

WINDY CITY TIMES

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DAVE SHELTON

Owner of Chicago club Medusa's passes away.

Photo courtesy of Jon Putnam



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WORLD RUGBY

Proposed ban on trans players sparks outcry.

Photo courtesy of Chicago Dragons

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LEAD ON

Lesbian activist now Kamala Harris' chief of staff.

Photo of Karine Jean-Pierre by Sari Staver



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Kate Pierson.
Photo courtesy of Nicole Diedrich

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LGBT singer Kate Pierson, of The B-52s, hopes to energize voting among women

KATE EXPECTATIONS

MAKING A STATEMENT



Photo by Eric Brock

TGNC/BIPOC artists take part in Black Trans Lives mural

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TICKET TO RIDE

The 2020 Cadillac XT6 (left) is the stylish ride for you and your crew, according to Gaywheels.
Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

SURVEY SAYS...



Local LGBT residents weigh in on Joe Biden's selection of U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (above) as his running mate.
Official head shot

EVENT HORIZON

Find out about events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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Find out the latest about Ruby Rose, Bianca Del Rio and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

plus
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THE SUBARU A LOT TO LOVE EVENT

When A Great Deal Matters, Shop Rob Paddor's...

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'16 Honda Fit EX.....Automatic, Moonroof, 28K, Black, 24768A ..\$14,995	'18 Forester 2.5iAutomatic, Full Power, Green, P6662 ..\$19,995	
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'07 BMW 530xi AWDAutomatic, Moonroof, Grey, 24712A ...\$6,995	'15 Outback Prem.Auto., Full Power, Alloys, 68K, Blue, 24601A ..\$15,995	
'12 Ford Fiesta SEAutomatic, Full Power, Red, 24713A\$5,995	SUBARU CROSSTREK / IMPREZA / LEGACY	
	'19 Crosstrek Prem.Automatic, All-Weather, Grey, 24646A ..\$18,995	
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Organization leaders discuss board diversity strategies

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Windy City Times recently surveyed a number of local organizations about the diversity of both their board leadership and their organization's staff and employees.

That initial survey, which appeared in the July 22 issue of Windy City Times, primarily emphasized how leadership tackled diversity across the LGBTQ spectrum, i.e., whether transgender or bisexual members and staff played prominent roles. The publication will further investigate what considerations organizations make for racial diversity or diversity among economic groups.

One of the greatest challenges facing any non-profit is making sure that the leadership of that organization can effectively engage with the constituency they serve, said Mary Morten of the Morten Group consultancy, which assists organizations in locating both board members and staff.

"When we think about our non-profit organizations and the programming and services that they are providing, it is critical that staff and board have some understanding of the lived experiences of those that they are servicing," she added. "Executives and senior leadership needs to reflect that diversity and those lived experiences."

Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson noted, "It is really important for communities to see themselves reflected in decision-making bodies, not just in advisory groups or onstage at events, but really at the table."

LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Director Jerome Holston said his organization is diligent about "identifying where there are gaps on our board and evaluating where there are skills and backgrounds that we need. It's a matter of going from there to identifying people we think can fill those roles. We of course have a preference for candidates who are members of the LGBTQ community, but it is not required."

Johnson said that organizations who are not conscientious about their leadership diversity risks becoming lost in a "vicious cycle," wherein the organization's constituency engages less and then leadership loses perspective either further.

"It means we're identifying the right issues that matter to our community, analyzing those issues in the best way and coming up with solutions that meet most of the needs of our community," Johnson explained.

But the LGBTQ community's perspective on what constitutes diversity is fluid and ever-changing, acknowledged AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) President and CEO John Peller.

"We're having a national conversation about the role of race and racism in society and in all organizations from corporations, to nonprofits, to the government to schools," he added. "It's really critical as AFC thinks about improving our response and our racial equity as an organization to really talk about and name racial equity as a goal for the organization. It's also critical for us to have the conversation about how we can be an anti-racist organization in our policies and practices, so that's something we're working hard to implement."

Pastor Jamie Frazier, who heads the community activist group Lighthouse Foundation, said his organization's leadership council is composed primarily of Black LGBTQ people "so we could authentically speak for and from our community. It was also important that trans and Black queer women's voices were centered as well."

Former Gov. Thompson dies at 84, leaves mixed LGBTQ+ legacy

Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson—nicknamed "Big Jim" because of his 6' 6" frame—died Aug. 14 at age 84.

Thompson, a Republican moderate who served four terms from 1977 to 1991, was from Chicago. He later was part of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, and joined the major law firm Winston & Strawn LLP.

Although he was a member of the GOP, Thompson was seen by many as having no allegiances. As a federal prosecutor in the early 1970s, he prosecuted Democrats and Republicans.

Regarding the LGBTQ community, Thompson did not have the best relationship with the demographic. In a 2010 talk with Windy City Times, activist Jeanne Kracher said that, during the AIDS crisis, "I think people don't remember that there were discussions with [then Illinois Gov.] Jim Thompson about quarantining gays: the most heinous and repressive ways of 'How do we deal with this emerging disease and these diseased people?'" In addition, Thompson was a target of activists in the late '80s for his support of stigmatizing AIDS laws.

However, Thompson was among prominent state Republicans—including then-U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka and



Mary Morten.

Photo courtesy of Morten

former Gov. Jim Edgar—to stand by Illinois Republican Chair Pat Brady in 2013 when he came out in favor of marriage equality.

In a tweet, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said "Thompson, a lifetime public servant and Illinois' longest serving governor, was a bipartisan leader and passionate advocate for our state."

People sought for LGBTQ South Side needs assessment survey

Pride Action Tank (PAT) is seeking input on people's needs, inspirations and preferences through an anonymous needs assessment survey.

Completing the needs assessment will help PAT better advocate for individuals; strengthen partnerships with existing South Side organizations and institutions; and inform the services and programming for a proposed South Side LGBTQ+ center and health clinic.

The organization will use this information to better understand the service and program needs and desires of the members of Chicago's South Side diverse LGBTQ+ communities as well as the preferred attributes of a community center on the South Side.

PAT is focused on improving outcomes and opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities in the Chicago region. A project of AIDS Foundation Chicago, PAT's mission is to improve the health,

Johnson acknowledged the pitfalls organizations can fall into as their boards chart their leadership strategies.

"Where I've seen organizations fail is if they think a primary purpose of an organization is to raise money, so therefore only people with access to capital should be on the board, [then] you're not going to get a diverse group no matter what policies you put forward," he said.

Johnson added that the board diversity must be a constant consideration: "If you bring on new board members in June, you can't have a meeting in February and say 'who should we be talking to?'"

Morten emphasized that organizations must go forward acknowledging the ever-changing considerations organizations must consider as they go forward.

"To diversify your board or staff, it's important to understand that diversity is not just on race—that's what's most obvious to us," she explained. "But we need to look at disability, gender identity and of course sexual orientation. We need to look at economics. All of these are diversity vectors for a board and they must decide how they need to prioritize these indicators."

The July 22 survey is at windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/How-community-organizations-tackle-diversity-Complete-responses/68913.html.

—Emily Reilly contributed reporting for this story.

safety and progress of individuals and groups within the LGBTQ+ community by inspiring, supporting and leading collaborative action that improves policy, service, access and community dynamics in the core areas of housing, health, safety, financial security, youth and aging.

See <https://prideactiontank.org/ssnasurvey/>.

Questions can be emailed to prideactiontank@aidschicago.org, and more background information is at <https://howardbrown.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Howard-Browns-Southside-Development-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

30 Under 30 postponed until June 2021

Windy City Times has made the difficult decision to postpone its annual 30 Under 30 Awards until next June, citing the coronavirus pandemic.

The ceremony was originally scheduled to take place Wed., June 24, at Polo Cafe; it was then pushed to October. However, health conditions necessitated a postponement until 2021.

However, next year the age limit and number of honorees will be increased—to "31 Under 31."

For 2021 nominations, nominees should be 31 years old or younger as of June 30, and should have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.



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Medusa's owner Dave Shelton passes away

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Dave Shelton, a.k.a. Dave "Medusa" Shelton—so named for his trademark frizzy locks—“just was different,” recalled his good friend of 45 years, Richard Cooke.

Shelton was the proprietor of the iconic night-spot Medusa's on Sheffield in Lake View, where numerous Chicagoans came to dance during 1982-92, becoming one of Chicago's premier locations for house music and kicking off a “goth” movement that lasted for years in neighborhood. Shelton passed away at age 64 on Aug. 7.

Numerous locals paid tribute to Shelton on Facebook as news of his passing spread: “Dave Medusa, you touched more lives than you ever knew,” wrote Jorge Heitz.

Heather Santowski posted, “Thank you Dave for creating such an amazing bond between so many strangers that made us all so happy all these years.”

Cooke said that he and Shelton met when they first worked together in 1976, and that they were immediately drawn to one another because they “were a pair of oddballs.”

Not only was Shelton cut from a different cloth, Cooke added, but his nightclubs were as well. “His clubs were different. He had good mix of people in there. He always thought he could do someplace that was more progressive.”

Shelton had long dreamed of having his own nightspot, and spent a great deal of time saving money—he financed much of club through pop-up dance parties—and looking for just the right location. When he did, he settled on a three-story location at 3257 N. Sheffield Ave.

The club was located on the top two floors of the building, above an acupuncturist's office on the ground floor. “We were always cleaning up needles all over the place,” Cooke recalled.

Shelton managed to book a great deal of then-unknown talent as they were on their way up the show-business ladder, he added. Among those Cooke recalled performing at Medusa's were Red Hot Chili Peppers, Smashing Pumpkins and Loleatta Holloway, as well as DJ Frankie Knuckles. Artist Keith Haring also showed up from time to time, Cooke said, leaving behind artwork he etched into the walls of the DJ's booth.

“We should have removed those when we closed,” Cooke said. He further recalled Stetson's drag performances as Medusa L. Wallflower, which frequently left the crowd in stitches. “Dave wasn't really a drag queen—he just wanted to be a performer.”

Cooke frequently worked at the front door. A 70-year-old woman, backed up by two larger security guards, worked as bouncers. “She was tiny,” he recalled about the woman. “But nobody wanted to fuck with her, either.”

Medusa's was a “juice bar,” meaning no alcohol was served and underage patrons were welcome. But that meant panicked parents occasionally showed up looking for their children. “We just let them in,” Cooke said, noting that Medusa's



Dave Shelton back in Medusa's heyday.
Photo courtesy of Jon Putnam

was patronized by several children of well-known Chicago elected officials.

One politician who never was impressed with Medusa's was Ald. Bernie Hanson, who steadily declared the nightclub was a public nuisance. Stetson attributed the closing of the Sheffield location to Hanson's strong-arming the building owner's into not renewing Stetson's lease; the Lake View Medusa's closed in 1992.

Stetson tried other Chicago locations but eventually returned to his hometown of Elgin, where a Medusa's location—which Clarke noted significantly resembled the original Medusa's—still remains.

Stetson went through a phase where he tinkered with old cars, especially a treasured 1957 Cadillac. Cooke noted that, after years of having a dog he doted upon, Stetson suddenly became a “cat person,” adopting numerous cats. “He was feeding feral cats all the time too,” he added.

Recalling the legacy of the first Medusa's, Cooke attributed its popularity to the club's openness to a diverse crowd, who was served with a minimum of attitude.

“We welcomed everyone,” he said. “We welcomed gays. We welcomed straights. ... At Medusa's, everyone was special.”

Featured Lakeview Properties



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East Lakeview
\$799,000

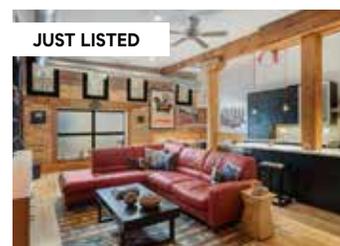
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Lakeview

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East Lakeview

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East Lakeview

\$589,000

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3300 N. Lake Shore Dr. #15C
East Lakeview

\$495,000

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COMPASS

World Rugby's proposed ban on transgender women sparks outcry

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Citing recent research, a 38-page World Rugby transgender working group draft document is proposing a ban on transgender women from playing women's rugby.

An anonymous source leaked the draft document to The Guardian. Windy City Times was unable to obtain the document for verification.

This proposal has sparked an outcry among rugby players world-wide, including the Chicago Dragons Rugby Football Club.

"The latest proposed guidelines from World Rugby, which were recently leaked to the media, would tighten playing restrictions for trans men, and ban trans women from playing rugby entirely," said Chicago Dragons Diversity and Inclusion Chair Matt Dela Cruz in a Facebook post. "The proposal attempts to implement an irrational standard based on incomplete research and will negatively affect all trans and non-binary players.

"These guidelines, geared [toward] elite rugby players, would negatively affect amateur rugby players, who make up most of the world's rugby participants. These guidelines actively turn away the trans and non-binary community from the sport of rugby, in part, because they will be forced to undergo invasive medical tests.

"The Chicago Dragons cannot accept these discriminatory practices from World Rugby. These practices go against the values of inclusion and respect both within our club and the sport of rugby itself. The culture of rugby is deeply rooted in a tradition of community and support, both on and off of the pitch.

"We always maintain that the only requirement to play rugby with the Chicago Dragons is: you want to play rugby with us. The Chicago Dragons stand with our trans family and the trans community. We are committed to an environment of inclusivity and respect for everyone. We will not tolerate hate, disrespect, and injustice within our community. Rugby is a sport for everyone, period, full stop. Everyone, regardless of history, gender status, or any other reason someone might be turned away out of ignorance or intolerance, has the right to call rugby 'Our Sport.' The Chicago Dragons have been a member of International Gay Rugby (IGR) since 2003, and are proud to stand with IGR in its opposition to these proposed guidelines."

"IGR and our 89 member clubs are founded on the principles of inclusion," said IGR Chairperson Karl Ainscough Gates. "Our main objective is to eliminate discrimination in the sport. IGR and World Rugby have been working together since 2012 in an effort to ensure the inclusive nature of the sport remains as one of its strongest characteristics. IGR is fully committed to ensuring the

highest safety standards possible for all players.

"The proposed Transgender Guideline that World Rugby has sent for feedback could negate all of the positive strides the sport has previously. The safety conclusions of the guidelines modeling are based on an extremely limited body of non-rugby specific research and are only being applied to certain players because they are transgender. Cisgender women with the same percentage of safety risk to other athletes would be able to continue to play. Cisgender men playing with the same percentage of safety risk to their own bodies would continue to play with no additional barriers. This is direct and active discrimination against transgender athletes, individuals involved in rugby around the world are actively saying this is not acceptable and cannot stand."

In an emailed statement to this publication, a World Rugby spokesperson said, "World Rugby and its unions are united in their commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive playing environment at all levels of the game. In line with this commitment, and in light of the latest peer-reviewed research, World Rugby has undertaken a wide-ranging review of its rugby-specific transgender guidelines in order to best reflect the modern playing landscape and scientific evidence.

"This comprehensive, transparent and inclusive review of the available research was driven by the ground-breaking transgender participation workshop in February attended by socio-ethics, science, medical, risk and legal experts. Throughout the process, World Rugby has sought to balance safety and inclusivity. The latest peer reviewed research confirms that a reduction of testosterone does not lead to a proportionate reduction in mass, muscle mass, strength or power.

"These important determinants of injury risk and performance remain significantly elevated after testosterone suppression. This presents a clear safety risk when transgender women play women's contact rugby and this position is reflected within draft guidelines that are currently out for stakeholder consultation prior to the World Rugby Council considering the matter later this year.

"Rugby is an inclusive and welcoming sport and World Rugby is fully committed to continuing to work with relevant groups to explore appropriate participation pathways for transgender athletes and is funding further research into the safe participation of all players in rugby. This is in addition to extensive non-contact participation such as tag rugby and touch rugby, avenues that are available to everyone at union level. We are not in a position to comment further on or share the draft guidelines as they are currently out for consultation."

The working group included Director Dr. Nicola Williams from the anti-trans United Kingdom



The Chicago Dragons rugby team.

Photo by Chris Perardi

based organization, Fair Play For Women, among others. Fair Play For Women has come out in opposition to the proposed Gender Recognition Act in the UK.

"World Rugby must be commended for their bravery and integrity by tackling the topic of transgender eligibility in women's rugby head on," said Williams. "They created the opportunity for open, transparent, and respectful dialogue on a politically sensitive topic combined with rigorous data analysis. World Rugby have set the gold standard for how all sports should now approach this; evidence-based policy making that delivers inclusion where possible but always safety first."

In an emailed statement to this publication, World Rugby said, "The World Rugby Council is set to consider the matter in November."

As of this publication date, a Change.org petition, "Keep Rugby Open to Trans Women Athletes," has garnered more than 16,000 signatures.



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Holocaust Museum's virtual soiree Sept. 2

On Wed., Sept. 2, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center's Women's Leadership Committee will host its annual soiree virtually.

The event will stream live from a studio with a star-studded line-up featuring a musical performance by Katie Kadan, a finalist on The Voice (December 2019) and other surprise guests. Media personality and social columnist Candace Jordan will emcee.

The event also will include a special message from Holocaust survivor and Museum Board President Fritzie Fritzhall.

While the event is free, there is a recommended donation of \$200 to help support the work of the museum. "With racism and anti-semitism on the rise, connecting the lessons of the Holocaust to present day is more urgent than ever," said Museum CEO Susan Abrams in a statement. "While the Museum is focused on education and awareness, social events such as the Soiree are another way to work toward our mission."

Guests will have the opportunity to enter a raffle for prizes such as a Peloton high-end indoor bike and a \$1,000 gift card to Chicago Cut. Tickets are \$50 for one ticket, \$100 for three, \$200 for seven and \$500 for 20.

To enter the raffle, register for the free event and/or make a donation, visit ILHolocaustMuseum.org/wlc or call 847-967-4821.

Lambda Legal notes two pro-trans victories

Lambda Legal issued a press release celebrating victories in two cases involving transgender people.

—*Adams v. The School Board of St. Johns County*: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed a lower court ruling that required a suburban Jacksonville, Florida, school district to treat transgender student Drew Adams equally by allowing equal access to the restroom that matches his gender.

The case began in June 2017, after Adams had been told he could only use gender-neutral restrooms.

—*F.V. v. Jeppesen*: The federal district court in Idaho blocked an effort by the Idaho legislature and Idaho Gov. Brad Little to revive a ban preventing transgender people born in Idaho from changing the gender marker on their birth certificates to match their gender identity.

Lambda Legal filed the original lawsuit in 2017, arguing that denying transgender people born in Idaho the ability to obtain accurate birth certificates discriminates against them and invades their privacy, liberty, and freedom from compelled speech under U.S. Constitution.

The Crib: A peek inside the new location

BY EMILY REILLY

The Night Ministry is now operating The Crib in a new location at 1735 N. Ashland Ave.

The previous location in the basement of Lakeview Lutheran Church only included 900 square feet of space—a prime reason for the re-location. The new location includes more rooms and enhanced utilities.

New expanses and appliances include a small lobby that opens early, a fully equipped kitchen, a private talking space, a large dining space with vibrant wall art, lockers, a lounge, a laundry room, extra storage, additional showers, bathrooms, sinks and two floors of offices for staff members. Staff say that community members are enjoying the new beds and extra space.

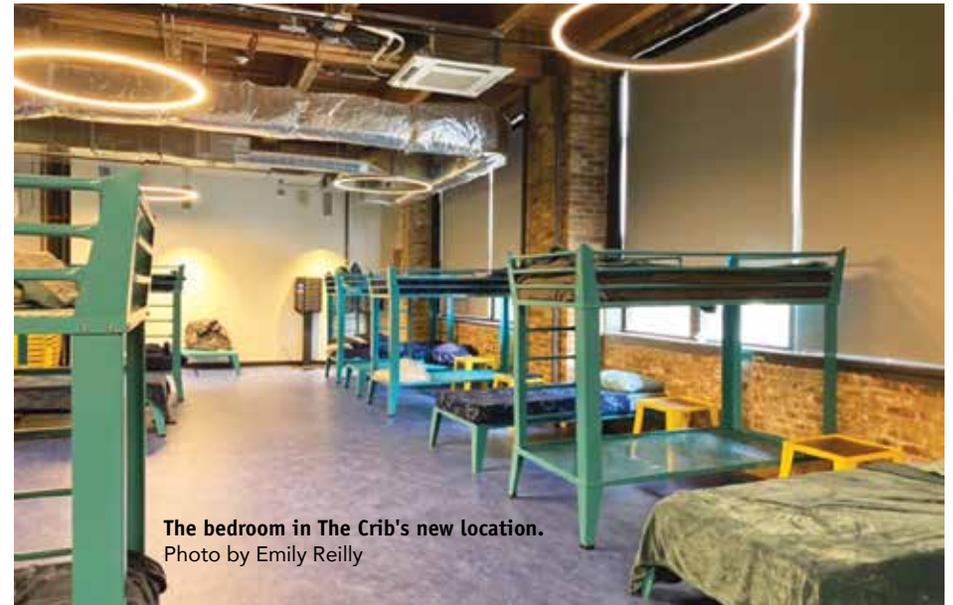
“There were a couple times last year or so at the old location there was rain and the basement flooded,” said communications manager Burke Patten. “We won’t have flooding in here. It’s also a huge change that we have enough beds and that we’re above ground.”

Although the situation has become more difficult during a pandemic, the additional space allows community members to eat meals, store

their items, participate in activities and be socially distant more efficiently. Volunteer groups haven’t been able to help serve food but many have been dropping off meals.

Outside the facility, there is a new parking space for the healthcare outreach bus that offers medical care to local areas. In the new location, they’re able to reach more routes that go to areas in need.

“We’re much closer to most of the neighborhoods the bus serves. It goes to seven different neighborhoods,” said Patten. “The [farthest] north is Rogers Park, but otherwise we’re going to Pilsen, Humboldt Park, Garfield Park and South Shore; we’re going south and west. We’re much closer to those locations than we were at Ravenswood.”



The bedroom in The Crib's new location.
Photo by Emily Reilly

AgeOptions receives certification to serve older LGBTQ+ adults

Oak Park-based AgeOptions has received SAGECare Platinum certification, a distinction recognizing organizational competency to serve LGBTQ+ older adults, a press release noted.

SAGECare is a division of SAGE—the nation’s oldest and largest nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of older LGBTQ+ adults.

“AgeOptions is committed to increasing our LGBTQ+ cultural competence and understanding and responding to the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ older adults,” said Aging with Pride program specialist Kate Spelman. “We want to provide welcoming and inclusive services to individuals who, because of a lifetime of discrimination, may hide who they are when accessing Aging Network services.”

To achieve certification, AgeOptions staff members and managers completed webinar training on how to provide welcoming and inclusive services. The Illinois Department on Aging provided funding for the one-hour staff webinar, with AgeOptions providing a four-hour training for managers and executive staff.

Another aspect of AgeOptions’ commitment to serving LGBTQ+ older adults is the Thrive with Pride Cafes created to combat social isolation among LGBTQ+ older adults. This network of community sites provides social support and vital information to LGBTQ+ older adults and caregivers in suburban Cook County.



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Longtime lesbian activist named Kamala Harris' chief of staff

BY SARI STAVER,
BAY AREA REPORTER

Longtime organizer Karine Jean-Pierre has been named chief of staff for Democratic presumptive vice presidential nominee U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-California). Earlier this year, she began serving as a senior adviser to Joe Biden's presidential campaign.

Previously, Jean-Pierre, a lesbian, served as national public-affairs officer for progressive policy advocacy group MoveOn.org.

According to an Aug. 11 article on HillReporter.com, the appointment makes Jeanne-Pierre "the first Black woman to hold the position."

Jean-Pierre, a Haitian immigrant, had held positions in Democratic or progressive organizations for more than a decade. She was the southeast regional political director for the Obama for America campaign and during his first term, served as a political director for the White House. In 2011, she served as a regional director for President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. She is also a lecturer in political campaign management at Columbia University.

MoveOn praised the selection.

"Karine is a talented and fiercely intelligent individual who has worked to advance progressive values, candidates and policies throughout her entire career," MoveOn Executive Director Rahna Epting emailed the Bay Area Reporter. "Her appointment as chief of staff to our next vice president during this campaign is a testament to her level of skill and dedication. MoveOn members are proud of Karine and confident that she will make the Biden and Harris campaign to be the best it can be."

Jean-Pierre, 43, a frequent political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, drew national headlines last year when she intervened physically when an animal rights activist jumped the stage and rushed at Harris at a San Francisco forum where she was discussing equal rights, during her 2020 presidential campaign.

In a 2019 interview with the B.A.R. in San Francisco, where she was promoting her memoir, "Moving Forward: A Story of Hope, Hard Work, and the Promise of America," published by Hanover Square Press last year, Jean-Pierre opened up about her life in suburban Washington, D.C. with her partner, CNN national correspondent Suzanne Malveaux, and their then-5-year-old daughter, Soleil.

Jean-Pierre said she wrote the book to explain how people can "access politics, no matter what their economic status, age, education or background." She looked back on her life as a first-generation Haitian American and concluded that if she could break through the many barriers she faced going into politics, others could too.

"Getting involved in politics can be intimidating," she said. "But in today's political climate,



Karine Jean-Pierre.
Photo by Sari Staver

the need for all of us to participate has never been more crucial."

Biden's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Virtual OPALGA+ scholarship gala slated for Oct. 24

OPALGA+/Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association will hold a virtual scholarship gala Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.

The event will feature video clips from the organization's scholarship winners, the Founder's Award celebration and opportunities for attendees to donate funds to its scholarship program.

This year, the OPALGA+ board authorized the awarding of \$30,000 in scholarships to 11 scholars continuing our celebration of 30 years as an organization. The goal is to raise \$24,000.

See OPALGA.org.

Trans advocate Jamison Green talks about increasing visibility

BY JOSHUA IRVINE

Jamison Green would really like to go hiking again.

He last went on a serious hike three years ago, before he and his wife left the Bay Area. He's been an outdoorsman his whole life and he lives in an area just north of Portland that's lush and green with forest.

But then he gets an email in his inbox, from a trans veteran who can't get a specialized wheelchair, or about a retracted study the Heritage Foundation is using as a cudgel against gender-affirming surgery—and Green goes to work.

Green has been a transgender-rights advocate for decades. He was at the lead of San Francisco's trans scene in the early 1990s as the publisher of the FTM Newsletter, and later became president of the World Professional Organization for Transgender Health (WPATH).

Later this year, Vanderbilt University Press will release an updated edition of Green's 2004 memoir, *Becoming a Visible Man*, with updated terminology to reflect developments in the trans community as well as new insight into Green's life.

It's another part of the battle for recognition that Green has fought for 30 years. He hopes re-releasing the book will help reach and educate a broader audience about the trans male experience.

"Visibility is crucial," Green said. "It's how we articulate our needs, what we want to accomplish, how we want to succeed, what all this transness means for all of us."

Becoming a Visible Man details Green's life from Bay Area misfit to his transition in his thirties and beginnings in advocacy. The book also doubles as a guide to trans masculinity, complete with a sample of options and pricing for those seeking gender reassignment surgery, and an academic discourse on transgender identity.

For Green, the new edition offers a refresher course for trans men, particularly for younger members who he worries lack a connection to the broader saga of the community.

"A lot of trans people right now think they don't have a history," Green said. "Today, trans men are still invisible."

He's also concerned with the legacies of men like Steve Dain and Lou Sullivan, two pioneers to the Bay Area trans male community. Sullivan was one of the first openly gay trans men and founder of FTM Newsletter before his death in 1991; Dain was a physical education teacher whose transition in 1975 brought widespread attention to the trans male community, as well as being Sullivan's mentor. The new edition up-



Jamison Green.
Photo courtesy of Vanderbilt University

dates both their biographies with new information in its homage to the trans men of 1990s San Francisco.

The book also expands on Green's own life after 2004, specifically his move to WPATH after passing on the FTM Newsletter. WPATH numbered around 300 when Green first became involved; it now claims over 2,100 members globally and a full-time staff.

Green, a technical writer for many years, said he finds his own legacy in bringing the grassroots activism of the San Francisco scene into doctor's offices and corporate boardrooms.

"You can change huge, huge systems if you have the right point of leverage," Green said. "Sometimes that point is outside on the street yelling with a bullhorn and sometimes it's inside in a conference room."

Now 71, Green sees his own role shifting, particularly as the trans community and its allies has changed throughout his career.

"There's a lot more of us now," Green said. "There's a lot more trans people involved, there's a lot more parents involved, there's a lot more doctors involved."

He's adamant, however, that this is not his swan song. WPATH still calls on him to write policy statements for the organization, which he's been doing since 2008. He's an editor on a history of transgender medicine in the U.S. and has plans to adapt his dissertation – Green received his doctorate in equities law in 2011, at the age of 63 – about a famed trans paternity case. He also has a pair of novels he's been putting off for years.

And he'd like to go hiking again. He wants his next climb to be the Olympic Peninsula, in northwest Washington.

However, he'll have to get through his emails first.

DANK Haus hosts 'Gay Berlin' forum with author

BY EMILY REILLY

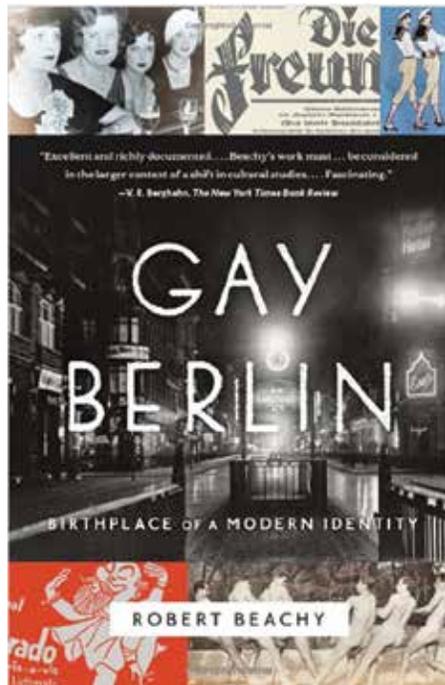
Chicago's DANK Haus German American Cultural Center hosted a virtual discussion event with Dr. Robert Beachy, author of the Randy Shilts Award-winning book *Gay Berlin: Birthplace of a Modern Identity*, on Aug. 6.

The event began with Beachy describing his background in education and how he came to write the book, which focuses on late 19th- and 20th-century Pre-Weimar Berlin's impact on understanding sexuality.

Sarah Lime, who is currently with the center, gave a short presentation about Berlin's history as a cultural hotspot for gay subcultures between the world wars and how it's largely unknown in the world scheme of history.

Lime opened up the floor for questions from listeners. The first came from a listener asking Beachy about why LGBTQ+ individuals were singled out during the Nazi regime. An anonymous listener immediately responded with "they were not" and began referencing books about the Nazi Party, including *Hidden Hitler* and *The Pink Swastika*, denying that LGBTQ+ individuals experienced persecution in that time period before Beachy had a chance to answer.

"His thesis that Hitler was homosexual was mostly discredited," Beachy responded. "He doesn't have any real evidence that proves that; it was all conjecture or tissue of potential hints. The second book you referred to is authored by a very homophobic, evangelical man named Scott Lively, who's also responsible for introducing draconian, anti-gay legislation in Africa."



Robert Beachy.

Photo courtesy of Beachy, copyright Michael Lionstar

The discourse went back and forth between Beachy and the listener, which became heated as they debated over Lively's beliefs.

Lime steered the discussion to a new question from a different listener, Emily Lime (Sarah's sister), who asked about the engagement of ancient art throughout Germany in addition to texts in the late 19th century.

"There's something referred to as 'the tyranny of Greece' to talk about the German almost obsession or infatuation with the ancient world, especially ancient Greece but, to some extent, Rome," said Beachy. "It's impossible to overlook the influence that plays that role."

Another listener, Katie, asked about what brought Beachy to South Korea's Yonsei University as a professor. Beachy said that he was simply offered the position but was also intrigued by contrasts and parallels of German and Korean history.

Among the discourse following this were questions about comparing LGBTQ+ culture in Germany to the United States, the importance of

history before the Stonewall Riots and why Berlin was a hub for the LGBTQ+ community.

"At least through the 19th century, there was a positivist fate that it was possible to actually learn concrete facts about the way people organized themselves and the way cultures functioned," said Beachy. "I'm not arguing that this is necessarily a good thing but I think that approach influenced and informed the earliest sexologists and prompted them to look at what was considered 'deviant behavior' and study it.

Coalition of state lawmakers proposes sweeping ethics reforms

In the wake of the numerous, ongoing federal investigations involving bribery, influence peddling and insider-trading impacting state government officials and lobbyists, a broad coalition of lawmakers gathered Aug. 13 to announce its support for nine specific ethics reform measures that they believe could receive bipartisan support in the upcoming veto session.

Democratic lawmakers from both the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate said their proposals would dramatically increase transparency and take meaningful strides toward restoring public trust in state government. Specifically, lawmakers point to nine steps that relate directly to the activities of lobbyists, legislators and General Assembly leadership:

1. Prohibit legislator-lobbyists.
2. Stop the legislator-lobbyist revolving door.
3. Better define who is a lobbyist.
4. Fuller disclosure of outside income.
5. Establish an official censure process.
6. Measures to strengthen the office of legislative inspector general.
7. End the exemption for General Assembly employees from the Human Rights Act.
8. Establish term limits for legislative leaders.
9. Establish a process for removal of leaders and committee chairs.

"The time has come to change the culture in Springfield and we believe these proposals will be a major step forward in that effort," said state Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago) in a statement. "Our system is broken and we need to fix it and I'm proud my colleagues have come together to demand change."

Recognizing the need for serious ethics reform, the General Assembly and Gov. JB Pritzker created the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform, consisting of 16 members appointed by the governor, the four legislative leaders, the attorney general and the secretary of state.

The commission was charged with holding hearings and issuing a report and recommendations by March 31. Although hearings began early this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the commission's work and final report.

What they produced was taken seriously and was openly published."

The event ended with a discussion about the impact of newspaper culture in Berlin and its association with different classes. Beachy compared the impact of historian/sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld in 1930s Germany to that of scientist/sexologist Alfred Kinsey in the 1960s United States, and discussed police engagement in the LGBTQ+ community in the early 20th century in Berlin.

The following lawmakers support the nine proposals as part of a legislative package: Cassidy, state Sen. Melinda Bush, state Rep. Daniel Didech, state Rep. Mary Edly-Allen, state Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, state Sen. Laura Fine, state Rep. Robyn Gabel, state Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, state Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, state Sen. Kimberly Lightford, state Sen. Andy Manar, state Sen. Iris Martinez, state Rep. Bob Morgan, state Rep. Yoni Pizer, state Rep. Delia Ramirez and state Sen. Heather Steans.

Results show potential impact of anti-trans HUD regulation

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law unveiled research results on the heels of news that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a proposed rule that aims to revise the Equal Access rule—which requires HUD-funded housing services to be provided without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The new rule, if finalized, would allow homeless shelters to deny transgender people access to single-sex and sex-segregated shelters that align with their gender identity.

"Poverty and homelessness disproportionately impact transgender people, particularly transgender people of color and youth. This rule, if finalized, would negatively impact an already vulnerable population during a period of economic downturn," said Luis Vasquez, Renberg Law Fellow at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, in a statement.

Research results show:

—LGBTQ youth make up 22 percent of homeless youth;

—Eight percent of transgender adults report experiencing homelessness in the past year, compared to 3 percent of non-transgender LGB people and 1 percent of cisgender, heterosexual adults;

—Nearly 30 percent of transgender people are living in poverty, significantly higher than almost all other cisgender groups of people; and

—Transgender people who reported that they had been denied equal treatment in the past year because they are transgender were more than twice as likely to attempt suicide than those who had not been denied equal treatment (13.4 percent compared to 6.3 percent).



@windycitytimes

Ally opens Diverse Little Free Library in Norridge

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Former elementary school teacher and health-care non-profit education manager Lauren Erbach Barnfield is on a mission to bring diverse children's books to her Norridge neighborhood—with a Diverse Little Free Library located in her family's front yard.

This free library is similar to others. However, Erbach Barnfield said she is "intentionally stocking it with books that feature diverse charac-



Lauren Erbach Barnfield standing next to her Diverse Little Free Library.

Photo by Mark Erbach Barnfield

ters—BIPOC, women, LGBTQI individuals and disabled individualism [as well as books] authored by those individuals."

Erbach Barnfield added that, like the other free libraries, people can take and/or leave books—but she indicated that those who leave books should adhere to her mission of creating a space for diverse stories.

The inspiration for this library stemmed from Erbach Barnfield's stated desire to create a better world. She said that, growing up in a very white Chicago suburb, she was surrounded by people who looked like her.

Moving to Chicago in 2012 changed her view of the world because she experienced diversity for the first time. Erbach Barnfield said she knows she has immense privilege because she is a white cisgender heterosexual woman.

"To say it opened my eyes, changed my heart and guided my passions is an understatement," said Erbach Barnfield.

There were a lot of little moments that led to Erbach Barnfield's awakening, including joining Ravenwood's All Saints Episcopal Church, which

was led by lesbian rector, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry. (*Editor's note:* Perry was recently ordained as the 11th bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Michigan.)

"At church, I was surrounded by really smart activists, people who were queer, people of color and I learned to use my voice to improve the lives of others," said Erbach Barnfield. "I have always given back to my community, but I did not become an activist until I moved to the city. I learned to protest for the first time. I marched for Black Lives Matter and in Chicago's Pride Parade with my Episcopal church. I traveled to Springfield to advocate for gun reform because of the massacre that happened at the Pulse nightclub; I was horrified to see this senseless hate crime happen to so many LGBTQI people of color who were just trying to enjoy an evening out with their friends. My eyes have been opened to all the broken things in this country that need fixing."

Erbach Barnfield met her now-husband Mark Erbach Barnfield in 2015. By 2018, they were married and living in Andersonville in a third floor walk-up with their seven month-old daughter Alice and another baby, Teddy, on the way. This impending arrival was the catalyst for their move to Norridge.

"We wanted to stay close to parts of the city we knew and loved—Andersonville, Ravenswood and Lincoln Square, as well as our church community," said Erbach Barnfield. "We found a house we loved in a walkable neighborhood."

When they moved she noticed that, like her childhood suburb, the town is mostly white. She thought about what impact that would have on her children despite the fact that they were already exposing their children to diverse books and other media. This is how the Diverse Little Free Library was born.

"When Lauren gets an idea in her head there is no stopping her," said Mark Erbach Barnfield. "It is one of the things that impresses me the most about her. I am so proud of her dedication and commitment to making a difference with this library and her other endeavors."

"I believe strongly that building anti-racist, LGBTQI-inclusive foundations in children starts at a young age," said Erbach Barnfield. "Their home libraries should reflect the diversity they will see in the world. If their neighborhood is not diverse, I think it is even more important to get exposure to people who do not look like they do or have the same life experiences. Sometimes the littlest things can make the biggest difference."

Erbach Barnfield said she was inspired by Sarah Kamy, whom she found on Instagram. Kamy recently started her own Little Free Diverse Library in Arlington, Massachusetts. Both Erbach Barnfield and Kamy are intentionally focusing



Diverse Little Free Library books.

Photo by Lauren Erbach Barnfield

on children's books for their libraries.

"I think that the takeover of Little Free Diverse Libraries and the passion behind each person who sends a book, fills a library or builds their own library is incredible," said Kamy. "Black stories matter and it is important not only for white folk to educate themselves on Black culture and history, but for Black and Brown children to see themselves reflected and celebrated in the books they read. I am so proud of how much this has grown and the community effort that has allowed it to reach so many people including Lauren's library."

"I am inspired by Generation Z's activism and I want that kind of empathy, passion and activism to continue with my children's generation," said Erbach Barnfield. "It is my hope that this library will better equip them to be empathetic adults who work to make the world better than they found it. These are titles I read with my own children and want to share with others."

Among the titles that will be included in the library are Stella Brings the Family, Last Stop on Market Street, Sofia Valdez: Future Prez, Hair Love, Pink is for Boys, PRIDE: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, Annie's Plaid Shirt, Julian is a Mermaid, Frida, Our Rainbow, Celebrate Your Body, Love Makes a Family, The Proudest Blue, Wonder, Just Ask!, The Hate U Give, A is for Awesome, Fry Bread and Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History.

To date, Erbach Barnfield has amassed more than 100 books and raised enough money to purchase a well-built library that will survive all weather conditions. She said it would be up and running Aug. 7. Her hope is that, through fundraising, she will be able to stock both her and other Little Free Libraries with diverse books for many years.

Erbach Barnfield said that going forward any funds raised to purchase books will be spent at the only Black women-owned bookstore in Chicago, Semicolon.

"Where we choose to spend our money sends a message about our values," said Erbach Barnfield. "If we really believe Black Lives Matter; we have to support Black-owned businesses like Semicolon. Also, they are an incredible bookstore."

To donate, visit gofundme.com/f/the-norridge-diverse-feminist-little-free-library. See instagram.com/littlefreediversenorridge/ and instagram.com/littlefreediverselibraries/ for more information.

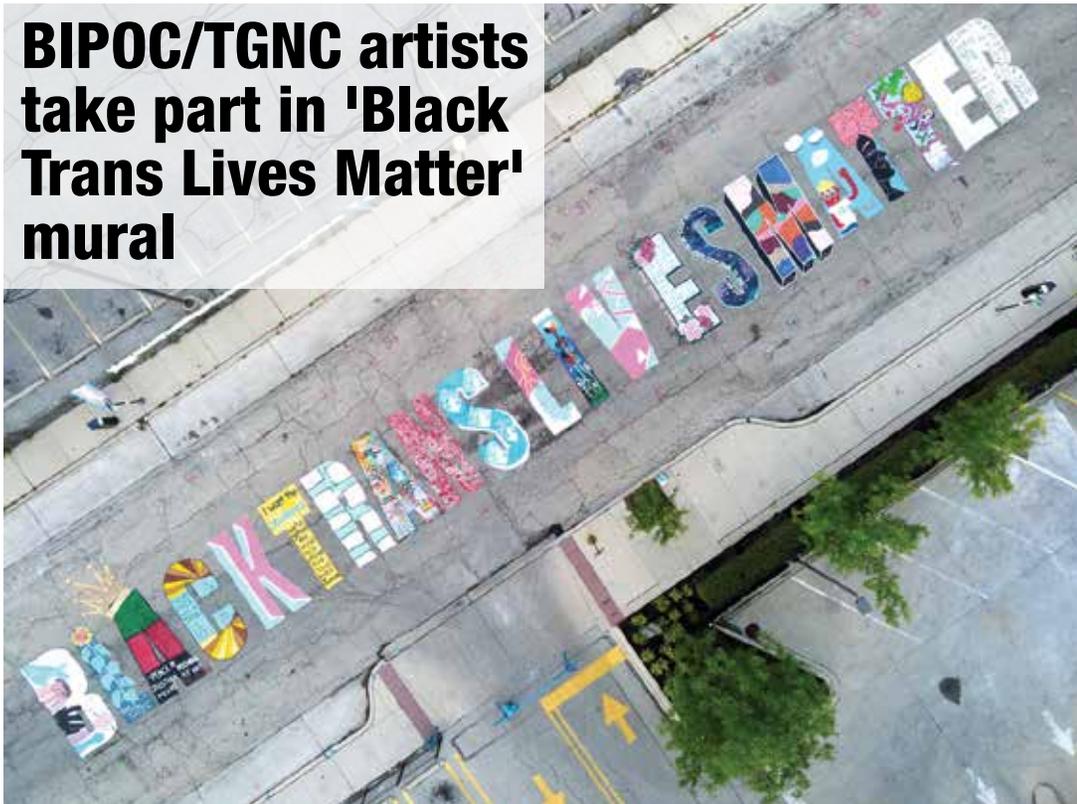
MWRD recognizes Juneteenth as holiday

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners unanimously approved plans that will allow employees to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday for the first time.

In recognition of the importance of Juneteenth as the oldest known celebration of emancipation of slaves in the United States, MWRD officials sought a way to more fully recognize the day.

Although Juneteenth is observed each year on June 19, the occasion is officially celebrated in Illinois on the third Saturday in June annually. With this change, the MWRD gives employees the choice to use June 19 as their one additional holiday selection each year.

BIPOC/TGNC artists take part in 'Black Trans Lives Matter' mural



Photos by Eric Brock and Danica Milich

Answering a callout on the weekend of Aug. 8-9 to paint the message "BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER," BIPOC/TGNC artists took part on the artwork, located between Clark Street and Ashland Avenue.

A local Andersonville artist offered a \$2,000 donation match to

help raise the funds to pay each artist for his/her/their time.

According to a press release, the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce (ACC) began the process of asking permission to paint the mural with the 40th Ward and the City of Chicago six weeks ago, but

did not hear back from the City until late Aug. 6. The city officially greenlit the project for the weekend of Aug. 8-9 in response to the recent death of activist Caleb Reed in Emerson Park, which is also located in the 40th Ward.

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viewpoints

Grace
YAOStand up and
be counted

As the LGBTQ+ navigator of Chinese Mutual Aid Association, I want to encourage everyone, both LGBTQ+ individuals and cisgender/straight allies, to get counted in Census 2020.

Many of you might wonder whether completing the Census really makes a difference, and I'm writing to tell you it does! When it comes to the Census, there really is power in numbers, and we must be counted to benefit from the allocation of economic resources and political power. As a queer Asian American myself, I'm excited for this opportunity to participate, in a small but important way, in positive change for the LGBTQ community.

The LGBTQ community contributes so much to the culture and vibrancy of the city of Chicago, but it has been historically excluded and underrepresented in this country. In the continued fight to be heard, it is important for us to be represented in the 2020

Census. The LGBTQ community is considered a part of the "Hard to Count Population." for various reasons, including the disproportionate rates of homelessness for queer and trans individuals.

The demographic data from Census responses impacts everything within our communities; it will determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding will be allotted for education, healthcare, social services, and other essential resources in our communities for the next 10 years. Fair access to social services and other much needed services depends on funding entities knowing that we exist!

We have a shared responsibility to one another to be counted. Additionally, Census responses determine how many seats each state has in the House of Representatives, which is divided up by a state's population. If participation in the Census is low in our state, or if communities are undercounted, we could lose congressional seats, lessening our political power. We need to be counted to ensure that we are properly represented in government and that our voices are heard. If we do not participate in the Census, the LGBTQ community will continue to be invisible and we continue to be silenced as we have been throughout history.

Due to the continued advocacy for LGBTQ inclusion in the Census, this year we have the option to identify a relationship as same-sex. Although there is still much work to be done to ensure that the

Census properly counts gender identity and sexual orientation of all individuals, it's our responsibility to take the opportunity we have now and build on it in our continued push for justice and equality.

To our cis and straight allies, we are also counting on you to help in our fight for social justice and equity. In addition to experiencing higher rates of homelessness, queer individuals are also disproportionately likely to rely on programs like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). About one out of every five same-sex households relies on SNAP funding to feed their families. The census determines how much funding each state gets for SNAP, and people who are living in our communities aren't filling out the census, there will be less funding going to support LGBTQ individuals and families who are relying on these vital programs to put food on the table every week.

It only takes 10 minutes to advocate for resources for our communities! I encourage everyone to go to <https://my2020census.gov/> to get counted today, and to engage your networks, friends, family and colleagues to share information about the census.

Grace Yao is an adult education transition specialist and LGBTQ navigator with the Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

letters

What's in a name?

Dear community:

The growing debate over the name change of Boyston is reflective of a broader cultural tectonic shift on race, gender, sexual orientation and trans issues that take place in many parts of our culture. Some would argue the whole issue is about allegiance to hostile principles. We must learn to breach the uncomfortable subjects without being bias, listen.

Let me be clear on this matter: We have to be open to attentively listen to each other's painful stories of exclusion and have the courage to join in respectful dialogue.

We all have our opinion As a person of faith, I believe racism is not a part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When this area was known as Newtown, it was just as racist as when the rainbow pylons were constructed. If change is going to take place, it has to take place within us; all the rest is cosmetic.

Joe Murray
Executive Director
Rainbow Sash Movement
(LGBTQA Roman Catholics)

Striving for racial equality

Dear community:

The Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) is charged by the Illinois Supreme Court with investigating and prosecuting misconduct by lawyers, and as such has a unique and significant responsibility for assuring that the legal system achieves its goal of equal justice for all citizens. The killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and other Black Americans by both law-enforcement officers and others, bring into sharp focus the fears and injustices that continue to devastate people of color in our country.

In 2015, the ARDC appointed a diversity and inclusion (D&I) leader, and we have addressed the equity of our internal processes and procedures. We will leverage our ongoing D&I initiatives in further identifying and addressing any bias within our agency and in our undertakings.

The ARDC commits to use its regulatory authority to engage and educate members of the legal profession on addressing and eschewing racism, including implicit bias. We commit to holding the legal profession accountable for protecting the rule of law and making the justice system available to and equitable

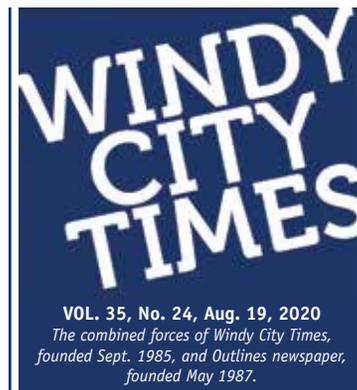
for all members of our communities.

Further, the ARDC commits to an ongoing focus and action on this issue and to transparency. We will provide regular reports of our D&I efforts, regulatory and educational initiatives and analysis of public data from our disciplinary caseload. Our annual reports will contain a comprehensive discussion of our yearly efforts. We will provide information to the Illinois Supreme Court, the profession and the public to fairly gauge and hold the ARDC accountable.

Simply put, there is no place in our profession for those who cannot practice without discrimination based upon a person's color. We recommit ourselves to creating and maintaining a disciplinary system that identifies and holds attorneys responsible for conduct that includes racial bias, inequity or intolerance.

ARDC Administrator Jerome E. Larkin
and ARDC Director of Diversity
and Inclusion Lea S. Gutierrez

Send columns or letters to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.



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MUSIC

Cor.Ece:

Queer singer on journey, 'The Chi' and 'hopeful electro-soul'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Cor.Ece is a singer/songwriter who, unlike most people, seems to have found his niche: making inspiring music that he calls “hopeful electro-soul.”

He is now based in Los Angeles, but has literally traveled the country while increasing his visibility. (Editor’s note: While in Chicago, he wrote for Windy City Times under the byline “Mark Corece.”) Part of that increased visibility includes one of his songs, “Get Up,” being on the July 26 episode of the Showtime series *The Chi*—which is produced by friend Lena Waithe.

Windy City Times: How have you been doing during this pandemic?

Cor.Ece: I’ve leaned into creativity as soon as I could. When I first found out about the lockdown, I thought I would get bogged down, so I thought I’d find a project to do around my house until I was ready to write music. So that’s what I did most of the time, at first.

As it got longer, it was more about day-to-day things and trying to find balance, which I’m always trying to do.

WCT: Creatively, I don’t know if it’s a good or bad thing to have too much time.

C: Hmm... That’s a really interesting point. Wait: Now that I think about it, I don’t think there’s such a thing as too much time. It can be good to have more and more time to create. I can sit in a studio and create work two or three days in a row. Some really beautiful and powerful stuff can come from having so much time. Before the quarantine, I didn’t have enough time and I was trying to build time.

WCT: You’ve been on quite the journey—but I mean, more specifically, a geographical one. You’re from St. Louis, but you’ve lived in Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles.

C: Yes; I’m living in L.A. right now. The initial stop in Chicago was about school and my creative experience, but I went to New York on a lark. I wasn’t sure what I was going to do and a really close friend of mine planned on going to grad school [there]; I said, “If you get into grad school, I’ll move in with you.” With L.A., I just threw caution to the wind, although I had work opportunities. I decided New York was too cold and I decided to try L.A.

WCT: New York was too cold after living in Chicago?

C: [Laughs] I love Chicago, but notice I wasn’t there anymore. [Both laugh.] But with L.A., I wanted to continue to be inspired—and I wanted to get some sun. Two years later, I’m still here.

WCT: You classify your music as “hopeful electro-soul.” Tell me what you’re hopeful about.

C: I’m hopeful about as much as I can be hopeful. [Laughs] Because I have that capacity with myself, I try to bring it into my work as much as possible. If there is any light in what many consider to be a dark time—whether it’s politics; killings happening around Black or trans people; or the financial state of this country—I try to use my art to inspire, even if that sounds cliché.

WCT: And are you hopeful about the social-justice awakening some have had?

C: It’s interesting because I remember being an activist when I was a teen; that was based on being a queer person in what was sometimes an unsafe situation. I then went to a camp where I got my foundation on social-justice work; back then, we got pushback.

But this “awakening”—it’s really beautiful to see because I know how hard it was to have those conversations 10 or 15 years ago. Even during a time many see as darkness, I see that some people are unpacking the history of this country. And this is where I find hope.

Cor.Ece.
Photo by xonasuchi

COR.ECE from page 13

Hope can't just come from me; it has to be this reciprocal experience for all of us.

WCT: Let's move on—or back, rather—to your music. Your song "Get Up" was recently on The Chi. How did that come about?

C: It came about because of a little belief in myself. Making the move to share my music with the world came with some doubt, initially. I knew Lena from working at a studio in Los Angeles, Relativity Media—and we've kept in touch over the years. I reached out to her and let her know that my album was done, and that I'd like to share it on any project she might be working on. She responded right back, and she took the time to listen to my whole album; I'm so grateful for that. She's been supportive of many artists.

WCT: If you could change one thing about the music industry, what would it be?

C: Wow—I'm kind of emotional about this, because I've been thinking about Black women and how they've been treated for so many years in the industry. I wish I could change the history of that, but I've dedicated myself to being part of a space where women can show up however they want to, in all forms.

I have a band and a woman named Priscilla Perry, who sings background—but also is an accomplished artist in her own right. That's so important to me.

WCT: And how is the industry when it comes to LGBTQ+ musicians? Is it a case of "You've come a long way, but there's still a long way to go?"

C: That sounds like a complicated statement because it sounds like infinity; it's hard to feel hope from that. But I would say I am, in many ways, new to some areas of the industry—but I have

seen a couple sides of it. I would say that people know the history of us, and how we were almost erased—having to hide who we are to appease society.

Chicago's own [queer hip-hop artist] Roy Kinsey has made strides in the music industry. There are people like Cakes da Killa and Honey Dijon, who's from Chicago and who I've worked with; she's a Black trans woman who's making strides around the world. There's enough room for all of us.

WCT: I spoke with someone not too long ago who said that his experiences in the music industry sometimes made him wish he never came out.

C: Hmm... Yeah—especially when you get to the corporate area, you are intertwined with people who are so much into your career that it's hard for you to make choices for yourself. I think that in those instances that people find themselves in rigid spaces that they either choose to be a part of or become part of and not realize it.

That's why so many artists end up trying to get out of contracts. They're not doing what they want to do. I try to be intentional about the choices I make but feel gratitude because I stand on the shoulders of others. You think of someone like ['70s disco artist] Sylvester, who defined a time and sound—and who allowed people like me to have choices.

WCT: Sylvester might be one of your answers to my last question: If you could collaborate with any three musicians (living or dead), who would they be?

C: [Laughs] Why do you have to do me like this? You know what? This might sound like a cop-out but I am working with a disco label right now so, yes, working with Sylvester would be amazing. I would also say Luther Vandross; I've been thinking about him a lot, especially with



Cor.Ece.
Photo by xonasuchi

vocal acrobatics. And the last person is Solange, only because she brings a special soft and musically pretty energy as well as a vulnerability that I could use more of. Also, I think she's connected to some interesting artists, so I'd like to be in her musical space.

Cor.Ece is on Facebook and Instagram (@cor.ece), and his music is on Spotify, Soundcloud, Bandcamp and other platforms.

He is slated to be on Honey Dijon's album in February.

BOOK REVIEW

Butch Cassidy: The True Story of an American Outlaw

**Author: Charles Leerhsen
\$28; Simon & Schuster; 304 pages**

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

That man there? He's just a nice guy.

Kind and generous, respectful and friendly, he's a true gentleman, and he's never judgmental. He loves children and animals, truth and honor. He's a good sport, a good man—and in the new book *Butch Cassidy*, by Charles Leerhsen, he's a good shot, too.

Eight years before the film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* was released in 1969, the last of Cassidy's Wild Bunch "went into the ground." Her name was Laura Bullion and, says Leerhsen, she was one of a small handful of female groupies who followed the outlaw gang, led by the man played by Paul Newman.

"It was easy," Leerhsen says "to be smitten by Cassidy..."

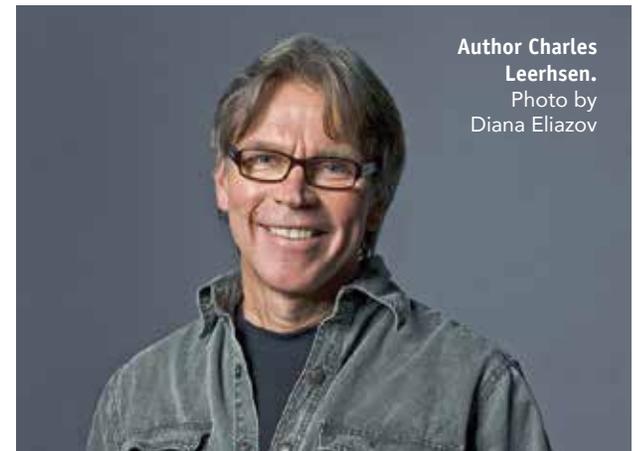
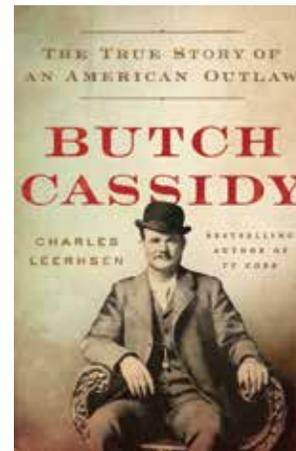
Born Robert Parker in a tiny cabin in Beaver, Utah, Cassidy grew up uninterested in both his

parents farm, and his ancestors' Mormon religion. He was too fun-loving, too full of mischief and an appreciation for guns, horses, and gambling to settle down—and yet, unlike many Wild West scoundrels, he was well-read, kind and good-hearted which, in the hearts and minds of Old West citizens, set him apart from all the others during his life of crime. Later, though apparently not deceitfully, he began using "Cassidy" as a surname, alternating with his given name.

Despite its appeal as an American legend, however, the story of Butch Cassidy and Harry "Sundance" Longabaugh might've merely enfolded into history, were it not for Hollywood, although Tinseltown messed with the myth. Reel men and real men were two different things and, says Leerhsen, it's possible that Sundance wasn't Cassidy's best friend. Their bones may not lie in South America, and historians believe that Cassidy may have been bisexual; indeed, Cassidy's mother commented on it. About the bank heists, train robberies, and horse thefts: Cassidy was a criminal but was Hollywood correct in portraying him as an "extraordinary human being?"

"Oddly enough," says Leerhsen, "the answer, it seems, is yes..."

Thankfully, that doesn't mean a cliched riding-off-into-the-sunset scene inside *Butch Cassidy*. There's no such sentimentality here; instead, you'll find lots of delightful set-you-rights and the chance to meet a roguish scoundrel who's



Author Charles Leerhsen.
Photo by Diana Eliazov

hard to historically hate—a notion that many of Cassidy's victims would have surprisingly agreed with.

In explaining why that's so, author Leerhsen shows why Cassidy's exploits loomed so large in the West but were then largely forgotten for so long. In this, readers may get the sense that the movie memorializing didn't please Leerhsen, and that he is no fan of the general Hollywoodization of history.

But that's one small part of what's here. The real appeal of this book—what's fully half the fun of it—is the sense that Leerhsen isn't just telling

this tale. He's growling it, grizzled-like, perhaps over campfire and cowpoke stew, surrounded by rustled cattle.

Absolutely, historians will want this book. For sure, *L'Amour* and *McMurtry* fans will enjoy it. As for lovers of a good tale, well, if you want something different this summer, *Butch Cassidy* will be a nice change.

Want more? Then look for *The Last Outlaws: The Lives and Legends of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, by Thom Hatch; or *Butch Cassidy: Beyond the Grave*, by W.C. Jameson.

STREAMING THEATER REVIEW

Bad Dates

Playwright: Theresa Rebeck

At: Online

Tickets: \$25-\$50; OilLampTheater.org

Runs through: Aug. 23

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Fashion being an integral element in romantic fiction, we are not surprised to first discover our heroine in her boudoir, readying herself for a date.

Nor are we surprised that this process involves selecting precisely the right footwear from among the 600 pairs of exquisitely crafted, prohibitively priced, motile-counterproductive shoes boxed up under the bed, hanging in bags on the closet door and lined up on the adjacent bench—but don't settle back for a summer wallow in Material-Girl fantasy just yet. What Theresa Rebeck has written is nothing less than a morality fable, so



Lisa Dawn in *Bad Dates*.

Photo courtesy of Oil Lamp Theater

pay attention.

Haley Walker is a divorced single mom who fled her native Texas eight years earlier for New York City, where she discarded her accent and found work as a server in a swanky Manhattan eatery owned by a clan of Romanian mobsters. After ris-

ing to the powerful position of restaurant manager, she is now comfortable in her rent-controlled apartment with her teenage daughter attending private school and has decided that the time is right to start socializing again.

Despite the savvy counsel of her supportive gay brother and free-spirit girlfriend, however, Haley's initial forays into the realm of sexual negotiation all end badly—not because the candidates for Mister Right are quickly revealed to be rude, egocentric, lying trolls (even the mom-endorsed college professor turns out to be a “big ol’ homo” who makes no secret of his sexism or heterophobia), but due to the increasingly disturbing similarities between their boorish behavior and her own exploitive stratagems. When finally called to account for her past deeds—undertaken with noble intent, but illegal all the same (Did I mention her employers' money-laundering operation?)—salvation arrives garbed in humility, confession and a previously rejected Galahad well-versed at assistance in moments of crisis.

A list of feminine woes recounted in slumber-party idiom by a lone gamine stripping to her

undies and suiting up in urban-sexy camo could swiftly reduce itself to sitcom-ish mannerisms reflecting a stereotype encompassing more than one demographic, as evidenced by a 2018 production featuring an African-American Haley. Recognizing this, Oil Lamp Theater director Elizabeth Mazur Levin and actor Lisa Dawn deliver uniformly intelligent text interpretation—never permitting their narrator's size six-petite wardrobe to eclipse Rebeck's caveat on succumbing to the very deceptions we so deplore in others.

Phase Four might be slow in reintroducing indoor entertainment; however, in the meantime, Oil Lamp offers its audiences two options, both currently permitted under shutdown restrictions. They involve following a drive-in opening-night gala in a parking lot, where the taped production (filmed in continuous sequence by videographer Elliot Burlingham and microphone operator Michael Dritto to approximate live-performance conditions) was broadcast via LED screens and car radios tuned to FM, the show reverts to online streaming for playgoers to watch at home—preferably with their feet up and shoes off.

MUSIC

Performer Jane Badler helps present late son's musical vision

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Actress/musician Jane Badler said that her late son, Harry Hains, was someone who was “in a different vibration.”

“He never fit in,” said Badler, who is perhaps best known for her role as the villainous alien leader Diana in the '80s TV mini-series and series *V*. “He went to private school and he didn't know why he didn't fit in. He wasn't gay. He wasn't straight. He was kind of this genderfluid, androgynous creature. He always felt that he was never understood.”

Hains, who passed away in January 2020 after struggles with addiction and mental illness, was nevertheless active as a musician and an actor—like his mother. He had small parts in the series *American Horror Story* and *The OA*. Shortly before his death, he completed work on a concept album, *A Glitch in Paradise*. Badler and others in Hains' family are now preparing *A Glitch in Paradise* for release in September.

The album is billed as “an amalgamation of rock, electronica and gothic pop, [wherein] Harry (as the robotic character ANTIBOY) imagines a world in which human and machine co-exist and eventually conjoin. In this robot utopia, there is no inequality, prejudice or toxicity.”

Badler said that her son “had a genius way of looking at the world that was different than most people.”

The ANTIBOY character was essentially a genderfluid robot living in the future, she added. “He didn't believe that there was such a thing as gen-

der. He believed that there should be no labels and one-consciousness. This character was stuck in a virtual reality world that was malfunctioning. ... The ANTIBOY character was living in a loop of heartbreak.”



Jane Badler.

Photo by Luciana Pampalone



Harry Hains.

Photo by Candice Ghai

Hains began to think about the character four years before he passed away, Badler recalled. “He always wrote about dystopian worlds and sci-fi worlds—I think ANTIBOY came from all of that.”

Hains had shelved *A Glitch in Paradise* but, after his death, Badler and the rest of his family listened to the album and became convinced of its potential.

“I think I spent the last seven years of his life just trying to save [Hains],” Badler said. “He was very reckless and had a lot of demons—and he was very fearless. ... I figured the creative projects would ‘save’ him. I didn't really listen to the music [when he was alive] like I do now. Now I'm free to listen to the brilliance.”

Hains' brother, Sam, who is a producer, has been working on material in tandem with *A Glitch in Paradise*, including a video scheduled for release on Sept. 19 accompanying the single “Bang Bang,” Harry's take on the Nancy Sinatra classic.

Badler called the dystopian “Bang Bang” video “mind-blowing. It was quite beautiful to see

that come to fruition through his brother's hand. That's been a beautiful by-product of this. I think we're going to be doing about four videos altogether.”

Now based largely in Australia, Badler has worked steadily as a musician—Harry performed in some of her music videos—and as an actor. She will appear in an upcoming film, *FreeFall*, and is working on her first novel. But she is most excited to take part in the release of her son's music.

“Now when I listen to the music, now when I read his poetry, now when I read interviews, I'm struck by how extraordinary he was,” she said. “It's very bittersweet, and with some of the songs, I get very emotional when I listen to them.”

Badler reached a point where she experiences the music as “a kind of celebration and being about something that is bigger than me. It's about him.”

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Ashley Romans bites into juicy role on AMC series 'NOS4A2'

BY JERRY NUNN

Based on Joe Hill's novel of the same name, the AMC series NOS4A2 spins a vampire's tale in unexpected directions. Out actor Zachary Quinto is the ominous Charlie Manx, who battles the gifted Vic McQueen, played by Ashleigh Cummings, for children's souls that are taken to a Christmas village. Think of the show as a mix between Netflix's Stranger Things and HBO's True Blood with a pinch of holiday tidings thrown in for good measure.

On the show, Ashley Romans is Tabitha Hutter, a detective working on the case who meets Maggie Leigh, a psychic with a Scrabble bag predicting the future. For season two, Romans was is a regular cast member and is in an on-screen relationship with Maggie.

Romans identifies as queer in real life and being this open in her career has certainly paid off. She has had several recurring roles, including on Showtime's Shameless, where she had a lesbian scene with Emma Kenney (who plays Debbie on the show). Romans also had a short run on another Showtime series called I'm Dying Up Here, about comedians in the 1970s competing to be on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show.

Windy City Times: Start off by telling our readers about yourself.

Ashley Romans: I am from New Jersey. I grew up with two Jamaican parents. My mom owns a couple of Jamaican/Caribbean restaurants out in New Jersey.

I grew up loving theater and acting. I was by no means the most talented in my school. I didn't get the lead in school plays, but I loved the opportunity to be part of the theater scene though. I eventually got into Pace University School of Performing Arts in New York City, so I went there. As soon as I graduate, I moved to Los Angeles. After plays, I got representation to help me find television and film roles.

Currently, I do theater in California any chance I get. It's a very strong community.

WCT: I read you did a play called Rotterdam in LA.

AR: Yes. That was an incredible play written by Jon Brittain. It is about a lesbian couple and one of them realizes they are actually a man. They start to transition and it is about the couple dealing with those changes.

I have been really lucky to work with great stories that excite me. I have been blessed to work on LGBTQ+ stories with awesome casts. I totally understand that people were protective of this trans story. I felt it was an honor and responsibility to play that role. It makes total sense that trans people should be able to tell their own stories these days.

WCT: How did you land the role in NOS4A2?

AR: Tiffany Little Canfield was the casting director. She had always been super supportive of me, my career and my growth. It is rare in Hollywood, but there are casting directors who encourage growth. When she saw me in a play, she called me in for a role on I'm Dying Up Here and several other parts.

When I read the role of Tabitha Hutter on NOS4A2, it really resonated with me. I felt really lucky to read for it. It was the kind of writing that even if I didn't get the role, it was fun to have an audition like this.

WCT: Was your character always [supposed] to have this bigger arc in the second season?

AR: I think it was part of the plan, but you never know in Hollywood. They had told me on the first season that they would want me to come back for the second season, but those promises don't always come through. I had done some television roles where it was a guest spot and was talked about as recurring then I would never hear from them about it. I didn't hope or plan for anything, but I did come back.

In the book, Tabitha Hutter is a huge character. After I read that, I realized there was a strong possibility that I would be coming back. I really like how this show takes those characters and does their own jazz riff on it.

WCT: Does the author Joe Hill or his father, Stephen King, ever come on the set?

AR: I have never met Joe Hill. He has a very supportive presence on social media, though. He's one of those social media friends that is always liking your posts and always commenting.

While I have never met Stephen King either, it's very cool to be associated with him and that family. My character has the same first name as Joe Hill's mom Tabitha King. That was not just a coincidence and came with a lot of responsibility.

WCT: Talk about the lesbian relationship between your character Tabitha and the character of Maggie on NOS4A2.

AR: I love that the show is showing two women of color in a relationship and thriving. They compliment each other so well. Tabitha's relationship with Maggie really stems from Tabitha having an encounter when she was very young with something unexplained. It qualifies her to be a part of this team of superheroes. Tabitha is very protective of Maggie because Maggie had been opening her eyes for over eight years to a world she was not familiar with.

Tabitha is an FBI agent this season. That world is about what you can see and facts and results. On this season, Tabitha must learn to trust on another level in something bigger than her. Her muscle, her gun, her cuffs and laws are not going to solve the ultimate problem. I think we are all learning that today in real life. It's an important discussion. At what point is law enforcement use-

Ashley Romans.

Photo by Zach Dilgard/AMC



less? There is a bigger power here and Charlie Manx is not going to bow down to the law.

WCT: I saw your activism on social media. Did you attend any protests?

AR: Yes. I would go a few times a week sometimes. In LA, it is probably the safest place to be. Everyone wears masks and there is hand sanitizer everywhere. It's a great vibe.

WCT: How was your Shameless experience?

AR: It was so cool! To be honest, I wasn't a fan of the show before that, like the diehard fans are, but to see the sets and how they work was awesome. I was cast because the casting director John Levey saw me in a play and called me in for the role. My scene partner, Emma Kenney, and I grew up in the same town only a few streets from each other. We went to the same high schools. It was pretty shocking actually.

It was cool to originate a character on a show that has touched so many people. I wasn't aware of the scope of how many people watch that show.

WCT: Did you film any of Shameless in Chicago?

AR: No. The interior shots are filmed in LA and the exterior shots are filmed in Chicago. I have never been to Chicago, but love so many people from there. I did a play called Charm, by Philip Dawkins, who is from there.

WCT: Do you recommend that young actors do a lot of theater?

AR: Yes. A performer should try all sorts of things, especially now during a pandemic. Instagram and TikTok posts are valid forms of art. It is about expression and reaching people. Theater is a great medium and making your own content is important too.

WCT: Are you stuck not filming currently?

AR: We just finished filming season two of NOS4A2 in February before the pandemic. We will find out if we have another season soon.

I was set to film a who-done-it mystery movie that was postponed, but I am still doing training for the stunts. I hope to maybe do a musical. This is the time to really play and explore!

NOS4A2 visits Christmasland until the second season concludes Sunday, Aug. 23, on AMC at 9 p.m. CT.

WCPA names William Southerland as new artistic director

Local LGBTQ+ choral organization Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA) has named Dr. William Southerland as the artistic director of Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire.

Southerland joins WCPA following a seven-year run as artistic director of Triad Performing Arts in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he directed roughly 80 volunteer singers across the organization's three ensembles: Triad Pride Women's Chorus, Triad Pride Men's Chorus and the small ensemble Counterpoint.

Southerland holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Florida State University and a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC Greensboro); he is currently completing his doctorate in music education at UNC-Greensboro, where he will present his dissertation, "Factors of Motivation to Participation in LGBTQ-Identified Chorus."

Beyond his work at the podium, Southerland is the author of numerous published and peer-reviewed articles, and a regular host of workshops and clinics. He maintains active memberships in the National Association of Music Educators, the North Carolina Music Educators Association, GALA Choruses and the American Choral Directors' Association.

WCPA tentatively expects to return to performing under Southerland's direction next spring. See WindyCitySings.org.

Dr. William Southerland.

Photo courtesy of Gerald Johnson



35 THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Kate Pierson.
Photo by John Stapleton



MUSIC

The B-52s' Kate Pierson takes the stage to urge women to vote

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Kate Pierson has been in the public eye in two different aspects. First, she's known worldwide as part of the band The B-52s, which have numerous hits, such as "Rock Lobster," "Roam" and "Love Shack." (She also has released solo works, such as the 2015 album *Guitars and Microphones*—which had her working with Sia.)

However, Pierson is also an activist who has been involved in various causes, including HIV/AIDS, for decades. On Wed., Aug. 26, she will be one of many celebrities who will be part of "Women Take the Stage"—a free concert/rally to increase voting by and for women before the November election that will air on YouTube Live, Facebook Live and WomenTakeTheStage.org.

Windy City Times: Of course, these are very surreal times. How are you and [wife] Monica [Nation]?

Kate Pierson: Actually, we call it our "quarantine paradise." We're up here in the Catskill Mountains

and we have a garden (with some cucumbers, tomatoes and squash), some land where we can walk our dog and there's a lot of hiking. Thanks to our wonderful Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo, we have low rates of coronavirus. I actually have not been in a building since March. Also, we've had some socially distanced events with family members and friends who are equally quarantined.

We have friends over at Lazy Meadow [the hotel Pierson owns in New York] during the week, but we're only at half capacity [and it's only open during the weekends]. Monica and I agreed that it's not responsible to rent every room, so we're renting only every other room and making sure people are properly quarantined.

For the first few months, I literally saw the UPS guy from a distance as he delivered things such as bleach and a new composter—so, yeah, those are some exciting deliveries. [Interviewer laughs.] We're just very cautious.

But there's the turmoil of everything that's

Turn to page 20

'Making Sweet Tea': Out NU dean talks about new documentary

BY JOSHUA IRVINE

Performer and Northwestern University Dean E. Patrick Johnson discussed his new film and the importance of reclaiming storytelling agency in a virtual Q&A Lambda Legal hosted Aug. 9.

Johnson, dean of Northwestern University's School of Communication, answered questions about *Making Sweet Tea*, a documentary on Johnson's own one-man show he adapted from his 2008 oral history of Black gay Southern men, *Sweet Tea*. *Making Sweet Tea* follows Johnson as he interviews the subjects of his show while also preparing to stage a production at his alma mater. Johnson served as executive producer on the film.

The event's host, Roderick Hawkins—himself a subject of Johnson's book, though not the play or film—credited Johnson with helping "reclaim" Black and queer narratives that had been ignored or coopted by outsiders.

Johnson said that effort at suppression is what gave the stories their power.

"The ability to tell your own story in your own words, your own voice, is such a powerful thing for us," Johnson said. "We have fought to tell our own stories."

Throughout the Q&A, Johnson offered insight into the film's production as well as the lives of the film's several subjects, which included a hairdresser and former drag performer, a Unitarian minister, and a near-centenarian who went by Countess Vivian.

Among the most challenging aspects of the documentary was an "experimental" sequence in which Johnson performed for his interview subjects the portion of the play based on their testimony.

"They've gifted you their story and you are trying to reflect their lives back to them in their own space in a way that is not going to caricature them or diminish their experience," Johnson said.

He noted the broad range of responses he received from his subjects, which included droll critique and emotionally fraught revelation.

The documentary also delves into Johnson's relationship with his hometown of Hickory, North Carolina. Johnson said he was initially an "un-



E. Patrick Johnson.

Photo courtesy of Johnson

willing participant" until he was persuaded by the filmmakers to include his own story.

Johnson grew up in poverty in Hickory before becoming a successful academic and, according to local scholars, the town's first Black resident to receive a Ph.D. The town has since come to celebrate Johnson, going to far as to proclaim a day in his honor in 1996 after his degree was conferred.

Making Sweet Tea was initially due to play at several film festivals this year, most of which are now virtual. The filmmakers are also working on getting the documentary picked up for distribution.

If they are successful, Johnson said, all proceeds from the film will go to a scholarship fund for LGBT students attending historically Black colleges and universities.

Driehaus reopening in late August

The Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., will reopen to the public Saturday, Aug. 29. The museum will open for a members-only preview Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 22-23.

Patrons are urged to wear face coverings. Also, new health and safety measures have been implemented, including operating at reduced

capacity, timed-entry ticketing, enhanced cleaning protocols and new directional signage indicating appropriate social distancing.

All galleries are open to view including the special exhibition, "PAN: Prints of Avant Garde Europe, 1895-1900." As always, the museum guides will be on hand to answer any questions as you explore the galleries and current exhibitions.

See DriehausMuseum.org.

Open House Chicago taking place Oct. 16-25

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) announced the return of Open House Chicago (OHC) for a 10th consecutive year. It will take place Oct. 16-25, and the festival has been reconfigured for both in-person and remote attendance.

Part of the worldwide family of 46 Open House events that Open House London inaugurated in 1992, Open House Chicago is the second-most widely attended event of its kind. OHC engaged 109,000 individuals in 2019 who made 370,000 total site visits to 352 sites in 39 Chicago neighborhoods, plus the suburbs of Evanston and Oak Park.

More than 20 Chicago neighborhoods and two

suburbs will be highlighted during OHC 2020, with an intentional focus on, and engagement with, areas and corridors prioritized by the City of Chicago's INVEST South/West initiative. These include Auburn Gresham, Austin, Back of the Yards, Bronzeville, Englewood, Humboldt Park, North Lawndale, Pullman, Roseland and South Shore. Fourteen additional focus areas confirmed to date are Chicago's Loop, Near North Side and Near West Side plus Beverly, Chinatown, Evanston, Hyde Park, Lincoln Park, Logan Square, Oak Park, Pilsen, Rogers Park, Wicker Park and Woodlawn.

Visitors to each OHC 2020 area will be supported in their self-guided exploration by free resources available online at OpenHouseChicago.org, as well as through an application for mobile devices compatible with both Android (Google) and iOS (Apple) operating systems.

Advance registration for most free and paid online events will be required, through the OHC mobile app, at Architecture.org or OpenHouseChicago.org. Current CAC members will receive exclusive benefits and discounts throughout OHC 2020.



Open House Chicago 2019 attendees visit Farm on Ogden.

Photo by Anna Munzesheimer



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"It wasn't me."—Kathy Griffin's tweet after reports that there was a shooter outside the White House

I'm more than a little bit psychic—but you already knew that. Last week, I bemoaned life without *The View*. (The show is on hiatus until Labor Day.) I also mused whether **Sara Haines** would return now that her GMA offshoot has been cancelled. Moments after the ink dried on that column, ABC began negotiations with Sara to return to *The View*. Since **Abby Huntsman's** abrupt departure, there's been an empty seat at the table. While that's been fine during the pandemic, it could get tricky in the fall, given **Meghan McCain's** imminent maternity leave.

In news from the Marvel Universe, **Wiccan and Hulkling—members of the Young Avengers**—got married. While Marvel has celebrated same-sex weddings before (most notably, the June 20, 2012, nuptials of Northstar and Kyle), this was a first; this pair scurried off and had a quickie Vegas ceremony. How kitschy! It may have been spontaneous, but the boys have been courting since 2005.

Speaking of Marvel, the company has secured permission to use the X-Men in its Marvel Cinematic Universe. And our very own **Colton Haynes** has a new goal in life—to play Iceman! According to insiders, **Shia LeBeouf** has already been approached, but that isn't stopping Colton from taking his case to social media.

Zac Efron has just been cast in a remake of *Three Men and a Cradle*. The new flick is being made for Disney+, so it's kinda a homecoming for Zac, who made a name for himself with the com-



Zac Efron has a new role, Billy says.

Photo by Eric Charbonneau

pany's High School Musical flicks. There's no word on other co-stars, or which of the "men" Zac will play, but my money is on Guttenberg.

I'm calling this Reunion Week on "Billy Masters LIVE," but that's kind of a misnomer. I don't believe these particular groupings have ever been assembled before. On Thursday, Aug. 20 ... well, even I can't believe it. Our special "Hairspray" show will include the Tracy from the movie musical, **Nikki Blonsky**, and the Link from TV, **Garrett Clayton**. We'll also have some special guests connected with the show. Stay tuned for a BIG surprise or two. Yes, summer sizzles on Billy Masters TV—on YouTube.

Our shows last week kicked off with the dynamic **Lena Hall**, who you'll remember from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. I knew she was wildly talented, but I didn't know she was hysterically funny and smart as a whip. Speaking of smart, talented and funny, **Fran Drescher** returned to the show last Thursday to talk about her documentary on REELZ and her rescue dog, and she even introduced us to the workmen at her home—much to the de-

light of her worldwide fans who were commenting like crazy. Then, Broadway leading man **Max von Essen** discussed his livestream concert (which you can see on BroadwayWorld.com). The icing on the cake was the appearance of **Nick Adams**, Max's co-star on *Falsettos*. It was a lovefest all around, as you can see on BillyMasters.com/TV.

Pandemic or not, Billy Masters stays away from Provincetown for no man. As it turns out, that's exactly how many men I had—because, you know, there's a pandemic going on. I did get to see some incredible shows—and it's simply coincidental that all of these artists have appeared on "Billy Masters LIVE." (I'm not risking life and limb to see **Vicki Lawrence Schultz**.) At the Crown and Anchor, I saw **Judy Gold**, **Varla Jean Merman** and **Edmund Bagnell**. And at the Pilgrim House, I saw **Branden and James**. Make no mistake: these performers are all at the peak of their profession, and Ptown is lucky to have them during this crazy time. You can see the full reviews as well as other details on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Randy in London: "Cheers from the UK. Big fan. What has **Mitch Hewer** been up to? It's been a minute. One doesn't hear much of him anymore, but he was my guilty pleasure."

Mine as well, M8. For those of you who are not Anglophiles, Hewer was one of those bleached blonde twink types who appeared on such UK shows as *Britannia High*. He was even a stripper in the *Take That* musical, *Never Forget*. I don't believe he's done anything since leaving *Casualty*—at least nothing of note. While he is said to be heterosexual, it bears mentioning that he has played gay ... such as on *Skins*. And we happen to have a video where he shows quite a bit of skin. Let's just say even the Yanks will enjoy it ... if you catch my drift. You can get some more visual clues on BillyMasters.com.

When our answer is a stroke of genius, it's definitely time to end another column. Before

closing this week, I want to take a moment to remember a dear friend who you'll know as Roman Heart. The porn superstar was truly as beautiful on the inside as he was on the outside—and that's saying something. He also had a multitude of troubles which we'd talk about well into the night. Rest in peace, my dear friend. Since there's no rest for the wicked, I'm constantly busy writing the column, doing shows, and oodles of other things on BillyMasters.com—the site that is virus-free. If you have a question, dash it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I answer a question you haven't asked ... yet! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The Lunchbox; Woodwind brunch

BY ANDREW DAVIS

With social distancing and masks being part of the “new normal,” some people are opting to places with more casual items that have grab-and-go choices.

Enter **The Lunchbox** (200 E. Chestnut St.; <https://space519thelunchroom.com/>)—the order-and-go component of The Lunchroom, a small restaurant within the concept store SPACE 519 that’s owned by business/life partners Jim Wetzel and Lance Lawson.

However, in this case, The Lunchbox’s offerings are decidedly more upscale than the typical casual item. The menu (which reflects a heavily European influence) has sandwiches such as Bari’s Italian, made with Tavern Ham, provolone, tomato, spicy giardiniera and mayo on ciabatta. I opted for the Turkey a la Herb, which has smoked Nueske’s turkey breast and herbed cream cheese



The Lunchbox’s pasta pie.
PR photo

on organic wheat bread; it’s a treat.

Salad options include the 519 Watermelon (a tasty melange of cubed watermelon, feta, mint and sea salt), 3 P’s Pasta (green pea, pine nut, pesto and penne), Corner Deli Potato and Good Stuff Garden. There are also quiches, tarts and soups du jour (and I hope you get to try the blueberry-almond tart) as well as muffins, cupcakes, croissants and other pastries.

But the centerpiece of this menu is the wonderful pasta pie. At first, I was taken aback by what seemed like an excessive mix of ingredients (spaghetti and parmesan crust, Italian sausage and fennel marina, topped with

organic mozzarella)—but they came together beautifully, although I was careful to only eat a sliver at a time. Other special entrees include the corn flake chicken Milanese as the Cote D’or Nicoise.

You may want to check out The Lunchroom as well, for a nice outdoor, socially distant lunch. The cuisine will impress.

Woodwind brunch

On the other end of being social these days is having brunch at a spot like Woodwind (259 E. Erie St. 18th floor; WoodwindChicago.com), which offers spectacular views of the city,

intriguing cuisine—and, if you’re lucky, even a charismatic server like Juan (who sported some cool tats and actually referred to himself as “the Juan and only,” believe it or not).

First, reflecting what’s currently happening in the world regarding pandemic guidelines, servers wore masks (and gloves—which actually makes me more cautious, as one doesn’t know how often those are changed), tables were distanced appropriately on the spacious patio and the menus can be scanned onto your phone through the QR codes on the tables (although paper menus are optional).

Turn to page 23



Woodwind’s avocado French toast.
Photo by Andrew Davis

PIERSON from page 18

happening in the country and, as someone on the local PBS station said, the “idiot-in-chief”...

WCT: And with the B-52s?

KP: All of our gigs were cancelled or postponed, but we did have one gig scheduled for the middle of March—and it was an ‘80s cruise! Only a handful of groups did it.

Our actual last gig was at Mardi Gras, in Florida. We did the whole Mardi Gras thing and went to a party and a parade and a brunch; then I heard that the virus was going around later. We were lucky that we quarantined early.

So I’m just watching the news and holding my breath. I was very excited to see that Kamala Harris is Joe Biden’s running mate.

WCT: Yes—I saw you post that on your Facebook page.

KP: I don’t even want to look at the comments. Every time I post anything like that... Like one time, all I posted was something about Hillary Clinton’s pantsuits—not her, just her pantsuits—and people were arguing, saying they’ll never listen to the B-52s again or that I shouldn’t be on the site. It’s crazy what starts that has nothing to do with that I post. Maybe Twitter is better, but I don’t really use it that much.

But the whole voting thing is at the forefront—which leads me to “Women Take the Stage.” This whole event was started by my friend Alyson Palmer [of 1:1 Productions and the band BETTY]. I’ve known Alyson forever; we’ve played with them and they’ve played with us. This event is about women’s rights, girls’ events. There will be

lots of speakers and wonderful performers, and it’s all virtual. Also, it’s the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing, which gave women the right to vote.

And we’ve been activists for a while. We’ve worked with PETA and we’ve been AIDS activists. These livestreaming events—and I’ve been in five or six of them since the pandemic started—have really kept me going. There’s a learning curve with the set-up—but I think everyone’s going through that.

WCT: Indeed. I told someone I wish I had invested in Zoom.

KP: Yes. I actually get together with friends, virtually, and play Fictionary via Zoom. It’s not the same as being there, but it’s still fun.

WCT: You briefly mentioned the president. If you could ask him one question—and be guaranteed to get the truth—what would that question be?

KP: Well, I like to call him “T. Rump,” because he reminds me of the back end of a T. Rex.

I’d like to ask him if he plans to mess with the election—and I think the answer is clearly “yes.” If he says “no,” he’s a liar, and he is the liar-in-chief. I would ask him to not use his power to stay in office. I’m amazed by the broadness of the power of the president. But that’s why I think “Women Take the Stage” is so important; women voting is the key. Fifty-five percent of women voted in 2016.

WCT: You’ve been involved in AIDS activism, as you mentioned—but that made me think of Ricky [Wilson, one of the original B-52s who died of AIDS in 1985]. What was Ricky like?



The B-52s.
Photo by Pieter M. Van Hattem

KP: Number one, he was an incredible creative force. He had a very unique songwriting style and vision. Also, he was very shy—but he was a shy genius. However, on stage he was a dynamo; he wielded his guitar like a sword.

At first, we were all a little nervous performing—but Fred [Schneider] and I were the least shy. However, hats and wigs can make you a lot more outgoing because you’re in costume. [Laughs]

WCT: Lastly, The B-52s: Live at the US Festival—which shows the band performing Labor Day weekend in 1982—will be released on DVD and digital platforms Sept. 4. I know you’ve done thousands of shows, but what do you remember from that concert or festival?

KP: One of the amazing things was that the event was [Apple co-founder] Steve Wozniak’s

brainchild. This past tour, Berlin was one of the opening acts, along with Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark. Steve is a good friend of theirs and he showed up to one of our shows just last year, which was just awesome. Berlin played at the US Festival; they were an unknown band then.

I remember that it was very hot and dusty. There were The Ramones, The Police, Talking Heads—it was an amazing, eclectic line-up. It was a very peaceful, well-organized event.

“Women Take the Stage”—which will include performers and speakers such as Idina Menzel, Vanessa Williams, Billie Jean King, BETTY, Gloria Steinem and Pierson—will take place at 8 p.m. CT. See WomenTakeTheStage.org for more information. Pierson is on Instagram @thekatepierson and on Facebook.

EXPO CHICAGO pushed to 2021

EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, will present its ninth edition from April 8-11, 2021, at Navy Pier.

The decision to move the fair from its traditional September 2020 time slot to this coming spring was the result of a collaborative decision-making process that EXPO CHICAGO conducted with galleries, collectors, institutional partners and city officials.

In response to the rapidly evolving social and business environments, EXPO CHICAGO put in place a plan that allows exhibitors to provide non-binding deposits and, subsequently, a flexible payment schedule for those participating in the exposition.

In addition, alongside expanding programming and initiatives, EXPO CHICAGO has pledged to make contributions to both the Art Dealers Association of America and the New Art Dealers Association from the proceeds of the exposition.

See EXPOCHICAGO.com.

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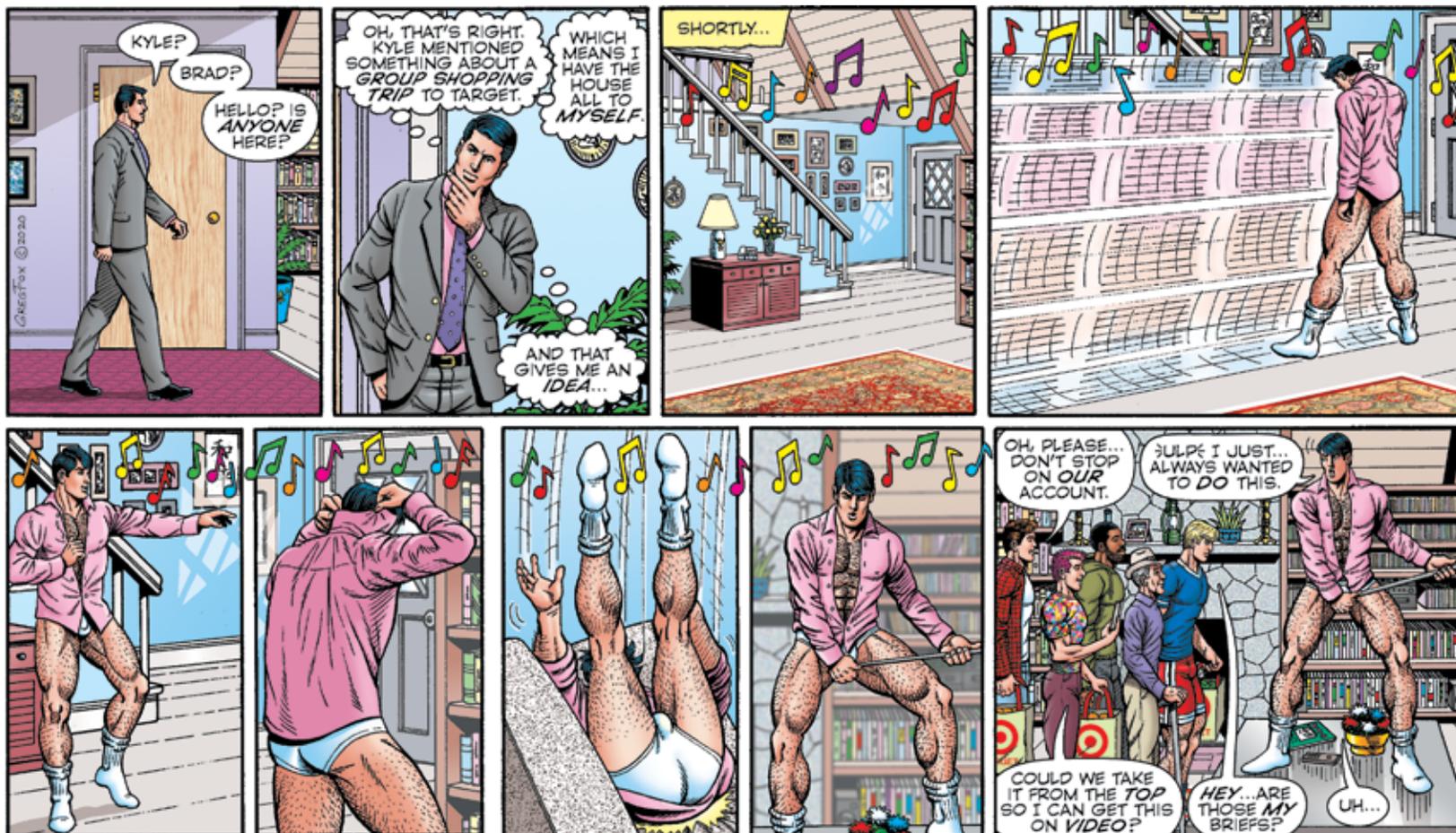
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KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



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WINDY CITY TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Wed., Aug. 19

Jeannie Tanner Desperate Measures Music Series.livestream Two voices, two pianos with Abigail Riccards, Jeannie Tanner 7:00pm Online <http://www.facebook.com/jeannie.tanner>

Living Room Chats at Affinity Brave conversations and bold voices. Monthly Facebook Live video podcast hosted by Kelly Suzanne Saulsberry the third Wednesday of every month. Find Affinity Community Services on Facebook 7:00pm; <http://affinity95.org>

Thursday, Aug. 20

Eastland: An Original Musical Watch Party Fundraiser of the production in support of Lookingglass Theatre Company. Play revisits Chicago history of July 24, 1915 when the steamer Eastland, docked on the Chicago River, tipped over-killing more than 800 people and unexpected

**'EAST' AND WEST****Thursday, Aug. 20**

There will be a watch party for Eastland: An Original Musical, which co-stars Monica West.

Photo Sean Williams

heroes emerged to rescue dozens of oth-

er people. Followed by a talkback with creative team. 7:00pm Online Tickets: <http://LookingglassTheatre.org/event/eastland-watch-party>

Saturday, Aug. 22

Howard Brown, TaskForce Community Care Station in Austin Free, confidential risk assessments for COVID-19. Also, anyone concerned about symptoms or possible exposure to COVID-19 may call Howard Brown's nurse triage line 10:00am - 2:30pm 9 N. Cicero Ave. 773.388.1600 <http://HowardBrown.org/coronavirus-faq>

ROYALS: Kings, Queen & Prince, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus virtual event Classical to popular music, CGMC pays homage to both royal families and honorary music royalty. Enjoy songs about royals as well as music from Queen and Prince, the artist formerly known as. 8:00pm (Continues Aug. 23 at 3 p.m.) Online Tickets: <http://www.cgmc.org/2020-events/royals/>

Sunday, Aug. 23

Tomasz Jedrowski, author Swimming in the Dark, virtual event Set in early 1980s Poland against the violent decline of Communism, the story of first love between two young men on opposite sides of the political divide. Unabridged Bookstore presents. 2:00pm Online Tickets: <http://www.unabridgedbookstore.com/event/virtual-event-tomasz-jedrowski-conversation-christopher-bollen>

Tuesday, Aug. 25

IL Congressional Delegation Breakfast Facilitated conversation between LGBTQ+ and HIV and AIDS advocates, members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation and other stakeholders as they discuss the policy work needed to support healthier communities for the remainder of the year. Register at link 8:30pm On Zoom; visit <http://bit.ly/patch20> to register.

Wed., Aug. 26

This is America: Truths Through My Body Ada Cheng, professor-turned storyteller and storytelling show producer, brings a new storytelling/dialogue event show to Center on Halsted. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted virtual space Tickets: <http://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZuceuspjoe9Qnmcn0kxLHxhSePRLG1wh>

Women Take the Stage national online event Top musicians, changemakers and activist icons gather for a virtual broadcast with one vital call to action: women must focus on voting. Free, multi-ethnic concert and rally to increase voting by and for women before the November election, airing on YouTube Live, Facebook Live at this site. 8:00pm Online <http://WomenTakeTheStage.org>

Friday, Aug. 28

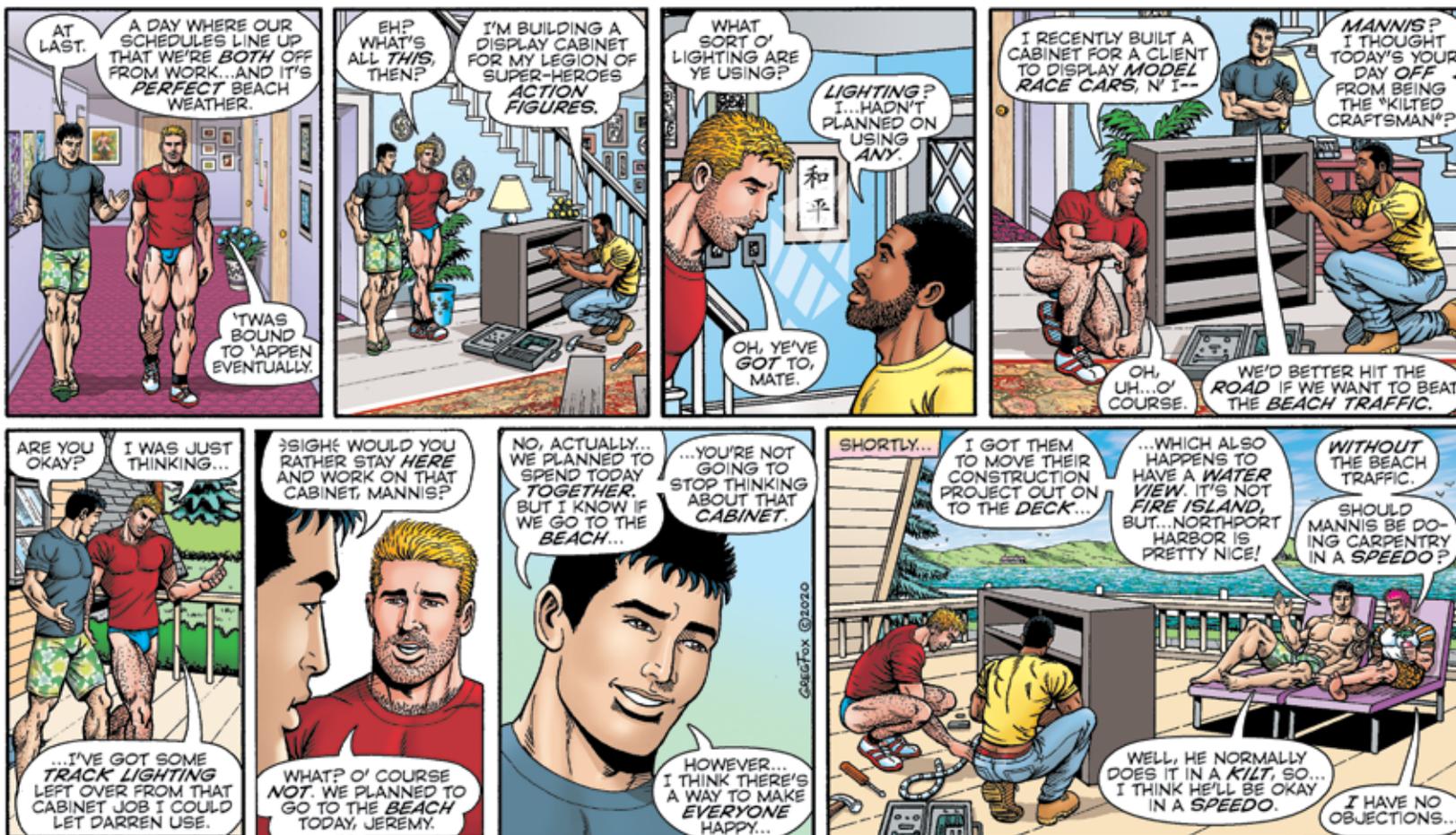
Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100 When LGBTQ rights activist Ruth Ellis passed away at the age of 101 in 2000, she was widely considered to be the oldest surviving African American lesbian, having come out in 1915. Documentary followed by Q&A with the director. Free for all audiences (RSVP required and limited to the first 300 registrants) 7:00pm - 9:30pm Online <http://pages.wordfly.com/wexnercenter/pages/20-0828---Film---CBIFF-RSVPs/>

Wed., Sept. 2

Holocaust Museum's virtual soiree Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center's Women's Leadership Committee will host stream live from a studio featuring a music by Katie Kadan, a finalist on The Voice (December 2019) and surprise guests. Social columnist Candace Jordan will emcee. Raffle. Free. Recommended donation \$200. 7:00pm Online 847-967-4821 <http://ILHolocaustMuseum.org/wlc>

KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



DISH from page 20

Brunch (11 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekends) was, overall, a wonderful affair. With my friend and I choosing rose wine and prosecco, respectively, we started with toast with honeyed ricotta—an absolutely delectable treat; my friend and I could've eaten the entire dish by ourselves.

What followed was another high point: the honeyed granola parfait, which featured layers of granola, blueberries and koji cream—which prompted my dining companion to proclaim, “All yogurt needs pastry cream.” Considering how this dish tasted, I wholeheartedly agreed.

However, our paths diverged when it came to our entrees. I relished my crab omelette, which came with yuzu, leeks and caramelized cream; all the ingredients came together, and there were generous pieces of the crustacean throughout the egg dish. My friend was not nearly as enthusiastic

about her avocado French toast (which, honestly, sounded a little dicey to me, as it wasn't just “avocado toast”). This dish was flavored with basil, salted caramel and lime—but it was a bit too much of the citrus fruit, my friend said. In fact, she said, the lime pretty much overwhelmed the rest of her dish.

Fortunately, things ended on a high note with a surprise presentation of cotton candy, flavored with lime, mint and raspberry. After my friend's experience with the French toast, we were both a little hesitant about the lime—but this was only lightly flavored, and it was an absolute delight.

People might be taken aback by the location of the restaurant, being in a medical building. (My friend said that she's been in the building a couple times and never knew a restaurant was there.) However, rest assured that you'll have a memorable time at Woodwind.

Note: Profiles/events are based on

invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

Restaurant association announces employee relief fund

Executives at the Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA) announced the establishment of the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (IRAEF) Restaurant Employee Relief Fund.

A statewide emergency assistance fund that will provide direct financial support to restaurant industry workers, the IRAEF Employee Relief Fund is possible because of founding donors at Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Telemundo, Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois (ABDI) and the workers'-compensation insurance company EMPLOYERS.

The IRAEF Restaurant Employee Relief Fund will provide one-time financial support to restaurant

employees in Illinois facing unforeseen hardship due to COVID-19. Grants will help cover basic living expenses such as rent, food and utilities as someone works through crisis.

Grants will be evaluated in the following order of priority for restaurant workers who are:

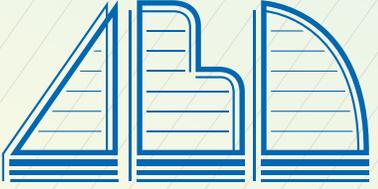
—Diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19), or a caregiver for an immediate family member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or quarantined with a doctor's note; or

—Out of work for three weeks or more with no unemployment benefits.

Applications for the IRAEF Employee Relief Fund will open in October.

Donations are accepted at <https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/ira/iraef-relief-fund>, and are tax deductible to the extent of the law. For more information, visit IllinoisRestaurants.org.

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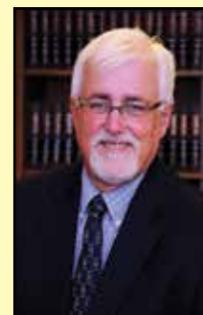
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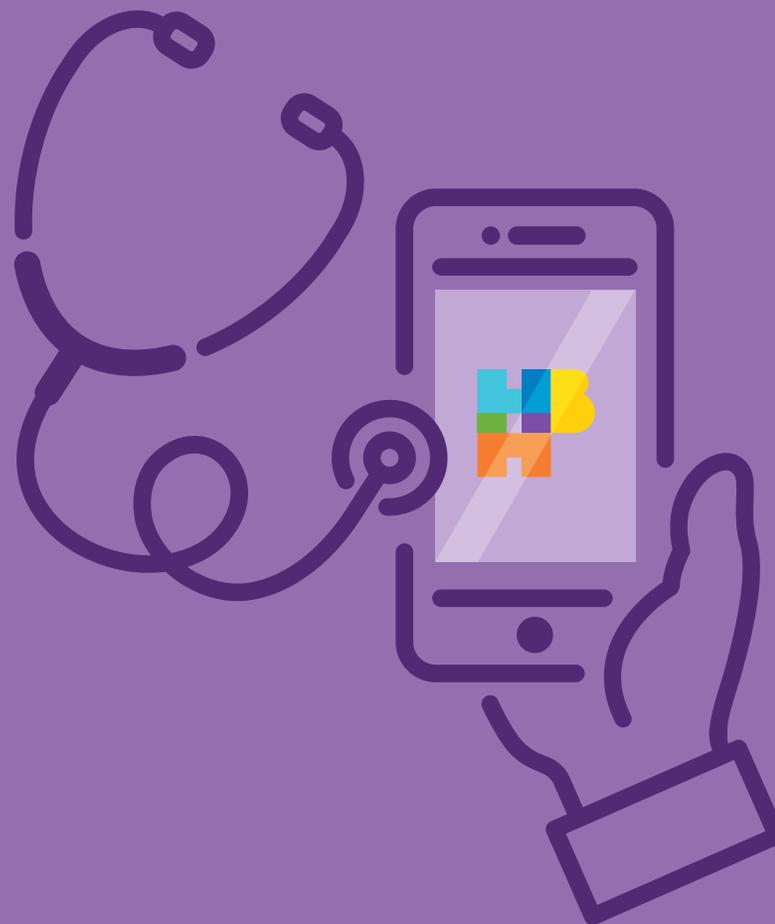
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