as well as many wonderful times with Vada and a wide circle of friends, before passing peacefully at Evanston Hospital.

Micki Leventhal, a close friend of Ann, told Windy City Times, "My spouse, Con, and I met Ann and Vada in the late '80s, when we first came out into the Chicago lesbian community—probably at a Mountain Moving Coffeehouse event. We would socialize at parties celebrating the seasons, at Artemis Singers concerts and many other fun occasions. Con is also a member of the Queens Rule poker group. But it has been over the past ten or so years, that our friendship has really grown. We are huge fans of performing arts and enjoyed a wide and eclectic range of theater, music and dance together—even dubbing our foursome the 'Culture Vulture Crew.'

"Over the years, as Ann's struggle with cancer continued, I often marveled at her ability to continue to revel in the joys of life rather than dwell on the negative. She, with Vada an absolute rock of love and support at her side, was a model of grace, courage and dignity to her final breath."

Ruth Clark—a member of Artemis Singers and the Queens Rule Poker Club—added, "I've been friends with Ann and Vada for over 35 years. Ann began singing with Artemis within a few years of its founding in 1980 and was a stalwart in the group for many years. With her dry wit and innate practicality, Ann could be depended upon to quell unnecessary drama that threatened to derail us during rehearsal.

Turn to page 11

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MORRIS from page 10

"As one of the several musical directors within Artemis, Ann was precise and exacting as she taught or conducted a piece of music. Each of us who sang under her direction remembers fondly to this day the specific care she took to enliven a phrase or draw out new meaning from a verse that we had sung many times before."

A memorial service is being planned and will occur sometime after the COVID-19 outbreak is under control.

Sister Sheila Lyne dies at 83

Sister Sheila Lyne—a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy for 67 years who led Chicago's

Mercy Hospital as president and CEO for decades, and also served as commissioner of public health for Chicago from 1991 to 2000—died March 10 of natural causes, The Chicago Tribune reported. She was 83.

Not long after being appointed health commissioner, Lyne met with representatives from Chicago Catholic Women, Catholic Advocates for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Planned Parenthood, the National Organization for Women and the Howard Brown Health (then Howard Brown Memorial Clinic), and said she would do whatever worked from a public health standpoint.

Among the programs she established were the Office of Violence Prevention, which set up a Violence Prevention Strategic Plan; and the Office of Lesbian and Gay Health—then one of only two in the country.

NQAPIA denounces COVID-19-related racist attacks

The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) issued a statement denouncing "racist attacks, discrimination, and blatant xenophobia that has occurred in light of COVID-19 CoronaVirus."

NQAPIA said, "While the coronavirus poses a very real threat, public reaction has led to subsequent harm. We have seen multiple cases of Asian Americans being attacked, a decline in customers at Asian-owned establishments, and discrimination at work and in public spaces. While the presence of Asians and Asian Americans in public spaces is being increasingly perceived as a threat, we take a moment to recognize and stand with the black, latinx, indigenous, first nations, and Muslim communities for whom this is a daily reality. We urge our community to work with us to combat xenophobia and misinformation."

"We recognize that there is intense fear over the threat of COVID-19 and encourage our community to educate themselves, wash their hands, and quell the rising misinformation and widespread fear."

The organization also provided links for staying healthy, including CDC.gov.

Illinois ALICE report released

Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) joined the United Way in releasing their report on Illinois ALICE (asset-limited, income-constrained and employed) households

The report focuses on families living above the federal poverty level, but below the threshold of a basic survival budget of \$57,144 for a family of four and \$19,212 for a single adult.

Lawmakers will use the data to help better understand the needs of Illinoisans as they make decisions to help struggling families.

The full report is at UnitedWayIllinois.org/alice.

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Mick's potato fertilizer

When I asked for advice about growing potatoes, our friend Mary wrote, "Here is what Mick does: blood meal, green sand, or wood ash, bone meal, a handful of each above item for each potato you plant, mix in wheel barrel with dirt and some peat moss, and steer poop. Love M&M."

Or, said Mick, who grows blue and other exotic potatoes, we can just buy an organic fertilizer. Whew. I found the prospect of mixing manure with soil a bit unappetizing. Which is why, last year, when a neighbor gave us her handmade wooden raised bed, I put off loading it at all and used it only as a support for plastic planters and grow bags. Not exactly best practice.

But it was practice and this year I had plans to search out however many cubic units I needed of that organic fertilizer stuff and get serious. I learned the stores we have around here don't stock anything of the sort practically until spring. We dutifully saved egg cartons to make our own potato starts.

I waited a little too long. Just as stores began

stacking big bags of soil in their parking lots, going to the store became dangerous. One day I spoke with my sweetheart about taking the precaution of growing some food of our own in case of extended quarantines, or in case the stores and farmers' markets close, or the farmers, goddess forbid, fall victim to the pandemic. The next day my sweetheart went on her last shopping expedition until it's once again "safe" out there.

She insisted on going to the stores herself because of my age. As much as I wanted to at least share the risks associated with moving among large numbers of people, my sweetheart wouldn't hear of it because I'm the elder. She is too good to me.

The CDC has classified me, and almost everyone I know, as older adults with increased vulnerability to COVID-19 and its ilk. Infectious disease experts define "older adults" as anyone age 60 and up. Today's reports show the mortality rate for infected people in this age group in China is at 15 percent, compared to 3.4 percent in younger sufferers.

This does not make me want to take my temperature every five minutes, but I do yearn for an old-fashioned thermometer—the kind without a battery that goes kaput when it's most needed. Also, I've been a reliable hand washer for a long time and I'm perfectly willing to become temporarily OCD about it.

It's the old and vulnerable part that gets to me. Nothing wrong with either state—I just don't feel I'm there yet. So not only is the Evil Virus a physical threat, it's messing with my self-image. I wasn't

budge. The president didn't hold news conferences. Billions of dollars were not spent.

In the early 1980s, AIDS was killing all the right people—gay people and drug addicts, and Black men and women. There is no comparison to a new viral outbreak that might kill your grandmother and her friends in the nursing home.

To have any conversation during the early HIV pandemic meant talking about anal sex and sharing needles and condoms and religion and who God was punishing. We had to climb over mountains of social bias in order to educate people on the basic facts of risk and transmission.

Social distancing was easier then, because the bodies of your friends were so consumed by dark purple skin lesions they were barely recognizable as human. There were no congressional bills promising them paid sick leave or help with their medical bills. They were kicked out of their apartments and then

planning on thinking of myself as old until, say, age eighty-five. Maybe ninety. But the experts don't agree.

Mostly, I do not want the misery of any kind of flu for my sweetheart, my family, myself, friends, or any human on the planet. Last time I had a flu was in December 1977. It hung on into January. There were three of us living in a townhouse with two bathrooms and six cats. For about two weeks, I primarily got out of bed only to take care of the cats. And my throat was so painful I never smoked again, which was the good news.

Today I had to make a decision: go to my balance class at the 60+ Activity Center or play it safe. In the nick of time a local online blog mentioned that the Center was now closed. Tomorrow I'm scheduled to attend a community breakfast. Do I trust that I'm not infected and sickening others by attending? How do any of us know the neighborhood cooks are robustly healthy? As someone said today, we'd have to eat six feet from one another.

The expression "we live in dangerous times" just became more meaningful. The choices I make today may impact a whole lot of other people tomorrow, and on many levels. Their decisions may do the same for me. I'm no prepper, but Mick's potatoes will come in very handy for him and for Mary if those two big words, "national emergency" haven't come too late.

For me, it's back to grow bags and planters propped on the raised bed with some houseplant fertilizer and high hopes. Be well.

Copyright Lee Lynch 2020

Mark S.
KING

Stop comparing coronavirus to early HIV/AIDS. Just stop.

People ask me if our lives today feel like the early years of HIV/AIDS, and I want to scream. There is no comparison. Just stop.

No one cared about people dying of AIDS in the early years of the pandemic. The stock market didn't

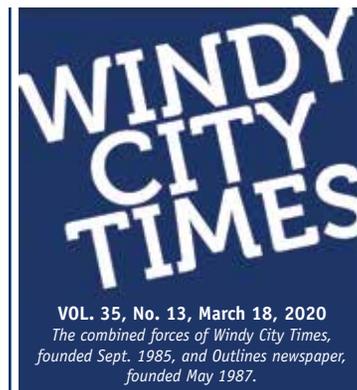
died in the guest room of whomever had the space and the guts to care for them.

Tens of thousands of people died of AIDS-related complications before our government began to address it. Many, many, many of those people spent their last breaths in the center of protests in the streets, begging for justice and relief. Their ashes were dumped on the White House lawn.

That activism has reverberations today, in the work between public health and community health advocates. That's a difference, not a similarity.

To attempt to draw blithe comparisons—oh! This feels so scary and there are lines at the grocery store and people have to stay away from each other. Hey, does this feel like when HIV happened...?—is an insult to the bravery and sacrifice of the living and the dead.

There is no comparison. Fuck that. Just stop.



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ARTS + THEATER

Area theaters
respond to
health crisisThe James M. Nederlander Theatre.
Photo by Amy Boyle Photography

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

NOTE: The following information was accurate as of March 14. In a fluid and rapidly changing environment, new information is arriving daily, so check the websites of individual theater companies and venues.

All of Chicago's larger theaters have suspended performances in keeping with the response of city, county and state officials to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following companies and venues have closed current shows and/or rescheduled upcoming openings: Apollo Theater Center, Black Ensemble Theater, Broadway Playhouse (at Water Tower Place), Cadillac Palace Theatre, Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Symphony Center), CIBC Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre (Oakbrook Terrace), Goodman Theatre, Joffrey Ballet (upcoming performances at the Auditorium Theatre), Lookingglass Theatre (at the Water Tower

Pumping Station), Lyric Opera of Chicago (The Ring cycle being cancelled), Nederlander Theatre (formerly the Oriental), Northlight Theatre (Skokie), Paramount Theatre (Aurora), The Second City, Steppenwolf Theatre, Theater at the Center (Muncie, Indiana), Victory Gardens Theater and Writers Theatre (Glencoe).

Chicago Shakespeare Theater still hopes to open its short visit by the Royal Shakespeare Company (April 15-May 2) as planned. Teatro Zinzanni is continuing performances but reducing the audience size for each show. Lyric Opera of Chicago has cancelled its Ring Cycle but still hopes to stage its late spring musical, *42nd Street*, as planned.

All theaters listed above are venues of 250-3,600 seats.

Most smaller theaters remain open, at least for the time being. Most seat fewer than 100 people and many even fewer than 50. However, a

few smaller Off Loop theaters and venues have suspended performances. Most significant is The Den, which has completely closed, thereby shutting down current and near-term productions by its resident theaters: First Floor Theatre, Haven, Irish Theatre of Chicago, New Colony and Wild-Claw (sic). One-night and weekend performances of comics and musicians at The Den also are cancelled.

Other small off-Loop closures include A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, House Theatre of Chicago (at Chopin Theatre), Kokandy Productions (at Chopin Theatre), Lifeline Theatre, Raven Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre (at Theater Wit), Silent Theatre (at Tapestry Fellowship Church), Silk Road Rising (at the Chicago Temple Building), TimeLine (sic) Theatre and Trap Door Theatre.

All subscribers and single-ticket holders are urged to call or email—and please be patient—

the box-office services of the various theater companies and venues. From the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Broadway In Chicago down to the smaller venues, all are providing exchanges and refunds in some manner.

Dates for re-opening are fluid. The Second City is closed initially only through March 26 but is certain to re-evaluate as needed. The great majority of venues are closed for at least 30 days, through mid-April, at least, or the end of April.

There is one longer-range cancellation: Cirque du Soleil has cancelled the June 5-28 return engagement of Alegria.

The League of Chicago Theatres stressed that member companies that remain open are taking extra precautions: providing hand sanitizers, cleaning seats and public areas after each performance and (in a few cases) reducing the number of tickets available for any one performance.

THEATER REVIEW

Mrs. Warren's Profession

Playwright: George Bernard Shaw
At: Promethean Theatre Ensemble at Otherworld Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St.
Tickets: \$30; PrometheanTheatre.org
Runs through: March 29 [suspended because of COVID-19 outbreak]

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Contrary to legend, references to sex weren't what outraged critics at the 1902 premiere of George Bernard Shaw's latest "problem" play—earlier audiences had survived Ibsen, after all—but the author's audacity in presenting the topic alongside the word "money" thus exposing a link that polite society of his time strived mightily to

ignore.

To be sure, contracts of an erotic nature between mixed genders in 2020 have been divested of the mystery that obscured their practical underpinnings in a less enlightened age, making candid discussion unobjectionable nowadays—but start talking about the lucrative dividends generated by real-estate investment in "private hotels" providing harlots for hire, and the juices begin to flow.

The economics of intercourse—both carnal and commercial—are at the center of Melanie Spewock's brisk two-hour adaptation, which dispenses with Shaw's more protracted philosophical musings to focus instead on the ethical conflicts between Mrs. Kitty Warren, whose managerial skills in the—um, hospitality industry, have rewarded her lavishly, and her estranged daughter Vivian, whose Cambridge degree and mathematical acumen has groomed her for a successful career in the traditional masculine spheres of business and finance, while instilling in her a repugnance for the life of pampered idleness her mother envisions for her.

As the two strong-minded women argue the

one point we are told that fully one-quarter of them were calling in sick.) Also not on her side was the weaselly alderman Fred Roti, played by Thomas J. Cox, who did not like her usurping control over his district. But perhaps her biggest roadblocks were the people she was trying to help themselves.

The Cabrini-Green residents are mostly represented by four figures here: the grandmotherly Mabel Foley (a highly sympathetic Renee Lockett); the young Tiger (Nicole Michelle Haskins, showing a lot of range), who is at first vitriolic about the whole thing but then allows herself to be persuaded of Byrne's good intentions; the street entrepreneur Black Che (Robert Cornelius, having a great time, especially when toying with a reporter played by Tracy Walsh); and the perpetually angry Kid (Willie "Mudlife Roc" Round). Then there is the adamantly militant Marion Stamps, a community activist fighting for the rights of these residents who became one of Byrne's most vocal opponents in this whole affair.

Brooks, who also directs the play, describes it as a play that "joins history to myth." It is constructed as a collage-like series of scenes, some realistic and some (like those showing the relationship Byrne had with her dead husband) not so much. These more surreal scenes really don't work as well as the others, weighing the play down for little real payback. Brooks would have been well-advised to remain in the realistic present. Still, what she shows us is impressive. On a Yu Shibagaki set featuring what seem like dozens of TV screens (with projections by Rasean Davonte Johnson) and a single, highly flexible, revolving wall, she conjures several locations and an entire culture that most, if indeed not all, of her Michigan Avenue audience have never directly experienced, reminding us that we are all just people trying our best to live our lives. It's too bad that this play did not have a chance to be seen; perhaps Lookingglass will consider bringing it back in a year or two.



Chris Woolsey and Tracey Greenwood in Mrs. Warren's Profession.

Photo by Tom McGrath, TCMcG Photograph

righteousness of their respective goals, opinions and commentary—both largely ignored—are contributed by sundry male companions. They are bookish aesthete Praed, who proclaims himself an anarchist, but wilts at the slightest sign of contention; boyish charmer Frank, who regards "Vivvums" as his childhood chum and fu-

THEATER REVIEW

The Two Character Play

Playwright: Tennessee Williams
At: Theatre L'acadie at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave.
Tickets: \$25; AthenaeumTheatre.org and 773-935-6875
Runs through: March 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

[NOTE: Audiences for performances will be limited due to COVID-19. Contact the venue, as information about venues is constantly changing.]

The setting of *The Two Character Play* is a post-bellum mansion in the Deep South surrounded by sunflowers "as tall as the house."

It is presently occupied by an adult brother and sister living in seclusion following the trauma of their astrology-obsessed father killing first, their mother, and then himself. Ever since that fatal night, Clare has become increasingly unnerved by the hostile curiosity of the neighbors, as well as the memories lurking in the silence of empty rooms. Her terror of being left alone has forced Felice to keep vigil at her side, even as their money dwindles and public aid agencies make vain attempts to offer assistance.

This is what we are told, anyway. What we see is a bare stage littered with sundry theatrical paraphernalia, the only vestige of the anticipated evening's production being a few rehearsal-grade furnishings and the two remaining touring-company members who, coincidentally, share the characters' names. The rest of the troupe, it emerges, have abandoned the playwright-actor-producer siblings after declaring them both "insane!" To pass the time while waiting in the un-

ture bankroller; reformed rakehell Rev. Gardner, whose holy office barely conceals the evidence of his youthful indiscretions; and materialistic Sir George Crofts, unabashed sensualist and supplier of the seed money for the Warren empire.

The text is not the only element undergoing changes in size facilitating its configuration to Otherworld's compact Bradbury stage. Scenery is minimal, with hosts frequently fetching chairs from offstage for newly arrived guests, augmented by split second-timed sound effects and costumes period-perfect to the last chemise and petticoat. To compensate for this spartan stage picture, Michael D. Graham's direction makes extensive use of the subtly nuanced body language visible to spectators seated at close range: the men's individual reactions to Vivian's bone-crushing handshake, for example, or the Edwardian-diva affectations adopted by Kitty at her most manipulative—all executed without a hint of exaggeration teetering toward self-conscious camp.

Oh, and playgoers prepared to take offense at the irreverence of entertainment based upon the atrocity of human trafficking may note that post-show donations are solicited in support of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation—with wicked George Crofts, naturally, serving as collector.

heated playhouse for its doors to be unlocked in the morning, they seek escape from their predicament through immersion in their art—"getting lost in the play" in Felice's words—in order to affirm their filial bond and its role in lending their lives purpose.

Now is probably an appropriate time to note that the author of both our play and our play-within-a-play is Tennessee Williams, whose mentally fragile sister we have met before. To be sure, these are not the young waifs of *The Glass Menagerie* (though a rainbow-hued soap bubble provides a similar image of transcendent beauty), but more a late-career portrait of artists haunted by the existential torpor that threatens to eclipse their creative genius. Clare even invokes the famous first line of Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* at one point.

Playgoers likewise apprehensive at the prospect of confronting vacant theaters need not fear growing similarly despondent, however. Theatre L'acadie, while still relatively new to the Chicago Theater scene (this is only its second local production), has forged a reputation for intricate text analysis that leaves no dictional, syntactical or rhetorical nuance unexamined. Under the direction of Kaitlin Eve Romero, Daniel Westheimer and Emily Daigle establish, from the very outset, a brisk and varied pace that never succumbs to the self-indulgent mannerisms their clownish Joey-and-Gamine attire invites, but instead disregard fourth-wall barriers to forge a dynamic intensifying their connection with us during every second of the 135-minute (one intermission) performance time.

Unforeseen real-life emergencies in Chicago might make for extra down-time in the weeks to come, but for now, the Athenaeum is still in operation and theatergoers will assuredly find in this long-forgotten classic—a sympathetic refuge from the darkness of an uncertain universe.

THEATER REVIEW

Her Honor Jane Byrne

Playwright: J. Nicole Brooks
At: Lookingglass Theatre, 821 N. Michigan
Tickets: LookingglassTheatre.org
Price: Tickets no longer available
Runs through: Canceled due to coronavirus

BY KAREN TOPHAM

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Elected in 1979, Mayor Jane Byrne promised that, though she was a protégé of (the original) Mayor Daley, she would work to clean up the parts of the City That Works that didn't work quite so well. Faced with an outbreak of gang violence, she made the well-meaning but naïve decision to move into the Cabrini-Green public housing complex, hoping that the city services that would follow her there could ultimately curb the violence and change lives for the better. Of course, the issues were far too complicated and ran too deep for any one person to change them.

J. Nicole Brooks' *Her Honor Jane Byrne* examines this fascinating moment in Chicago's history from multiple perspectives: yes, we see it through the eyes of Mayor Byrne (Christine Mary Dunford in a compelling performance), but we also see it from the point of view of the people of Cabrini-Green, and it is their reflections that make this play powerful. Byrne's publicity stunt may well have been meant sincerely—Brooks and Dunford seem to believe so—but this Hyde Park-raised White woman really had no clue what daily life was about for the people of the inner city.

From the beginning, we can see that the rank and file police were not on her side. (At

THEATER REVIEW

Day of Absence

Playwright: Douglas Turner Ward
 At: Congo Square Theatre at Victory Gardens, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: 773-871-3000;
 CongoSquareTheatre.org; \$40 (includes service fee)
 Runs through: March 22 [suspended because of COVID-19 outbreak]

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Douglas Turner Ward's *Day of Absence* was quite controversial in 1965 when it was new, and became the first success of the award winning Negro Ensemble Company. It was a broadly played satire about daily life in a fictional southern town where all the Black residents suddenly disappeared for one day. White folks awoke to find no delivery men, no maids or cooks or nurses, no janitors or drivers, leaving them helpless, discombobulated and at each other's throats.

As specified by Ward, all the white characters were played by Black actors in whiteface makeup, creating exaggerations of white people rather than realistic portrayals. This was exactly what white actors in blackface had done for 80 years in minstrel shows, with stylized and insulting portrayals of Black people.



Sonya Madrigal, Ann Joseph and Bryant Hayes in *Day of Absence*.

Photo by Jazmyne Fountain

Both the original story and performance technique have been preserved by Congo Square Theatre—now celebrating its 20th anniversary—in this energetic 75-minute staging, directed by Anthony Irons. Without question *Day of Absence* remains a funny and prickly bit of theater, but it doesn't seem very controversial any more.

To be sure, Congo Square has substantially updated the script with references to Groupon, bloggers, Ikea, cell phones and building The Wall. This last reference is because Congo Square has expanded the absentees to include Latinx residents along with Blacks, with several Latinx actors joining Congo Square's Black artists in a versatile seven-person ensemble.

But retaining the southern, small-town setting makes *Day of Absence* much less immediate than it might be. After all, few of us have maids, cooks or drivers. But imagine a northern, urban version of this premise. Withdraw Blacks and latins from Chicago and we'd have no government, no public transit, no restaurants whether fast food or fine dining, no postal delivery, no public schools, no hospitals, no manufacturing, no professional sports except hockey and no newspapers (not even this one). Surely that's the play Ward would write, were he writing it now! So *Day of Absence* today could use a sharper edge, but that's not the fault of this Congo Square production.

Another aspect is that theatre goers who came of age in the 1990s or later may be unaware of the legacy of blackface. In my theater history courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I make a point of discussing blackface and also yellowface, brownface and whiteface. Even when the intent is not comic or insulting, is it ever appropriate for actors to use makeup to play characters of a different race? I challenge students to consider if there can be legitimate social, political, historical or dramatic reasons to use any kind of "face" in theater day. *Day of Absence* would suggest the answer is "yes."

Ravinia announces lineup for 2020 season

Welz Kauffman announced his 20th and final season as president and CEO of the country's oldest and most programmatically diverse music festival.

The 2020 season boasts more than 120 events on May 30-Sept. 15, including the annual summer residency of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with MacArthur "Genius" Marin Alsop stepping into the role of chief conductor and curator—a position created specifically for her.

This summer will also bring 35 artist debuts, including Wayne Marshall, Teddy Abrams and My Morning Jacket frontman Jim James, Ziggy Marley, six-time Latin Grammy winners Jesse & Joy, and Dispatch. Repertoire features 24 festival premieres, including Ravinia's co-commission of Paola Prestini's *Hindsight* for Piano and Orchestra as part of a summer-long celebration of the talents and achievements of women who have paved the way, as well as the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. Ravinia will also celebrate birthday milestones of Christoph Eschenbach, Itzhak Perlman, Bob Marley, Miša Dichter, Isaac Stern, Clara Schumann and Beethoven.

See Ravinia.org.

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Chicago Symphony events canceled

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that all CSOA-presented concerts at Symphony Center scheduled through at least the next 30 days (starting March 12) are canceled in an effort to limit community transmission of COVID-19.

All associated pre- and post-concert special events at Symphony Center for that time period are also canceled.

Patrons with tickets to canceled concerts have options, including exchanging their tickets into other concerts or requesting a refund. More options and additional information can be found at CSO.org or by calling Symphony Center at 312-294-3000.

Additional information for CSOA patrons is available at cso.org/alert.



Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young.
Photo by Russ Rowland

Jeff Awards Chair John Glover said in a statement, "Our Jeff Awards members are concerned about the health and welfare of all the people who make up the theater community - from the performers, production teams and crews to the ushers, audiences and patrons who support them. Our social responsibility to the community also includes our own volunteer members."

Equity and non-Equity theaters with questions about current Jeff Awards eligibility or other related concerns can contact the appropriate Wing Chair. Deric Gochenauer, the Equity wing chair, can be reached at equitywing@jeffawards.org; and non-Equity Wing Chair Nick Obis is reachable at nonequitywing@jeffawards.org.

Siskel closed until April 10

To support efforts to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the health and safety of guests and staff, the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., will be closed until Friday, April 10.

All events scheduled during this suspension period will be canceled or postponed, and additional changes will be made to the program calendar.

The center's staff will continue to be available during normal office hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday) and can be reached at filmcenter@saic.edu or 312-846-2600. Membership activation dates will be postponed until the center re-opens.

For more information, see SiskelFilmCenter.org.

Jeff Awards suspends judging until May 1

In response to state and city government recommendations to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the Chicago theater community's Jeff Awards will suspend judging productions until Friday, May 1.

'Skates' debut pushed to April 23

Hit Her with the Skates—a musical starring American Idol couple Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young—has pushed its world premiere of the Chicago production at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St., from Wed., March 18, to Thursday, April 23 because of coronavirus concerns.

Produced by HHWTS Productions LLC Christine Rea (book/lyrics), Rick Briskin (music/lyrics) and Mary Beidler Gearen, the world premiere will be directed by director/choreographer and Chicago native Brenda Didier.

Joining DeGarmo (Jacqueline Miller) and Young (Blake Conrad/Russ Reiner) will be Chris Walker (Jack/Danny Myers), Nik Kmiecik (Brad Miller), Amy Toporek (Jackie Miller), Marvin Malone II (Scotty Watkins), Norrell Moore (Rebecca Miller), Karl Hamilton (Hank Miller), Kelly Felthous (Meghan Behnke), Madeline Fansler (Tonya Carson), Adia Bell (Female Swing) and Adam Fane (Male Swing).

Tickets are \$40-\$79 each; visit Ticketmaster.com or call 312-988-9000.

Nat'l Museum of Mexican Art postpones March public events

With the National Museum of Mexican Art monitoring the status of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and implementing museum best practices and safety measures, the site has decided to postpone all public events through the end of March.

This includes events that are part of the Sor Juana Festival.

The museum plans to host all April events, but

will continue to monitor the situation and follow expert recommendations. It will be open during its regular business hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and the staff is asking visitors to use the site's hand-sanitizer stations, wash their hands thoroughly and postpone visits if they are not feeling well.

See NationalMuseumOfMexicanArt.org.

Women & Children First delaying, cancelling events

Because of coronavirus-related concerns, most of the March events at Women & Children First bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., have been rescheduled for late spring and summer dates.

In addition, events with Eli Clare, Nadina LaSpina, Cathy Park Hong and Megan Fernandes have all been cancelled. The bookstore stated, "We hope to reschedule with these amazing authors soon, so please keep checking WomenAndChildrenFirst.com and following us on social media for updates."

As of March 13, the store's ticketed events with N.K. Jemisin (March 31), Samantha Irby and Megan Stielstra (April 14), and Rebecca Solnit and Eula Biss (April 23) have not been cancelled. However, for everyone's health and safety, book signings and photo lines will likely not be possible in the coming months.

Also, with the loss of most of its March events, the store is asking for contributions to our non-profit arm, the Women's Voices Fund (CrossroadsFund.org/content/womens-voices-fund).

See WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.



National Museum of Mexican Art Trustee Marta Cerda, Evette Cardona and National Museum of Mexican Art President Carlos Tortolero at the 2019 Sor Juana Awards Luncheon.
Photo courtesy of museum



BOOK REVIEW

Ian McKellen: A Biography

Author: **Garry O'Connor**
\$29.99; St. Martin's Press;
356 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

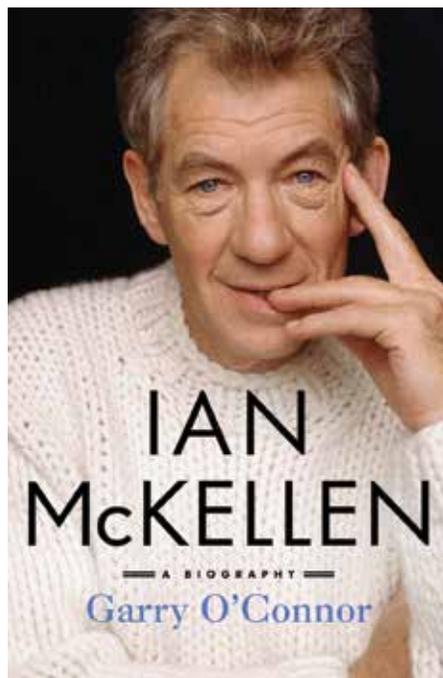
Any old stick would do.

When you were a child, that's what it took to become a wizard: a stick became a makeshift wand, an old towel turned into a cape, and you were ready for spell-making. It worked for imaginations everywhere although, as you'll see in Ian McKellen: A Biography, by Garry O'Connor, sometimes, reel magic helps, too.

On May 25, 1939, mere months before the beginning of World War II, Ian Murray McKellen made his debut into the world. The only son of parents who lived large, passionate lives, young McKellen grew up securely happy despite the War.

Alas, that ended when his beloved mother died of cancer when McKellen was just twelve years old. As years passed, he always regretted that she never knew about him what he knew about himself: he received his "first gay kiss" at age 9 and understood even then that he preferred boys to girls.

Although his original plan was to graduate school and work as a journalist, McKellen was denied the chance and instead opted to attend Cambridge. There, others noticed that he had a



great aptitude for Shakespearean acting; it was nurtured and a "most extraordinary explosion of talent happened." His time at Cambridge helped him sharpen his craft; it was also there that McKellen lost his virginity to another man.

O'Connor says that McKellen is "a slow-progress stickler" and never minded using "modest roles" as stepping stones; every role he played led to bigger parts on better-known stages in larger

venues. In 1964, he landed a small part in a BBC-TV production as his first foray into television, and he continued to eye a career in film—a career that "still eluded [him] until the late 1990s." At that time, he was able to transition from stage to screen, scoring a Tony, a Golden Globe, a SAG award and an Oscar nomination.

And then a "quick perusal of the Marvel comics ... caught his fancy."

For readers who are wild about Shakespeare, Ian McKellen: A Biography will be a delight. Those who are not to be, however, may find this book quite tedious.

O'Connor, who's known McKellen for decades, explains in his first chapter how this book came about, in opening words that are carefully off-the-cuff. That chumminess feels as if you're real-time eavesdropping on a semi-scripted conversation between two friends.

Get past the account of McKellen's early life, though, and much of the rest of this book is uber-deep into theater, with the occasional reminder of McKellen's gayness in the narrative. Serious followers of British stage performances will find the former to be irresistible and the latter to make one feel like a close backstage insider. Those who prefer McKellen's later work might find this all mildly interesting, but far too extra until toward the end.

And so there's the break-down: Theater fan, yes. You'll love Ian McKellen: A Biography. If you're a fan of McKellen's later movie career only, this book is okay if you can stick with it.

Want more? Then look for Ian McKellen: An Unofficial Biography, by Mark Barratt.

'Chicago Is A Drag Festival' on June 26

A Queer Pride's Chicago Is A Drag Festival (CIADF)—being promoted as the first-ever outdoor festival in Chicago that showcases an intersectional look into its drag culture and scene—is slated to take place Friday, June 26, at the Cheetah Gym parking lot, 5238 N. Clark St.

CIADF made its debut in June 2019 in commemoration of 50 years of Chicago Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The 2020 event will continue to expand its mission, featuring 20 political statements and 20 celebrations of cannabis.

Fifty early-bird tickets are available, and there's a \$25-per-ticket flash sale until Friday, Jan. 10. Visit Do312.com/chicagoisadrag#.



From last year's Chicago Is A Drag Festival. Joseph Stevens Photography

Non-binary author Jacob Tobia holds reading in A'ville

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

To celebrate the paperback release of their debut book, *Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story*, non-binary author, actor and producer Jacob Tobia held a reading and book-signing event March 5 at Women & Children First in Andersonville.

Tobia was named one of the Forbes 30 under 30 in 2018, and was an OUT 100 honoree in 2016. They voiced the non-binary character Double Trouble for Netflix's *She-Ra and The Princess of Power*, their writing has been featured in numerous publications and they were a Point Foundation scholar. Additionally, Showtime has optioned Tobia's book.

"Chicago has a special place in my queer heart," Tobia told the large crowd. "It is the first place that I learned I could shave my own head. It was the first place I got a proper queer lady undercut all the way around [my head]. That has stuck with me. My hair tingles when I come back here and it is not just from the cold."

Prior to reading from their book, Tobia read from a recent issue of *Lesbian Connection*—*Lesbians and Our Pets' Part Three Continued*—because the title of the section caught their eye earlier that evening.

Tobia said they call book readings story time because they want to get back in touch with their



Jacob Tobia.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

child-like self.

"I feel that so much of gender and the way we understand it is ingrained in us when we are so young," said Tobia. "I really do not feel like we can do the work of liberating ourselves from the gender binary of fully understanding and healing our gender-based trauma unless we access, celebrate and live in that child-like curiosity once again."

Tobia spoke about doing the audio recording of the book. They said the free audio sample Penguin Random House includes on their website, the first part of chapter one, "became the stand-in for the entire text."

This was the part of the book Tobia read from at the event. It chronicled how, as a child, Tobia had no shame about their gender.

Then Tobia read two other sections of their book before doing a brief Q&A and book signing. See JacobTobia.com.

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Sandy Duncan.
PR photo from
Heron Agency



NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Sandy Duncan shines in 'Middletown'

BY JERRY NUNN

From the producers of Menopause The Musical and Fiddler on the Roof, Dan Clancy's Middletown is a play about human connection. For the Chicago run of the show, the two couples are played on-stage at The Apollo Theatre by Sandy Duncan, Donny Most, Adrian Zmed and Kate Buddeke.

Many will remember Duncan on the Broadway revival of Peter Pan and on television for The Hogan Family. She is a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated performer with a wide range of shows. Taylorville, Illinois even named a street, Sandy Duncan Drive, in her honor based on her character from Taylorville in Funny Face and The Sandy Duncan Show.

Duncan reflected on her lengthy career on her birthday in a new interview.

Windy City Times: When was the last time you have been to Chicago?

Sandy Duncan: I haven't been there since I did The King and I in 2004.

WCT: The other cast members of Middletown told me that you are the new kid on the block for this production.

SD: Yes, the new kid on the block, with two days rehearsal. My brain cells, at 74, make it hard to think. I have been enjoying it because the other three people in these roles are the sweetest people I think I've ever worked with. They are supportive and have led me along. They have been encouraging me. It certainly seems genuine! [Laughs]

WCT: Talk about your role in Middletown.

SD: Peg is that woman that does things in all the right ways. She is everyone's crutch that they lean on. She has so many things happening to her over her lifetime, that she wonders how she stands up. The emotional arc of this character is heartbreaking and it sucks! [laughs] By the end I need a drink and I'm tired. The whole play is very fast paced.

I had no idea what this play was when they asked me to do it. I read it and found it touching. I didn't know how they would stage it in an unusual form. That in itself was enough to try it.

We have been doing a renovation on our home. We live on the water, and it's a hurricane area. We had to raise the house 10 feet. I was just happy to get out of that for a while!

WCT: Where do you live?

SD: We live in Connecticut. They get hit very often with hurricanes.

WCT: In Middletown there's not much blocking. The lines are read at a podium?

SD: Yes, at a podium. There are cues that I have managed to mess up on at least two times at every show. There is some movement back and forth, but it's primarily talking to each other and the audience. The audience is essentially a character. They are included in the dialogue. It is a bit like Love Letters, but elevated to some new form where the people do interact with each other. You know about Love Letters, right?

WCT: I read about Love Letters and saw Carol Burnett did the play.

SD: She did it at one point. Everyone you can think of has done it. I've done it four times. It's such a beautiful play. You don't move and stay at a desk.

Middletown is a little more complicated than that. Emotionally it's demanding. If you have ever had any relationship in life, you can relate to it.

WCT: How about LGBT relationships?

SD: My son in the play is gay. There's a really lovely scene in the play between Don Most and Adrian Zmed about accepting that our son is gay. It is solved in a sweet way that I wish everyone could be like if they find out their son is gay. They are completely accepting and loving.

It moves to a more developed relationship as the play goes on. He becomes my go-to guy.

WCT: You must have had many gay friends over the years.

SD: Yes, I have, and my son is gay.

WCT: You have always reminded me of my aunt, with your haircut. It's her birthday today.

SD: It's my birthday today, too! Tell her that I don't have that haircut now. I'm letting my hair grow.

WCT: Did you see the recent FX miniseries Fosse/Verdon?

SD: I thought the production was great. Michelle Williams was terrific. I loved Sam Rockwell

as an actor.

One thing is, they didn't hit on the qualities of Bob that made him so irresistible to people—women in particular. They didn't show his playful humor in this interpretation of him. He was very serious all the time in this version. That was not who Bob was.

WCT: How was being in Finding Neverland after being in Peter Pan?

SD: Not good. The thing they do with shows now is they rehearse four or five days. If you are a replacement, you come in the room with the stage manager and never leave that room. When you go to rehearsal you are inundated with notes that you haven't had time to rehearse and you haven't even rehearsed with performers from the show yet. I left and said, "I can't do this." I apologized to the cast, most of whom I hadn't even met. There was a strong standby that did the role. I have never missed a show my entire life. To do that, was a big deal.

WCT: Is there one musical you would want to do, but haven't?

SD: No; I don't think that way. I either do what is presented or not. With musicals, I have been a dancer my entire life. I used to do a split leap in the air and not think a thing about it. I was in the kitchen the other day with my husband and he wanted me to jump in his arms, but I couldn't get off the ground. Those days are over!

WCT: Favorite musical that you were in?

SD: Carousel. I played Louise Bigelow, the ballet role in it. It was for choreographer Agnes de Mille and one of the first things I did when I got to New York. Agnes was a taskmaster. Having that fulfillment in my work after accomplishing it was a big deal at 22 years old.

I also like doing the musical Chicago.

WCT: If you can be remembered for one thing in your career, what would it be?

SD: Peter Pan. It changed my life!

Take a trip to Middletown for \$65 at The Apollo Theatre, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave. (The Apollo is limiting the number of tickets sold to less than 200 per show for all remaining performances through March 22.) Tickets can be found at ApolloChicago.com or 773-935-6100.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remainder of the run of the show has been cancelled.

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Adrian Zmed and Sandy Duncan in Middletown. PR photo

LGBT nightclubs prepare for weeks-long closings

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago-area nightclubs and restaurants, along with all food-and-beverage hospitality businesses in Illinois, received the order from state authorities the afternoon of March 15 to cease operations at the close of business the following day.

The mandate came as Gov. JB Pritzker and state authorities work on a response to the coronavirus crisis. Bars and restaurants will remain closed at least through March 30.

Pritzker and other officials expressed dismay that several bars throughout the city and state were busy the weekend of March 13-15, as numerous patrons seemingly ignored warnings to stay away from crowds. Prior to Pritzker's announcement, several Chicago bars posted to social media that they were taking extra steps

to ensure a safe experience for patrons. Nevertheless, by the end of the weekend, all were faced with the prospect of at least two weeks without revenue.

Management of Sidetrack announced March 16, "Sidetrack has always served a community that was forged from the strength of overcoming adversity. Now, more than ever, we remember those who came before us and worked so hard for our benefit. We are confident that this too will make us stronger on the other side. We are now closed through March 30, but we will continue to communicate via our website and social media platforms."

Jackhammer posted to Facebook March 16: "Jackhammer will be closed after last call tonight and will remain closed until at least March 30, as directed by the state. We cannot wait to see you when we reopen. Thank you for all of your support."

Staff at Jackhammer's neighbor, Touche, posted, "As you may have heard, Governor JB Pritzker has ordered all bars and restaurants to close Monday, March 16 at the end of the business day until March 30."

"So today is Last Call!"

"We look forward to welcoming you back to Roscoe's in the near future," said that bar's owners.

In response to the closing, Hydrate announced a "virtual dance floor" Saturday, March 21, adding, "DJ Joe Gauthreaux spinning live, chatting online, taking requests, and bringing positive energy into our lives. ... We invite you to follow in the history of our community coming together in music and supporting those in need."

According to the announcement, proceeds from the online event will go to Hydrate staff. Scarlet owners similarly said that Monster RAVE! Performances would be streamed live on Instagram, and encouraged patrons to tip performers via PayPal and Venmo.

Management at The Call similarly asked the community to remember its staff: "Support local businesses, Venmo your bartenders and entertainers. In these times, neighborhood and community support is greatly appreciated."



BILLY
Masters

"You're full of shit. I support the Second Amendment. I'm not taking your gun away. I did not say that."—**Joe Biden** responds to a worker at an automobile plant in Detroit who accused him of "actively trying to end our Second Amendment right and take away our guns." Biden also talked about what firearms he has. Sure doesn't seem sleepy to me.

I, Billy Masters, being of exceptionally sound mind and on the brink of single-digit body fat, do solemnly declare this to be my last column and testament. Unless I survive my surgery, in which case I shall return next week. Or, if—as I've always suspected—I am really Jesus Christ, in which case I will return in three days.

Wherever I end up, Lord, please don't let me bump into **Ronan Satchel Allen O'Sullivan Sinatra Farrow**. I was willing to give that smug piece of work a pass due to him exposing Harvey Weinstein and others. But last week, Ronan crossed the line. As you know, Ronan is estranged from one of his many possible fathers, **Woody Allen**, over abuse claims from his sister Dylan—claims, I should add, that were never substantiated, despite at least five investigations. Woody wrote a memoir, *Apropos of Nothing*, which was to be published in April by Hachette Book Group. Plans changed once Ronan got wind of them. You see, Hachette also published Ronan's book, *Catch and Kill*. Ronan stated that because of their relationship with Allen, he was severing ties with the company. In expressing his outrage, Ronan tweeted (in part): "Hachette did not fact check the Woody Allen book. My sister Dylan has never been contacted to respond to any denial or mis-



Billy does not approve of Ronan Farrow's (above) part in the squelching of Woody Allen's memoir.

Photo by Dia Dipasupil & Getty Images

characterization of the abuse she suffered at the hands of Woody Allen." This begs the question—was Woody ever contacted to respond to the allegations Mia made in her memoir? Because I don't think that's how memoirs work.

A hatchet job was quickly waged on Woody, and Ronan was at the very least the catalyst for a Hachette employee walkout. In short order, Hachette shelved the book and terminated its relationship with Woody. Why? Well, Ronan is a star on the rise and is taking a victory lap due to the Weinstein conviction. If this were simply one person against another, I might not bat an eye (assuming I still have eye activity). But in this case, the troublesome irony for me is that the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and public service is trying to squelch someone from telling their story. Clearly censorship on any level is loathsome—especially from someone whose profession is uncovering the

truth. Stephen King tweeted, "The Hachette decision to drop the Woody Allen book makes me very uneasy. It's not him; I don't give a damn about Mr. Allen. It's who gets muzzled next that worries me." You'd think that would worry Ronan, as well.

Perhaps I'll bump into Corey Haim in the hereafter and get to the bottom of another story. In the documentary *(My) Truth: The Rape of Two Coreys*, Corey Feldman claims that Charlie Sheen raped Corey Haim. Of course, this is not a new allegation. However, it is the first time Feldman has gone public. He claims that the sexual assault took place when Haim was 13 on the set of the film *Lucas*. (At the time, Sheen was 19.) The living Corey says that Haim told him, "Charlie bent me over in between two trailers and put Crisco oil on my butt and raped me in broad daylight. Anybody could have walked by. Anybody could have seen it." And yet, it doesn't appear that anybody did. Sheen has fought back, saying, "These sick, twisted and outlandish allegations never occurred. Period." Also coming forward is Haim's mother, Judy, who says, "My son never mentioned Charlie. We never talked about Charlie. It was all made up. If my son was here to hear all of this, he would throw up."

Broadway may not be dead, but it is in a medically induced coma. Gov. Andrew Cuomo suspended all shows on the Great White Way for at least a month. Insiders calculate this will cost roughly \$100 million. Many shows will not survive the hiatus, and the entire industry could be at risk.

Someone who I may bump into is **Mart Crowley**. The author of *The Boys in the Band* died last week at 84. While he lived long enough to see his seminal play make its Broadway debut last year, he did not get to see the Netflix adaptation, which is scheduled to come out this summer.

Oh, no: A bright light is beckoning me. I fear this is it. But, wait—a voice just said, "Billy, you're not finished." What does that mean? "Come back—I will finish you off." My God—it's **Aaron Carter**! Why is he reaching out to me? And what is that goop on his hand? Is it hand sanitizer? I sniff it—is this what Gwyneth Paltrow's vagina smells like? Oh, no ... it's slippery! And he's using it on ... his OnlyFans website. That flickering light isn't the great beyond—it's a candy striper using his tablet in post-op! And to think, I came

back from the brink of death to see Aaron Carter's naughty bits! And he's charging \$125? You can see him for far less on BillyMasters.com.

Someone else just joined OnlyFans, and he's certainly getting the blood pumping to my nether regions. It's **Chad Johnson**—the psychopathic stud from *The Bachelorette*. Of course, that's just my opinion; I'm no doctor. But I'd be happy to play doctor with Chad ... although I'd have my finger on the 911 speed dial, just in case. Like Aaron, you can get a gander at Chad's Johnson on our website.

When my life is depending on Aaron Carter and Chad Johnson, it's time to end yet another column. The question remains—am I live or am I Memorex? The only way to know for sure is to check out BillyMasters.com—the site that endures no matter what. You could also try sending an e-mail to Billy@BillyMasters.com. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Labriola; COVID-19 hotline

BY ANDREW DAVIS

[Note: With the COVID-19 outbreak, Illinois restaurants and bars have been ordered closed through Monday, March 30. However, this article is being run to acknowledge the work of the staff involved, and in the hope that healthy readers will consider patronizing this spot once the ban has been lifted.]

In a city known for its deep-dish pizza, **Labriola** (535 N. Michigan Ave.; LabriolaCafe.com) may have set a new standard.

The five-year-old casual Italian spot (as well as the suburban La Barra restaurants) marked National Pizza Day (Feb. 9) by adding a unique



Labriola's white deep-dish pizza.

PR photo

pie: the white deep-dish pizza. This 14-inch version of this pizza (\$35) has bechamel Sauce, chicken, bacon, caramelized onions—and two pounds (!) of cheese. (The best part may be the caramelized cheese on the edge, called “fricka.”)

My dinner companion and I could only eat one slice each, as they're thick and very rich. They were also undeniably delicious.

However, Labriola and La Barra offer far more than this soon-to-be classic pizza. Shareable small-plate dishes include grilled asparagus with fried egg, pecorino and extra virgin olive oil (that my friend really enjoyed); Prince Edward Island mussels; and toasted ravioli “nachos.” I found the arugula (with truffle honey, goat cheese, pears, black pepper and lemon vinaigrette) absolutely sublime, and it's just one of several salad options that includes a Sicilian seafood version. Of course, there are loads of housemade pizzas, divided into categories such as artisan, thin-crust, deep-dish and DIY) as well as entrees like filet sliders, Italian pepper steak, chicken Vesuvio and seared salmon. And don't forget luscious dessert offerings like the cheesecake. (Also, Labriola has weekend brunch with pepper-and-egg sandwiches, Italian skillet, blueberry pancakes and other tempting items.)

By the way, here's a little backstory on Labriola. Rich Labriola (who also owns a dozen's Stan's Donuts stores, including the one next door) started the whole empire in 1993 with The Labriola Baking Company, with it eventually sold to J&J Snack Foods in 2017. Thankfully, he

decided to expand into the restaurant business.

With the white deep-dish pizza, Labriola continues its tradition of outstanding Italian cuisine.

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

Chef sets up COVID-19 cooking hotline

James Beard Award-winning chef Sarah Stegner has opened a hotline to help people with cooking tips during the COVID-19 crisis.

“We realize that many people need help and we want to offer our assistance by providing information and answering cooking questions,” Stegner, who is the chef at Northbrook's Prairie Grass Cafe, said in a statement. The telephone number for questions is 847-920-8437.

Stegner will be available daily at 2-4 p.m. CT.



BEHIND THE NAME

“I chose Khloé because I was (and still am) and huge fan of Khloe Kardashian. When people ask why i don't have a last name I like to say 'Cher, Jesus, Madonna, Khloe—one name sensations.’”

MY MUSE

“I don't have just one muse. I am constantly looking up to the ones who have come before me and those that I work with currently. To name a few that I am constantly inspired by: Serena Fierce, Mimi Marks, Naysha Lopez and Ruff N' Stuff.”

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT ...

“... I'm adopted and one day can't wait to have kids of my own! Other than drag, I work for a major hospital network in Chicago.”

GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY A CROWD

“One of my favorite songs currently to perform is 'Rescue Me' by Alex Newell— I love how it is a throwback song with a new vibe and upbeat. But anything Celine Dion is going to be up there in my favorites.”

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

“I am a cast member at Hydrate Nightclub— I host BoomBox every Thursday where you can catch throwback songs from '90s and '00s. I'm also at Beauties and Beaus on random Fridays and Saturdays each month, and every third Saturday of the month I have a brunch show at Joy District.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @KhloeChicago

Facebook: www.facebook.com/khloechicago

Twitter: www.twitter.com/KhloeChicago



MR. LEATHER 64TEN
Congratulations to T. Wayne Maples, chosen at Jackhammer to represent Leather 64TEN at this year's IML.

Joseph Stevens Photography





Madeleine Albright.
Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Chicago Humanities announces theme

The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) announced its annual theme—"Vision"—bringing together leaders from politics, arts, sciences and beyond who challenge people to see the world differently.

The festival will kick off Sunday, April 19, with Veronica Roth, the New York Times best-selling author of the Divergent series, and physicist Brian Greene. Events will continue through the spring with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Wed., April 29; beat artist Makaya McCraven featured during another full day of programming in Hyde Park on Sunday, May 3; and singer-songwriter Tori Amos on Wed., May 6, at the Vic.

Tickets go on sale to CHF members Wed., March 18, at 10 a.m.; and to the general public on Tuesday, March 24, at 10 a.m. See ChicagoHumanities.org to see if the events are still taking place during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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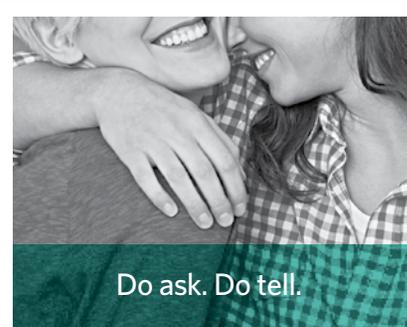
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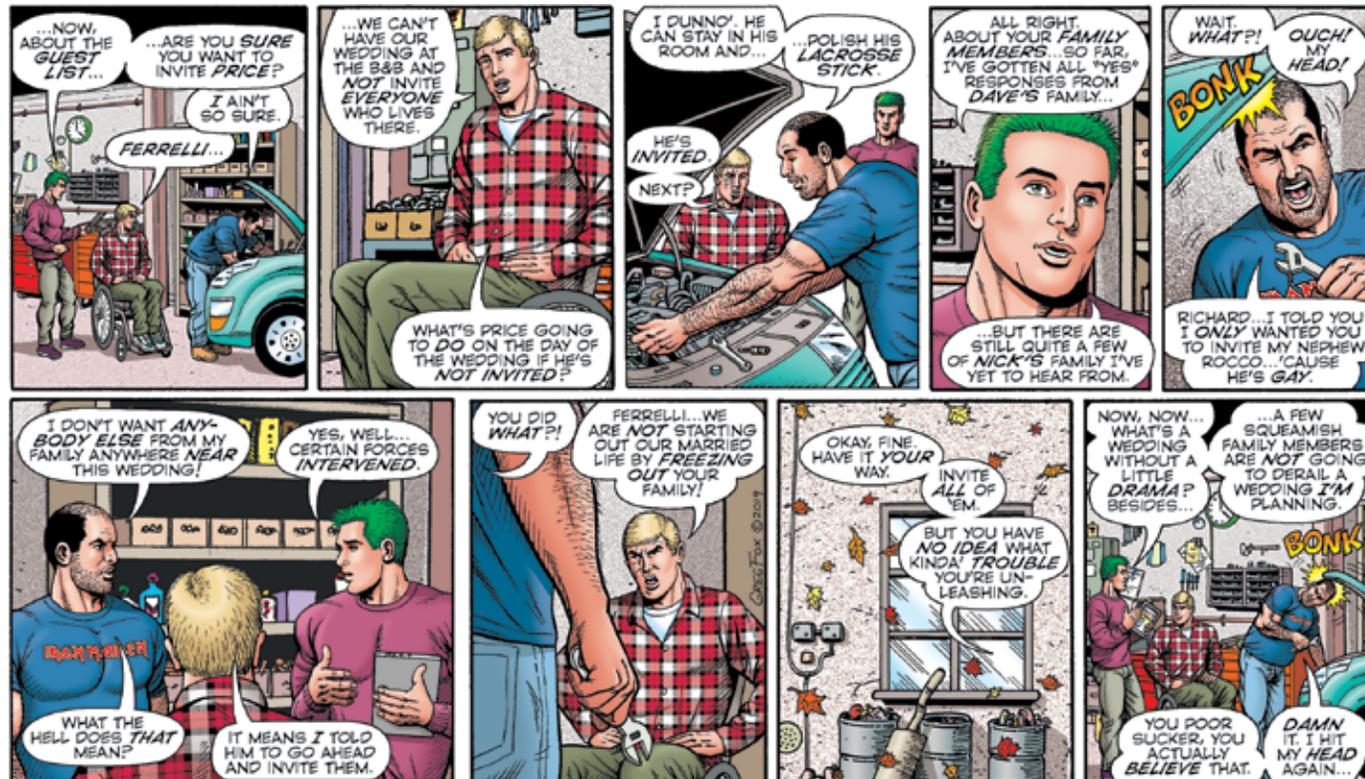
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WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

[NOTE: Events may not occur because of compliance with guidelines connected with the COVID-19 outbreak. Please contact the venue if interested in a particular event to see if an event is still scheduled.]

Sunday, March 22

Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association Meeting OPALGA meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3:00pm - 5:00pm First United Church of Oak Park 848 Lake St. Oak Park, IL 60301 <https://opalga.org>

Thursday, April 2

Am I Man Enough? Stories on Toxic Masculinity Hosted by Ada Cheng in collaboration with Anti-Violence Project to raise awareness about April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Integrating personal narrative with social critique. Pre-show reception starting 6:30 p.m. Questions to sj.ada.cheng@gmail.com v 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://centeronhalsted.org/ada-cheng.html>

Style of Sound Spring Fashion Show A celebration of diversity themed "Beauty is IN BLOOM for All Seasons," a preview of the season's hottest looks. Opening act by Chicago top high-end boutique stores and Jewelry from CEEM, with a live guitar performance by talented local music curator Drew Weikart. Hosted pre-show reception 7 p.m. RSVP for free tickets at link. 9:00pm Celeste



HAVING A BOWL Saturday, April 4

The Dick Uyvari Memorial Celebrity Bowl (to benefit the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) is slated to take place.

Photo of Uyvari by Ross Forman

and Disco River North, 111 W. Hubbard St. Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/style-of-sound-fashion-show-beauty-is-in-bloom-for-all-seasons-tickets-97266664211>

Saturday, April 4

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame bowling fundraiser Annual fundraising event—the Dick Uyvari Memorial Celebrity Bowl. Bowlers have been gathering pledges and all monies raised will be used to help support the work of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Uyvari was a Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame member, community activist, philanthropist. Registration 10 a.m. See "The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame" on Facebook. 10:00am Waveland Bowl 3700 N Western Chicago <http://ChicagoLGBTHallOfFame.org>

Saturday, April 11

LGBTQ Family Playdates Calling all LGBTQ families! Bring your children (1 - 8 years of age) for a fun, engaging Saturday morning play date. Meet, network, socialize, and enjoy time together in a safe, fun environment. Second Saturdays of the month. Questions to jholliman@centeronhalsted.org 9:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Wed., April 15

2020 Clarence Darrow Symposium Focusing on the Right of Revolution speech Darrow made 125 years ago in Chicago, Scot Duff will perform an extensive reading of Darrow's speech, and Steven Ramirez, the Abner J. Mikva Professor of Law, and Director of the Business Law Center at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, will speak, relating Darrow's historic speech to our contemporary world, focusing on issues of income inequality, corporate power, and social justice. 6:00pm Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago, 16 E. Pearson, Room 1001, Chicago, 773-387-2394 <http://www.darrowbridge.org>



WINDY CITY TIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

Windy City Times is distributing this edition via our wonderful delivery crew, but only to open locations around the city, and our boxes. It is also available as a PDF download on the top right of our website, www.windycitymediagroup.com, and past issues are under the archives section.

It is almost certain the city will create stronger social distancing rules that will limit our ability to deliver a physical copy of the paper soon, so upcoming issues may just be online.

If we are forced to shut down print because we need to obey orders and protect our team, our full PDF will be available to replace the print for now.

Windy City Times will be facing a difficult economic situation with the loss of advertising. Help us pay our team by donating to <http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate1.php>

— WINDY CITY TIMES

'The Boys in the Band' writer Crowley dead at 84

Mart Crowley—best known for writing the '60s seminal play *The Boys in the Band*, about a group of gay friends at a birthday party—died March 8 at age 84, media reports stated.

Writer Michael Musto broke the news, tweeting, "RIP, Mart Crowley, author of the groundbreaking gay play *The Boys in the Band*. He was Natalie Wood's assistant and told me she encouraged him to write the play."

The Boys in the Band, Crowley's first play, opened off-Broadway in 1968. He wrote the screenplay and produced the film version, which Academy Award winner William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*) directed.

According to *Broadway World*, among Crowley's other plays were *A Breeze from the Gulf* (1973) and *The Men from the Boys* (2002), a sequel to *The Boys in the Band*. He was also the producer/co-writer of the ABC TV series *Hart to Hart* for several years.

Locally, *The Boys in the Band* is currently running at the Windy City Playhouse through April 19. Carl Menninger—associate artistic director of Windy City Playhouse and director of the production—sent a statement to Windy City Times saying, "We are truly saddened by the passing of Mart Crowley. While none of us knew him personally, we feel we have a relationship with this tremen-

dously gifted writer through his work. *The Boys in the Band* is an honest profile of the lives of many urban gay men in the 1960s. Not only is it a landmark play in the LGBTQ+ cannon but it is also an important American play. Writing and bringing it to the stage was an act of bravery during an era when even *Time Magazine* wrote that 'Homosexuality is a pathetic little second-rate substitute for reality, a pitiable flight from life.'

"Along with other brave people, Crowley helped pave the way for the LGBTQ+ movement. We are proud to present his work as an historic depiction of gay life in the 1960s. The play still invites people to reflect on the LGBTQ+ issues that we still struggle with as a society. *The Boys in the Band* has stood the test of time and that is the true sign of a gifted author. The best way to celebrate any playwrights legacy is to present their work. We consider it a privilege to share his play with our audiences."

Melissa Villasenor at The Den in July

Saturday Night Live's Melissa Villasenor will bring her stand-up tour to The Den Theatre for five performances on July 9-11 on The Den's Heath Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Villasenor broke barriers by becoming the first-ever Latina cast member of *Saturday Night Live*. A comedic impressions expert,

she got her start as a semifinalist on *America's Got Talent*. Villasenor has voiced characters for *Wreck It Ralph 2*, *Cartoon Network's OK K.O.!*, *Fox's American Dad* and *Family Guy*. She tours nationally headlining clubs and theaters. She will release her second music EP later this year, as well as a book of her art.

Tickets (\$25-\$40 each) are currently available at TheDenTheatre.com, in person at The Den box office or by calling 773-697-3830.



Melissa Villasenor.
Photo courtesy of WME

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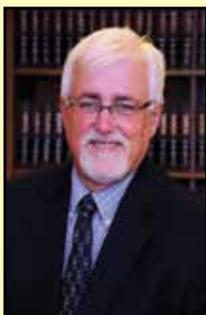
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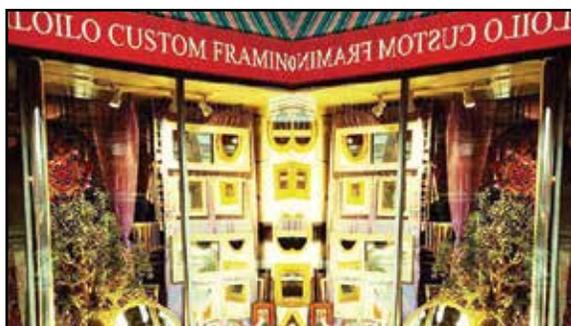


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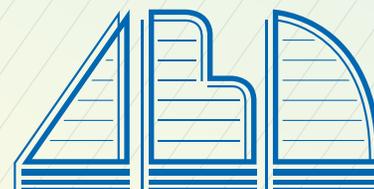
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