

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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## KEN ILO

Gay-marriage  
pioneer dies at  
63.

Photo of Ilio, left,  
and husband Ron  
Dorfman by Hal Baim



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## MODEL CITIZEN

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Photos courtesy of the couple



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## Lesbian couple together for 50 years

# TAKING A STAND

Talking with queer activist  
**Asha Ransby-Sporn**



Asha Ransby-Sporn.  
Photo by Texas Isaia

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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online exclusives at  
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## I'M COMING OUT

Marlo Reyes (left) writes about coming out to her mother as pansexual.  
 Photo courtesy of Reyes

## HOT STUFF



Dirty Birds Southern Kitchen chef James Sanders (above) talks about his spot's cuisine (which includes Nashville hot chicken) and his initiatives to help the public.  
 Photo courtesy of Dirty Birds

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**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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# Lurie announces overhaul of pediatric intersex surgery practices

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital announced July 28 that it will no longer perform irreversible genital surgical procedures on intersex patients until patients can participate in making the decision.

The surgeries have long been controversial, and have raised the ire of activists and others. Lurie has been the focus of that anger and was the site of several protests.

"Lurie Children's shares a commitment to support and advocate for the intersex community within our walls and the larger community," said hospital officials. "We recognize the painful history and complex emotions associated with intersex surgery and how, for many years, the medical field has failed these children. Historically care for individuals with intersex traits included an emphasis on early genital surgery to make genitalia appear more typically male or female. As the medical field has advanced, and understanding has grown, we now know this approach was harmful and wrong. Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and our Sex Development Clinic recognizes this truth. We empathize with intersex individuals who were harmed by the treatment that they received according to the historic standard of care and we apologize and are truly sorry."

Lurie's statement said the hospital's physicians would not be performing irreversible genital surgery on infants who are intersex, unless deemed medically necessary, nor would they do so in the immediate future for patients with congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). Officials added that a clitoroplasty had not been performed at Lurie in the past five years.

According to the Lurie statement, "Over the next six months, we will carefully and critically evaluate whether the same policy requiring assent/consent from intersex and CAH patients should apply. To answer this complex question, Lurie Children's will hire an individual with CAH and/or an intersex person to help us convene a diverse group of stakeholders, including LGBTQ+ individuals, CAH and intersex patients and community members, families, medical ethicists and clinicians to investigate the ethics of CAH surgeries in infancy. This group will outline its findings in a white paper and/or report which will guide our future practices related to surgeries on CAH patients."

Signatories on the statement included Lurie President and CEO Dr. Thomas Shanley; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Derek Wheeler; Urology Division Head and Reconstructive Pediatric Urology Co-Head Dr. Earl Cheng; and Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Division Head Dr. Robert Garofalo.

ACLU of Illinois released a statement praising the change: "We welcome Lurie Children's Hospi-

tal's announcement that it is suspending medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children," said Ed Yohnka, the organization's director of communications and public policy. "Lurie's recognition of the real harm done to intersex people by these surgeries is significant. This change comes after years of advocacy by people who are intersex and family members and allies, including by Pidgeon Pagonis, Sean Saifa Wall and interACT.

"We congratulate these advocates for their hard-fought victory and are proud to have played a supporting role in this effort. The policy recognizes and honors those who have been directly harmed by these surgeries. We are pleased that Lurie is taking steps to recognize that Intersex bodies are not broken and has finally changed this harmful policy."

Openly LGBTQ members of the Illinois House of Representatives also issued praise.

"We thank the professionals at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for the thoughtful, careful



Attendee at intersex protest at Lurie Children's Hospital in 2017.

Photo by Vern Hester

manner in which they engaged in conversations leading to a change of policy related to care of intersex children," they said in a statement. "The policy reflects an evolving medical standard, as well as an evolving understanding about gender in our society. It is forward-thinking and reflects the very best of one of Chicago's premier medical institutions.

"We also applaud the advocates, including intersex people and their family members, who

have worked tirelessly with Lurie to make the change that caused this decision. The courage of advocates telling their own stories and sharing their real life experience was powerful and moving. And it brought real change. This is an inspiration for all of us, and will benefit generations of children to come."

Signatories on the July 29 statement included state Reps. Lamont Robinson, Yoni Pizer, Greg Harris, Kelly Cassidy and Sam Yingling.

## Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame announces 2020 inductees, virtual ceremony

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 to honor people and entities, nominated by the community, who have made significant contributions to the quality of life or well-being of the LGBT community in Chicago. The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 were selected from a slate of candidates submitted by Chicago's LGBT community. This year's individuals, organization, businesses and "Friends of the Community" (allies) inductees are as follows:

### Individual Nominees

**John Ademola Adewoye:** In recognition of his work in helping offer asylum and counseling to LGBT people from less welcoming environments such as Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe and for providing housing, connections and services to help them navigate their new world.

**Caprice Carthans:** In recognition for her work with many community agencies including AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, and Heartland Alliance as a transgender advocate.

**Dr. Raymond Crossman, PhD:** As the longest-serving LGBT university president in North America, Crossman helped pave the way for LGBT leaders in higher education.

**Jay Paul Deratany:** Recognized for his work as both a human rights lawyer providing volunteer legal services during the AIDS crisis and working with homeless youth and as a board member of Human Rights Watch, which provides support for international LGBT individuals fighting for their lives in countries that have the death penalty for the LGBT individuals.

**Ronald J. Ehemann:** For 40 years of activism in Chicago's LGBT community. In 1978 Ron Ehemann became one of Chicago's first openly gay attorneys, representing many of the city's bars and organizations. He co-founded Organization to Promote Equality Now (OPEN), Illinois' first gay/lesbian political action party as well as the Greater Chicago Gay & Lesbian Democrats.

**Denise Foy:** For her long history of service to Chicago's LGBT community. Beginning in 1993 when she served on the board of Horizons Community Services, fundraising to help establish The Center on Halsted. She now serves on the national board of SAGE providing advocacy and services for LGBT elders.

**Dalila Fridi:** For 30 years of tireless work to advance the rights of LGBT people in Chicago. She has served as a grassroots organizer supporting marriage equality and political candidates who fight for equal rights for the LGBT community. Dalila has also been an advocate for LGBT rights among Chicago's Muslim community advocating for the understanding of intersectionality between Islam and LGBT rights.

**Terry Gaskins:** For documenting life and activism in Chicago's LGBT community through her services as a photographer and a humanitarian for more than 20 years. She is probably best known as the staff photographer for Gay Chicago Magazine.

**Joel Drake Johnson (posthumous):** Was an award-winning, internationally produced Chicago playwright and teacher. He was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson award five times,

Emmy nominated and was a member of the Pen America Center.

**Steve Kulieke:** Honored for breaking barriers while covering and advancing the struggle for civil rights equal justice for Chicago's LGBT community. In the 1980s Kulieke gained recognition throughout the journalism world as the nation's first ever municipal press corps reporter representing an LGBT paper.

**Matt Stuczynski:** For his work in founding the Chicago chapter of GLSEN ( Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network ). He has been instrumental in LGBT visibility in schools throughout the Chicago area.

**Michelle Zacarias:** For more than a decade of work as a queer, disabled, Latina organizer, she has facilitated social justice, anti-oppression, and LGBT movement work as one of four founding members of the Trans Liberation Collective (TLC) a coalition that formed after the anti-transgender bathroom bills swept the nation in 2017.

In addition to recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals, the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame also honored one LGBT organization and two businesses as well as three allies, dubbed "Friends of the Community."

The organization and businesses inducted are:

**The Legacy Project:** An award-winning cultural and educational non-profit dedicated to researching and promoting the contributions LGBT people have made to world history and culture.

**Windy City Times:** Since its inception in 1985, under then publisher Jeff McCourt, through the current incarnation with publishers Tracy Baim and Terri Klinsky, Windy City Times

Turn to page 5

# Ken Ilio, one of the first gay men to marry in Illinois, dies at 63

Keneth Yerro Ilio—who became one of the first gay men to wed in Illinois when he married Ron Dorfman in December 2013—has died in Chicago. He was 63.

Windy City Times reported that on Dec. 16, 2013, Judge Sharon Coleman (from the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois) signed an order Dec. 16 that said same-sex couples wherein a partner faces a serious medical complication could marry ahead of the scheduled June 1, 2014, start date when marriage equality took effect in Illinois. (The case was argued by lawyers from Lambda Legal and ACLU Illinois, as well as the law firms of Kirkland & Ellis and Miller Shakman & Beem.)

At that time, other couples had already wed because of Coleman's determination, which was delivered orally Dec. 9. Elvie Jordan and Challis Gibbs were wed in their North Side home Dec. 12, while Dorfman and Ilio were married Dec. 13 in the chapel at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where Dorfman was being prepared for major heart surgery. Dorfman died Feb. 10, 2014, at age 73.

The orders were given less than two weeks after activist Vernita Gray and Patricia Ewert were the first same-sex couple in Illinois to marry. They were issued an emergency marriage license after a lawsuit was filed by Lambda Legal and the ACLU of Illinois.

Dorfman and Ilio had registered as domestic partners in Cook County shortly after County Clerk Orr instituted that program in 2003, but never bothered to file for Illinois civil-union status.

Ilio, a photographer who was raised in the Philippines and who studied various subjects (including veterinary medicine, in which he received a Ph.D.), was a contributor at Getty Images and



**Ken Ilio (right) and Ron Dorfman at their wedding reception in 2014.**

Photo by Hal Baim

the principal of Ken Ilio Associates. He was also a high-school biology teacher.

ACLU of Illinois LGBTQ & HIV Project Director John Knight said in a statement sent to Windy City Times, "Making the promise of the freedom to marry a reality for Ken and Ron before Illinois' marriage law had gone into affect given Ron's imminent passing was an important part of the movement in Illinois. It would have been cruel if this couple was denied the personal and emotional benefits of being married simply because of the effective date of the new law. Ken and Ron fought to end an unjust barrier before it was too late for them and others like them."

Survivors include two brothers, Dennis and Dominador Jr., as well a cousin, Jena, the Sun-Times noted.

—Andrew Davis

## HALL OF FAME from page 4

has functioned as Chicago's premiere news source for the LGBTQ community.

**Women & Children First Bookstore:** Since it opened in 1979, Women & Children First has been Chicago's premiere feminist independent bookstore.

"Friend of the Community" ally inductees include:

**Judy Baar Topinka (posthumous):** For her support of LGBT causes when it was politically risky for anyone, Democrat or Republican, to be associated with the movement. When the state's marriage equality bill was signed into law, Judy Baar Topinka was the only Republican speaker at the event.

**Brenetta Howell Barrett:** Honored for her work in the fight for civic and economic rights on Chicago's west side since the 1960s and for

her commitment to addressing homophobia and lack of access to resources in the community. She is notable for her inclusion of the LGBT community, standing up to homophobia in the black church.

**The National Museum of Mexican Art:** For the inclusivity of its mission since it opened its doors in 1987. The NMMA has made it possible for Latinx within a cultural context to celebrate their full identity. The programming at NMMA has always intentionally included LGBT artists and performers, programming and displays.

Due to restrictions caused by the Covid-19 crisis, this year's induction ceremony will be a virtual one, and will be webcast October 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in recognition of National LGBT History Month. Plans for the virtual induction ceremony are in progress now, more information on the induction ceremony will be released at a later date.

—From a press release

## Indiana report: Racial, anti-LGBTQ discrimination in ridesharing persist

Despite efforts by ridesharing companies to eliminate or reduce discrimination, research from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business finds that racial and LGBT bias persists.

Platforms such as Uber, Lyft and Via responded to drivers' biased behavior by removing information that could indicate a rider's gender and race from initial ride requests. However, researchers still found that biases against underrepresented groups and those who indicate support for the LGBT community continued to exist after drivers accepted a ride request—when the rider's picture would then be displayed.

"Our results confirm that bias at the ride request stage has been removed. However, after ride acceptance, racial and LGBT biases are persistent, while we found no evidence of gender biases," said Jorge Mejia, assistant professor of operations and decision technologies, in a statement. "We show that signaling support for a social cause—in our case, the [LGBTQ] community—can also impact service provision. Riders who show support for the LGBT community, regardless of race or gender, also experience significantly higher cancellation rates."

The article, "When Transparency Fails: Bias and Financial Incentives in Ridesharing Platforms," is published in Management Science. Mejia and co-author Chris Parker—assistant professor in the information technology and analytics department at American University, in Washington—are the authors.

## Study: Millions of LGBTQs could gain more protections after *Bostock* ruling

A new report by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law finds that millions of LGBT people could gain additional non-discrimination protections if courts interpret state laws consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County*.

In *Bostock*, the Court held that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Courts have often looked to Title VII case law when interpreting similar provisions in other federal and state laws that apply to housing, public accommodations, education and other areas.

Key findings of the study include that:

—Twenty-seven states have laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sex, but do not expressly cover both sexual orientation and gender identity. However, an additional 3.6 million LGBT employees would gain protections from employment discrimination under state laws if they are interpreted consistent with *Bostock*.

—Twenty-six states have laws that prohibit housing discrimination based on sex, but do not expressly cover both sexual orientation and gender identity. An additional 5.2 million LGBT adults would gain protections from housing discrimination under state laws if they are interpreted consistent with *Bostock*.

The full report is at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/state-nd-laws-after-bostock/>.

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# Asha Ransby-Sporn talks building on the anti-racism movement's legacy

BY ANGELIQUE SMITH

With anti-racism protests happening around the United States, in what some media outlets are saying is the largest movement in this country's history, demands to abolish the police have increasingly been a part of the rallying call.

Queer movement organizer Asha Ransby-Sporn—co-founder and previous national organizing co-chair for the Black Youth Project's activist organization, BYP 100—is no stranger to activism around abolition. She was instrumental in pressuring Columbia College to divest from private prisons and, in 2014, she addressed police brutality with the United Nations in Geneva as a part of the We Charge Genocide youth delegation. Currently working with the Black Abolitionist Network (BAN), we spoke with Ransby-Sporn about developing the framework to understand abolition and BAN's call to defund the Chicago Police Department.

**Windy City Times: What do you think it was about the killing of George Floyd and this particular moment in time that brought about the current protests we're seeing?**

Asha Ransby-Sporn: I think the conditions people are living under impact how we respond to events like this. We're a couple months into the pandemic, watching our government fail to take care of people in ways that would be in the best interest of the collective good. That laid the groundwork for people to then see that our economic system is literally letting people die in a pandemic in ways that are unnecessary. And yet, in the midst of all of this, the state still consistently kills Black people.

**WCT: As part of a campaign to defund the Chicago Police Department (CPD), you recently held mass resistance trainings?**

ARS: A group of us came together to form this Black Abolitionist Network and to seed the Defund CPD campaign. The decision for training started because all these people are still protesting in the streets, and we wanted to figure out how we can sustain this and support folks who are being introduced to, or finally stepping into, the idea of abolition. We trained about 500 people over the weekend and most of them committed to staying involved in the effort in some way.

**WCT: What are BAN's demands?**

ARS: The primary demand is that we want to defund the Chicago Police Department. They get 40 percent of our budget, [about] \$1.8 billion dollars, at the same time as Chicago mayors, from Lightfoot to Emanuel, have been saying there's no money for schools in Black neighborhoods, for mental healthcare, for housing, no money for any of these things that actually keep communities

well, whole and cared for. That's prioritizing this violent institution of policing over the lives and communities of Black, Brown and poor people in this city.

**WCT: There seem to be a lot of mixed messages out there, particularly around defunding versus abolition. I've heard people say that no one literally means abolishment when it comes to police, without understanding that defunding is one method to eventually get to abolishment.**

ARS: Transforming the way we see the world working is not an easy thing to do. Just to be clear, when we say abolish, we mean abolish. When we say defund, we mean defund. Folks have been working around these frameworks and organizing towards these things for a long time. It requires looking at the roots of the system. There's a direct line from runaway slave patrols to the police departments we have today. You can't look at that history and see any point where it transformed into anything other than a fundamentally anti-Black institution.

**WCT: How does one make the shift in thinking toward abolition?**

ARS: We like to point to the abolition movement of today as directly building on the legacy of abolishing slavery. And slavery is something abolitionists were told was too central of an institution to our economy, too central to how the social order works, and that it would be impossible to abolish. That's what people were told at that time and we're being told very similar things now when looking at the violent, anti-Black institutions of our current time—which are police and prisons.

**WCT: That makes sense.**

ARS: It is a powerful way to put things in historical perspective. Yes, it's hard to imagine uprooting something that is central to the way the world works, but if it's an oppressive thing, it's necessary that we do it and stretch ourselves to see what does make us feel safe, what does keep our communities well.

**WCT: What does that look like?**

ARS: The things that make communities safe are having resourced education, community programs, healthcare, mental health services, all those things existing in a way that is affirming to the people in the communities that they serve.

**WCT: In my own journey in learning about abolition, I often thought about how even neoliberal ideology tends to focus on individualism. Some might struggle with how we can accomplish this almost utopian society that would be needed for abolition to succeed. It would mean rethinking healthcare, guns, access to resources...**



Asha Ransby-Sporn.

Photo by Texas Isaiah

sponsibility of caring for one another. It creates a myth that there's someone who is going to swoop in when we know that isn't true for most people.

**WCT: How can we better look at abolition through a queer lens? Is it as simple as: we are only as safe as our most marginalized?**

ARS: Any analysis of abolition that doesn't specifically center Black feminism, but also queerness, is incomplete. Queer people of color experience police violence in intense ways, and trans people in particular experience extreme forms of this particular violence. Centering the people who get impacted is a part of painting it as a queer issue. Prisons and police exist to uphold this white, capitalist, heteronormative view of who is a deserving American citizen: straight, cis, middle- or upper-class white people with 2.5 kids and a white picket fence.

**WCT: Right.**

ARS: And to paint everybody who is further and further away from that as deviant, as criminal and as deserving of punishment... I understand my queerness as a liberation away from that. As a Black woman and as a queer person, I'm not striving to be towards this normative thing I know I'll never fully have access to. That's playing into the same logic of who is valuable and worthy.

**WCT: What can people do to help?**

ARS: Sign on to the Defund CPD list of demands at [bit.ly/DemandDefundCPD](http://bit.ly/DemandDefundCPD). Contact your alderpeople and demand that they defund the Chicago Police Department, that they support getting cops out of schools and support passing the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC). Donate to movement orgs and bail funds. It's super important that our movements are funded from the grassroots end. And I encourage anyone who sees themselves on the side of justice to create a regular practice of donating to particularly young, Black-led abolitionist organizations.

**People can follow Asha Ransby-Sporn on Twitter at @ashapoesis. Get more information on the campaign to Defund CPD at [bit.ly/DemandDefundCPD](http://bit.ly/DemandDefundCPD).**

**The Black Abolitionist Network (BAN) can be found on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/blackabolitionistnetwrk/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/blackabolitonist-network/>).**

## Lawsuit filed to restrain surge of federal agents

A coalition of #BlackLivesMatter organizations, legal workers and journalists aligned with a consortium of civil-rights lawyers to file a federal civil-rights lawsuit seeking to restrain President Trump's promised surge of federal law-enforcement agents in Chicago.

The suit seeks injunctive and declaratory relief from the federal court to stop the Trump administration from sending federal agents "to intimidate and falsely arrest civilians who are exercising their constitutional right to speak

and to assemble." It also seeks an injunction against the federal policy of arresting civilians preemptively and without probable cause.

Black Lives Matter Chicago, Black Abolitionist Network, Chicago Democratic Socialists of America, Good Kids/Mad City, #LetUsBreathe Collective, South Siders Organized for Unity and Liberation, National Lawyers Guild Chicago and First Defense Legal Aid filed the suit.

Activists at a July 23 press conference said that huge expenditures of local and federal resources on police agencies rather than housing, healthcare and education are the driving force behind violence in already over-policed cities like Chicago, and that more police will only worsen the problem.

# Teen LGBTQ+ activist aims to inspire with Be You Tiful Initiative

BY EMILY REILLY

Allison Frank is a 16-year-old lesbian activist from Lincolnshire's Stevenson High School who found her passion for activism and began the Be You Tiful Initiative. It all started when Frank was feeling overwhelmed in a makeup store.

"I felt so awkward myself asking for help and I was thinking, 'What if you're trans or nonbinary and you don't look like a stereotypical female person and you try to ask for help?' The people who work there are not prepared for that," Frank told Windy City Times.

Frank's mission is to help transgender and non-binary individuals who feel lost in the world of beauty. Be You Tiful provides a range of services from personal shopping, skincare, hair, makeup lessons and discreet binder shipping. Frank organized a team of seven volunteers who specialize in different areas of beauty.

"I made sure the people I chose specialized in a bunch of different things," said Frank. "I specialize in the match-making process, so I talk to the client personally and then I pair them up with the member I think will be able to help them the best. I also specialize in helping shop for makeup, helping to shop for clothes and doing makeup lessons."

The dream team includes both a licensed aesthetician and a licensed cosmetologist to assist with skincare, wigs and makeup. There's a place for everyone; clients might come to them knowing exactly what they want or not knowing where to start. The team will then find the right steps to take from there.

Be You Tiful also provides specialized help for those who haven't come out as LGBTQ+. This allows clients to feel confident in themselves, yet safe from being outed.

Frank read the heart-warming recommendation she received from her first client at Be You Tiful. The client was a transgender teenage girl; Frank helped her shop for makeup and clothes and gave her makeup lessons. The client described how helpful and kind Allison was, as well as how she didn't feel alone when she picked out clothes and makeup.

Beyond the clients, family members feel they can finally see their loved one live as their truest, most confident self. The mother of Frank's first client also wrote about the impact Be You Tiful



@windycitytimes



**Allison Frank.**

Photo by Sari P. Photography

had on both her daughter and herself.

"Allison is a true leader and visionary; we are so lucky to have Be You Tiful as a resource in our community," the mother wrote. "My 14-year-old [trans] female daughter came out last fall. I noticed there were so many holes in our social feminine etiquette and education. There were so many things I taught my [cisgender] older daughter along the way that I never taught my trans daughter. Allison and her dream team have been there to help us bridge the gap in a non-threatening and fun way."

Frank said she looks up to Rebekah Brusehoff, a transgender child activist who is best known for her viral image of her holding a sign that reads "I'm the scary transgender person the media warns you about."

"She's younger than I am, and I think seeing young people being able to make so much more of a difference is just amazing," said Frank.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, beauty lessons have been moved to Zoom and FaceTime conferences with team members. Personal shopping is still possible with safety precautions.

"Over Zoom, I think it's been pretty easy because a lot of our services don't require hands-on help," said Frank. "It would be a lot more helpful to be physically with someone when I'm doing a makeup lesson. But I'm counting my blessings and the fact that I'm even able to do it over Zoom and I don't have to wait to do it is amazing."

Frank has a detailed plan for her future; among those ideas, she wants to focus on helping others and continue to fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

"I hope to go to Purdue. I want to double-major in ASL deaf culture and psychology. I also want to minor in LGBTQ+ gender studies," she

Aug. 5, 2020

said. "I hope in the future to work maybe as a therapist or psychiatrist, maybe in a hospital setting, and will continue to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. I'm hoping by getting an education in it that I will have many more tools to be able to help people and be able to continue this project and help with others."

As for the organization, Frank said she hopes

to establish chapters in each state to make in-person services more accessible for clients. She also hopes to attend national conferences and present her organization to raise awareness for non-binary and trans erasure.

**Be You Tiful Initiative** updates regularly on its Instagram and a Facebook group @beyoutiful.initiative.

services in communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence and disinvestment.

Phases II and III, slated to begin next year, will continue the regional reinvestments and start the process of transferring DJJ's larger facilities to the DOC.

More information about the plan can be seen at <https://www2.illinois.gov/idjj/Pages/Transformation.aspx>.

## Pritzker announces new approach for juvenile justice

On July 31, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton announced the 21st Century Illinois Transformation Model—a new plan that aims to transform the state's juvenile-justice system over the next four years.

The model focuses on reducing the harm of incarceration by transitioning youth to small, regional residential centers; investing significantly in community wraparound support and intervention services for justice-involved youth; and increasing financial support for victim services in communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence.

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), in partnership with the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative, utilized decades of evidence from across the country, and within its own system, to create the plan.

Larger DJJ facilities will be repurposed for use by the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide additional space and prevent overcrowding in their facilities. Current DJJ staff will continue to work in the department or in similar roles at the DOC.

Phase I of the model marks the beginning of increased community investment in wrap-around support, intervention services and reentry programs for justice-involved youth. Additional investments are planned for victim

## Lightfoot announces \$6.2M for Together Now applicants

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced that the city is awarding \$6.2 million in grant allocations to the Together Now fund applicants.

The Together Now fund was launched last month—in partnership with Chicago Community Trust and One Chicago Fund—to provide assistance to small businesses and not-for-profits in Chicago that have experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to COVID-19, or have experienced damage from events of nationwide protests and unrest.

The city received more than 4,000 applications before the online application closed June 29. The city carefully reviewed each application to ensure it met city criteria, and grants for qualifying applicants were then selected through a lottery system.

For more information about the Together Now grants, visit [Chicago.gov/togethernow](https://Chicago.gov/togethernow) or [CCT.org/togethernow](https://CCT.org/togethernow).



Remembering

## Jason T. McVicker

(August 13, 1962 - October 13, 2016)

**Social worker and opera enthusiast  
His spirit will live in the hearts of all those he inspired.**

—Michael Worley,  
surviving spouse  
Lexington, KY

## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

#### BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

### ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

#### Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

#### BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://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 BIKTARVY.**

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Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

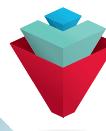
### GET MORE INFORMATION

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- ▶ Go to [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) for program information.



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D'EVA

LIVING WITH HIV SINCE 2009  
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See D'Eva's story at [BIKTARVY.com](https://BIKTARVY.com).

Featured patient compensated by Gilead.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://BIKTARVY.com).

 GILEAD

# Local lesbian couple celebrate 50 years together

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Alice Cozad and Linda Young met each other as freshmen at the University of Iowa they knew almost instantly that they would be together as a couple for the rest of their lives.

"The electricity went out in the basement of the dorm, where we lived during the 1970 fall session," said Cozad. "It was pitch-black and I grabbed onto Linda for dear life and would not let go. This was the beginning of our love story."

Since they did not know any other lesbians on campus, they read Dr. David Reuben's book, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex\* (\*But Were Afraid to Ask)*, to learn about themselves and their sexuality; in 1972, they also read Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's book *Les-*



**Alice Cozad and Linda Young at the University of Iowa.**

Photo courtesy of the couple

bian Woman, which made them feel better about themselves.

The couple discovered that, despite having very distinct personalities and growing up in different parts of Iowa—Cozad in Cedar Rapids and Young on farms that her great-grandparents bought in the 1800s—they shared a passion for social justice and the same political ideals.

Both were vice presidents of their counties' Young Democrats of America nonprofits while in high school. Additionally, Cozad led her first protest during her senior year in high school, right after the Kent State Massacre.

"I made hundreds of black felt armbands and got the students to walk out of class and up on 'the hill,'" said Cozad.

Right after their college graduation, Young went to work as a sports reporter for the Quad City Times working nights and weekends while Cozad taught at the prison school, Kinsman School.

"It was so easy, despite the circumstances, because I was able to use a rewards system where

they got privileges outside of class for being good in class and they mostly complied," said Cozad.

Young was hired right after Title IX was enacted because the paper was looking for a woman to cover what they called "girls' sports."

"They realized, though, that I knew the difference between a baseball and a football, so I was covering everything," said Young. "I was there for almost five years."

Those early years in the Quad Cities was when Cozad resumed her activism as a member of the local National Organization for Women (NOW) chapter.

"NOW gave me my political start," said Cozad. "We held consciousness raising sessions to enlighten women. Linda always made fun of me that when I made out the agenda, I wrote the word lunch in all capital letters. When I would try to tell her how to be politically aware, she would say lunch to get me off my high horse."

The couple made their way to Chicago in 1979, when Young got a job with the Chicago Tribune's suburban insert section covering high school sports. Cozad arrived right after the school year ended.

Cozad was hired as a special education teacher/vocational coordinator at East Leyden High School, in Franklin Park. She said it was rough teaching there because she got no support from anyone in the building and would be chastised by the principal anytime she was not wearing a skirt or dress. She quit at the end of the second year and was never an out lesbian to anyone in the building, except for a social worker she described as "very accepting."

The couple bought a house in Brookfield in 1981 and have lived there ever since. Cozad continued to volunteer with NOW running consciousness raising groups for a number of years.

Young expanded her sports coverage and later did general news stories for the Chicago Tribune until she retired in 2008. She also supported Cozad's activism from the sidelines.

Cozad's next job was at Richards High School, in Oak Lawn. According to Cozad, the pay cut she took was worth every penny because she was happier with the more relaxed vibe and dress code at the school. She later went to work at the Community High School District 218 office as the vocational coordinator until she retired in 2013.

When Cozad discovered that GLSEN was coming to Chicago she signed up and helped grow the organization. She counts awarding scholarships to students, helping them set up GSA's, organizing the first Gay Prom held at Harold Washington Library and sitting next to the now deceased Rep. John Lewis during one of the GLSEN lunches as highlights of her tenure there.

"That was one of the best hours of my life," said Cozad. "Rep. Lewis fought for LGBT people's equality as much as he did for Black civil rights because he truly believed that we all had to have equal rights for us to be a perfect country."

Getting married was never something they talked about but when the Iowa Supreme Court



**Alice Cozad and Linda Young at Young's family farm in Iowa.**

Photo courtesy of the couple

ruled in 2009 that the ban on same-sex marriages in Iowa was unconstitutional they decided to get hitched. The ceremony took place July 10, 2010.

"It was my idea to hold our ceremony in Daniels Park in Cedar Rapids across the street from Alice's childhood home," said Young. "We thought it would be a small ceremony but as we told people about our plans they said they wanted to attend. There were about 60 friends and family in attendance, including most of our nieces and nephews."

"Linda asked me to marry her and told me her Daniels Park idea and I loved it," said Cozad. "We



**Linda Young and Alice Cozad at Pikes Peak.**

Photo courtesy of the couple

wore tie-dye T-shirts to celebrate the fact that we should have been able to get married in the 1970s. Ten years later, we are still wearing our wedding outfits."

Among the guests were their youngest great-niece Cara Perez who was their flower girl. Their 11 year old great-nephew Nicholas Perez, who was a gymnast, walked them down the aisle on his hands while his four year old brother Sam Perez banged on cymbals in front of them.

"Alice and Linda's wedding was an occasion filled with joy," said Cozad's sister-in-law Marilyn Cozad. "One of the best memories was when Linda declared it was the happiest day in her life. It was wonderful to see their nieces and nephews take part in the ceremony and the joy that all the family and friends there shared for their union"

"My aunts have been in love since they were eighteen," said Perez who is now a 19-year-old activist. "I did not realize they were not legally married until they started talking about the ceremony. Their wedding was a beautiful, goofy representation of themselves. At the time, I was too young to understand what their wedding really meant, other than it being two people who love each other having the right to be married. I realize now that their wedding was a victory and a celebration of gay pride. My aunts, being of an older generation of gay women, have helped to pave the way for future generations and open doors for other members of the LGBTQ+ community simply by being in love with each other."

These days the couple is weathering the current COVID-19 pandemic and taking the necessary precautions due to their age. Cozad said they, and their neighbors, gather outside at 7 p.m. every night to pay tribute to the essential workers and then have dinner together while watching political shows.

Their message for everyone is "to vote so the United States can become a functioning democracy again."

# Chicago Foundation for Women virtually holds 2020 Impact Awards

BY EMILY REILLY

The Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) virtually held the 2020 Impact Awards on July 23. CFW President/CEO Felicia Davis hosted the event and awarded the honorees.

Davis began by explaining the importance of the Impact Awards: They uplift the good work of the awardees and acknowledge the changes happening because of their influence.

Wendy Pollack, who started the Women's Law and Policy Initiative at the Shriver Center, won the founders award. She gave a summary of her background and work that she's done for the Chicago women's carpenters, which became Chicago Women in Trades. She also spoke about her career in law, specifically litigation, and how she continuously works to improve federal and state laws and policies.

The Pioneer Award went to Christina Frasik, who spoke about her reason for co-founding Students for Reproductive Justice (SRJ), which addresses limited interpretations of healthcare at Loyola University.

"I would also like to acknowledge that reproductive justice is not optional, but a requirement of any work in the reproductive healthcare space," said Frasik. "Without this framework founded by Black and low-income individuals, your sole focus would lie with the erosion of access to abortion and contraception in the [United States]."

Neha Gill spoke about winning the Impact Award for her work toward gender equality at Apna Ghar, a human rights outreach organization. "I urge us all today to take very intentional steps toward gender injustice by examining the inequalities all around us in every sphere," said Gill.

Collette Payne spoke next upon winning the Impact Award for her work at the Visible Voices program for Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) and her work at Cabrini-Green Legal Aid. She spoke about how her own experience with incarceration inspired her to become an advocate for change.

Imani Rupert-Gordon received the Impact Award for her past role as the executive director Affinity Community Services, which facilitates



**The Chicago Foundation for Women's Impact Awards.**  
Screenshot by Emily Reilly

resources for LGBTQ+ individuals. Rupert-Gordon, who now heads the National Center for Lesbian Rights, spoke about how the criminal-justice system disproportionately affects Black and queer people, and how it needs to be examined.

"We need to be critical of the people that benefit from these systems, not from the people who are marginalized by them," said Rupert-Gordon.

Christian Snow received the Reverend Willie Tappin Barrow Emerging Leaders Award on behalf of

Assata's Daughter; that organization's work that has helped Black women and girls in Chicago regarding environmental and political advocacy.

The event ended with discussions about how the award winners' works have changed because of COVID-19, how their efforts have shifted because of the current social movement and how domestic violence has increased because of quarantining.

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## viewpoints



**Brian C.  
JOHNSON**

### In support of the fair tax

Passage of the fair tax will improve the lives of the state's LGBTQ community. As CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's civil rights organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer Illinoisans, I can attest that a more equitable income tax that funds a more financially sound state government will make our state stronger.

The fair tax will change the state constitution from our current unfair, outdated system that requires everyone to pay the same tax rate regardless of income, to one that allows lower tax rates for people with low and moderate incomes and higher tax rates for those with higher incomes. Under the fair tax, only those individuals making over \$250,000 annually will pay more, while at least 97 percent of

Illinoisans will see their taxes go down or stay the same.

Fundamentally, the fair tax is about equity. Twenty-five percent of LGBTQ Illinoisans live in poverty, compared to just 14 percent of straight Illinoisans. More of our poorest LGBTQ peoples' incomes go to survival than the wealthiest Illinoisans. They should not have to pay the same tax rate as Chicago billionaires, but that's exactly what our current tax system allows.

The fair tax is also about protecting our most vulnerable. The legacies of discrimination and stigma have left our community more reliant on a strong social safety net to thrive. Nationally, 22 percent of LGBTQ people rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) compared to 9 percent of non-LGBTQ people. Fourteen percent of trans U.S. residents rely on housing assistance, compared to 4 percent of cisgender U.S. residents. And 22 percent of LGBTQ Midwesterners rely on Medicaid compared to 13 percent of non-LGBTQ Midwesterners. Passing the fair tax can help shore up the services our most vulnerable stakeholders rely on.

Finally, the fair tax is about fiscal responsibility. The poverty and disparities experienced by LGBTQ

people have been greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, state revenues are also being stretched by the crisis. Without the fair tax, the state budget is facing even deeper cuts to critical programs or greater debts. The fair tax will enable us to take care of our most vulnerable without passing on bigger debts to our children.

Often, I will think of the transgender youth in Carbondale who told me during a listening tour visit that they would travel 300 miles one way just to access affirming healthcare at Howard Brown Health in Chicago. Youth are able to access the full range of trans-affirming health care services through Illinois Medicaid. But what if, because of the next fiscal crisis and service cuts, Medicaid is no longer financially solvent? How can we look our young people in the eye and tell them we are doing our best when we refuse to take care of them?

It all comes back to this question: How will the lives of Illinoisans, including LGBTQ Illinoisans, be better because of this work? Let's choose to advance justice and equity and live up to the values of Illinois. That's why Equality Illinois is supporting the fair tax. Let's make it a reality in November.

**Brian C. Johnson is CEO of Equality Illinois.**



**BILL  
HEALY**

### Cicero student finds his voice

When Jorge Martínez-Arevalo was in eighth grade, he was elected president of an LGBTQ+ after-school club at Unity Junior High School, in Cicero.

During his eighth-grade year, the club, which is known as NJAW (short for "Never Judge, Always Welcomed."), pushed the school district to be more inclusive of its gay and transgender students. Among other things, they screened a movie about gay teenagers who fall in love, held workshops about gender pronouns and petitioned the administration to respond to incidents of bullying with restorative justice.

Jorge gave his cell number to the group, and told his classmates they could text him with about any problems at school or at home. He said that people reached out to him at least once a day, mostly by text, saying things like, "Hi. I don't know what my sexuality is.. He did his best to talk his classmates through whatever they were experiencing.

"There were moments when I would be talking to someone and what they experienced was so heavy that it took everything in my power for me not to burst out crying," Jorge said. "I would always tell them: I am your ally. I am here to help you."

"As heavy as it was, I took confidentiality seriously, and I was willing to be their punching bag."

At home, Jorge decorated his bedroom with rainbow flags and queer posters. He listened to songs about coming out and about self-acceptance. But

Jorge never formally "came out." to his parents.

His mom, Elvira, and his dad, Nacor, both grew up in Mexico, and moved to the United States, where they met as adults. They've been married for 32 years and have five children together. Jorge, who is now 15 years old, is their fourth oldest child, and about to enter his sophomore year in high school. "Jorge's a good son," Elvira said. "Respectful. Very studious. A unique child."

Among friends, Jorge identifies as "queer," but he said the Spanish language doesn't have words that allow him to talk about his gender identity properly. "It's very masculine or feminine. There is no gray, you know, it's her or him."

Jorge's family moved to Cicero a little more than a decade ago, where LGBT issues are a mixed bag. In 1998, a student who is transgender was crowned Prom Queen at Morton East High School. But more recently, the Cicero Police Department settled a lawsuit with a woman who is transgender and claimed to have been illegally stopped and harassed by police.

Earlier this summer, Jorge decided he wanted to formally "come out." to his parents.

"I would like to make it official," he said, "because, if not, then you're left in this weird sea of ambiguity."

"In the past, I would help others just to avoid helping me, but I feel like I can't do that anymore. You know? How can you love others if you can't love yourself first?"

In June, Jorge found his opening.

He was sitting with his parents, watching television one evening, when a commercial came on about LGBTQ Pride month. Jorge's dad jokingly turned to him and said, "Is there anything you want to say to me?"

"The best thing I can compare it to is like going into a roller coaster line," Jorge said, "You hear all the screaming of other people. And then you just

need that final push to step on the platform, to go on the actual roller coaster."

Jorge told his parents: "I like boys and girls."

His mom said he seemed a little nervous when he told them. "Everyone can choose who they want to be with," she said. "I'm always going to be here for whatever he needs. The only thing that I'm a little confused about is whether it's something you're born with or something you grow up with."

"My mom straight up was like, 'Oh, I'm proud of you. You're my son,'" Jorge recalled. "But I sensed some disdain from my dad. And he kind of just took some minutes to himself and came back and said, 'Thank you for telling me.'"

"I felt discouraged, mad, angry," Jorge's father said, "but at the end, I gotta go along with it. What am I going to do? Kick him out of the house? I don't think so. ... I left my house when I was 15. It was real hard for me, being on the streets. I try to give him what I didn't have."

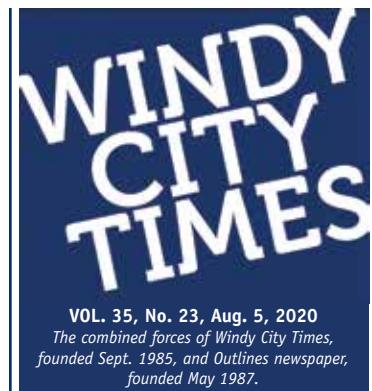
"I think that Jorge right now is still at a young age," his dad continued. "He's got to go through a lot of things still..."

Jorge said "coming out." to his parents was about being his authentic self. "You're putting a lot on the line, even if you know you'll be fine, even if you have a safety net. It's still a scary experience."

"I think the neighbors already knew 'cause he wears some kind of a weird shirt," Jorge's dad said. "I wear a very colorful track suit," Jorge shot back.

"¿Tienes novio? (Do you have a boyfriend?)." Nacor asked Jorge. "Not yet," Jorge responded, smiling. "¿Tienes novia? (Do you have a girlfriend?)." Nacor asked. Jorge smiled again. "Also not yet."

**Bill Healy is an independent journalist who produces StoryCorps for WBEZ and teaches documentary radio at Northwestern University.**



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MANAGING EDITOR Matt Simonette

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Kirk Williamson

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BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson

NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media,  
212-242-6863

THEATER AND DANCE EDITOR Catey Sullivan

SENIOR WRITERS Jonathan Abarbanel, Mary Sheen Barnidge, Charlise Dewey, Ross Forman, Carrie Maxwell, Rev. Irene Monroe, Jerry Nunn, Tony Peregrin, Angelique Smith, Sari Staver, Sarah Toce, Melissa Wasserman

WRITERS Sarah Katherine Bowden, Ada Cheng, Sheri Flanders, Joe Franco, Veronica Harrison, Kelsey Hoff, Aaron Hunt, Eric Karas, Brian Kirst, Paige Listerud, Billy Masters, Scott C. Morgan, Amelia Orozco, Ariel Parrella-Aureli, Kerry Reid, Dana Rudolph, Ana Serna, Karen Topham, Regina Victor, Sean Margaret Wagner, Lauren Warnecke, Steve Warren, Lauren Emily Whalen

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Hal Bain, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Vernon Hester

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright

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WEB HOSTING LoveYourWebsite.com (lead

programmer: Martie Marro)

PRESIDENT Tracy Bain

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

Editorial: andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

Sales: terri@windycitymediagroup.com

Calendar: calendar@windycitymediagroup.com

Circulation: jean@windycitymediagroup.com

Art/ad copy: kirk@windycitymediagroup.com

Theater: cateysullivan25@gmail.com

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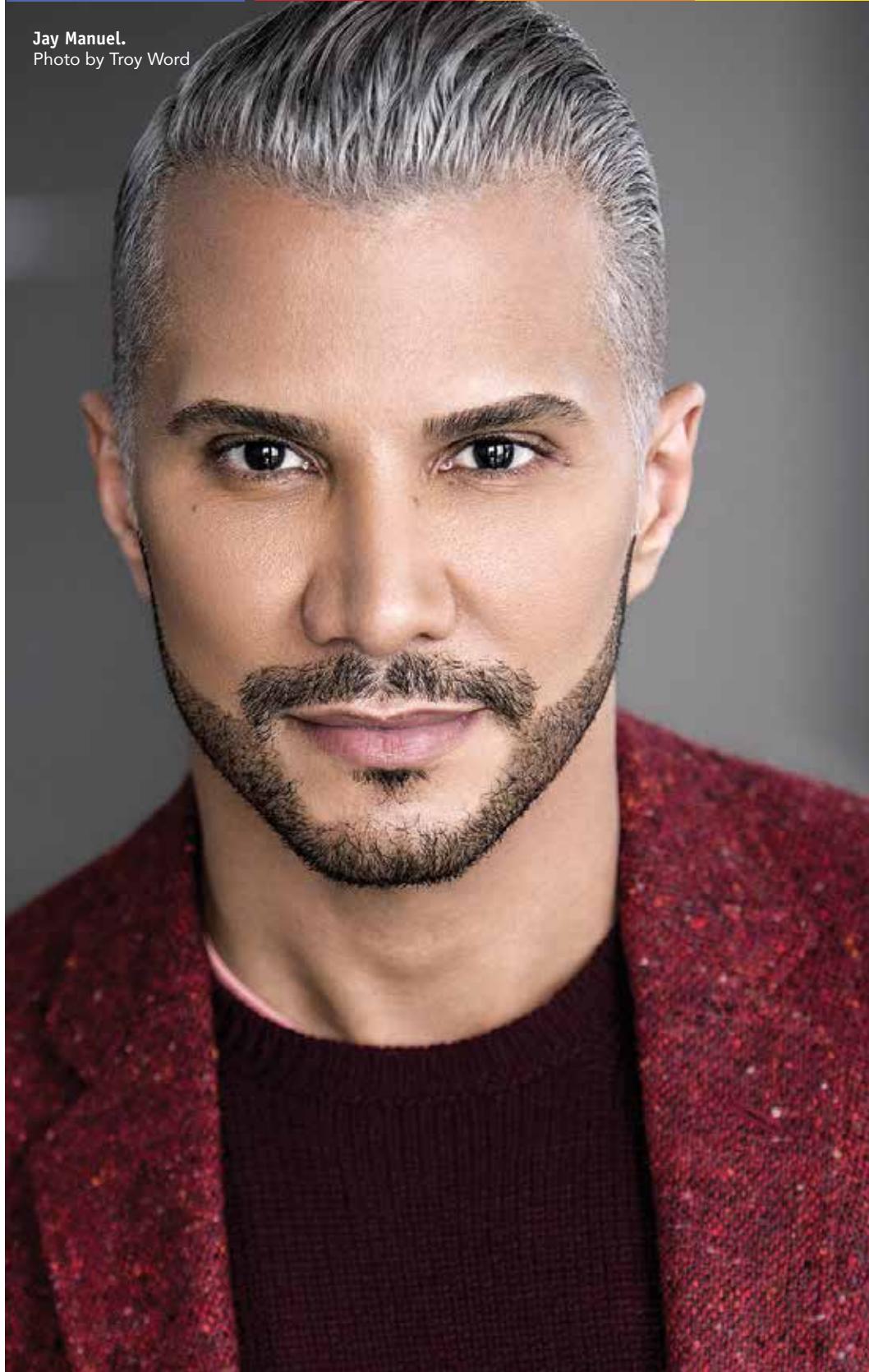
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# ARTS + THEATER

Jay Manuel.  
Photo by Troy Word



## BOOKS

### In fashion: Jay Manuel dishes on 'The Wig, The Bitch & The Meltdown'

BY EMILY REILLY

Jay Manuel has been many things, including a make-up artist and a creative director—and he is probably best known as taking on the latter role for several years on the reality-competition show *America's Next Top Model*. (He also hosted Canada's *Next Top Model* for a few years.)

Now, he's back with the book *The Wig, The Bitch and The Meltdown*—a satirical take on reality TV that was released Aug. 3. The book features a Tyra Banks-esque character named Keisha Kash and a Manuel-type protagonist named Pablo Michaels.

**Windy City Times:** You said you began writing this book back in 2014. What prompted you to start writing it?

Jay Manuel: When I look at the core themes of the book, I really felt this need to write a story that's inspired by my life and talk about important themes, like what is the cost of fame, why is there such acceptance around abuse of power in the entertainment industry, and how the entertainment industry deals with intersectionality, like Black women's identity.

It's very interesting that these are things being discussed now in 2020, but they're things that have always existed in the industry. I wanted to write something that is truly vulnerable in some ways but using satire to make it funny and take us on a wild journey of self and how we ultimately have to find that validation.

**WCT:** When it comes to your character-writing process, how much of it was inspired by your personal experience?

JM: You write what you know, so you're using your own experiences. I was using various experiences I had in the entertainment industry, not just my time on [America's Next Top Model]. I sat down with a couple of psychologists and talked about the psychology around the characters and doing that work in 2014 was really fun. I really wanted to see how this story could come together from a psychological stand-point. It was important to tell the story very authentically and thoughtfully while having fun with it in this farcical world I created.

**WCT:** I was surprised to see that this book had a lot of suspenseful and serious moments but, overall, why did you choose to write this story as a satire?

JM: I just really think telling a story like this through satire and comedy forces us to look at ourselves and it is very unconventional in terms of the literary world, in terms of blurring the lines, and breaking the fourth wall in that meta-fictional break toward the end of the book. I wanted to jolt the reader out of the book and into their own world and have it become meta on meta. It's about how we look at these stories in our own lives. It was incumbent of me to truly help people find these characters in their lives and hopefully have them resonate with their own struggles and journey.

**WCT:** Do you think this book might change the way that fans see *America's Next Top Model*?

JM: I think it might prompt people to go back and watch it again. One thing we didn't expect to come out of this pandemic situation was for *ANTM* to become a big binge-watch show. It certainly put the show under a magnifying glass. Again, you're watching a show that's edited down to 41 minutes and 28 seconds and there is [editing] there and we are now in this time where we're questioning what is real. I've always thought of reality television as the birth mother of social media. On social media, it's like we take a picture of what's not real and put it out in the world. Ultimately, what does that do to the human spirit?

**Turn to page 17**

Pose's Indya Moore.  
Photo courtesy of  
World Pride NYC



## LGBTQ performers, stories among 2020 Emmy nominations

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Streaming services and cable networks were well-represented among the Television Academy's 2020 Emmy nominations, which were announced July 28. Netflix led the pack with 160 nominations, followed by HBO, which had 107.

LGBTQ programming and creative personnel were most prominent amongst streaming and cable offerings; major networks got a minute number of nods associated with LGBTQ material in major categories, thanks largely to the final season of Will & Grace, which received five nominations.

The final season of the popular comedy Schitt's Creek received 15 nominations, including Outstanding Comedy Series; Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series; Outstanding Lead Actor in a

Comedy Series (Eugene Levy); Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series (Catherine O'Hara); Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series (openly gay series co-creator Dan Levy); and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series (Annie Murphy). Schitt's Creek received four nominations last year, but ultimately took home no Emmys.

Among LGBTQ-related nominees for Netflix series were lesbian actress Holland Taylor for her portrayal of Ellen Kincaid in openly gay executive producer Ryan Murphy's series Hollywood, which received 11 other nominations. Openly gay actor Jim Parsons was also nominated for his portrayal of Henry Willson in Hollywood. Bette Midler also scored a nomination for her work as a political staffer on another Ryan Murphy series, The Politician, which received four other nods.

Tituss Burgess earned another nomination for his portrayal of Titus Andromedon in this year's Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. The Reverend. The reality series Queer Eye scored seven nominations, including a nod for hosts Karamo Brown, Anton Porowski, Tan France, Bobby Berk and Jonathan Van Ness.

Tiger King—which picked up much online buzz in the early days of the U.S. COVID-19 lockdown—received six nominations, including Outstanding Documentary.

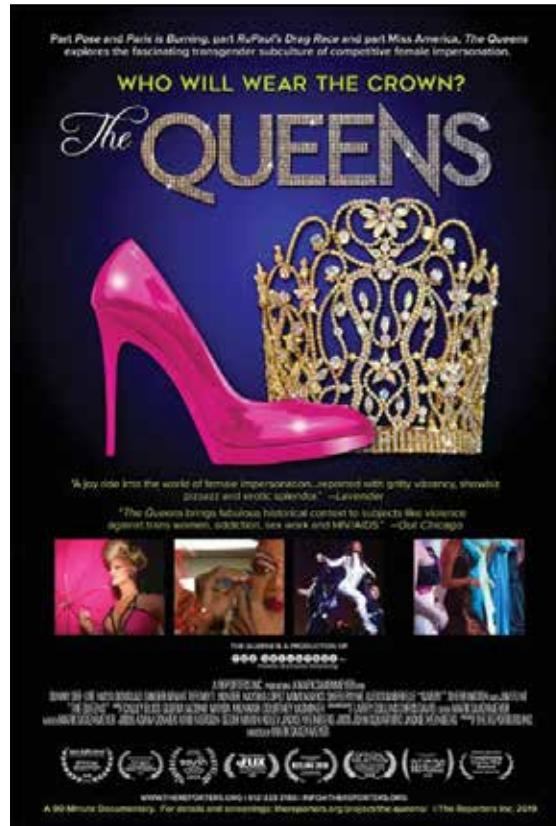
Murphy's FX series Pose received five nominations, including another for previous winner Billy Porter's portrayal of Pray Tell. However, co-stars Indya Moore and Angelica Ross, on social media, bemoaned the fact that no trans actresses received nods.

Meanwhile, VH1's RuPaul's Drag Race scored 10

more nominations this year, including Outstanding Competition Program and Outstanding Host for a Reality or Competition Program.

Jodie Comer was nominated for another turn in BBC America's Killing Eve, which is driven by the subtext-fueled relationship between Villanelle (Comer) and Eve (Sandra Oh). Among the 10 nominations for Hulu's The Handmaid's Tale were Samira Wiley and Alexis Bledel, who both portrayed lesbians struggling to survive in a tyrannical reactionary regime. Openly lesbian actor Cherry Jones—who won last year for a guest turn on The Handmaid's Tale—received a 2020 nomination for a guest-starring role on HBO's Succession.

The Emmys will be presented Sunday, Sept. 20, on ABC.



## Documentary about Miss Continental pageant released

Independent nonprofit filmmakers The Reporters Inc. have released The Queens—a feature-length documentary celebrating the transgender women of the internationally revered Miss Continental female impersonator pageant.

Nearly a decade in the making, "The Queens" has screened at more than a dozen film festivals in five countries, garnering three Best Documentary nominations. The Reporters Inc. partnered with Vimeo on Demand to launch the film in 24 countries; it is available for streaming rental and purchase through their website at [TheReporters.org](http://TheReporters.org).

The Miss Continental pageant was created in Chicago in 1980 by Jim Flint, owner of The Baton Show

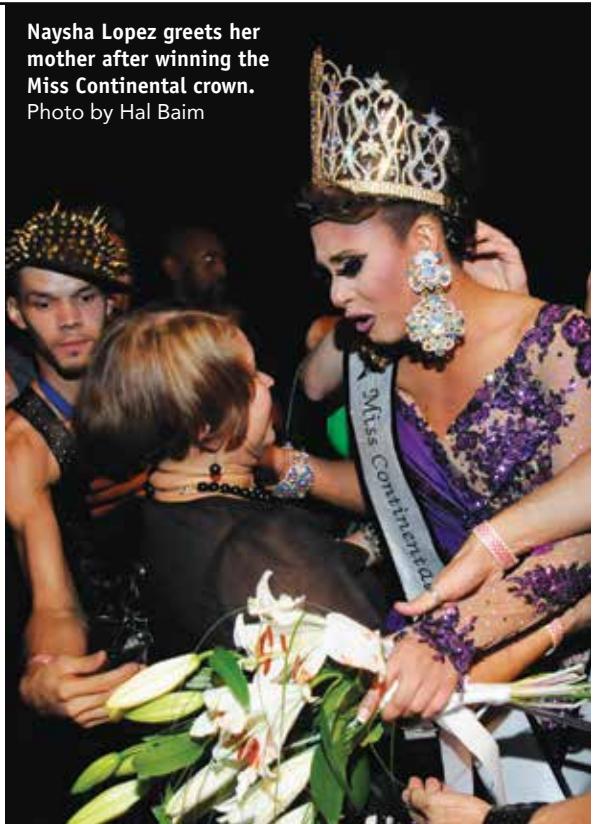
Lounge, one of the premiere female impersonator showcases in the world, which he opened in 1969.

The Queens follows contestants Tiffany, Gabby, Sunny and Naysha as they pursue their dreams of becoming the next Miss Continental—considered to be the most prestigious international pageant of its kind.

Mark Saxonmeyer—who, for 17 years, was the special project reporter at Chicago's Fox affiliate, WFLD-TV—produced, directed, wrote and edited the film.

Read Windy City Times' feature on The Queens at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Documentary-about-Miss-Continental-pageant-set-to-debut-in-Chicago/61656.html](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Documentary-about-Miss-Continental-pageant-set-to-debut-in-Chicago/61656.html).

Naysha Lopez greets her mother after winning the Miss Continental crown.  
Photo by Hal Baim



**STREAMING  
THEATER REVIEW**

## Alas: A Monologue from Matei Visniec's Cabaret of Words

**Playwright:** Matei Visniec, translation by Daniela Silindean  
**At:** Trap Door Theatre streaming online  
**Tickets:** TrapDoorTheatre.com; \$10 suggested donation  
**Runs through:** Sept. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Romania's location amid the quasi-feudal Balkan states has endowed it with a history of subjugation rendering it particularly vulnerable to oppressive governments. Playwright Matei Visniec, even after fleeing to France in 1987, has not forgotten the censorship imposed on dissident writers under the Communist regime, nor is he content to allow us to take for granted a freedom as fragile as it is precious.

His exhortation to his fellow citizens—currently streaming online under the sponsorship of Trap Door Theatre and its expatriate branch in Barcelona, Trap Door International—is barely 200 words long, however. How, then, does Visniec convey the ambivalence of a populace acknowledging the necessity of social restrictions ("triage") while always cognizant of the threat posed by a complacency promoting capitulation to authority?

Why, it's done precisely as the Absurdist did nearly a century earlier, during a similarly shellshocked age (Ionesco, especially)—by excising superfluous verbiage to forge an abbreviated stream-of-consciousness syntax reflecting the confusion of contradictory allegiances. "Fence. Big fence...I fence off, you fence off, he fences



off, we all fence off. Happily. Necessary it is." we are told, even as the muted cry of "Alas" permeates the tangle of seemingly unrelated observations.

Lest we attribute these attitudes to a single culture, director Michael Mejia has further divided this soliloquy among 16 actors whose careers

## Fellowship for local Black theater artists announced

The League of Chicago Theatres announced The Samuel G. Roberson Jr. Resident Fellowship, a grant to fund a residency for early to mid-career Black theater artists based in Chicago for a one-year partnership with a Chicago-area theater.

Roberson graduated from Howard University's Theatre Arts Department in 2005, and became artistic director of Congo Square Theatre in 2013. Among other things, Roberson created Congo Square's signature conversation series, Owning Our Worth; and founded Congo Square's Education program, Y-BOOM (Young Brothers Owning Our Mission)—a literacy-based leadership program that provides a safe environment for adolescent African-American men. He succumbed to pneumonia in 2017.

The McMullen & Kime Charitable Trust is funding the fellowship.

Each year, the fellowship will be focused on a particular area of concentration in theater arts—directing, artistic leadership or education, for example. The focus of the 2020 Samuel G. Roberson Jr. Resident Fellowship Award is playwriting.

The artist and host theater recipients will work together toward a public performance of a play, performance piece or other performance endeavor. Each year, an artist will be awarded \$20,000 for participation in the program. The host theater will be awarded \$7,500 for its support of the artist.

Application and eligibility requirements can be found at LeagueOfChicagoTheatres.org/samuel-g-robertson-jr-resident-fellowship/. Priority will be given to host theaters that have a stated mission to produce work by Black or BIPOC (Black, indigenous and people of color) artists.

The application deadline is Sunday, Sept. 13.

**Left: Alas cast.**

Photo courtesy of Trap Door Theatre

span several countries and at least half a dozen languages—mostly English, but with forays into Italian, Spanish, Catalan and Afrikaans—in the course of the presentation.

Don't adjust your computer's volume during the first few seconds of the compact (22 minutes max) video, though—the silent prologue may feature a noiresque black-and-white palette, but this is no exercise in mid-20th-century minimalism. Trap Door's aesthetic mandates performers dressed in carnival motley garb, and our merry band of multi-ethnic polyglot revelers deliver a portrait gallery of festive regalia encompassing hair arranged in Medusa braids and faces bedecked with spots and stripes of slate gray, patina green and jellybean violet paint attached to athletically agile physiques gamboling in kinetic frenzies, surrounded by hints of forests, beaches and cheerful kitchens.

The result is a kaleidoscopic collage (assembled by director Mejia in his additional capacity as video editor, along with his responsibilities as the show's composer and sound designer) so dazzling that by the time we are confronted by a series of brutally familiar images reflecting our own country's experience, our first impulse is to repeat our brief, but densely-packed, dark-ride tour in search of warnings we might have missed the first time, or perhaps just another glimpse of the single shimmering-gold tear welling forth from a clown's sad blue eye.



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# Yvonne Zipter: Looking at Chicagoan's life, poetry collection

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Writer Yvonne Zipter nurtures nature and other ideas in her new book of poetry *Kissing the Long Face of the Greyhound*.

Zipter grew up in Milwaukee and lived there until she was 24. She earned a Bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and went on to get a Master of Fine Arts degree from Vermont College.

After leaving Milwaukee, Zipter spent years in California and New York, before settling down in Chicago in 1981.

Zipter and Kathy Forde met in the late '80s and got married in 2014. Through the years together they have enjoyed musical theater, movies and live music at Ravinia, spending time with their niece and nephew and caring for pet greyhounds—a breed they love.

When she first got to Chicago, she worked as a technical writer at Bell Labs. Moving on to something she considered more enjoyable, she started working for University of Chicago Press, first as an advertising copywriter for the journals division and then as a manuscript editor. Taking a four year hiatus from the press, she studied massage and became a massage therapist.

Zipter has written across many genres over the years. Along with the nationally syndicated column, *Inside Out*, which ran from 1983 to 1993, she wrote book reviews, feature articles and did celebrity interviews and for Windy City Times. "I come from a very working class family," Zipter said. "I'm actually the first woman in my extended family to graduate from college, so it never

occurred to me that I could be a writer, but I've been reading since like 4 or 5-years-old. I've been a book addict and I started in high school writing really bad poetry, but I loved it and I loved reading it and I took one class in creative writing at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and learned a lot from that teacher and then just basically taught myself to write poetry by reading a lot of poetry."

She is the author of the nonfiction books *Ransacking the Closet* and *Diamonds Are a Dyke's Best Friend*.

Zipter is a longtime Chicago Cubs fan and played softball as a young girl. She took a break through high school and college, but came back to play years later purely for fun.

Her book *Diamonds are a Dyke's Best Friend: Reflections, Reminiscences, and Reports from the Field on the Lesbian National Pastime centered on contemporary lesbians and softball*. This included the progress of women involved with America's national pastime, as well as the history of women in the sport, highlighting the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL).

"I was just fascinated that there had been professional baseball and no one even knew about it," Zipter said, adding she has a long intertwined history with the AAGPBL. "They had sort of been lost to history and then people started writing about them and making documentaries. 'A League of Their Own' was based on them. I went to a couple of their reunions and watched them in their 70s playing baseball and I just kept thinking these women are amazing."

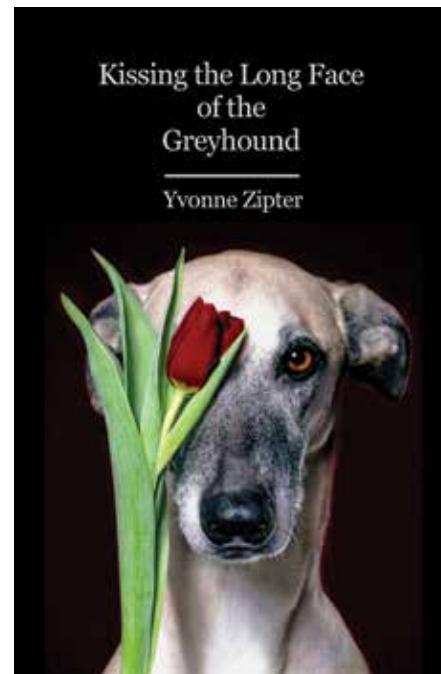
It was this topic that also led to Zipter's ap-



**Yvonne Zipter.**  
Photo courtesy  
of Zipter

Aug. 5, 2020

WINDY CITY TIMES



pearance in the Netflix original documentary *A Secret Love*.

She has also written poetry collections titled *The Patience of Metal* (a Lambda Literary finalist) and *Like Some Bookie God*. Zipter expressed poetry is the genre that makes her happiest. She took her poetry beyond book pages with the Poetry Machine. Inspired by the Art-O-Mat vending machine at the Chicago Cultural Center that dispensed a piece of art in exchange for two tokens, this machine pops out Zipter's published poems in a capsule in exchange for 50 cents (reminiscent of a gumball machine). The coins accumulated support Arts Alive Chicago, a local nonprofit organization that creates murals and other artistic projects around the city.

Currently, the two existing machines live at ERIS Brewery and Cider House located on Irving Park Road and at Women & Children First. The Poetry Machine has also traveled to schools and other local businesses. Zipter emphasized the feedback from the community has been positive and as a result the machines have generated a sizable donation.

"I feel I express myself the best in that and it's kind of my way of connecting with people," Zipter explained. "It's [the Poetry Machine] just kind of a fun way to get people involved in reading poetry and maybe even writing poetry."

Her newest book—*Kissing the Long Face of the Greyhound*, released Aug. 3—is a collection of poems about nature, greyhounds and other relationships in her life."

Poetry, I think, is the thing that is closest to my soul," she said.

With a narrative writing style, Zipter described that while her poetry has multiple layers and readers can get different things out of it, it is accessible. It is not just for poetry fanatics.

"I hope that they get a greater appreciation for nature, I hope they see the ways we're all interconnected and I hope it makes people less afraid of reading poetry," Zipter said of her newest poetry collection.

To learn more about Yvonne Zipter and her writing, visit [yvonne-zipter.com](http://yvonne-zipter.com).

## About Face Theatre names new associate artistic director

About Face Theatre (AFT) welcomes Mikael Burke to its staff in the role of associate artistic director to lead AFT's education and new work development programs.

Burke has been working with AFT since 2016, when he directed for the AIDS On Stage reading series. In 2018, Burke directed a production of Harrison David Rivers' *This Bitter Earth* for the mainstage; in 2019, he became an About Face artistic associate.

His staff position begins in August 2020.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Mikael to the leadership team at About Face," said AFT Artistic Director Megan Carney in a statement. "As a theater company dedicated to advancing dialogue about gender and sexuality, our work takes many forms.

"Our education programs are layered and experimental. They are constantly changing to reflect community needs and use a variety of tools from devising to leadership development. I'm looking forward to all the ways we'll be growing with this new staff structure and with Mikael's vision. This is a joyful moment and an investment in the future."

AFT is a multigenerational theatre company that creates productions and programs that advance national dialogue on sexual and gender identity.



**About Face Theatre Associate Artistic Director Mikael Burke.**  
Photo courtesy of John Olson



Cast of Pose.

Photo courtesy of GLAAD

## 31st Annual GLAAD Awards airs virtually; Lil Nas X, Dolly appear

The 31st Annual GLAAD Media Awards aired virtually July 30.

Fortune Feimster and Gina Yashere co-hosted the event. Some celebrities who appeared were Lil Nas X, Dolly Parton, Dan Levy, Kandi Burruss, Cara Delevingne, Kaitlyn Dever, Beanie Feldstein, Theo Germaine, Jennifer Garner, Demi Lovato, Rachel Maddow, Charli XCX, Peppermint, the cast of Pose, Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union, Lena Waithe, Olivia Wilde, Geena Rocero, Darryl Stephens, Ben Platt and Angelica Ross.

Some of the winners announced during the event included Pose (Outstanding Drama Series, for the second consecutive year), Schitt's Creek (Outstanding Comedy Series), Lil Nas X (Outstanding Music Artist), Parton (who accepted the award for Outstanding Individual Episode (in a series without a regular LGBTQ character) for the Dolly Parton's Heartstrings episode "Two Doors Down"), Maddow (Outstanding TV Journalism Segment, for her one-on-one interview with Pete Buttigieg) and Raquel Willis (Outstanding Magazine Article, for her Out Magazine article "The Trans Obituaries Project"). Journalists Karen Ocamp and Mark Segal were also awarded Special Recognition honors for their individual work, as well as the critical role that LGBTQ media play in driving LGBTQ acceptance forward.

Prior to the virtual ceremony, GLAAD announced the winners of the remaining GLAAD Media Awards categories on Twitter, which featured acceptance speeches from each of the award recipients. Said recipients included Stephen Colbert (Outstanding Variety or Talk Show Episode), El Corazon Nunca Se Equivoca's Aristemo (Outstanding Spanish-Language Scripted Television Series), Tales of the City author Armistead Maupin (Outstanding Limited Series), among others.

The ceremony aired on Logo on Aug. 3.

For the full list of winners, visit [GLAAD.org](http://GLAAD.org).



Above: Lil Nas X. Below: Co-host Fortune Feimster.

Photos courtesy of GLAAD



### MANUEL from page 13

**WCT:** Did you run into any challenges while writing the book?

JM: I felt that I kind of went into isolation, and I knew it would be isolating—but I didn't know to what extent. In the beginning, it was uncomfortable for a lot of friends and family around me. I'm very engaged with those I'm close with and I kind of disengaged when I wrote the book. And, ultimately, knowing I wanted to tell an authentic story, I had to go to some vulnerable places, and part of Pablo's backstory is his adoption; that story is my story. A lot of people did not know that.

It was very important for me to include it and to have his name "David" in the book, which was given to him initially. That's one name that actually is the name that was given to me. I felt it was important to honor him and that person

who's part of me which I learned was that pre-verbal energy bubbling up.

**WCT:** That ending was really suspenseful and it seemed to make way for a possible sequel. Do you hope to write any more books in the future or do you think this is it?

JM: The answer is "absolutely." And I know where the characters go, but is that immediately the next book? I don't know. However, I think this book is hopefully shifting the way people view me within the lifestyle space.

There are so many stories I would like to tell that don't have anything to do with these characters. I want to explore those stories, and I think this book naturally puts me out there as a writer by the nature of the story. I do want to write the follow-up for it. We'll see how the world perceives it, if this is the next book or one of the other stories I want to tell in the next-book, which takes place in somewhat of a dystopian near-future.

### BOOK REVIEW

## The Wig, The Bitch and The Meltdown

By Jay Manuel  
\$17.95; Wordeee; 350 pages

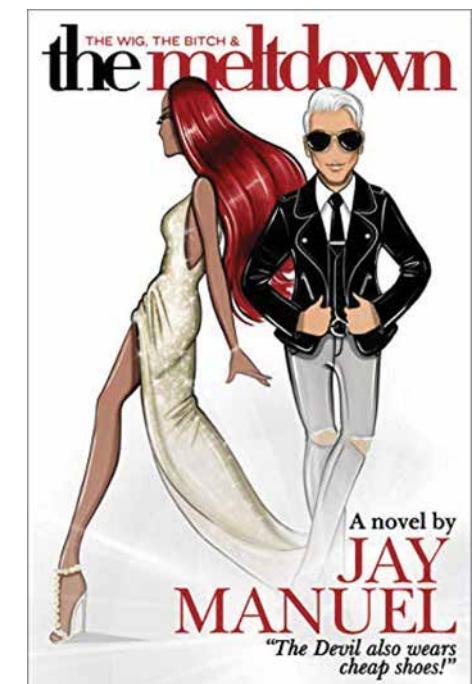
REVIEW BY EMILY REILLY

Jay Manuel, the well-known creative director on America's Next Top Model, depicts a satirical, riveting, fictional whirlwind of reality TV and model culture in his new book, *The Wig, The Bitch & The Meltdown*.

The story walks readers through the life of Pablo Michaels—a rags-to-riches producer dubbed "Mr. Fix-It" who is the consultant for everyone's problems, reflecting the qualities of Manuel himself. Michaels encounters the neurotic, powerhouse supermodel Keisha Kash, who drags him into reality TV's spotlight—in all its pain and glory.

Inspired by America's Next Top Model (with Manuel himself hosting Canada's Next Top Model, which ran 2006-09), the book also borrows the similar wit and cutthroat charm of *The Devil Wears Prada*. Readers will experience the devious, fast-paced, behind-the-scenes world of reality TV. The story holds up a fun-house mirror to the experiences of the reality TV industry, parodizing its ruthlessness. Beyond the pages, the plot moves forward in text messages, tweets, a magazine feature, and other expressive story-telling tools. Manuel's many years of being the creative director on America's Next Top Model contributed heavily to how he wrote this story.

Manuel satirizes the hard-hearted world of fashion, modeling and reality TV that he knows inside and out: the catchy names, the egregious amount of plastic surgery, the modeling contestants who skip meals, the emotional backstories, the predetermined nature of the industry and the never-ending politics of fashion brands. The story deals with themes of the temptation of fame, insecurity, egos and betrayal, encompassing the power dynamics of off-screen turbulence. It warns that the industry has a Medusa-like wrath that often



turns good people to stone.

The story's fictional reality TV show, Model Muse, borrows inspiration from America's Next Top Model, whether it's the ridiculous photo-shoot challenges that induce phobias or the emotional meltdowns that increase viewership. Although recent criticism about America's Next Top Model's racial insensitivity and commentary has resurfaced from over the years, Manuel has been working on this book long before it grabbed the public's attention.

For those who hope to enjoy a humorous, suspenseful tale, *The Wig, The Bitch & The Meltdown*, won't be disappointment. The book presents itself especially entertaining to fans of the fashion and modelling industry, reality TV or satire; it introduces clever commentary about pop culture. It may be a strenuous read for those who are out-of-touch with the environment of the original show and the culture surrounding it. Beyond its humor and mischievousness, it begs the question: Can a good person come out of the industry unscathed?

# Lindsay Frounfelkner takes over Chicago LGBTQ+ sports league

BY ROSS FORMAN

Lindsay Frounfelkner joined the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) in 2008 to play in the Open Sunday Softball League with one of her best friends, Brian Frazee, on the Just Us League team (now the Sausage Kings of Chicago) in the D2 division.

"I don't think we won a game that season. In fact, I'm pretty [sure that], if we did win a game, it was because another team had to forfeit," Frounfelkner told Windy City Times, laughing. "Despite never getting a win that summer, I had the best time. I hadn't played softball consistently since high school, so it was nice to get back out there and rekindle my love of the sport."

That first season, an opposing team, the Lucky Charmers, was sponsored by Bucks and they invited Frounfelkner's team to meet at their sponsor bar after the game. "A few of us started joining them every week, whether we had softball or not. Some of the people I met on that patio in the summer of 2008 remain by best friends today," she said.

Frounfelkner, 39, who lives in Andersonville and is the office/billing manager for Ganen & Shapiro, has been living in Chicago for the past 19 years—and CMSA is her true passion, win or lose.

Over the past year, she's played open Sunday softball, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, fall kickball and women's fall softball. Her CMSA resume also has included Thursday fall softball, Thursday summer softball, women's summer softball, open dodgeball, women's fall football, badminton and fall kickball.

And now, Frounfelkner is the new CMSA president after the sports organization's July elections, replacing Matt Herek. She is the CMSA's fifth-ever female president and its first since 2010.

CMSA Hall of Famer Marcia Hill was the organization's president from 2007-2010. Before Hill, women presidents of CMSA included Lora Kirk, Judith Leavitt and Mel Ferrand.

"Her longtime experience as a CMSA member will come in handy as president during this time of transition; I wish her well," Hill said.

Frounfelkner was born and raised in Arizona, living all around the Phoenix area. She attended high school in Buckeye, Arizona a small town about 30 miles west of Phoenix. She moved to Illinois in 1999, about a year after high school and moved into the city of Chicago in August 2001.

"Being elected to the main board is certainly one of the highlights of my involvement with CMSA," she said. "Being nominated for, and then winning Open Sunday Softball's Brodie Award in 2018 is probably one of the highlights of my life, especially with Bobby Nicholson there cheering me on," she said. "We had some softball and

volleyball teams over the years which did well enough to get trophies at the end of the season, and those are always nice. We worked hard for those. However, being recognized for sportsmanship has always been more important to me."

She certainly will carry that friendly, smiling, personal approach to the presidency.

"It's still new and overwhelming, [but] I'm excited. I hope I can make positive change. I hope I can live up to the expectations," said Frounfelkner, who noted that it's "important" that she is the first CMSA president in 10 years. "We need more diversity overall on the board of directors. Having a woman as president is certainly a step towards that."

Frounfelkner's term as president is one-year. She ran for the CMSA board, for a two-year term, in 2019 so that term will expire July 31, 2021. If she runs again in 2021, it's possible she could continue in the role of president, but it would be determined by the CMSA members in re-electing her and the elected board when deciding individual roles.

"My most memorable moments in CMSA are rarely because I had some amazing play or hard-fought win," she said. "It's always about fun times with my friends."

"The story I tell the most is probably when one of my softball players ran home from second base—literally ran from second base to the pitcher's mound when he heard me screaming and made a sharp turn to third base. Once he got to third, he did a hair flip and said, 'I just wasn't feeling third base today!'

The late Carl Sharp was the umpire and he came over to Frounfelkner between inning, saying that he wasn't sure the player knew how to run the bases and that she should probably use a courtesy runner.

"We were all laughing so hard and just told [Sharp] it's a 9 a.m. game Market Days weekend in D2 [division]. ... This is what happens sometimes," Frounfelkner said.

"Another time I remember looking out at the field to see one of my players in right field, taking a phone call and eating chips out of a bag in his glove. Play was live. Those first few years felt like the Bad News Bears. We won a few games here and there, but were never super competitive. It didn't matter because we had fun. Twelve years later and I still have some of the same people on my team."

In addition to the open Sunday softball league, open indoor volleyball and beach volleyball have been her other consistent sports since 2008.

## Serving CMSA

Frounfelkner has had numerous leadership roles within the CMSA for both women's sports and open divisions.

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Lindsay Frounfelkner (left) with CMSA softball players.

Photo courtesy of Frounfelkner

improve transparency, so members know what is going on with each individual sport as well as with the board of directors," she said.

"Like a lot of organizations, we need to address diversity and inclusion to make sure CMSA is welcoming to all. CMSA was started as a safe space for LGBTQIA+ people and we need to ensure we are living up to the expectation of our founders.

"Most importantly, we are just focused on navigating the constantly changing world of COVID-19."

Frounfelkner said her long-term goals are to "focus on cultivating leadership," she said. "We struggle to find volunteers and commissioners in some sports. I was reading through newsletters dating back to the late-1990s and this appears to be an ongoing issue. It can be a big time commitment depending on the role. We need to reach out to people at a player-level to get people excited to be more involved with their sport(s). I want the organization to be a place in which people feel some ownership. Better mentoring for new commissioners is a priority. I worked closely with a few of our new commissioners last year and want to make sure that continues."

She said that she also wants to create an archive of CMSA history. "One of the greatest things about CMSA is its history," Frounfelkner said. "We started from a few teams playing 16-inch softball in 1978 and have grown and changed so much over the years. We need to pay tribute to these people and stories. We are one of the oldest organizations of our kind and that's important. I started looking at all the old articles in the Windy City Times over the past year and came across some amazing stories I had never heard. I'd asked a few people whether we had any sort of archive over the past few years and was always directed to Marcia Hill. I reached out to her last month to see whether I could get copies of any articles or pictures she has so I'm working on that now."

Visit WindyCityMediaGroup.com for the full article.

## Reeling taking place virtually Sept. 24-Oct. 4

The 38th edition of Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival will be held as an online virtual event from Sept. 24-Oct. 4.

Chicago Filmmakers, the presenting organization of Reeling, made the decision to go virtual amid the uncertainty surrounding the reopening of cinemas and an increase in cases of COVID-19 in Chicago.

Festival Director Brenda Webb said, "Many festivals are playing it safe this fall by hosting their events online. We felt that it was the right thing to do to keep our community safe."

"The onset of the pandemic and subsequent shutdown has impacted our ability to hold screenings in person at the Chicago Filmmakers' Firehouse, but it hasn't impacted our ability to come together as a community around the love of cinema. We're excited that this new format presents the opportunity for more filmmakers from around the world to participate in festival Q&As and panels."

Festival attendees may purchase tickets and watch selected films at [ReelingFilmFestival.org](http://ReelingFilmFestival.org). The full festival lineup will be announced in August.



## BILLY Masters

*"Jane was just so cute and sweet and bubbly and her little voice. We both had crushes on each other; I guess you could say, but we were girlfriends for a while. She was the boss in the relationship. I was the new kid in town and it made me feel comfortable. Jane broke up with me. It wasn't like either one of us were heartbroken or anything. You think something like that's going to fuck with the band? No way."* Gina Schock recounts the early days of her relationship with Jane Wiedlin in the new documentary *The Go-Go's*.

Get ready for a BIG announcement about Billy Masters—the man and the column. Back in August 1995, I wrote my very first installment of this column. Now, I'm no math whiz, but I believe that's almost a quarter of a century ago. I know what you're thinking ... and it's true: I really do look incredible!

In that very first column was a story about **The Go-Go's** doing one of their reunion tours: "What most people didn't know, however, was that their most loyal fan was none other than Roseanne's little girl, **Sara Gilbert**, who traveled with them city to city and did not miss one performance. Her connection to the group? All we will say is that she was spotted accompanying the mother of Gina Schock, *The Go-Go's* fab drummer." Here we are, 25 years later, and Gina's finally doling out details of her heretofore shrouded life—courtesy of the new documentary *The Go-Go's*, which is currently playing on Showtime. That Gina and Jane once dated (see the opening quote) is a detail glossed over. However, it is the first time Schock has ever talked about dating a woman. The doc is a perfect overview to solidify the band's place in history. However, it's not nearly as comprehensive as director Alison Ellwood's previous two-part documentary about the Eagles.



**Jerry Mitchell (above)** reminisced about the annual fundraiser *Broadway Bares* on *Billy Masters LIVE*.

Photo by Christopher DeVargas

Former staffers have been tattling tales of nasty behavior at **The Ellen DeGeneres Show**. Worse, many of the reports specifically cite DeGeneres as less than exemplary. It started bubbling over when the show shut down due to the coronavirus. When Ellen resumed duties from home, long-time crew members complained that they were left out of the loop ... to say nothing of salary and benefits. Producers addressed many of those complaints, but it was too late. Anecdotes of racism and intimidation ran rampant—a major problem for someone who ends each show extolling people to "be kind to each other." WarnerMedia, the umbrella production company, got involved and ordered an internal investigation into what is being described as "a toxic work environment."

You know what show has no problems? **Billy Masters LIVE**. And do you know why? Because we have no staff! If something goes wrong, it's all my fault. But when something goes right, I get to take all of the credit—like with last week's show saluting "**Broadway Bares**." The annual burlesque sex-travaganza is a major fundraiser for Broadway Cares, and was initially cancelled in light of the pandemic. When they figured out how

## Cerqua Rivera Dance unveils new schedule

After some restructuring, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre has announced its plans to develop work in this time, about this time.

Cerqua Rivera's 2020 new work creatively responds to and utilizes social distancing. Work will be created on two casts, each including half the Dance Ensemble, and a chamber ensemble of the full Jazz Band.

—American Catracho and Root (updated excerpts): The company is reimagining sections of these audience favorites informed by the current times. Cerqua Rivera Artistic Director Wilfredo Riverea created American Catracho in 2016-19; and Monique Haley and Joe Cerqua created Root in 2018-19.

—Identity City: Co-founders Rivera and Joe Cerqua lead a new project examining evolving concepts and acceptance (or not) of gender identity (year one of a four-year process). This year's work focuses on feelings of isolation and metamorphosis.

—Mood Swing: Rivera will lead four choreographers (Shannon Alvis, Katlin Bourgeois, Monique Haley and Raheim White) and composer Cerqua in developing duets between musicians and dancers that respond to the current pandemic crisis and social

justice movement.

The schedule is as follows:

—Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m.: Inside/Out, with American Catracho and Root, livestreamed from Intrigue Dance & Performing Arts Center; and

—Thursday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m., at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.: Old Town audiences get a first look at 2020 New Work, including the new piece Mood Swing, in this residency rescheduled from April.

The fall concert series will include:

—Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St.: Benefit performance of America/Americas to honor Sandra McNaughton; and

—Nov. 5-6 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 7 at 2 and 7 p.m.: A concert to be streamed online.

For the safety of its community, Cerqua Rivera is suspending company classes for the remainder of 2020.

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

constructed house of cards could come crashing down around him. Allegedly, his most notable ex is gonna sing for her supper and let the chips fall where they may. Of course, none of this will come as news to anyone close to him—certainly not to that former teammate who knows how to keep a secret in the family.

When our blind item's swag is making tongues wag, it's definitely time to end another column. And what dish we had—why, I needed to put on a condom for that last item. All in a day's work ... or, rather, 25 years of work. While you're stuck at home, check out [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com)—the site that doesn't look its age. And if you'd like to join in the fun, send your question to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before our centennial! 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 Surf's Up expands to Old Town

BY ANDREW DAVIS

A new restaurant has opened in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood—and it's being welcomed with open arms.

Having opened on Juneteenth (June 19), the casual spot **Surf's Up Old Town** (1143 N. Wells St.; [SurfsUpOldTown.com](http://SurfsUpOldTown.com)) serves Louisiana seafood cuisine that's enticing enough to already give the restaurant some regular customers—and this writer witnessed a few newcomers who were really happy to see such a place in the neighborhood. As one would expect, the restaurant has a nautical decor—but there's also a sign that reads "Be Proud" and has a rainbow heart beside the phrase.

Owner Vanetta Roy—an engaging woman who can hold her own talking about anything from politics to pupils (she's also a special-education



**Shrimp po'boy at Surf's Up Old Town.**

Photo by Andrew Davis

teacher) to po'boys—is an anomaly during this pandemic. While many businesses are on hold or have closed, she expanded from her South Side restaurant to this one, and plans to open another one in Mundelein. (Actually, including restaurants her brother and best friend own, there are 10 sites—including spots in Oak Park, Aurora and even Huntsville, Alabama.)

When asked how she's able to open new spots during such a tenuous time, Roy said there are two reasons. "Number one, we're a grab-and-go, even though we have indoor and outdoor seating," she said. "Second, I wanted to create a vibe so that, even though you're in Chicago, you might think otherwise."

And upon being asked why she chose this

particular location, the candid Roy revealed a sad statement: "I felt like being here was needed in order for me to be more than just a Black girl with a Black restaurant. Coming over here allows me to be looked at like a business owner. This location has given me so much more attention, even though I cook the same food here that I do on the South Side."

And as for the cuisine, it's scrumptious, indeed. The shrimp po'boy was chock full of the crustaceans, and the powdered sugar-topped fried biscuits are, as Roy said, lighter than beignets—and just as heavenly. Of course, the danger is that you could eat 10 of those and not be aware of that.

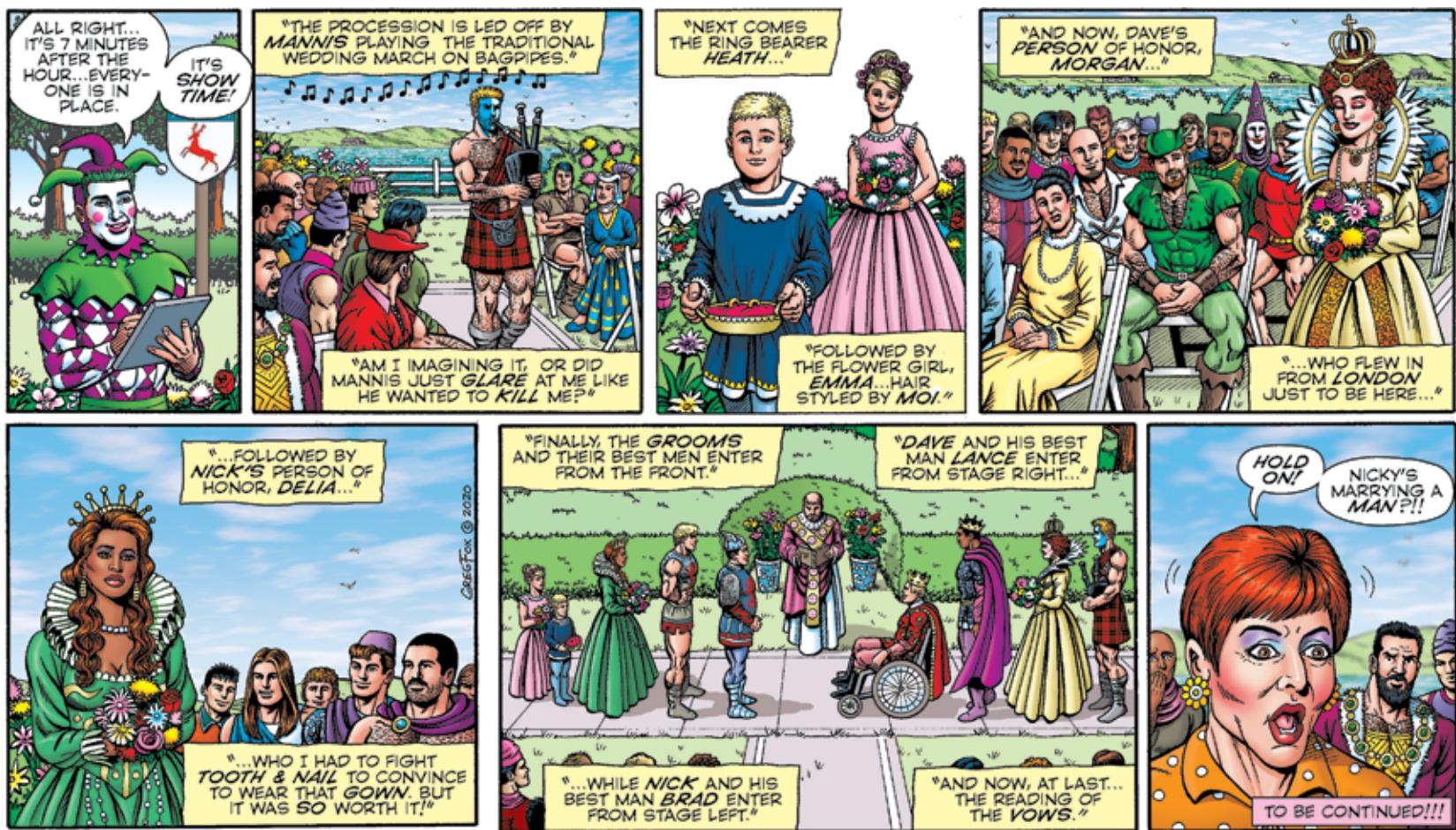
There are tacos, sandwiches, dinner specials and more—and they primarily revolve around four items: shrimp, crab, lobster and chicken. However, there are daily specials such as whiting nuggets and salmon burgers; sides like cheese grits, dirty rice with ground turkey and the ever-popular fried green tomatoes (which can even be done as po'boys); and even vegetarian options like garlic fries, spinach-and-cheese puffs and potato-themed numbers. "I'm not vegan, so I don't have those dishes," Roy said.

However, most people will find something to eat at Surf's Up Old Town—and will be absolutely delighted. Don't be surprised if you become a regular.

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

## KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



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Aug. 5, 2020

# REAL ESTATE

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#SkyTakesAction fundraising page at [MightyCause.com/donate/A4jxchicagosky](https://MightyCause.com/donate/A4jxchicagosky), which can be found on all Chicago Sky player and team social-media platforms, or via Sky.WNBA.com and AthletesForJustice.org.

## Red Stars stopped in championship match

The Chicago Red Stars fell to the Houston Dash 2-0 in the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) Challenge Cup Championship on July 26.

The Red Stars played 27 players throughout the NWSL Challenge Cup—the most out of any team participating.

At halftime of the championship game, defenders Julie Ertz and Casey Short were named to the 2020 Challenge Cup Best XI. The defensive duo concludes their Challenge Cup competition with a combined 22 total tackles, 24 clearances, 11 interceptions, and 52 duels won.

## Chicago Sky to donate money to social justice

The Chicago Sky players will donate \$10 for every point the team scores, \$100 for every win and \$50 for any loss throughout the 2020 WNBA season under a newly unveiled social justice initiative called #SkyTakesAction.

In partnership with Athletes for Justice, founded by Sam Acho of the Chicago Bears, the Sky players will challenge and encourage fans and businesses to come together as a community by matching their donations, in any way that they are able to. All proceeds from the #SkyTakesAction fund will go directly to Chicagoland organizations working locally for community empowerment.

The donations will be distributed to the following organizations: By the Hand Club for Kids, BYP100, The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Firehouse Community Arts Center of Chicago and Future Ties.

Donations will be collected at the



# 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 said event is still scheduled.]

## Wed., Aug. 5

**Impact of HIV criminalization on Black femmes** By AIDS Foundation of Chicago. There are laws on the books in Illinois specifically criminalizing people living with HIV? Illinois HIV Action Alliance (IHAA) for part one of a series exploring the effect of these laws on various groups - such as the Latinx, Black and transgender communities. 12:00pm Online Tickets: [http://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rFEDEcPVTb0LFUzo\\_jW-RA](http://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rFEDEcPVTb0LFUzo_jW-RA)

**Virtual Book Launch Party: The Beauty of Your Face** In this story, a Palestinian American woman wrestles with faith, loss, and identity before coming face-to-face with a school shooter in this searing debut.. Author Sahar Mustafah in conversation with Patricia McNair. 8:00pm. See [WomenAndChildrenFirst.com](http://WomenAndChildrenFirst.com).



## DANCE FEVER

**Aug. 10-15**

**Dance for Life 2020: United As One will take place digitally this year.**

Photo by Todd Rosenberg

Aug. 5, 2020

## Thursday, Aug. 6

**LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois virtual road trip** Moderated conversation featuring a local business owner. We will also take some time to share resources and answer questions about the LGBT Chamber of Commerce. You must be signed up as a new member, and reside in the area of the three event locations. RSVP required 11:00am - 12:30pm; <http://business.lgbtcc.com>

**Gay Berlin: Birthplace of a Modern Identity** Interwar Berlin thrived as a liberal hotspot for sexuality and gay subcultures. Dr. Robert Beachy, author, virtual Q&A. RSVP 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Online Tickets: <http://dankhaus.com/event-3925455?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=8/31/2020>

**The Chicago Gay Hockey Association hockey tournament POSTPONED** Looking forward to a bigger and better CGHA Market Days Classic during the summer of 2021.

## Friday, Aug. 7

**Oil Lamp Theater hosts Bad Dates at drive-in** After the premiere, this filmed production will be available for at-home viewing Aug. 8-23 (Thursdays-Sundays). Admission to the premiere is \$25 (general admission) to \$50 (guaranteed front row plus a snack package). Shows at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets: <http://OilLampTheater.org>

## Sunday, Aug. 9

**Side by Side with the Chicago Philharmonic** virtual event Featuring diverse composers. The program features works by Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges (a beloved Classical era composer), Antonin Dvorak (an iconic Czech composer with a deep love of America), and William Grant Still (the 20th century neo-Romantic genius often referred to as the "Dean of Afro-American Composers"). Registration required 3:00pm Online tickets: <http://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/side-by-side-with-the-chicago-philharmonic/>

## Monday, Aug. 10

**Dance for Life 2020: United as One digital** Works archived from Dance for Life performances during the past 29 years, Partner Dance Companies-Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Hanna Brictson and Dancers, Chicago Dance Crash, Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater, Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Muntu Dance Theatre, River North Dance Chicago, Thodos Dance Chicago, Visceral Dance Chicago, and a collaborative work by Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Ensemble Espanol and Trinity Irish Dance Company. Aug. 10-15. Donations welcome. See Aug. 15 listing for culminating event. Online <http://ChicagoDancersUnited.org>

## WINDY CITY TIMES

## Friday, Aug. 14

**19th annual Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest, mobile edition** Mobile stage brings music to residents where they live, plus large-screen video trucks. Four two-hour tours of the streets of Rogers Park. Festival tour maps and the virtual festival layout. 6-9 pm. Glenwood Avenue Arts District at Glenwood and Morse avenues; <http://www.glenwoodave.org>

## Saturday, Aug. 15

**Dance for Life 2020: United as One digital event** The culminating event-featuring live remarks by CDU representatives and a world premiere choreographed by Hanna Brictson in response to COVID-19, with dancers from throughout the Chicago area-will take place Saturday, Aug. 15, commemorating the originally planned date for the 29th anniversary of Dance for Life at the Auditorium Theatre. Time: 6:30 Online <http://ChicagoDancersUnited.org>

## Wed., Sept. 16

**The Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium 2020 Virtual Event** "Being Healthy is a Radical Act" a conceptual framework to explore the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities. Healthcare professionals, social service providers, advocates, and researchers will highlight innovative best practices in LGBTQ patient-centered clinical care 9:00am - 6:00pm Malcolm X College. HowardBrown.org

# KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



E-Mail - [gregfox727@gmail.com](mailto:gregfox727@gmail.com)  
Twitter - [@KyleComics](https://twitter.com/kylecomics)

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## Wizard World postponed until June 24-27, 2021

Wizard Entertainment, Inc. announced that its Wizard World Chicago convention, originally scheduled for Aug. 20-23 at Rosemont's Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, has been postponed due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

The revised dates for the 23rd annual event—Wizard World's largest and longest running show—are June 24-27, 2021.

Fans who purchased general admission and/or VIP tickets for the original dates may use those for the rescheduled dates. Artists, exhibitors and others associated with the event can expect communication from Wizard Entertainment soon regarding the new dates.

Previously, Wizard World announced other entries on its early calendar of events taking place in 2021: New Orleans, January 8-10; Philadelphia, Jan. 15-17; Portland, Jan. 29-31; Cleveland, Feb. 26-28; and St. Louis, March 12-14.



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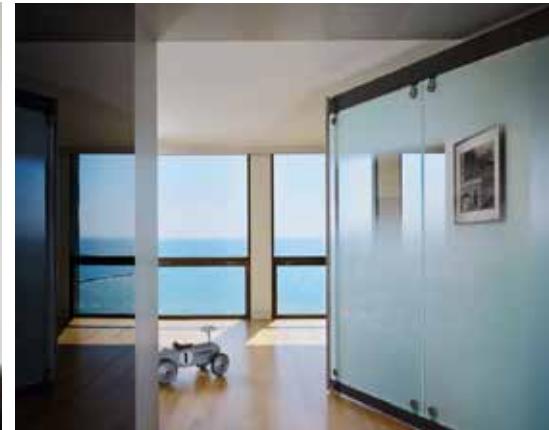
**180 E. Pearson St. #5405 | Streeterville  
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**161 E. Chicago Ave. #36F | Streeterville  
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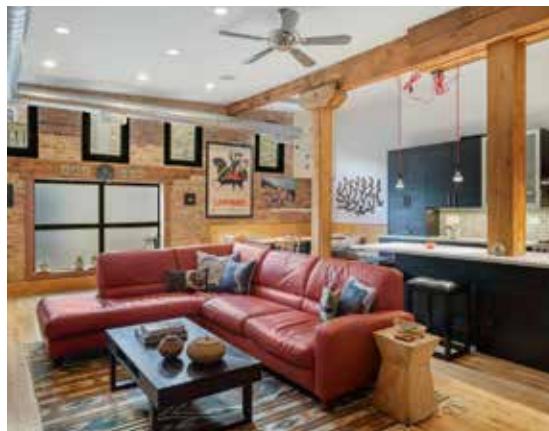
**1240 N. Lake Shore Dr., #32A | East Lakeview  
\$1,050,000**

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**858 W. Diversey Pkwy. #1W | Lakeview  
\$765,000**

Beautifully appointed 3-bedroom/3-bath duplex.



**811 W. Aldine St. #4S | East Lakeview  
\$699,000**

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**3800 N. Lake Shore Dr. #6E | East Lakeview  
\$589,000**

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