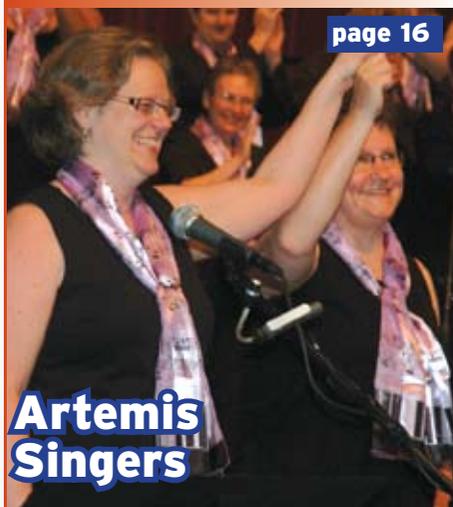




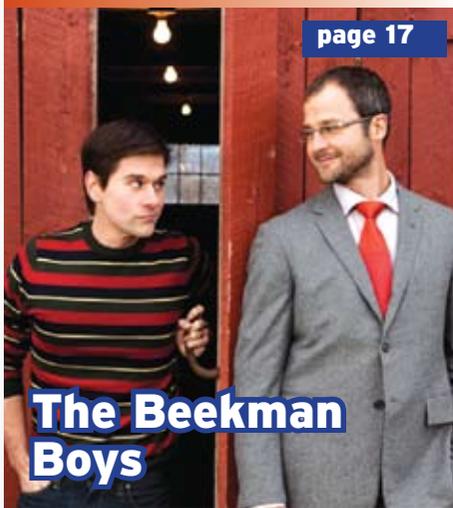
page 6

## Activist and Allegations



page 16

## Artemis Singers



page 17

## The Beekman Boys

**nightspots**  
pick it up  
take it home

# SAY IT LOUD

## Black and Proud with Windy City Black Pride and Chicago Windy City Black Pride-SGL

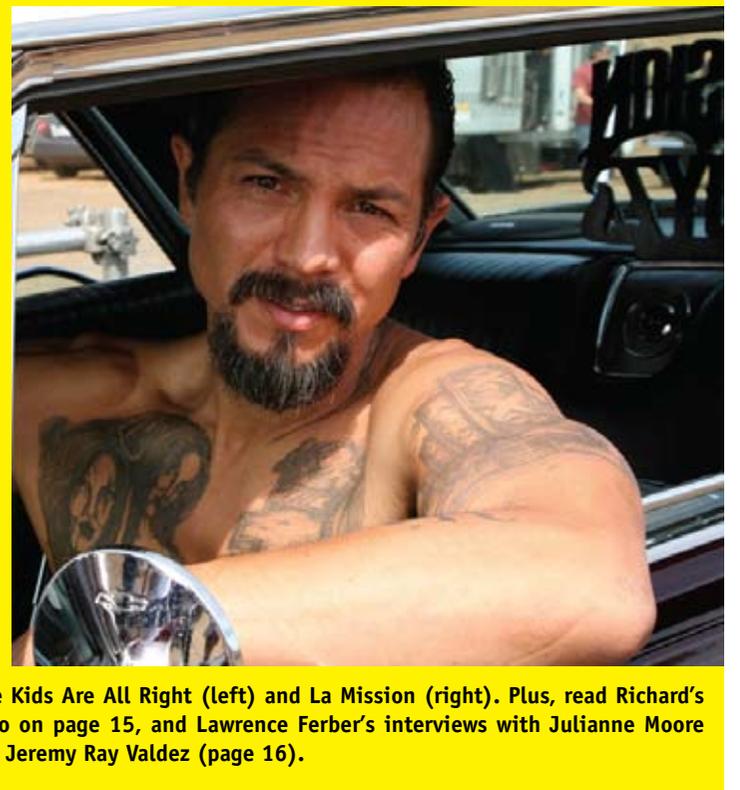
The two organizations marked Black Pride with a variety of events, including celebrations in the park, workshops, receptions and a historic HIV forum. Find out more on pages 8 and 19. Photos by Mason Harrison

page 19



# Moving Pictures

page 14



Richard Knight, Jr. reviews two new films—The Kids Are All Right (left) and La Mission (right). Plus, read Richard's interview with "Kids" director Lisa Cholodenko on page 15, and Lawrence Ferber's interviews with Julianne Moore (page 14) and La Mission's Benjamin Bratt and Jeremy Ray Valdez (page 16).





# THINK YOU'RE READY?



## TO RUN WITH THE RED STARS

# CHICAGO RED STARS HOST LGBT NIGHT @ TOYOTA PARK JULY 10TH, 6:00PM

## Special Discounted Ticket Prices For LGBT Groups!

LGBT groups, businesses, friends and families of 8+ receive group discount:

- \$13 Option: Harlem End (reg. \$15)
- \$26 Option: Premier (reg. \$30)
- \$45 Option: Club Seats (reg. \$50)

We are also offering individual ticket fundraising packages that benefit the LCCP (\$30 Premier seat, \$50 Stadium Club)

<http://redstargear.com/LCCPgroup>



### Meet and Greet with WPS players immediately after the game!

Come watch the world's premier women's soccer stars showcase their skills as Megan Rapinoe and your Chicago Red Stars take on defending champion Sky Blue FC in our second-annual LGBT Night at Toyota Park. Tickets for LGBT Night purchased as part of the LCCP Group benefit the Lesbian Community Care Project, a non-profit working to promote and provide healthcare to lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgender individuals. The Red Stars and the LCCP invite all LGBT supporters to an exclusive meet and greet post-game with special Red Stars and Sky Blue players. Join us as we celebrate and raise awareness for the LGBT community efforts in Chicago.



For more information please contact the Chicago Red Stars at 708-496-9505.

# WINDY CITY TIMES **index**

## NEWS

- Byrd replacement & DADT 4
- Detailing Obama's deeds 4
- Ariz. teen takes action 5
- Greg Harris' award 5
- Organization in controversy 6
- Passages: Miras 6
- Office of LGBT Health closing? 7
- Tobacco use and LGBTs 7
- Historic Black forum 8
- AFC and IN-CARE 8
- Alvarez's Pride Awards 9
- Quotelines 9
- View by Segal; letter 10

## ENTERTAINMENT/ EVENTS

- Scottish Play Scott 11
- Theater reviews 12
- Knight: Mission, Kids 14
- Lisa Cholodenko; GLAAD 15
- 'Mission' stars talk 16
- Artemis hosts festival 16
- Beekman; 'Work of Art' 17
- Black prides: pics, round-up 19
- Billy Masters 21

## OUTLINES

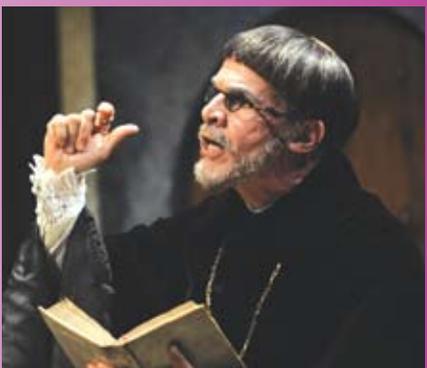
- Real estate; classifieds 18
- Calendar Q 20
- Chavez part of AIDS ride 22
- Softball teams excel 26

Photos on cover: Image of Marc Loveless by Andrew Davis; photo from the Sister Singers Network Festival by Con Buckley; photo of the Fabulous Beekman Boys courtesy of Planet Green



Arizona teen Casey Laieski took action after being bullied. Read more on page 5.

Photo courtesy of Laieski



Tony Plana—who played the dad on TV's Ugly Betty—is in the Goodman Theatre's The Sins of Sor Juana. Read a review of the play on page 13.

Photo by Liz Lauren

**DOWNLOAD THIS!**  
Go to [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots.  
Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

**nightspots**  
THE POST-PRIDE ISSUE!  
Rise the Roof

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)  
**ONLINE INDEX**

### 'SHROOMS DAY

Amuse Bouche takes a look at Rocio's stuffed mushrooms.



Photo from Greg Perrine

**HELEN MIRREN**  
SHOW #372  
WINDY CITY QUEERCASET  
queer and now  
[www.WindyCityQueercaset.com](http://www.WindyCityQueercaset.com)

### SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

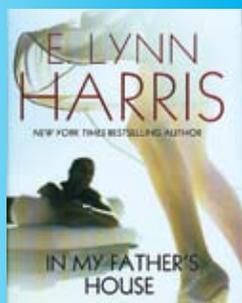


WCT's Jerry Nunn went to Shreveport, La.—where he saw plenty, ranging from delicious dishes to hungry alligators (left).

Photo by Jerry Nunn

### LYNN AND OUT

Terri Schlichmeyer reviews In My Father's House, the last work by the late writer E. Lynn Harris.



**QTVN**  
QueerTVNetwork.com  
CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO CHANNEL FOR NEW VIDEOS WEEKLY  
[www.QueerTVNetwork.com](http://www.QueerTVNetwork.com)

*The New York Times*  
**"A GENEROUS, NEARLY NOTE-PERFECT PORTRAIT OF A MODERN FAMILY.**  
Exquisitely played by Annette Bening and Julianne Moore."  
MANOHLA DARGIS

*Rolling Stone*  
**"HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT. IRRESISTIBLE.**  
'The Kids Are All Right' makes its own special magic. The actors are to die for. Annette Bening and Julianne Moore nail every nuance. Mark Ruffalo is dynamite."  
PETER TRAVERS

*NEW YORK*  
**"INVIGORATING AND FRESH. UPROARIOUSLY FUNNY.**  
Annette Bening and Julianne Moore are real treats. Director Lisa Cholodenko shows a warm, funny side and crafts some brilliant chemistry between her two leads. A seductive turn by Mark Ruffalo."  
BILGE EBIRI & LOGAN HILL

*Entertainment*  
**"FUNNY, SMART AND SEXY.**  
This pitch-perfect movie charms audiences into a state of enlightenment."  
LISA SCHWARZBAUM

ANNETTE BENING JULIANNE MOORE MARK RUFFALO

# THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

MIA WASIKOWSKA JOSH HUTCHERSON

Nic and Jules had the perfect family, until they met the man who made it all possible.

FOCUS FEATURES AND GILBERT FILMS PRESENT AN ANTIPODE FILMS, MANDALAY VISION AND GILBERT FILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY LISA CHOLODENKO  
ANNETTE BENING JULIANNE MOORE MARK RUFFALO "THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT" MIA WASIKOWSKA AND JOSH HUTCHERSON  
CASTING: LAURA ROSENTHAL COSTUME DESIGNER: MARY CLAIRE HANNAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: LISA RICHARDSON MUSIC BY: CARTER BURWELL EDITOR: JEFFREY M. WERNER PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JULIE BERGHUFF  
PRODUCTION MANAGER: IGOR JADUE-LILLO PRODUCED BY: GARY GILBERT JEFFREY LEVY-HINTE CELINE RATTRAY JORDAN HOROVITZ DANIELA TAPLIN LINDBERG PHILIPPE HELLMANN  
WRITTEN BY LISA CHOLODENKO & STUART BLUMBERG DIRECTED BY LISA CHOLODENKO  
R RESTRICTED UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN STRONG SEXUAL CONTENT, DRUG USE, LANGUAGE AND SOME TEEN DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE.  
KidsAreAllRightMovie.com

**EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS START FRIDAY, JULY 9TH**  
MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text KIDS with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)

# Byrd appointee bodes well for DADT repeal

BY DANA RUDOLPH  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The immediate replacement for U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., who died June 28, will most likely be chosen by the governor, not by a special election—and that is good news for the chances of repealing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) ban on lesbian and gay servicemembers.

Byrd’s death came after West Virginia’s primary elections were held this year, and state law requires that candidates in special elections to fill vacancies must file during the regular primary filing period, which has already passed. The next regular primary and general elections will not come again until 2012.

West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant issued a statement the day of Byrd’s death, confirming that there can be no special election until 2012. At that point, there will be two elections, one for the remaining five or so weeks of Byrd’s unexpired term, and one for the next full term.

That means Democratic Gov. Joe Manchin III will get to appoint a senator to serve Sen. Byrd’s term until that election.

Byrd had provided critical support in moving forward a measure to repeal DADT. He worked with Senate and House leadership on a provision that would give Congress an additional 60 days to review the proposed policy changes, even after the president, the secretary of defense, and the chairman of the joint chiefs certify them.

That language was included in an amendment to the defense-authorization bill that passed the House and the Senate Armed Services Committee (of which Byrd was a member) at the end of May. The full Senate is set to take it up when it returns from recess July 12.



The late U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd.

With the vote likely to be close, the focus now is on who Manchin will choose to replace Byrd. The most frequently mentioned names in the media have been Nick Casey, the former chair of the state Democratic Party, who has just accepted a federal judgeship, and the new party chair, Larry Puccio, the governor’s former chief of staff.

Other names include Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin; Carte Goodwin, a former counsel to the governor; and former state Supreme Court Justice Richard Neely.

No matter who is chosen, most sources see them as placeholders for Manchin, who has long been seen as a candidate to replace Byrd. Manchin has said that he would not appoint himself to the position, however.

Stephen Skinner, chair of the board of Fairness West Virginia, the state’s leading LGBT advocacy group, said he would expect both Casey and Puccio to follow Byrd’s lead on DADT and can’t imagine that any of the other possible appointees would differ. He said his organization has existing relationships with all of the likely choices, and “we’ll immediately reach out to whomever is chosen.”

The LGBT-related record of the possible choices is slim. Goodwin, as counsel to Manchin, and Tomblin, as Senate president, backed the governor in rejecting a 2008 attempt by the Family Policy Council of West Virginia to push through a state constitutional amendment that sought to limit marriage to one man and one woman. They pointed out that current state law already does so.

Fox News reported June 29, however, that state Republicans will continue to fight for a special election this coming November.

If they are successful, the likely Republican contender would be U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito. She is the only Republican in the state’s Congressional delegation—although she is seen as a moderate—and the state voted for Republican candidates in the last three presidential elections.

Capito is no supporter of LGBT rights, however. She voted against the Employment Nondiscrimination Act in 2007 and against a 2007 stand-alone version of an LGBT-inclusive hate crimes act. (She ultimately voted for the defense appropriations bill to which the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was successfully attached.) And, in 2006, she voted for a failed House resolution that would have proposed a constitutional amendment defining marriage in the U.S. as the union of a man and a woman.

Most critically, she voted against the defense-authorization amendment to repeal DADT that Byrd had worked to pass.

©2010 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

## Barnes: ‘We’ve carried the ball a long, long way down the field’

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The purpose of the small gathering on the second floor of the Old Executive Office Building in Washington July 1 was twofold. First, White House Domestic Policy Chief Melody Barnes wanted to give LGBT media a “snapshot” of what the Obama administration has done, and plans to do, on LGBT issues.

And, second, nine LGBT reporters and political bloggers would get a chance to ask a question.

It was the first time any administration had arranged to deliver such a briefing to LGBT media and take questions, and some lamented that the access has come 18 months into the administration and, thus far, has not included an interview with the president himself.

But Barnes offered an earnest defense of what the Obama administration has done thus far on LGBT issues—“more than any previous administration,” she said. She pointed to the signing hate-crimes legislation into law, issuing of executive memos to expedite tangible benefits where possible, and using the president’s bully pulpit in a variety of settings to advance the public’s understanding of civil rights for LGBT people.

Barnes was pressed to explain why the administration continues to defend laws in court, such as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), even though the president has repeatedly said both laws should be repealed. Barnes said it is in part because the president is concerned about setting a precedent that would make it easier for some future administration to pick and choose which laws it would defend, and in part because the president

“hasn’t made an argument” concerning the constitutionality of the laws.

“To be clear, he believes DOMA is discriminatory,” said Barnes, noting the administration has indicated so in legal briefs. “But,” said Barnes, “we believe we have an obligation to defend the law if Congress had a rational basis for passing the law.” She added that the president has been “trying to move the country forward and change the narrative” on these issues.

When it comes to prodding Congress to pass pro-LGBT laws, such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), said Barnes, the administration is relying on the Congressional leadership.

“We look to the Senate leadership to also say to us, ‘These are issues we are prepared to move forward on,’” said Barnes. “They’re doing that based on a whole number of variables. And when they are talking about moving forward with ENDA, they’re also getting an indication from us that we support it.”



Melody Barnes.

Pam Spaulding, a political blogger at pam-houseblend.com, told Barnes that there is a “big gulf” between what national LGBT organizations consider to be significant progress on LGBT issues and what people at the grassroots think. She suggested a briefing like this one might have gone a long way to mitigate the concern of the grassroots if it had been held earlier in the administration.

Barnes acknowledged the frustration of the grassroots, but emphasized, “We are here now, and that reflects the desire to be engaged.” She also noted that the White House AIDS czar, Jeff Crowley, has been engaging the grassroots through a series of town meetings around the country to talk about AIDS.

“There’s always a desire and effort to do better, and that’s why we are sitting here now,” said Barnes.

The only surprise came when—in responding to a question about the relative lack of openly gay people on the president’s senior staff—Barnes credited White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel with having pushed for the hospital visitation directive. That directive, signed by President Obama, provided for the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that hospitals receiving federal funding respect the wishes of an LGBT patient in deciding who can visit them in the hospital. Emanuel has, for years, been seen as a relative obstructionist on LGBT advances—first, in the Clinton White House and, now, in this one.

“There are a number of very senior members of this administration—whether it be Rahm, Valerie [Jarrett] or me or Jim [Messina]—who are not gay or lesbian but for whom these issues are important. We have conversations and provide advice to the president on those issues. It is helpful and important to have people... who are not gay or lesbian or transgender who care about these issues and advocate for them in the White House.”

“There are LGBT senior colleagues who may not have as their portfolio specific LGBT issues,”

ONLINE AT  
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM  
NATIONAL NEWS

—Jared Polis (left) endorses D.C. mayor

—Evangelist at Twin Cities Pride Festival

—Oakland, Calif., lesbian running for mayor

continued Barnes, “but they come to the table with expertise on personnel, the environment, and host of other issues who do participate in these conversations, who sit at the table and bring their perspective to the conversation on a consistent basis. So while there isn’t an individual...there are many individuals who care about these issues, who drive this set of issues and think about how we move forward.”

Asked whether the White House vetted its decision concerning the DADT certification requirement with anyone in the LGBT community, Barnes answered indirectly, saying the White House “absolutely consults frequently” with the community. She pointed specifically to staffers Brian Bond and Tina Tchen in the White House Office of Public Liaison, as the point persons to ensure such consultations.

“Brian and Tina are talking to and considering and hearing the positive and negative as we go through the process of both developing policy and articulating what our policy is,” said Barnes.

“We’ve carried the ball a long, long way down the field,” said Barnes. “There’s still work to be done but we’ve carried it a long way down the field.”

©2010 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

## Wis. court upholds gay-marriage ban

The Wisconsin Supreme Court unanimously affirmed a lower-court ruling June 30 that upheld the state’s ban on same-sex marriages and civil unions, according to Courthouse News Service.

In 2006, voters supported a proposed constitutional amendment that defined marriage solely as being between one man and one woman. The following year, William McConkey filed a lawsuit claiming that the two sentences of the marriage amendment constituted two amendments, not one, and that because voters were not able to vote for or against each sentence, the marriage amendment was not validly adopted, according to Leagle.com. (The amendment reads, “Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state.”)

In its ruling, Justice Michael Gableman stated, “We hold that Article XIII, Section 13 of the Wisconsin Constitution—the marriage amendment—was adopted in conformity with the separate amendment rule in Article XII, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution, which mandates that voters must be able to vote separately on separate amendments. Both sentences of the marriage amendment relate to marriage and tend to effect or carry out the same general purpose of preserving the legal status of marriage in Wisconsin as between only one man and one woman.”

# Bullied Ariz. teen takes action

BY ROSS FORMAN

He's only 15 and a sophomore in high school, yet Caleb Laieski has already received numerous death threats—because he's gay.

However, Laieski is not going after those bullying him. Instead, he's suing his Arizona school district and has founded a support group to deal with anti-gay discrimination.

Laieski lives in Surprise, Ariz., where he attends Willow Canyon High School. He wants to pursue a college degree in public safety and political science.

"Life isn't easy for anyone, especially when diversity comes in. The thing that gets me the most is the level of intolerance and hatred that still exists," Laieski said. "Once again we are repeating history; starting with the difficult fight for women's rights, following the violent fight for African-American rights, and now the long-awaited fight for LGBT rights.

"I feel I am discriminated against much more often now that I am more open about my sexual orientation. As I became more open [about my sexuality], the hate speech and discrimination began to increase everywhere—in public, at school, via phone, via email, etc."

Laieski said he has "always" been attracted to the same sex, even as young as 6-years-old. He came out of the closet in sixth grade.

The teen said he founded GLUAD (Gays and Lesbians United Against Discrimination) to help support the LGBT community locally and nationally, "because of the amount of discrimination, hate speech, and experience of a friend committing suicide and many others attempting to work from a legislative perspective to deter or prevent these issues by passing legislation to patch



Casey Laieski. Photo courtesy of Laieski

these issues," he said. "After more interaction, experience, and involvement, I learned that we need to focus on the more basic issue that kept these statistics of suicide, homelessness, rejection, drug and alcohol use, etc. [so high]."

Laieski was motivated to move forward following several national issues dramatically affecting the LGBT community and, of course, his personal woes.

He added, "When the issue of discrimination began to include myself and my friends, I then kicked my level of activism to step one, and it fired me up more when Proposition 102 [in] Arizona, Proposition 8 [in] California and the proposition in Florida had passed banning gay marriage, along with the ban on gays from adopting in Arkansas all in the 2008 elections."

He said one of his main focal points is Chicago, where there is a high amount of LGBT

homelessness and not enough resources for the issue, he said. "In Chicago, we will then continue our legislative work, make an addition of our shelter goals, as well as add a department that will work with making businesses nationally become more LGBT-friendly and praise those that support and educate and boycott those who will not," he said.

GLUAD now has 10 active volunteers, he said. "We are currently investigating the possible funding opportunities we can take part in to make our goals happen, federal and state grants, and the help of our members and allies will also make these goals become realistic," Laieski said. "Regretfully, with limited staff, resources, and budget, we have placed a primary focus on developing our ideas and making sure we do this promptly, which has taken an immense and critical amount of time out of our schedules. We will soon have a very informative and resourceful website containing some fantastic content, but at this time we make the professional sacrifice."

The young organizer said he often works on GLUAD issues during school hours and while at school.

"If a student or teacher asks what I am working on, I advise them of my involvement with GLUAD," he said.

"GLUAD has a primary focus on legislative work, in which we are contacting all 50 state legislatures by email with literature containing insight on LGBT issues, statistics, demographics, suggested legislation to solve certain problems, and share others stories.

"Although legislative work is very critical, we have concluded that we will be continuing legislative work but shifting our primary focus as well as mission towards the alarming, saddening, and shocking statistics on LGBT homelessness."

Laieski said GLUAD's focus will include overturning the Arkansas adoption ban, opening the Chicago shelter and more.

"GLUAD has very strong intentions of opening an LGBT shelter in Chicago, primarily in result

to the alarming statistic of around 4,000 LGBT homeless youth on the streets of [Chicago,] according to the National Task Force," Laieski said. "GLUAD will have emergency beds for short-term use, and [eventually will have] permanent beds for long-term use. Our shelter/center will take in LGBT youth, adults, and elderly who are homeless, provide essentials and emergency packages to those on the street, counseling and activities for those who are housed or un-housed in our shelter.

"Additionally we are currently investigating the security precautions our shelter will have to adopt, and the possibility of providing emergency beds to homeless folks who are not of the LGBT community in a separate sector as well to help those wanting assistance."

## Harris receives state bar award

Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, has received the 2010 Community Leadership Award from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA). He received the award June 25 during the organization's 134th annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch, St. Louis, Mo.

The honor—given by the ISBA's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity—recognizes individuals for efforts to foster understanding of LGBT individuals and their issues of concern.

As the highest-ranking openly gay elected Illinois official, and one who lives with AIDS, Harris mobilized people and groups into action that generates results, especially on the issue of HIV/AIDS, according to an ISBA press release.

Since joining the Illinois House, Harris has sponsored bills covering numerous topics, including civil unions, post-mastectomy care and historic preservation.

The 33,000-member ISBA, with offices in Springfield and Chicago, provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public.



Chicago's LGBT Headquarters

Check out hundreds of photos from Pride weekend, news, events, personals and much more!

Have you seen the all new **ChicagoPride.com?**

**LGBT Chicago Redesigned. Redefined.**



part of the **GO PRIDE** network



Visit [GayOrbitz.com](http://GayOrbitz.com)

Log on for a chance to **win FREE Airfare!**

Win two (2) travel certificates good for round-trip class travel within the continental U.S. on Delta Airlines. Travel is valid through May, 2011. Must be 21 years of age or older to enter. Additional rules and restrictions apply. See contest rules online at [chicagopride.com/contests](http://chicagopride.com/contests).

# Battery, fraud and more: Allegations fly in contentious case

BY MASON HARRISON

Leaders of a local LGBT-rights group have become mired in charges of misconduct in recent weeks as the organization's executive director and board of directors engage in vociferous infighting to claim leadership of the three-year-old organization. The reputation of the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR) has become embattled as charges and countercharges related to check fraud, forgery and embezzlement continue to mount.

## Alleged battery

CJR's recent troubles began June 25 when board members John Hickman and Billy Davis signed onto a document terminating the group's executive director, Marc Loveless. Loveless allegedly pushed and shoved Hickman after being served the termination letter and reportedly forcibly removed Hickman from the organization's South Side office. Loveless was arrested and charged with simple battery, but denied committing the crime. Hickman claimed that video surveillance footage of the incident exists and expressed his plans to place the footage, once it is secured, online. "I'm going to YouTube it," he said.

## "Serious allegations"

In the termination letter, Hickman and Davis enumerated their reasons for firing Loveless, which include their assertions that Loveless—who originally denied ever being served a termination letter—used CJR bank accounts for personal use; kept sparse financial records; failed to comply with CJR bylaws; maintained a "poor or improper" system of filing client information; and engaged in inappropriate or disruptive conduct. "During your time as Executive Director a host of issues have been brought to the board's attention that directly deal with your position. As these are all allegations we still feel it in our best interest to remove you from your post," the letter states.

Hickman and Davis continued by informing Loveless that local authorities may be contacted to investigate the charges of misconduct. "A General Email will be sent out on June 25th, 2010 informing our supporters of [your firing]. I would also like you to be aware that the Chicago Police Department may be conducting an investigation of its own as there are very serious allegations that still need to be reviewed by authorities," according to the letter.

## The board of directors

But Loveless countered that Hickman and Davis lack the authority to remove him as executive director of CJR. Loveless told Windy City Times that Hickman was removed from the organization's board in October 2009 by voice vote for financial shenanigans and that Davis was removed from the group's board this past June after serving a one-year term as mandated by CJR's bylaws. A copy of the bylaws supports Loveless' claims.

However, it remains unclear when the new board of directors—whose formation would remove Davis's and Hickman's authority—was installed. One document obtained by Windy City Times that is dated June 26 states that the new board of directors was installed May 17. An e-mail dated July 5 sent to supporters by Loveless indicates that the new board has been in operation since April and Loveless's own statements to Windy City Times note that the paperwork to install the new board was filed in June, and no documents can be produced showing the removal of Hickman or Davis as board members. As of Aug. 5 of last year, Hickman and Davis are listed



Marc Loveless. Photo by Andrew Davis

with the state as board members for CJR.

Furthermore, Hickman and Davis have alleged that Loveless has stacked the board with at least one phony individual: Susan Watts. "There is no record of who this woman is," Hickman told Windy City Times. "Her address is a Brown Line train station," said Davis. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) confirmed that the address listed for Watts, which is 937 W. Diversey, is a CTA train station. Loveless responded by saying, "Anyone who has worked in the field of HIV knows who Susan Watts is," adding, "Well, that's the address she gave me."

## Unpaid bills

Part of the impetus for removing Loveless as executive director, Hickman said, was a string of unpaid bills, including thousands of dollars in cell-phone bills; back rent totaling more than \$20,000; and a bevy of bills from various vendors. Hickman and Davis alleged Loveless had not been diligent in settling CJR's debts. Loveless, while acknowledging some difficulty with bill payment, claimed, however, that it is Hickman who is responsible for the thousands owed in cell-phone payments and other late charges.

## "Suspected fraud activity"

Hickman and Davis also alleged that Loveless began to open several bank accounts and write checks on those accounts and would then remove the funds from those accounts before the checks could clear. Loveless, however, accused Hickman of that practice and stated that he, Watts and Davis had to remove Hickman from a Shorebank account because of his fraudulent activity. Documents, however, name Loveless as the perpetrator of suspected fraud. In September 2008, Bank of America reported Loveless to a bank account information collection agency, known as ChexSystems, for "suspected fraud activity."

## Forgery

In January 2009, Davis—who was then listed as a board member approximately six months before his term was to have begun—Watts and Loveless signed onto a document that retained Loveless "as the sole signature of the bank accounts" for CJR. Davis claimed he never signed that document and that his signature was forged.

Loveless stated that Davis gave him permission to sign his name because Davis was unable to attend the meeting at which the document was signed, and that any statement to the contrary is a result of a "lapse in memory" on the part of Davis. Davis has since filed a complaint with the Chicago Police Department. (Note: Loveless has added that several allegations are related to documents that were stolen from him, along with items such as a CTA pass. Those accused, Hickman and Davis, denied taking anything.)

## Summer jobs program

Loveless' problems, however, are not occurring in a vacuum. Earlier in the year, Chicago's Youth Pride Center (YPC) received an award from the state of Illinois to employ youths for the summer. YPC contracted with CJR to place youths in different workplaces throughout the city and to complete the necessary paperwork for the program. Windy City Times obtained copies of e-mail communications between Loveless and a program administrator in which Loveless is told that his delays in processing paperwork would result in the removal of student workers under his care, and that the workers would now be processed by YPC.

Loveless responded with claims about YPC's ability to manage its youth and stated that YPC workers were being required to raise funds for the organization in order to secure jobs. YPC head Frank Walker, however, told Windy City Times that Loveless' accusations are baseless and that youths are only required to raise funds for out-of-town trips. Furthermore, Loveless claimed it was important that he maintain the number of youths under this care because some workers were being required to purchase cigarettes and provide money from their paychecks to transgender-rights activist Joy Morris. Morris vehemently denied Loveless' claims. Walker and Morris claimed that Loveless has engaged in smear tactics to keep as many youths as possible so that CJR can maintain an administrative fee associated with each student worker. The loss of student workers, Walker noted, means a loss of potential revenue for CJR.

The paperwork delays, however, have resulted in some individuals being paid late and others may be in danger of being dropped from the program altogether, Walker said. As a result, a number of YPC youths have pitched in to help their fellow workers. Walker told Windy City Times that after their July 2 pay date, some of YPC's students gave a portion of their paychecks to create a fund for the others who will be paid late, some of whom are facing homelessness if they cannot pay their rent. Walker promised that YPC would spend "thousands" in order to ensure that none of its students will have to live on the street.

Not all workers will be as fortunate, however. According to sources who asked not to be named, some student workers who began the program early arrived at Loveless' office June 29 with their parents and demanded to be paid. When Loveless failed to show, the office was ransacked and items were taken. At least one parent whose child was not paid has filed a complaint with the state's labor department.

## Rev. Willie Barrow

In early June, CJR was to put on a benefit in honor of the Rev. Willie Barrow, a longtime Chicago ally of the LGBT community, at the Hotel Monaco. Sources familiar with the event claim that CJR collected checks in honor of Barrow, but when the event was cancelled, none of those monies were returned. Loveless, however, is emphatic about the fact that "no checks were collected." But a source close to Loveless with knowledge of the event told Windy City Times, "I saw at least one check in the amount of \$150." Loveless stated he didn't recall such a donation.

At least one guest, Timothy Stewart-Winter, had flown in from the East Coast to attend. He wrote on event organizer Marc Loveless' Facebook page, "I was very surprised to arrive at the venue and discover it had been postponed with

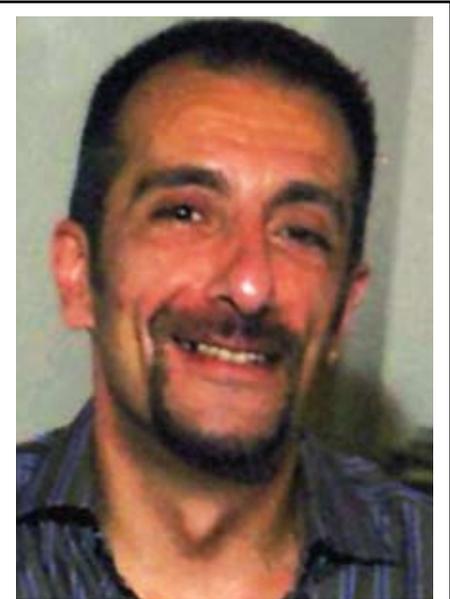
no notice whatsoever. In fact, the hotel staff explained they had 'no further information' about the reason for the postponement."

Apparently, after working an earlier event, Barrow was too tired to attend the coalition event and organizer Marc Loveless made the decision to cancel.

"The other event was on 110th Street," Loveless told Windy City Times. "We were trying to resolve the transportation matter and as you know while she was willing there was some other conversations that said that she would be only able to attend the event at 8:30 p.m."

"I became concerned that people would be disappointed not having her there for the program, and her ability over her desire for her benefit we it was decided to postpone the event. I care for Rev. Barrow enough to know that she will risk herself beyond consideration. I just couldn't have it on my conscience. I'd rather suffer the burden of cancelling then feeling I was pushing her at risk of her health."

—Contributing: Blair Mishleau



Stamatios Miras.

## PASSAGES

### Stamatios Miras

Stamatios Ioannis Miras, 46—a native of Athens, Greece, and a longtime Chicago resident—passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at his home June 23.

After earning his Master of Education degree in learning disabilities from DePaul University, Stamatios worked in the education department and then moved on to a fruitful career as a much-beloved teacher at two Greek Schools: The Hellenic Academy in Deerfield and the Athena Hellenic Education Society in Morton Grove.

As a dedicated educator, he touched the lives of many and had a special place in his heart for children. Stamatios loved reading and traveling and enjoyed capturing the wonder of nature through photography. He cared for many pets and loved all animals, big and small.

He was the beloved son of Ioannis and Vasileia Moiras of Athens, Greece, the brother of Areti (Yiannis Georgalis) Miras of Munich, Germany and the uncle of Sofia and Vasileia Papoulia of Athens, Greece.

He leaves behind a vast circle of beloved friends in Chicago.

Services are private in Chicago and in Greece.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 4619 N. Ravenswood, Chicago, Ill., 60640-4579; People can also call the hospital at 773-784-6704 or visit [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

For information or to contact the family, please call Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or [www.cremation-society.com](http://www.cremation-society.com).

# Is the Office of LGBT Health closing?

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Some members of the LGBT community are concerned that the Office of LGBT Health, a pioneering program administered by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), may be in danger of closing. The directorship of that office has been vacant since the mid-June departure of Simone Koehlinger, who took a position working on obesity issues for the Cook County Health Department.

"The community is concerned that this position might be eliminated," said Jim Pickett, who works for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

A CDPH spokesman released a statement to Windy City Times that stressed the department's commitment to the office. "The Office of LGBT Health is an important unit within the Chicago Department of Public Health," the statement read. "CDPH will continue to support this important program and will be seeking to fill the position."

Koehlinger, however, said that her worries about the office's future arise from the fact that it is funded by a cash-strapped city government. "Thankfully, we have an administration at the health department that supports this position," she said. "The concern comes in that the position is city-funded."

"I personally have not heard that specific concern voiced at CDPH," Public Health spokesman Tim Hadac e-mailed in response to those concerns. Mayor Richard Daley's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Programs that are not specifically grant-funded, Koehlinger said, are particularly unstable in the current economic climate. In the last few years, the office has not been immune to budget-cutting measures, she said, citing a public relations position that was eliminated, rather than filled, when the person who occupied the position left.

"We haven't grown in size," Koehlinger said. "That's been something we wanted to do." She said that the office once employed as many as five people; with Koehlinger's departure, only one paid staffer, Pamela McCann, is left.

The Office of LGBT Health was established in 1999 to address health issues specific to LGBT people; among other things, its mission includes training healthcare providers, producing educational material for the public and partnering with health and advocacy organizations throughout the city. As one of the few city programs of its kind in the country, Koehlinger said, "It's a point of pride not only for the health department but for the city."

Pickett told Windy City Times that a particularly valuable contribution the office has made has been in addressing health concerns specific to Black men who have sex with men. "That office coordinates a lot of really good work among that community," Pickett said.

One project started under the Office of LGBT Health is the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus. The caucus' co-chair, Ariq Cabbler, said that the closure of the office "would be a major blow to the work that we do."

He said that the caucus has worked closely with the Office of LGBT Health on HIV/AIDS testing events, including testing at the Rocks Party, the annual post-Pride Parade gathering at Montrose Harbor that attracts thousands of mostly Black LGBT people.

"It's recognized as a national model," Cabbler said of that testing program. He said that his organization hopes to bring their successful testing models to other populations: "It is our goal to replicate that work with Latino men and transgender women," he said, noting that transgender women are particularly ill-served by HIV/AIDS



Simone Koehlinger. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

surveillance protocols that identify them, incorrectly, as "men who have sex with men."

Cabbler said that he intended to send a letter to Chicago Department of Public Health commissioner Dr. Bechara Choucair stressing his support for the continued funding of the Office of LGBT Health.

In addition to its work around HIV/AIDS, Koehlinger said that the Office of LGBT Health has been integral in coordinating responses to numerous health challenges to members of the LGBT community. For example, the office undertook a major campaign in 2004 and 2005 to address crystal-meth use among LGBT people. When a meningitis outbreak struck the community in 2003, Koehlinger said, the office made "sure that gay and bi men had access to medication." And the office has campaigned to promote smoking cessation in the LGBT community.

As the economic recession has continued, LGBT advocates and service providers—in both the public and private sectors—have found themselves no strangers to the threat of steep budget-cutting measures. In recent months, for instance, the state has struggled to find ways to fund the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which helps provide HIV and AIDS medication to over 4,000 low-income, HIV-positive people living in Illinois.

And last year around this time, HIV/AIDS service providers feared drastic, damaging budget cuts as the state government struggled financially. They were relieved when Gov. Pat Quinn announced that he would continue funding HIV/AIDS programming, with organizations receiving almost the same level of financial backing they had previously gotten.

Koehlinger credited Daley for supporting the Office of LGBT Health, calling it a "point of pride, not only for the health department but for the city." Similar to Quinn's decision last year, the future of the office may prove to be an important test of that support.

## Report looks at tobacco use among LGBTs

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

The American Lung Association recently released a report entitled "Smoking Out a Deadly Threat: Tobacco Use in the LGBT Community" that highlights the higher level of tobacco use among the LGBT community and demonstrates the need for more LGBT specific data. According to a press release, gay, bisexual and transgender men are two to two and a half times more likely to smoke than heterosexual men; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women are one and a half to two times more likely to smoke than heterosexual women; and bisexual youth are significantly more likely to smoke than either straight or gay youth. "We've included specific data from six reports with six states within the report itself," said Bill Blatt, director of tobacco programs for the American Lung Association.

"The majority of surveys and studies about to-

bacco use do not collect information on sexual orientation and gender identity," said Blatt. "As a result, there is a significant information gap." On top of the same risk factors for smoking experienced by the general population, the LGBT population experiences higher levels of stress due to homophobia and stigmas. Higher levels of stress lead to an increase in smoking rates, he added.

Another possible factor is tobacco companies' marketing campaigns that target LGBT people. Project SCUM—an ad "campaign that took place in the mid-'90s and stands for Sub-Culture Urban Marketing"—was focused on the LGBT population, among other marginalized groups, according to Blatt.

A lack of attention to tobacco has led to the problem's growth within the LGBT community. One organization that is working against that trend is Howard Brown's Health Center's "It's a Bitch to Quit" smoking-cessation program. "Part of the Bitch to Quit program is getting the information out to people on how tobacco companies have targeted LGBT people in general," Karyn Haney, Bitch to Quit project manager, told Windy City Times. "I think it does help knowing that they've been specifically targeted."

It's a Bitch to Quit is Chicago's only LGBT smoking-cessation group, according to its web page, which can be found on Howard Brown's website, [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org). "The main difference is that we are non-judgmental and very welcoming to the LGBT community," said Haney. "You don't have to hide who you are—you can just be who you are and show up, basically."

Five years ago when Haney was quitting, she appreciated the group atmosphere. "It was important that I felt very comfortable talking about anything because a lot of emotions come up when you quit smoking because it has become your best friend basically—someone you can rely on through good and through bad," said Haney. "So when you start letting that go, it's nice to have a support group there to sort of take its place."

Smoking-cessation rates are not high for any such program, but Haney said Bitch to Quit has a higher success rate. "I feel that every person that quits smoking and stays quit is just a huge success because of how difficult it is," she said.

## HIV+ Black MSM needed for research

Researchers at the University of Chicago and Howard Brown Health Center are developing a group-based smoking cessation program for HIV-positive African-American men who have sex with men (MSM). The research team hopes to recruit 30 men to participate in focus groups and provide feedback on the development of smoking-cessation materials.

Among MSM, African Americans have the highest rates of newly diagnosed HIV infection and often report high rates of health compromising behaviors, such as tobacco use, which may play an important role in poorer overall survival rates. To learn more about this project, contact Nicky Martin at 773-388-8865.

## I2I events July 13, Aug. 28

I2I-Invisible to Invincible, Asian & Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, is having a social the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For July 13, it'll be at Thai Pastry + Restaurant, 4925 N. Broadway. The expected cost is \$9-\$15 per person.

In addition, I2I is working with the National Queer API Alliance (NQAPIA) on a combination event Saturday, Aug. 28, 6-9 p.m., at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark. There is a sliding-scale fee of \$30-\$50, with a suggested donation of \$40.

Visit [www.chicagoi2i.org](http://www.chicagoi2i.org).

## Take care of your partner's tomorrows by planning today.



Make sure that the decisions that govern your financial future and your health care—and that of your partner—are made by you and your partner. At Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit, we believe that proper planning is critical, even for those with moderate and small estates. Our attorneys will explore your goals with you, address your concerns and enhance the protection of your loved ones.

The best time to provide a secure future for your partner is right now.

Call Bill Levy at 847-777-7330 or e-mail [wlevy@ksnlaw.com](mailto:wlevy@ksnlaw.com).

LAW OFFICES OF

**KOVITZ  
SHIFRIN  
NESBIT**

A Professional Corporation

[www.ksnlaw.com](http://www.ksnlaw.com)

Our practice is concentrated in estate planning, estate and trust administration, real estate, corporate, litigation and representing businesses, condominium associations, homeowners associations, co-ops and lending institutions.

847-777-7330

Chicago Buffalo Grove Naperville Lake Forest Racine, Wisconsin

# Black prides hold historic HIV forum

BY MASON HARRISON

A group of health professionals and disease experts gathered in two locations in the city of Chicago June 30 to discuss and explore various issues surrounding ethnic and racial disparities in levels of HIV infection, including the possible need for the formation of new federal guidelines to address transmission rates among Black men who have sex with men (MSM). Dubbed "historic," the event was sponsored by the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and featured panelists at Sidetrack in Lakeview and at Club Escape on the city's South Side.

Organizers had planned to simulcast comments from each panel so that audience members at either location could hear and participate in the other venue's discussion, but technological issues ran that attempt aground. The panelists—which included Rodney Perkins of the Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic in Washington, D.C.; Jim Pickett of AIDS Foundation of Chicago; Anthony Galloway of Test Positive Aware Network; Lora Branch of the Chicago Department of Public Health; Beau Gratzner of the Howard Brown Health Center; and Tommy Bennett of WVON—recited grim data from a Chicago health department survey of Black MSM that, according to Branch, "didn't tell us anything that we didn't already know."

The data from the July 2009 survey show that Black MSM are twice as likely as their white and Latino counterparts to be infected with HIV and that 50 percent of Black MSM surveyed were not aware of their HIV infection status at the time of the survey. Some good news, however, pointed to the fact that "[m]any [Black MSM] unaware of their HIV infection...had acquired their infection in the past year and were engaged in HIV testing and medical care at similar rates as other MSM," according to the survey. Further still, the survey noted that certain high-risk behaviors associated with HIV contraction were no more prevalent among Black MSM than among other populations of MSM.

Gratzner noted that current federal guidelines for the treatment of HIV among high-risk populations are loosely followed by a number of service providers in the Black community and that any new guidelines for Black MSM should only come after the current guidelines are more strictly adhered to. He also suggested that a way



Lora Branch. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

increase prevention and awareness would be to recommend that people receive HIV testing at least twice a year instead of the current federal recommendation of once per year.

Gratzner and Branch both set out to dispel certain myths surrounding the issue of HIV infection in the Black community. Branch noted that the "down-low" (DL) phenomenon among Black MSM is overrated as it relates to HIV transmission. She said: "DL is not contributing to HIV infection among Black women. DL is not the preponderance of Black gay men." Gratzner pointed out that research shows that the idea that HIV infection rates are highest among those who engage in so-called high-risk behavior a mistaken notion. He pointed out: "Data indicate you're much more likely to get HIV from a main partner. Sixty to 70 percent of new infections are from main partners." Gratzner said the reason for this is because partners often forgo condoms at some point during what they believe is a monogamous relationship, which then can lead to HIV transmission.

In the end, however, no consensus was reached on the necessity of formulating new federal guidelines for Black MSM or on the way forward

in general. "We have a lot more questions than we have answers," concluded Branch.

See photos and read more about the Black prides on page 19.

## AFC launches Project IN-CARE

BY ROSS FORMAN

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is taking yet another step in the battle to break down barriers to care collaboration between five local HIV/AIDS organizations, with the hopes of reaching and supporting up to 1,600 people living with the disease in the Chicago area.

AFC recently launched an initiative—known as Project IN-CARE (Identify, Navigate, Connect, Access, Retain and Evaluate)—designed to meet the unique needs of individuals living with HIV.

"Our project will aim to support HIV-positive men of color to gain access to, and remain actively engaged in, care services," said AFC Vice President David Munar. "Men of color are, by far, the most impacted populations locally and nationally, and also have among the highest rates of advanced HIV disease. By offering program participants enhanced psychosocial support, we will aim to improve health outcomes for program participants."

"We have ample data showing that many people newly diagnosed with HIV are not immediately connected to necessary medical and support services. In addition, too many people diagnosed with HIV experience interruptions in care and services, which poses a threat to their health. The CORE Center, one of our partners on the project, recently secured federal funding for a similar project targeting HIV-positive women, which is one of the reasons we decided to narrow the scope of this project to men."

Project IN-CARE is a collaborative effort that includes AFC, Brothers Health Collective, Howard Brown Health Center, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN). The Positive Charge grant from the National AIDS Foundation (NAF) will provide the fund the initiative for a three-year period, and totals almost \$1.8 million.

"The overarching goal of this three-year project is to achieve better health outcomes for hundreds of HIV-positive men who are either newly diagnosed with HIV or have experienced lapses in their medical and support services," Munar said. "The project also will pilot assessment techniques to identify individuals who are most likely to benefit from additional psychosocial support services. It will test the feasibility and outcomes of specialized peer navigators who will help clients understand how to gain maximum benefit from their medical and support services."

AFC is now in the planning and implementation phase of the project, which will start enrolling clients later this summer.

"We're enormously proud that the White House invited Louis Spraggins, TPAN Treatment Education Coordinator, to represent the new project at a recent White House briefing on public and private partnerships in the fight against HIV/AIDS," Munar said. "It speaks to the enthusiasm nationally about our proposed model in changing the way we engage and support HIV-positive clients in the future."

"In metro Chicago, we have a strong safety net of HIV-related medical and support services. Our project will rely on the existing HIV case management network, ambulatory care services, and HIV-related other support services as a foundation for assisting program participants. By developing and evaluating enhanced psychosocial support systems for individuals who are unlikely to access HIV services otherwise, our project is likely to have a profound impact. Thanks to medical advances, people living with HIV can achieve stable, healthy and long lives but only if they gain access to—and remain in—care. Our project will set out to do just that, and help people traumatized by their HIV diag-

nosis to overcome internalized and external HIV stigma, which is a persistent challenge in the fight against the epidemic.

**Housing assistance:** AFC is also one of 29 HIV/AIDS organizations around the country receiving \$30.2 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funding, announced June 29, is offered through HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA) and will renew the department's support of these agencies. During each of the next three years, this HUD funding will help provide permanent supportive housing for 1,232 households in 19 states.

## Quinn highlights ADAP in state budget announcement

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn announced that state funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides HIV medications to low-income people with HIV, will be sufficient to "serve approximately 4,500 clients a month—an increase of 400 program recipients. In the last nine months, the program provided HIV/AIDS medications to an average of 4,165 Illinoisans per month and the number of new enrollees continues to climb.

Quinn's budget includes a \$17 million funding reduction for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), which supports critical HIV/AIDS and public health services. No HIV programs were specifically listed for funding reductions.

In May, a state advisory panel recommended that Illinois institute a waiting list for ADAP because program costs are far outstripping available revenue. A waiting list would create unacceptable health risks for low-income people with HIV, including unnecessary hospitalizations, sickness, disability, and even early death.

Quinn stated publicly in both May and June that funding for ADAP is a top priority for his Administration, and ADAP was listed as the top item in the Governor's public health department budget. The administration's budget did not specify funding amounts for any programs within public health, saying details would be released by the end of July.

"We thank Governor Quinn for underscoring the importance of sustaining access to lifesaving HIV medications," said Mark Ishaug, President/CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). "We eagerly await detailed budget information for all HIV programs and services and hope the Administration adequately funds a full spectrum of activities from prevention to housing and ADAP."

The Illinois General Assembly has to deal with an estimated \$11 billion budget deficit. In addition, the state faces nearly \$6 billion in unpaid bills, including payments to HIV service providers, and has no revenue source for the state's \$3.5 million pension payment.



Gov. Pat Quinn.

Thursday, July 15  
7:30 p.m.  
Martha Ackmann  
Curveball

Saturday, July 17  
7:30 p.m.  
Sappho's Salon:  
A Provocative Night  
of Lesbian Diversions



5233 N. Clark  
(773) 769-9299

wcfbooks@aol.com  
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com  
Parking Available  
Wheelchair Accessible



Have your  
premiums  
increased  
recently?

See me:  
Charles T. Rhodes,  
Agent  
2472 N. Clark  
773.281.0890

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
(not in NJ)  
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ)  
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

## Alvarez's Pride Awards



The Cook County state's attorney's first-ever Pride Awards Ceremony took place June 30 at Center on Halsted. Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and members of the office's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Council honored Art Johnston and Glen Pietrandoni, R. Ph., AAHIVE (HIV Expert). Johnston helped establish the LGBT-rights group Equality Illinois (formerly known as the Illinois Federation for Human Rights) and co-owns the popular Boystown nightclub Sidetrack. Pietrandoni, a program director at Walgreen Company, is a veteran pharmacist and HIV-medicine expert. In addition, LGBT-rights activist Vernita Gray of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office received the first Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo of (from left) Johnston, Gray, Alvarez and Pietrandoni courtesy of Andy Conklin

## Tinley Park student among Point scholars

Point Foundation—the country's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBT students of merit—has announced its 2010 Scholar Class.

The foundation chose this year's diverse group of 25 undergraduate and graduate Point Scholarship recipients from more than 1,641 completed applications. The newest group of Point Scholars consists of individuals 17-45, and people of color represent 36 percent of the new class. Also, the new class has the largest number of transgender/gender-variant individuals in Point's history (28 percent).

Mallory Price from Tinley Park, Ill., is among the scholarship recipients. She is pursuing an A.M. in social work from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

"Our 25 new scholars are making a difference in the community, having logged over 5,000 service hours benefitting LGBT causes and organizations across the United States," Point Foundation Executive Director/CEO Jorge Valencia said in a statement. "Their level of public involvement speaks to our commitment that Point Scholars are making a difference within the LGBT community."

## SAGE BBQ, nightclub events

SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) at Center on Halsted will hold a barbecue Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Richard Daley Rooftop Garden in the Irving Harris Reception Hall (3rd floor) of the facility, located at 3656 N. Halsted.

There is also the SAGE Early Bird NightClub for

women Friday, Aug. 27, 7-9:30 p.m. A \$10 suggested donation includes a drink ticket and price of entry—alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available. An RSVP is required.

Call 773-472-6469, ext. 497, or e-mail JVery@CenteronHalsted.org.

## Disability Pride Parade July 24

The 7th Annual Disability Pride Parade—"Pride Revolution"—will take place Saturday, July 24, 10:30-3 p.m., at 401 S. Plymouth.

The grand marshal will be renowned disabled genderqueer activist/writer Eli Clare.

See [www.DisabilityPrideParade.com](http://www.DisabilityPrideParade.com).



Eli Clare.

## Study at UIC calls for older men

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago are looking for older gay and bisexual men who are Caucasian, African-American or Latino to participate in a study on health, social connections and discrimination. Individuals must be at least 55 years of age.

There will be a focus group and individual interview. Focus groups will last 90 minutes and pay \$10. Individual interviews will last 60 minutes and pay \$20. Call 312-413-3560 or e-mail [dmanja2@uic.edu](mailto:dmanja2@uic.edu).

# QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

**"WE ARE IMPOSING GREAT DAMAGE ON THEM (SAME-SEX COUPLES) BY THE ...** state of California saying they are different and they cannot have the happiness, they cannot have the privacy, they cannot have the liberty, they cannot have the intimate association in the context of a marriage that the rest of our citizens do. We have demonstrated during this trial that that causes grave and permanent, irreparable and totally unnecessary harm, because we are withholding from them ... that right of marriage in the context of the intimate relationship. We are withholding that from them, hurting them and we are doing no good." — *Lawyer Ted Olson at the closing of the federal Prop 8 trial, June 16 in San Francisco.*

**"(OUR FEDERAL CASE AGAINST PROP 8) IS THE MOST COMPELLING,** emotionally moving, important case that I have been involved in in my entire life." — *Lawyer Ted Olson as quoted in the Washington Post, June 14.*

**"IT SEEMS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE TRICKLE OF EVENTS** (from the Obama administration) has flowed into a slow but steady stream of smaller, yet meaningful, policy gains for LGBT Americans. But given that the 'hope' president came to the White House endowed with heavy Democratic majorities in Congress and a mandate to forge a fresh course for our country, what could have amounted to a watershed moment for LGBT equality has felt less like a waterfall than the drip from a leaky faucet. Sure, water is getting through, but not nearly enough to fortify or sustain a vilified minority that has been systematically burned by a swarm of homophobic laws that swept the nation as the vast majority of politicians either cheered or turned a convenient blind eye." — *Advocate reporter Kerry Eleveld in a June 14 commentary.*

**"I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW WHO I AM** and what's in my heart. I kept that from people. I concealed it from everyone for almost all my life, so I'm (now) privileged to work with people from all aspects of life, including organizations devoted to advancing the rights of gay and lesbian and transgendered individuals." — *Outed California state Sen. Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield, to the Los Angeles Times, June 12.*

**"I DON'T KNOW THAT I'VE EVER FELT MORE OPTIMISTIC** about the future for myself. I don't know what the future holds, but I think it's going to be incredible." — *Outed California state Sen. Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield, to the Los Angeles Times, June 12.*

**"I DO LOOK AT OBAMA AS MY PRESIDENT. I DO LOOK AT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** as the party I'm most aligned with. But I also don't feel like we need to be enabling our own selves and so codependent that we'll put up with anything. (U)ntil we begin to push in a way that says we're not going to back down, I don't believe we're going to get what we want." — *GetEQUAL co-chair Robin McGehee to lgbtppv.com, June 6.*

**"I STILL USE THE WORD 'FAGGOT' ALL THE TIME IN MY COLUMN.** Every time that I am on chat shows on cable, I make a point of using 'fag' in reference to myself because I don't think it is a dirty word." — *Writer Dan Savage to Windy City Times, June 9.*



**I just want people to know who I am and what's in my heart.**

—Outed Calif. state Sen. Roy Ashburn



**"(CURRENT RESEARCH REVEALS THAT THE FASTEST-GROWING GROUP** along the sexuality continuum are men who self-identify as 'mostly straight' as opposed to labels like 'straight,' 'gay' or 'bisexual.' They acknowledge some level of attraction to other men even as they say that they probably wouldn't act on it, but ... the right guy, the right day, a few beers and who knows." — *New York Times columnist Charles M. Blow citing research by Prof. Ritch Savin-Williams, chairman of human development at Cornell University, June 4.*

**"TEN YEARS AGO, I WAS THE FIRST FIRST LADY ...** to march in a Pride parade, and it was so much fun. And one or two of you marched with me and I am still grateful to you." — *U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at her official "LGBT Month" event, June 22.*

**"I THINK IF TWO PEOPLE LOVE EACH OTHER, THEN WHAT THE HELL?** I think that everyone should have the chance to be equally miserable, if they want." — *Rapper Eminem when asked by The New York Times on June 14: "You've been accused of writing gay-bashing lyrics in the past. Would you like to see gay marriage approved in Michigan, where you live?"*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



**HOPE TAKES ACTION**



Call 312-413-5897  
[www.HopeTakesAction.org](http://www.HopeTakesAction.org)

**Join us in the effort to stop HIV.**

Men who are between 18-45 years old and HIV negative can take action by volunteering in an HIV vaccine study. Volunteers receive reimbursement for time and travel. You can't get HIV from the vaccine.

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Andrew Davis  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Meghan Streit  
**DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA** Jean Albright  
**ART DIRECTOR** Kirk Williamson  
**ACCOUNT MANAGERS:** Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson  
**PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT** Cynthia Holmes  
**NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR** Kirk Williamson  
**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**SENIOR WRITERS** Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia  
**THEATER EDITOR** Scott C. Morgan  
**CINEMA WRITER** Richard Knight, Jr.  
**BOOKS WRITER** Yasmin Nair  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS** Mary Shen Barnidge, Jim Edminster, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Catey Sullivan, Zachary Whittenburg, Jonathan Abarbanel  
**COLUMNISTS/WRITERS:** Yvonne Zipter, Susie Day, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Lisa Keen, Charles Dewey, Michael Knipp, Mark Corece, Sabine Neidhardt, Sam Worley, Billy Masters, John Fenoglio, Chuck Colbert, Micki Leventhal, Sarah Toce, Rachel Pepper  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS** Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia

## CIRCULATION

**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Jean Albright  
**DISTRIBUTION:** Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor

Copyright 2010 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
 e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com  
 radio: WindyCityQueercast.com  
 video: QueerTVNetwork.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,  
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 USA  
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

**Windy City Times** Deadline every Wednesday.  
**Nightspots** Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.  
**Identity (BLACKlines and En La Vida):** Now online only  
 Deadline The 10th of month prior.  
**OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE**  
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com  
 www.WindyCityQueercast.com  
 www.QueerTVNetwork.com

**"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.**

 Community Marketing, Inc.



**MARK  
SEGAL**

## Pioneers reclaim Pride

This year, Gay Pride seems to be going on and on—especially for those of us who marched or help plan the first Gay Pride March in New York City on June 28, 1970.

While we knew it's historic importance at the time, we often think that others have forgotten us, the reasons for that first march or its true significance.

Last Sunday proved to be a catharsis for many of us. On the 40th anniversary of the first parade, those of us who marched, marshaled or planned that event marched as a group with the banner "Original Marchers June 28, 1970."

As we gathered at our assigned spot in the parade—first section, seventh group—we were a small group of 10. Many have died in the 40 intervening years, others have moved far away. In front of us was a very large group from Delta Airlines, which included a car decked out like a Delta plane, pilots and flight attendants pushing food carts. Behind us was a contingent from Kiehl's skin products. The irony of sandwiching us, the original anti-establishment, anti-corporate people, in-between two major corporate sponsors was obvious.

As our little group of older men and women waited to march, we watched as the other two groups in front and behind put on their matching outfits with logos, put their props in order and filled their pockets and carts with items to give away to the crowds. We looked at each other in our regular marching clothes, jeans and a comfortable shirt, and prepared to carry our banner.

Then, the organizers asked us all to prepare to march. Each group got in "march order." For us, that meant just unfolding our banner and holding it up. As we did so, something amazing happened. Even before we started to walk, people came over and wanted to shake our hands and say thank you. It was almost too much to bear.

Our group had been fighting the good fight for 40 years and, in most cases, barely got a thank you. It was overwhelming.

By the time we had walked out of 40th Street onto Fifth Avenue, the cheers were overwhelming. The organizers of the parade, "Heritage of Pride," who are known for running a tight ship and were worried about our conforming to their standards, were gracious enough to realize that this was important and allowed us the unusual favor of marching at our own pace, which also allowed the crowd to be able to read the banner.

Each of us who marched looked at the others as people yelled out, "Thank you" or tried to get through the police lines to shake our hands.

Entering Christopher Street, our home, the crowd was immense and the cheers were deafening. We decided to make the point clear on what this march/parade was about. So, at the Stonewall, we stopped the parade and arranged ourselves with our banner in front of the Stonewall. That one gesture stated it all. That night, the Gay City News' top story was "Take Back Pride." To its credit, Heritage of Pride even appreciated the emotion in that moment.

Barbara Gittings once said I was the baby of the pioneers. For me, that means I fit in between both groups: pre-Stonewall and post-Stonewall. These groups have had their differences over the years. And, at times, I've been on one side or the other, but in recent years, I've attempted to

build a bridge.

So it's with great honor that this Sunday, I'll be in a car with Frank Kameny and Randy Wicker (both pre-Stonewall) with a banner on each side stating, "Gay Pioneers" in the Fourth of July parade that passes by Independence Hall. [Editor's note: Segal e-mailed Windy City Times after the parade, calling the experience "Overwhelming ... 45 years ago to the day that Frank Started those demonstrations and now he's in the parade being honored for those demonstrations.]

Our history and struggle is beginning to be recognized and accepted. How sad it was that the New York Times used a photo of a lesbian pole dancer as its graphic for the June 27 New York Pride. The photo didn't represent a majority of this year's marchers, let alone the march's history. Gay Pride is about the struggle for equal rights. How appropriate that we pioneers and founders attempted this year to make that point. Take note, New York Times, Gay Pride is a remembrance of the struggle for equality. Our work is not done and this photo makes that point clearly. Simply put, would the Times use a similar graphic for the Puerto Rican, Irish or other group's parade? No question mark needed here. The answer is no. While we're very proud of how far we've come, we realize there is still work to be done.

**Mark Segal is publisher of the Philadelphia Gay News. He can be reached at mark@epgn.com.**



**Mark Segal (second from right) with others who helped plan the first gay-pride march in New York City in 1970. Photo courtesy of Segal**

## Gay pride?

Should we really be proud of PRIDE??

Chicago's Gay Pride was this past Sunday. As a gay man who is an active member in the community, more days than just the last Sunday in June I was ashamed of the way I saw the "proud" LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, ally) community behaving.

As I looked down the parade route I was astonished at how many people decided the thing they were most proud of was having the least amount of clothing on. It seemed the larger the person was, the smaller the outfit was! I realize it was 90 degrees but that does not mean you should leave your self-respect at home in the freezer while parading around without a moment's thought to "pride" or decency.

As I watched the cesspool of parade watchers slip deeper and deeper into their celebratory states of intoxication, it became clear to me that most of these Proud Marys would scream and holler for a float supporting euthanasia, as long as the people on the float were shirtless and threw something shiny at them!

After three and a half hours of shirtless men, loud music, trannies in evening gowns and Re-

publicans who paint their elephant rainbow colors to get a few votes. The streets were filled with people who seemed to be proud they could walk straight.

My neighborhood looked as if the city dump had been dropped in the middle of it by a homophobic tornado. Somehow, the hundreds of trash cans that were provided to accommodate the crowd were still empty! I enjoyed catching a few groups trying to get up and migrate away from the spot they just trashed to find greener pastures. In my best Miss Manners-meets-Mommie Dearest impression I said to one group, "Excuse me. Are planning on leaving your garbage behind?" They looked at me puzzled, as I pointed out the nearest trash cans, expecting some sort of drunken retort about how I should mind my own business I was fully ready to shame them into thinking twice about using the ground a their own personal dump. Imagine my surprise when it seemed as though they appreciated me pointing out their lapse in environmental conscience, and apologized.

How is seeing how drunk and trashy we can act in public the major theme of Gay Pride?

Boystown, USA was the first government-recognized gay neighborhood in the country! We

receive government funding for public programs to educate and support diversity, respect and tolerance for everyone. We have public-health programs to educate our youth about safe sex, drug addiction, and mental well-being. Boystown sits one block away from Wrigleyville, frat boys and fags shopping at the same Whole Foods without fear of being gay because of intolerance. These are things to be proud of and celebrate.

If we continue to congregate in drunken mobs and tell the world this is who we are proud to be we will lose everything the generations before us have been fighting for. The men and women who stood up to a society that had forced them to hide for so long, probably wouldn't have fought so hard, and risk their own lives so we could "come out" and act as we did on Sunday. We owe it to ourselves and the people who first stood up and said "I'm Gay & I'm Proud" to behave as a community that deserves a parade because they "really are top-drawer."

Sincerely,  
 D. Beekman

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by  
Kat  
Fitzgerald  
(Mystic  
Images  
Photography.  
com)

Hundreds of women convened in Chicago last week for the Sister Singers Network 10th National Choral Festival. See page 16.

## MOVIES

Lisa and her 'Kids.'  
Page 15.



## TV

Absolutely 'Fabulous.'  
Page 17.



## SPORTS

The wheel thing.  
Page 22.

Photo of Marc Chavez by Ross Forman



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Love vs. violence

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Two years ago About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble tackled the issue of sex education in its show *Fast Forward*. Now the ensemble is turning its attention toward the overarching issue of violence in the forthcoming show *Queertopia*.

"In the past two years we've been collecting true stories through interviews with members of the ensemble, through workshops and young people all around Chicago," said *Queertopia* director (and 2010 Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree) Sara Kerastas.

Now Kerastas was quick to point out that the show wasn't going to be a long anti-hate crime screed, lest the subject matter scare away potential audiences.

"We're trying to get away from the stereotype of queer people as victims and really try to put ourselves into the violence equation as well in how we can be perpetrators as well—violence within the LGBTQ community and outside it," Kerastas said. "What we came up with was pretty surprising."

For example, Kerastas pointed out how the ensemble found unexpected parallels between a tale of a refugee family fleeing the Balkan War of the 1990s and a typical bias discrimination case in the U.S. Kerastas was reluctant to reveal more about the content of the show lest it ruin any surprises, but was more than happy to discuss the process that went into it.

In many workshops last summer that incorporated elements of drag, voguing and dance, Kerastas said the ensemble and playwright Paula Gilovich developed what they coined a "Queer Love Army" to address the issues of violence they encountered in hearing potential stories for the show. And as for the show's title, *Queer-*



Actors in About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble's *Queertopia* rehearse. Photo courtesy of the company

*topia*, Kerastas said it came about through the process where the ensemble felt that the whole artistic process became a sort of queer arts utopia.

Kerastas promises that *Queertopia* will be a complete immersive experience, borrowing one scenic concept from Andy Warhol's "Silver Clouds" installation piece which promises the entire theater space to be filled with silver Mylar balloons. The aural experience also is expected to be pop-heavy with what Kerastas calls "sweet mash-ups" involving artists like Lady Gaga, Shakira and the Smashing Pumpkins.

The ensemble for *Queertopia* numbers 12 and ranges in age from 16 to 22. Kerastas says they're all "hilarious, funny and love to dance and love to joke around as well."

Once *Queertopia* finishes its run in July, About

Face Theatre plans on condensing the show to a 30-minute length that can tour to high schools and conferences. So Kerastas is happy that *Queertopia* will have a future life, though she stresses that any future presentation will not be as elaborately produced as the Center on Halsted production in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

"It's not a downer of a show," Kerastas said. "We're actually focusing on bigger picture stuff on how violence infiltrates all of our lives."

About Face Youth Theatre's production of *Queertopia* runs July 15-25 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays. (Please note that the July 17 performance is at 3 p.m. only). Tickets are \$20; \$12.50 for students. Call 866-811-4111 or

visit [www.aboutfacetheatre.com](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com) for more information.

## Naked, again

The mercury's rising again this month, which means its time again for performers to shed their clothes at the National Pastime Theater's second annual festival titled *Naked July: Art Stripped Down*.

"It made perfect sense in July to have it tagged as 'naked,'" said National Pastime artistic director Laurence Bryan last year. "What else is there to do in the hot summer?"

Indeed. This year's *Naked July* repertory features four plays in repertory and runs through Aug. 1. Burlesque is off the bill, but there appears to be plenty of other artful displays of flesh to be seen.

On Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. is Keely Haddad-Null's new futuristic take Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale *The Emperor's New Clothes*, which is reset in Los Angeles. (Let's hope that the family audiences going to see the new musical with the same name at Chicago Shakespeare Theater don't get the two mixed up.)

Playing at 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays is *The Living Canvas: Demons*, which takes a surreal journey through the nightmares of a woman at sleep.

On Thursdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 6 p.m. is Clock Productions' *Tumultuous Tale of the Tragically Transparent Tunic*, which is a more farcical take on *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

Then on Thursdays at 10 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. is Shifra Werch's *Eros*, a multi-media performance piece that takes its name from the god of love to explore aphrodisiac elements.

**Naked July shows run in repertory at the National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway. Tickets to each show are \$20, although some festival passes are also available. Call 773-327-7077 or visit [www.nakedjuly.com](http://www.nakedjuly.com) for more information.**

Please send theater news and other related tidbits to [scottishplayscott@yahoo.com](mailto:scottishplayscott@yahoo.com) and [Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com).

## THEATER REVIEW

## Fucking Men

Playwright: Joe DiPietro  
 At: Bailiwick Chicago at  
 Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont  
 Tickets: 773-327-5252;  
 www.fmenchicago.com; \$25  
 Runs through: July 25

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Austrian writer Arthur Schnitzler's groundbreaking 1897 play, *La Ronde*, has 10 pithy scenes each portraying a sexual couple not married to each other. A sleeps with B, then B with C, then C with D and so on back to A. Schnitzler's work has spawned hundreds of adaptations—movies, musicals, operas and dramas—of which *Fucking Men* is a contemporary all-male version of the thoroughly heterosexual original.

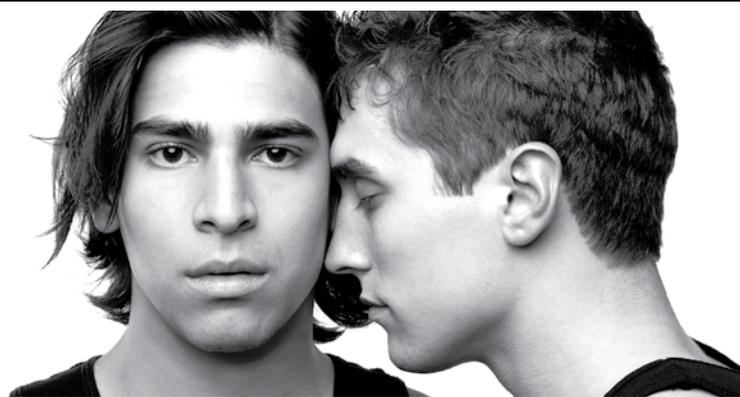
Author Joe DiPietro retains Schnitzler's scene structure and characters such as the soldier, student, sex worker, actor, writer and married guy. DiPietro makes changes only as an all-male cast requires: female prostitute to street hustler, female nurse to male tutor, the married guy is married to another guy. DiPietro also wisely remains thematically faithful to Schnitzler.

Schnitzler's play was sexually frank for 1897, but couldn't portray sex acts on stage, so it's not about who does what to whom, but about WHY people come together sexually. Making no moral judgments, Schnitzler clinically analyzed sex from the perspectives of desire, opportunity, commerce, class and manipulation (both psychological and physical). As such, Schnitzler's work transcends its hetero limits: straight or LGBTQY, people sex each other for the same reasons.

Also without judging, DiPietro adds significant gay material dealing broadly but believably with coming out, living in the closet, sexual violence, honesty about HIV and sustaining long relationships. The scenes become deeper as the 90-minute play unfolds, peaking at Scene 5 between the two married guys. Maybe it's the peak for me 'cause I'm a married guy; perhaps another scene will speak to you more pointedly.

DiPietro is a master entertainer so one assumes *Fucking Men* will have punch lines, and it doesn't disappoint. Older Man: "You're hot!" Younger Man: "No, just young." Soldier to Hustler: "The barracks are none of your fucking business!" Hustler to Soldier: "Actually, the barracks are my entire business." But DiPietro also knows when to speak with simple sincerity and poignancy as some characters long for love and respect or at least security. That, too, harks back to Schnitzler and is the same for homo or hetero.

Director Tom Mullen elicits smart, nuanced performances from his attractive cast of 10 non-



**Fucking Men.**  
 Photo by  
 PopioStumpf.  
 com

union actors (several being new faces to me) who represent a range of types, ages and races. There are flashes of skin, but remember *Fucking Men* isn't a play about sex itself. John Rotonda (scenic) and Jared B. Moore (lighting) have created an airy, contemporary and place-neutral scenic design of slats and back-lighting that suits Mullen's fluid staging. Composer Laurence Mark Wythe's original music effectively heightens many moments.

*Fucking Men* is the perfect Pride Month show, and is a welcome way for newly constituted Bailiwick Chicago to pick up where Bailiwick Repertory left off.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Nothing But the Blues

Playwright: Joe Plummer  
 At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4520 N. Beacon  
 Phone: 773-769-4451; \$45  
 Runs through: Aug. 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Theresa's Lounge ranks among Chicago's most venerated shrines to the American music inspiring cult followings throughout the world (including the landmark "British Invasion" of the 1960s). Those frequent references to "the boys down in the basement" in the lyrics of composers like Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and Howlin' Wolf can be traced directly to Theresa Needham's subterranean room in the Bronzeville district.

This latest revue by the Black Ensemble Theater (BET)—whose new playhouse breaks ground in September—recreates a day and a night at the celebrated club just before its eviction and relocation in 1983 after more than 30 years of hosting the musicians who would come to represent their genre. It was the beginning of the end—the new site closed its doors in 1986, just three years later. But on this evening, despite ominous phone calls from the lawyers doing battle with the landlord, the Blues reaffirms its

power to reunite spouses gone astray, elevate poor boys to propitious careers, and restore optimism to citizens weary of fortune's setbacks, accomplishing its task with a minimum of talk and a maximum of joyful noise.

Well, what did you expect? For more than 20 years, BET's reputation has rested on documusicals featuring young artists whose infectious exuberance easily draws audiences into the shared experience offered by live performance. (A BET show typically includes a number where audience members are invited to climb over the fourth wall and dance with the cast, with even a critic or two occasionally spotted among the revelers.)

But for those preferring to stay in their seats, there is spectator entertainment aplenty, starting with a five-piece orchestra, diverse in both race and gender, replicating the sound of Theresa's original house band, which included such now-legendary names as Junior Wells and Buddy Guy. Before long, we are witness to such classics of the repertoire as "The Thrill Is Gone," "Born Under A Bad Sign" and "Back Door Man" (crooned in stalker-tempo by the always-arresting Rick Stone), along with some less-frequently performed tunes such as "Down Home Blues," delivered in Trinity Murdock's charismatic baritone; a "You Can Have My Husband" to peel paint off the walls, courtesy of Noreen Starks; and a show-stopping "Hard Times" by Rhonda Preston as the formidable Ms. Needham herself. Look for surprise guest artists further on in the run, or, if you dare, sign the "Blue Monday" open-mic list—this is Theresa's, after all.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Shakespeare's R &amp; J

Playwright: Joe Calarco  
 At: The Journeymen at the Berger Park  
 Cultural Center, 6205 W. Granville  
 Phone: 773-761-3294; \$15  
 Runs through: Aug. 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Back before laptops and Facebook, boarding-school life—particularly in a cloistered religiously affiliated institution—could be an experience as oppressive as a prison sentence. Small wonder that four young students should seek escape from its doctrinaire curriculum through midnight readings of classical literature proscribed by their straitlaced guardians. Tonight's foray into the forbidden is the romantic manifesto, Shakespeare's *Romeo And Juliet*, a tale of love refusing to bow under the yoke of authority. As they re-enact the story, however, the words uttered by those impersonating the smitten lovers begin to resonate in unforeseen ways.

The mistake most often made in productions of Joe Calarco's play is to hurry the creative spectacle by having the boys take too readily to the homosexual undercurrents inherent in unigender casting of heterosexual roles. But Journeymen director Frank Pullen is smarter than that, and has instructed his actors to begin by swaggering with adolescent irreverence, mocking the elderly characters with cartoonish voices. This allows the dynamic between the Romeo and Juliet impersonators—and the unease it engenders in their chums—to flower gradually, with the pivotal moment occurring in the wedding scene: at

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Ghosts**, Bohemian Theatre Ensemble at Heartland Studio, through July 18. Ibsen's shocking 19th century family drama may initially come off as dated, but savvy audiences will spot numerous relevancies in BoHo's smart production of Landford Wilson's compact adaptation. SCM

**Lookingglass Alice**, Lookingglass Theatre Company, through Aug. 1. A circus-like version of Lewis Carroll which kids will like, but with adult psychological depths such as repeated images of burial and resurrection. Return visit of troupe's signature show. JA.

**No Exit**, The Hypocrites at Athenaeum Theatre, through July 11. Sean Graney steps off the promenade to direct an unexpectedly fast-paced day-glo rendition of the Sartre classic, proving that he still has the imaginative spark that made the Hypocrites' reputation. MSB

**Of Mice and Men**, Oak Park Festival Theatre, through July 10. Real rabbits hop across Austin Gardens as John Steinbeck's iconic losers, Lennie and George, talk of rabbits and their little dream ranch. A heartfelt production in a perfect setting, through this week only. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge  
 and Morgan

first the friar and nurse surrogates oppose the performance of the ceremony, but when the nuptial couple proceeds to swear their allegiance by reciting Shakespeare's "Summer's Day" sonnet, one of the naysayers relents, arguing the fourth comrade with the "Marriage Of True Minds" sonnet.

This heightened attention to subtext does not mandate that the staging take a back seat to a literary conceit in lesser hands bordering on preciosity. While the interior of the beachfront coach house behind the Berger Park mansion exhibits considerable evidence of rehabbing since its inauguration as a theater space in 2008, the intimate dimensions and cinderblock walls prohibit sophisticated technical effects. But the quartet of talented and disciplined artists, all barely older than their personae, conjure complexity and emotional investment to be found in far more extravagantly equipped ventures, armed with only their text, a trunk, a black-curtain shell, and a length of fabric transformed, at various points, into stately robes, tousled bedcovers, swords, poison vials and visual representations of the interpersonal tensions (an abstraction—trust me—easily accessible, despite its description). By the time our Romeo entreats his peers, in the words of a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, not to abandon him, we are as joyful as he is to see enduring friendship triumph over hostile prejudice.



Luke Daigle (left) and Brenton Abens in Shakespeare's R&J. Photo courtesy of the company

## SPOTLIGHT



Ryan O'Connor is an overweight gay funnyman who loves show tunes. No, I'm not being critical—I'm just stating the facts for this critically acclaimed national touring cabaret revue called **Ryan O'Connor Eats his Feelings**, which makes a one-night-only stop in Chicago this week. Ryan O'Connor Eats his Feelings plays 8 p.m. Thursday, July 8, at Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15; call 773-278-1830 or visit www.theryanoconnorshow.com for more information.

Photo by KC Perry





Amy J. Carle (left) and Malaya Rivera Drew in *The Sins of Sor Juana*. Photo by Liz Lauren

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Sins of Sor Juana

Playwright: Karen Zacarías

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn

Phone: 312-443-3800; \$20-\$71

Runs through July 25

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's a lot in the Goodman Theatre's production of Karen Zacarías's *The Sins of Sor Juana* that should be of interest LGBTQ audiences. It's too bad that the play itself proves to be a disappointment.

First off, *The Sins of Sor Juana*'s subject matter is one that should intrigue fans of women's history. The title character, Juana Ines de la Cruz, is one of Mexico's most famous female poets—all the more remarkable since she was a nun who initially defied the male hierarchy to publish her work during Spain's Golden Age in the 1600s.

Then there's the TV-celebrity factor. Malaya Rivera Drew (Adele Channing on *The L Word*) stars in the title role, while Tony Plana (the dad on *Ugly Betty*) portrays two roles: the jealous Vice-roy and the agonized Padre Nunez, who bears the terrible news that Sor Juana must stop writing poetry.

Other plusses about the Goodman production include Todd Rosenthal's gorgeous Spanish colonial cloistered set (save for that plastic orb of a moon that descends in the second act) and other production elements like Mina Hyun-ok Hong's lush period costumes and Joseph Appelt's moody lighting design.

But no matter how pretty the production is under Henry Godinez's direction, it doesn't answer the question why so much attention was lavished on Zacarías' mediocre play which waffles between farce, magical realism, melodrama and screed about the evils of women's subjugation.

Since very little is known about the title character's history before she became a nun, Zacarías cooks up a rather ridiculous one that allows Sor Juana to have a passionate (yet chaste) affair via flashback. And since Sor Juana's sexuality is also up for debate, Zacarías throws in a few same-sex kisses that feel more tacked-on instead of being integral to the plot.

Another annoying factor of Zacarías' play is the instant deference that borders on hagiography whenever another character reads Sor Juana's poetry. Like many a play on historical people, Zacarías' play falls into the trap of having other characters (and Sor Juana herself) overproclaiming the writer's genius pre-prosperity.

Even with the muddled play, several actors still get in some good character turns that get plenty of laughs. Joe Minoso is fun as the fop Don Pedro, while Laura Crotte's salt-of-the-earth servant Xochitl proves invaluable (despite the extra mystical mumbo-jumbo Zacarías throws in).

*The Sins of Sor Juana* is a disappointment, and

it's too bad that it holds such a prominent place as the main stage production of the Goodman's fifth biennial Latino Theatre Festival. Here's hoping that a better play occupies that space in two years' time.

### 'San Francisco' exhibit at Gage

"San Francisco in the 1970s"—a photographic exhibition featuring the photos of Jerry Pritikin, and sponsored by Roosevelt University's Office of the President and the College of Arts and Sciences—is currently being exhibited at Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan.

Photographed by Pritikin—a Chicago publicist, gay-rights activist and Chicago Cubs fan known as the "Bleacher Preacher"—the exhibit features photos of gay life in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, which was an epicenter for the gay-rights movement prior to the AIDS epidemic of the '80s.

Pritikin, who moved from Chicago during the early 1960s to be part of San Francisco's growing gay community, documented the rising movement with candid shots.

The exhibit runs through Friday, Aug. 13. Visit [www.roosevelt.edu/gagegallery](http://www.roosevelt.edu/gagegallery) or [jerry-pritikin.blogspot.com](http://jerry-pritikin.blogspot.com), or call 312-341-6458.



Photo of Harvey Milk taken by Jerry Pritikin.

## Now Playing!



# a parallelogram

a new play by **Bruce Norris**  
directed by ensemble member  
**Anna D. Shapiro**

featuring ensemble members  
**Kate Arrington and Tom Irwin** with  
**Tim Bickel and Marylouise Burke**

If you knew your fate—would you accept it? Or try to change it? Bee is a young woman who believes she has an uncanny ability to see the future, and maybe even alter it. From the award-winning team that brought you *The Unmentionables* and *The Pain and the Itch* comes this dark, funny new play about a woman bent on reinventing her own destiny—and possibly the world.

# steppenwolf

buy online at [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org)  
or call 312-335-1650.

Foundation Production Sponsor

The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust

Corporate Support

DELTA DENTAL

optionshouse.△

Hotel Partner

THE JAMES

SEASON GRAND BENEFACTORS

Fidelity Microsoft Spotify UNITED

SEASON BENEFACTORS

CHASE JPMorgan ComEd CRAIN'S HARRIS Kraft foods PNC SunLee FOUNDATION TARGET VINCI RESTAURANTS

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Benjamin Bratt in *La Mission*.

## The Kids Are All Right; *La Mission*; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The year of the lesbian movie coalesces in the triumphant *The Kids Are All Right*, co-writer/director Lisa Cholodenko's unfussy look at an average family that just happens to have two moms instead of one. How many movies cover all the bases and hit one home run after another as this one does? Kids—which stars Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo—can boast great, nuanced writing, directing and acting. Not to mention that it's beautifully, though simply shot and edited, makes judicious use of source music and underscoring, and best—is tremendously entertaining as it expertly walks the fine line between drama and comedy with breathtaking precision.

Bening and Moore play long-term couple Nic and Jules, a doctor and earth-mother type who used a sperm donor to have their two teenage children, 17-year-old Joni (Alice in Wonderland's Mia Wasikowska) and 15-year-old Laser (Journey to the Center of the Earth's Josh Hutcherson). As the movie opens it's the summer before Joni heads off to college. Laser is curious about his biological dad and soon both he and Joni have had a tentative meeting with Paul (Ruffalo), a straight, unattached restaurant owner who is the essence of cool and sexiness. "We are so not telling moms," Joni asserts about the meeting but soon the truth comes out and though everything seems to go well when Paul meets Jules and Nic, complications quickly ensue.

Paul has come into their lives at a vulnerable time for all of them, himself included. The relationship between Joni and Nic has already been entering rocky shoals before Paul's arrival and this new dimension he adds to their lives ultimately challenges and reinforces for all the characters what it means to be a family.

Out filmmaker Cholodenko (whose previous features include *High Art* and *Laurel Canyon*) has worked on and off on her script for five years with writing partner Stuart Blumberg, and it shows. The writing is sharp and observant, with scenes that are beautifully shaped—the economy and richness in the picnic table scene when Paul comes for his first visit; the glorious monologue that leads to heartbreak when Jules sings the Joni Mitchell song at a later dinner; and the myriad bedroom-set scenes between Nic and Jules. The cliché "it's all in the details" was never truer than in this lyrical script.

And the acting matches up with the words. These are beautifully nuanced performances helped enormously by Cholodenko and Blumberg's script (how these actors must have jumped for joy when they read it) and Cholodenko's astute direction, which gives each of the principles multiple moments to shine. There's no stinting on emotion, and when the fireworks (both dramatic and comedic) come they seem to

evolve organically. (The California settings are also hugely appealing.) You don't question for a second that Moore and Bening are a couple; that Wasikowska and Hutcherson are their kids; and that Ruffalo is in the midst of an enormous emotional change.

*The Kids Are All Right* is one of those small cinematic miracles that movie audiences—especially seen-it-all-before film critics like myself—hope and pray for. That it makes a powerful social argument in favor of LGBT families without breaking a sweat in the process is a wonderful bonus.

**Briefly noted:** Noomi Rapace returns as Lisbeth Salander, the kick-ass, bisexual, goth computer hacker aka the girl with the dragon tattoo in *The Girl Who Played With Fire*, part two of the red-hot Swedish trilogy. In round two, yet another sexual crime thriller, Lisbeth's on the run when she's set up as a murderer. Her tortured childhood provides clues to a mysterious prostitution ring and in this edition, which again features Mikael Nyqvist as the journalist in league with Lisbeth. We also meet her equally tough, kickboxing girlfriend, and the film features a very hot lesbian love scene between the two ladies. Subtitled.

*La Mission*, writer-director Peter Bratt's vibrant sophomore effort, which stars his brother, Latino heartthrob Benjamin Bratt, attempts to explore a subject rare in movies: It's a gay coming-out story that focuses on the parent rather than the child. Bratt stars as Che Rivera, a single father who has done jail time and now works as a bus driver, raising his teenage son Jes (Jeremy Ray Valdez in his screen debut) in the heavily Latino populated Mission district of San Francisco. With his macho swagger, dark glasses, tattoo-covered torso and goatee, we know he's meant to be a tough guy.

Che takes enormous pride in Jes, a high school senior who he's determined is going to avoid his mistakes. But when dad finds a batch of Polaroids of Jes and his boyfriend, Max (who he's been meeting on the down low), taken at a gay club, everything changes. "You're dead to me," he rails at him, kicking him out. Though family and some friends support Jes it's also clear the community isn't exactly ready to embrace the Gay Agenda and we know, having seen this scenario in many after school "problem" specials and other gay indie movies, that a confrontation between the homophobes and Jes is inevitable which will lead, naturally, to dad's mental transformation.

What we don't see is the inner transformation take place. That's the conundrum for a character like Che—a character whose inner emotional journey is rarely expressed verbally. Rather, we're given scenes with Che displaying a lot of angry, self-destructive behavior. Though Bratt the writer could have taken a short cut he stays true to Che's character and relies on his brother Benjamin's acting abilities to pull off a man in deep emotional turmoil without the aid of a verbal exploration and Benjamin, who brings dignity and depth to a character this side of stereotypical manages it with a minimum of fuss.

Aside from being a "problem" character drama

*La Mission* is also a love letter to the district and as such is seen through rose-colored glasses (it's where both Bratt brothers grew up and where the film was shot). Other than those nasty thugs with their noxious gangsta rap and guns the area seems to be populated with wholesome, friendly "brown people" who honor tradition and community, look out for each other, and bask in the glow of each other's company. Without the gay plotline, the film could have been shot 30 years ago.

Even with these quibbles, though, *La Mission* is an entertaining, sincere effort livened by the magnetic performance of Bratt. Fans of other Latino-themed gay dramas, *Shelter* and *Quinceañera*, which explore similar thematic terrain, will especially enjoy the film.

### Film notes:

—Openly gay French writer-director André Téchiné's 2008 film *The Witnesses*—a compelling character drama set in Paris at the outset of

the AIDS epidemic that focuses on a beautiful young man whose battle with the disease affects the lives of all the other characters—is playing at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, on July 9, 11 and 15.

—On July 10 the Siskel is also hosting a rare screening of Truffaut's 1966 flawed but fascinating science fiction opus *Fahrenheit 451*, starring Oskar Werner and Julie Christie (and featuring Bernard Herrmann's tremendous score). Author Ray Bradbury who wrote the classic novel the film was based on will interact live via Skype with the audience—providing proof that at least one of Bradbury's technological fancies has become a reality! Information on both *The Witnesses* and *Fahrenheit 451* at [www.siskelfilmcenter.com](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.com)

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

## Julianne Moore does it for the 'Kids'

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

[Note: This article contains a spoiler regarding an important plot twist.]

To prepare Julianne Moore for her role as a lesbian parent in *The Kids Are All Right*, out director/co-writer Lisa Cholodenko supplied her with some crucial materials to study: gay porn.

"Yeah!" Moore laughed. You see, Moore and Annette Bening play Jules and Nic, a middle-aged Los Angeles lesbian couple who spice up their sex life by watching gay male porn—which their 15-year-old son, Laser (Josh Hutchinson), discovers and has a very awkward discussion with them about. "That stuff is really funny," Moore admitted regarding the scenes. "I love the honesty with which they explain it [to him]. It's really adorable."

Holed up in New York's Waldorf Astoria to talk about the film, Moore, who played lesbian and sexually fluid characters in films such as *The Hours* and *Chloe*, said she had been determined to work with Cholodenko since before they even met. Smitten with Cholodenko's 1998 feature *High Art*, she met the director at a Women In Film luncheon a few years later. Moore approached her and asked, "Why hadn't I seen the script?"

"We said we'd like to work together," she recalled, "so we had a meeting and later she sent me [an early draft of *The Kids*] but I probably would have done anything. For me, it's an examination of a long-term relationship and middle age marriage and that's really interesting and unusual."

Attached from that point, it took more than five years for the script to get to screen, and it underwent numerous drafts, changing in tone from more of a drama to comedy. Moore was always kept in mind by Cholodenko and co-writer Stuart Blumberg during these revisions, however the actor who would play Nic remained nebulous until late in the game—and Moore can be credited with bringing Bening (with whom she shares amazing onscreen chemistry) on board.

"By the time they finally had the script they wanted" Moore shared, "a kinetic tone, Lisa had a short list of people and said, 'What do you think of Annette, she's the one I really see in this.' I was like, 'that sounds great—I don't know Annette but I'll email her.' So I did. It's a way to cut through. Things can take months if you send things to an agent, but you can get a response from a peer generally pretty quickly."

The character of Jules, who—in stark contrast to the disciplined and focused Nic, is lacking a rudder as far as her career and destiny—



Julianne Moore in *The Kids Are All Right*.

proved an irresistible, meaty prospect. "What really was compelling to me is she's caught in a moment in time when she's so uncertain," Moore said, "she doesn't know what her next move is. She doesn't even understand why she feels the way she does. You've been taking care of the kids for 18 years and suddenly are like, wow, I've got to get it together because they're going [away]. So I like that and her swipes at change. It's messy and interesting and compelling."

As for the aspect of Jules she liked the least? "That she cheats," Moore responded. "It's not admirable what she does, it's really tough. It's not intentional and it's hurtful. It was a challenge to play. How do you rebound from something like that?"

To Moore, that Jules has sex with Paul (Ruffalo), a man, doesn't say anything about the character's lesbian identity: "It's very important that when Nic says to her, 'are you straight now?', she's like, 'no.' It's authentic—that's the last thing on her mind. This guy was just someone who validated her. She needed to be seen as other than what she was within that family."

Moore said that she knows plenty of gay families, both male and female, with children and didn't draw inspiration from anyone in particular. As for what she feels Jules and Nic's sexuality brought to the film—this would be a conventional smart, sharply drawn dramedy were the characters merely heterosexual—she pondered this question for a moment. "I don't know," she replied. "Everything and nothing, really. It's a portrait of middle-aged marriage and a family in transition. In terms of them being lesbians, the most interesting thing is. ... I think films, rather than influence popular culture, reflect popular culture. So the fact we can have a movie like this means this is an ordinary American family. We're seeing this all over the USA. So that, in itself, is something."



Lisa Cholodenko on the set of *The Kids Are All Right*.

## MOVIES

# Lisa Cholodenko and her 'Kids'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Out filmmaker Lisa Cholodenko is beloved by LGBT audiences for her challenging relationship films *High Art* and *Laurel Canyon*. Now, with *The Kids Are All Right*—a dramedy starring Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as a lesbian couple faced with relationship troubles, not to mention the prospect of trying to incorporate their unknown sperm donor (played by Mark Ruffalo) into their lives at the behest of their two teenage children—Cholodenko, who directs and co-wrote the script with Stuart Blumberg over a five-year period, has made what is not only a movie for LGBT audiences to treasure, but one of the best films of the year. As Cholodenko, who sounds eerily like Bening in person, had a late lunch of a tuna Nicoise salad, she discussed the long gestation of the exceedingly detailed script that led to an intense but brief shooting period for *The Kids Are All Right*.

**Windy City Times:** This script, by yourself and Stuart Blumberg, is so incredibly nuanced—every character has a moment to shine. I believe you reconnected with him in a coffee shop and asked him to work with you on the script. How far along in the process were you at that point?

Lisa Cholodenko: I had the premise, the set-up. I had ideas that I wanted to hit and I said to Stuart, "I think it's sort of ending up in this place but I don't really know" so it was incredibly loose aside from those signposts. Stuart told me he'd been a sperm donor in college and I thought, "Well, that's kismet that we're meeting" and, "Why don't we do this together?" The original idea was mine and I take credit for it but we did the heavy lifting together.

**WCT:** How did you create this intimacy between these actors in such an incredibly short shooting schedule? It was like 23 days, I believe. It's especially potent between Julianne and Annette. Those dinner scenes are really believable with all the little touches.

LC: They all came out and they all knew it was going to be a really quick shoot, and I think when you spend that much time with a script the details are pretty well expressed so there's not much going in the blank. They know what their scene is and what they're going to be doing in it and what they're saying and what it means. All that stuff is kind of there for them. We went over the scenes; we had like a total of five days' rehearsal so I would mix and match and get the family together for one or two rehearsals and then do something with Annette and Julianne. But it was also just one of those kismet-y things where I just knew what I was looking for and I think it was translated well in the script and I think I cast it right and we just got to it.

**WCT:** The script offers both actresses beautiful, individual moments. Annette has that beautiful monologue about Joni Mitchell.

LC: Yes. She's spectacular in that, I think.

**WCT:** She is spectacular. When Annette says something to Mark like, "I don't know many straight men who are into Joni Mitchell," I immediately thought of Laura Nyro; I don't know a lot of straight guys who love her either.

LC: I love Laura Nyro and I'll tell you, at a certain point we weren't certain if we wanted to shell out the dollars to license the rights for the Joni Mitchell song so we were on the fly trying to figure out what was the next best thing and I was like, "Why don't we have her sing 'Stoned Soul Picnic?'" Which would have been funny.

**WCT:** I love Joni but would have probably lost it if she'd sung Laura. Now, I hate hearing that a film like this had trouble getting financed.

LC: I know. It's a bummer, huh?

**WCT:** Yes it is. But you finally did it and it's receiving critical raves and hopefully will find an audience and maybe into the awards circle. Are you hopeful that the climate for gay- and lesbian-themed movies will change? I mean, it was so great to see a gay movie where no one died! [Laughs]

LC: Right! I mean no *Children's Hour* for me. You know, I'm really into the idea that there's space for everyone. There's been gay content in all of my films and you could call them lesbian films or gay films for sure but I think for me there has to be more to the narrative than just the "gay" experience, *per se*. That in itself is not so interesting to me.

**WCT:** At one point Julianne exclaims into the phone, "I'm married!" but we don't really know that the two have taken vows or what and because the film is set in California; the question sort of hung in the background for me. Was a wedding between Nic and Jules ever in the script?

LC: No. We felt like whether they're married by law or married in their own conception of marriage—they wear rings and stuff—that's really all we needed. They consider themselves married; they have a domestic life together and children together and I felt it was okay that we don't really know if they're married or domestic partners or whatnot. The point of this film is to be subversive in the sense that it's anti-political. I don't want any rainbow flags in this movie—I want it to just feel like ... straightforward. Gay people do it just like straight people.

**WCT:** Your writing partner commented, "Gay people deserve to be as miserable as straight people" [laughs] and we really see that. There's no difference between the two. It's not ever discussed or is an issue—which in itself is, as you say, a political statement. There's no bones about it—this is a family.

LC: Right. And I thought, "That's more powerful if I don't make it political. If I don't talk about the issues." There's a few things—where she says, "Paul, I'm gay!" and hangs up the phone or when Joni comes in and says, "Here, now you have your perfect lesbian family." But those things are sort of contextually important I think and not so important for the über message of the film. I think the message is clear.

## GLAAD about you



Bruce Vilanch, Nikki Blonsky, Wilson Cruz, Jai Rodriguez, Thea Gill and Michelle Clunie were among the celebrities who joined the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) as it honored Cybill Shepherd, Lee Daniels, entrepreneur Robert Hanson and the best in documentaries and journalism recently at the 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards presented in San Francisco by Southwest Airlines. Shepherd's daughters, Clementine Ford (who is dating music figure Linda Perry) and Ariel Shepherd-Oppenheim, presented her with the Golden Gate Award. Actor Jensen Atwood presented *Precious* director Daniels with the Davidson/Valentini Award. Hanson, president of Levi Strauss Americas, received the San Francisco Local Hero Award. Photos by Sarah Toce

...everyone's got a little baggage

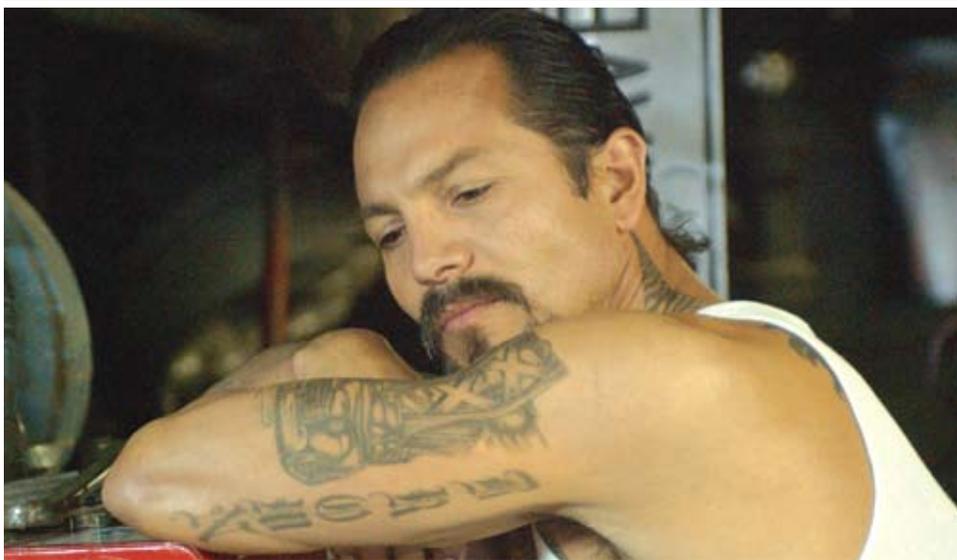
# Not Wanted on the VOYAGE

an epic new musical

Based on the acclaimed novel by Timothy Findley, dynamic Broadway writers Neil Bartram and Brian Hill have teamed up with an award-winning creative team and the American Music Theatre Project at Northwestern University to create an epic production, complete with rain, fire, magic and a soaring, eclectic score.

July 16-August 8  
Ethel M. Barber Theater  
Northwestern University  
30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL

**Buy Tickets Now!**  
847-491-7282 | [www.NotWantedOnTheVoyage.com](http://www.NotWantedOnTheVoyage.com)

Benjamin Bratt in *La Mission*.

## Bratt pack: La Mission stars talk

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

In *La Mission*, a Latino ex-con living in San Francisco's Mission district, Che Rivera (Benjamin Bratt), discovers that his beloved teenage son, Jesse (Jeremy Ray Valdez), is gay and has a boyfriend (who is Caucasian, to boot), which causes a shattering conflict between the father and child. Portraying the macho, complex Che, Bratt—long on our radar thanks to roles in the TV series *Law & Order* as well as the films *Pinero* (in which he played the titular bisexual poet, Miguel Pinero) and the lamentable but well-meaning Madonna/Rupert Everett vehicle *The Next Best Thing*—turns in an award-worthy performance, while the adorable Valdez completely avoids cliché as the headstrong, self-assured Jesse.

Written and directed by Bratt's brother, Peter, *La Mission* premiered to standing (and teary-eyed) ovations at 2009's Sundance Film Festival. Benjamin, who also served as producer, and Valdez discussed the film over breakfast.

**Lawrence Ferber:** Che represents such a dichotomy—a warm, good person, yet hard-wired to react with violence and fury towards his son's homosexuality despite a deep love for him and family.

**Benjamin Bratt:** It would be all too easy to demonize Che. Peter wanted to illuminate both characters' journeys. Jesse probably has the more difficult journey, which is in the face of fear, potential rejection, violence and even death, to reveal who he is to the person he loves the most with the likelihood of losing that relationship. On the other side of the coin you have someone who has an equal fear of losing the person he cherishes the most. Che can't help but see Jesse as a direct reflection of who he is as a man. And if he's gay, which is feminine, he's "less than." Calling someone a faggot or bitch is to feminize them. That speaks to misogyny. That's the lesser of the species. But that's how most men are socialized. Doesn't matter if you grew up in the Mission or Des Moines.

**LF:** Jeremy, have you ever known someone in your character's situation?

**Jeremy Ray Valdez:** Yes, I have. I spoke with a lot of my gay friends and asked what was it like coming out. One of [the film's] advisors, John Amaechi—the first NBA player to come out—I got to hang out with on set. And he told me about how guys who were his buddies, that he high-fived in the locker room and had great relationships with, turned their back on him [when he came out]. He said he didn't want to be a part of the NBA or play basketball anymore because people were so mean. That gave me a lot to think about. But we wanted to portray

Jesse as a strong character. Today's gay youth is different than last generation's. Now there's a sense of empowerment and they're not afraid to come out as much as they used to be. "Love me for who I am" is what he's saying.

**LF:** Ben, you and Peter were born in San Francisco, grew up in and around the Mission district, and employed a lot of locals for the film's production. Did anyone involved share Che's disgust regarding the gay aspect?

**BB:** There was an incident when we were shooting the scene outside the house and Jesse was getting a beatdown [from Che]. Some homies pulled up and asked, "Why is he getting the beating?" We didn't hide the storyline from anyone; in fact, we encouraged people to understand what it was about, and when they discovered why he was receiving the beating in the context of the story [their reaction] was, "Good, shit, he deserves it." But the community could not have been more supportive.

**LF:** How was working together?

**BB:** The entire story and authenticity we were aspiring to as filmmakers hinged on Jeremy's performance. If you don't believe he is who he's supposed to be, the whole story falls apart. But he got it, the balance that one must maintain to walk in both [the Latino and gay] worlds. He had the strut, the physical presence he inherited from his father so he could support himself to survive in the hood. Yet he also had the sensitivity and genuine love.

**JRV:** The toughest scene was when [Che and Jesse] are eating together after he comes out. Ben gave me just as much emotional reaction when the camera wasn't on him. It's a harsh moment but wonderful. And there's one subtle thing going on. It's the way his characters hold their silverware. Che held his fork like a caveman...

**BB:** Like a prisoner guards his plate, like a shovel...

**JRV:** I didn't notice it when we filmed the scene but it's right there, the difference between these two characters.

**BB:** It's a good indication of the difference between a brute and someone with refinement.

**LF:** The scene where Che encounters Jesse's boyfriend, played by Max Rosenak, and attacks him, holding him against a wall by his neck, is pretty terrifying and convincing.

**BB:** In hindsight I feel bad. I think I really spooked Max. I lifted him off the ground, so his reaction was quite real. He gave me a wide berth afterwards, let's put it that way.

**LF:** A major part of Che's culture, family and social life involves low-rider automobiles, and there's a wonderful sequence where their pimped-out hydraulic low-riders take a drive around the city. Can you explain low-rider culture for the uninitiated?

**BB:** Low-rider culture in part came out of a political statement. They really emerged back in the era of the hot rod. This was post-WWII when everyone was doing well and there was a rising middle class and people were buying new cars.

One of the few cultures in American society that couldn't afford new cars was immigrant Latinos, and so they were forced to go to the junkyards and reclaim other people's discards and most of the time they were Chevys. They took these cars and gave them what we refer to in the film as an "Aztec makeover." They customize them with paint and glyphs of their cultural myths. But at that time the popular kind of custom car of the greater white society was the hot rod. The higher and faster the car was the cooler you were in white society. So Chicanos took it in completely the other direction, which was to drop it as low as you could, scraping was preferable, and go as slow as possible.

**JRV:** Low and slow.

**BB:** The scene you're referring to was designed as a set piece by Peter and it's what we refer to as "The Brown Experience." What we're trying to capture is the feeling anyone would have riding in a low-rider. When you go on one, it doesn't matter what neighborhood—Chinatown, the Mission, Pacific Heights—people stop and stare and take in the beauty in an appreciative way of the car and the obvious work that goes into maintaining something so timeless. What is the draw to the bouncing cars and hydraulics? The question need not be asked once you go through the brown experience. You get it.

See [www.lamissionthemovie.com](http://www.lamissionthemovie.com) for more information and release dates.

## Artemis hosts festival



From across the country, 656 warbling women representing 23 feminist choruses landed at the Loyola University lakeshore campus last week to share their love of music at Our Kind of Sound, the Sister Singers Network 10th National Choral Festival.

Hosted by Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, the four-day event filled Mundelein Auditorium with music by, for and about women. It culminated July 4 with performances by Artemis and the two festival mass choruses Wind and Water. A reception; viewing of fireworks over the lake shore; and a dance followed the concert.

Standouts in the Artemis set were the lyrical "Press Me Onward," composed by Artemisian Karen Mooney and "Fishing with the Lesbians," a humorous tribute to Michaeline Chvatal, a longtime Artemis member who died of cancer in 2008. "Fishing" was composed by Ruth Huber, with lyrics by Huber and Artemisian Loraine Edwalds.

The thrilling 300-voice choruses Wind and Water each performed four pieces and then offered their interpretation of the premiere of "A Universal Dream," with music by Jenni Brandon, and lyrics by Brandon and Artemisian Meta Hellman.

During the Water set, audience members enjoyed a rousing rendition of "Rosa Sat" by local composer Amy Dixon-Kolar. Dixon-Kolar recently was first runner up in the Music2Life Songs for Social Change contest for her song.

Hellman and sister Artemis members Ruth Clark and Lois McCullen Parr emceed the festival. Midge Stocker and Diana Clegg served as festival planning co-chairs. More info at [www.artemissingers.org](http://www.artemissingers.org). Text by Micki Leventhal; photos by Con Buckley and Kat Fitzgerald (see more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com))



The Fabulous Beekman Boys. Photos courtesy of Planet Green

## TELEVISION

# The Fabulous Beekman Boys: Down on the farm

BY JERRY NUNN

Planet Green has gone gay with a new reality series, *The Fabulous Beekman Boys*. An ex-drag queen (Josh Kilmer-Purcell) and an ex-Martha Stewart employee (Dr. Brent Ridge) buy a farm and many Green Acres-like adventures follow!

**Windy City Times:** Hi, boys. How is the biz going?

Brent Ridge: It is going well. We are busy. I am still trying to fulfill all the orders.

**WCT:** You recently attended the Martha Stewart show to talk about your goat-milk soap and cheese. How did that go?

BR: It was great. I have worked with her a lot so I know how to interact with her. She likes our cheese so that is a good thing.

**WCT:** You quit your job with her and gave it all up for life on the farm.

BR: I walked away.

**WCT:** Are you ready for the reality-show world?

BR: It has gotten a very good response from people so far. When we were approached about doing it, we had our reservations because we were working to create our own business and our own direction. It was tough giving up some creative control that can take your brand in a direction that you didn't want it to go. So far we are very pleased at what they have done. It looks beautiful and most importantly it is very entertaining, which is what we had hoped for.

**WCT:** So they approached you guys?

BR: Yes, they approached us. When we first moved to the farm we had started a blog at beekman1802.com about our life on the farm and we did a weekly update. That grew and grew. We eventually did e-mail letters. Planet Green got on our e-mail list. They sent us an e-mail through the website and we met with the producer. She said she wanted to make a show about us. They hooked us up with World of Wonder, who does *Tori & Dean*.

**WCT:** And RuPaul.

BR: Yes, and RuPaul. They visited us and came up with the idea of how the show would look and how the themes would be addressed. That is how it all came together.

**WCT:** How is your helper, Farmer John, doing?

Josh Kilmer-Purcell: Farmer John is doing well. He is now at the farm full time. He had his day job for a while but we have now grown to a

point where he can be on the farm all the time. That is what he always wanted.

**WCT:** I enjoyed the book, Josh. It gave a behind-the-scenes of the show.

JK-P: It was very interesting. It serendipitously was the perfect prequel to our show. It was in the works way before the television show.

**WCT:** Do you guys have a favorite moment from the show so far?

BR: We have only seen the first two episodes. There is an important episode later in the fall that deals with harvesting of animals for our own use. That is my favorite and looking forward to it being aired. I think that will be a great moment that has not been seen on television before, people will really think about where their food comes from after that.

**WCT:** Do you guys want more animals or are you at capacity right now?

JK-P: No, we keep adding them. [Everyone laughs.]

BR: We just added two sheep last weekend!

JK-P: We are suckers for animals!

**WCT:** Does every one of them a name?

BR: Yes. The two sheep...

JK-P: You can't tell him all the names, Brent. That would be a scoop.

**WCT:** How many animals are there?

BR: There are about 150 goats at the moment. There are two sheep, two rabbits, 20 chickens, two turkeys...

JK-P: You forgot the one pig.

BR: Three barn cats

JK-P: Don't forget the llama.

BR: "Polka Spot."

**WCT:** Wow. No fighting, like on TV! How long have you been together?

BR: Ten years

**WCT:** Congratulations!

JK-P: Thank you.

**WCT:** What is the long-term goal for this endeavor?

BR: I am not sure that we really know. If there is anything that we have learned is that if Plan A never works out, Plan B is not much better.

JK-P: We are growing as we grow and we have our guidepost of what we believe in, which is helping small farmers and helping small communities. We like being part of the community. Our success is determined by the success of our neighbors. We will take whatever opportunity comes next.

**Josh's book is entitled *The Bucolic Plague: From Drag Queen to Goat Farmer An Unconventional Memoir*. For more information about *The Fabulous Beekman Boys*, airing on Wednesdays on the Planet Green channel, visit [www.planetgreen.com](http://www.planetgreen.com). Name That Goat once a week on [facebook.com/PlanetGreen](http://facebook.com/PlanetGreen).**



## NUNN ON ONE: TV

# Gay Illinoisan competing on Bravo's 'Art' show

BY JERRY NUNN

The new Bravo television show *Work of Art: The Next Great Artist* is produced by Sarah Jessica Parker and has four Illinois contestants competing for \$100,000 and a solo show at the Brooklyn Museum. John Parot is a triple threat, being from Dekalb, gay and talented!

**Windy City Times:** Hello, John. Where in the world are you?

John Parot: I am in Los Angeles.

**WCT:** You moved there from Chicago?

JP: Yes. I am originally from Chicago. My family is still there. I will be visiting my folks this weekend. I moved to Los Angeles almost two years ago.

**WCT:** Do you like the weather better?

JP: I am lot more productive in L.A. I will say that. There is no excuse like, "It is too cold out." I have spent a good portion of my life in the Chicago area. I got a free move out to the West Coast so I just decided to go for it.

**WCT:** You are an art manager out there, right?

JP: Correct.

**WCT:** What medium do you prefer?

JP: I do a lot of painting and drawing. I paint on paper and canvas. My art shows can be anything from a full-blown art installation with sculpture, painting and drawing to pen and ink.

**WCT:** What artists inspire you?

JP: I am inspired by Chicago artists Roger Brown and Christina Ramberg. I also like classic artists such as Joe Brainard and Ray Johnston. These artists paved the road for gay artists like me. Joe Brainard was a gay artist living in New York during the early fifties. Ray Johnston was a friend with Warhol, a quiet gay guy who painted and drew. They had so much to overcome.

**WCT:** You say you want to integrate the gay community into your work. How do you do that?

JP: I think we live in a fascinating time. We have achieved so much but we have so much more to achieve. I try to use my life experiences and my friend's experiences and try to incorporate those ups and downs. So if it's things my friends tell me or conversations in the bar or things that happen right before me in Boystown from Little Jim's to Sidetrack, it all gets processed through me.

**WCT:** We are the same age so we have seen the gay community change a lot.

JP: It is kind of fascinating because when I grew up and was coming out, I felt like I was



paralyzed by the entire AIDS crisis. Just as I was discovering my sexuality, I was also learning that people could die from HIV and gay related activities. That pushed me back into the closet. Now we see gays being accepted on mainstream TV and here we are now trying to get equal rights for marriage. We have seen a lot of ups and downs. It was an interesting time that we grew up in.

**WCT:** What made you want to do *Work of Art*?

JP: I had been primarily a Chicago artist and I thought that being on the show would give me more exposure through the artwork in other regions of the country. I thought it would be cool for my friends to see me on TV and represent the community as a gay artist.

**WCT:** Did you like meeting people from the show?

JP: I am an artist and I have a strong belief that there is not good or bad art. There is room for everyone. It was great meeting artists from all over the country and getting to know their stories. My artwork has not been judged by judges before, so we were all in it together.

**WCT:** We had a good representation. Usually with reality shows we get one Chicago contestant.

JP: Yes, that was surprising on the first day that a lot of people knew what I was talking about. It gave us something to bond over.

**WCT:** You were the only gay guy on the show. With shows such as *Project Runway* there are at least four homos!

JP: It was rough sometimes. We, as gay men, have a superior humor and charm than everyone else on the planet so sometimes they didn't get my comments. I felt alone and like, "Can I get an amen in here? Hello, anybody home?"

**WCT:** If it makes you feel any better, I tracked you down because you are gay and from Illinois.

JP: From years of reading *Windy City Times*, it is an honor to be in the publication.

**"Watch what happens" to John Wednesdays on the Bravo Channel. Check [www.bravotv.com](http://www.bravotv.com) for details.**

## CULTURE CLUB

The new play from 2-time Tony Award Winner Joe DiPietro

"Emotionally Searing...with Superb Performances" - Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun-Times



**FUCKING MEN**

Ten men from all walks of life negotiate the before and after of lust, love, and betrayal in the pursuit of sex and emotional connection.

by Joe DiPietro  
directed by Tom Mullen

ticketmaster

balliwickchicago

[www.FMenChicago.com](http://www.FMenChicago.com)  
photography by PopiaStampf.com

## CLASSIFIEDS

## ADVERTISE HERE

**ADVERTISE HERE:** Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, [terri@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:terri@windycitymediagroup.com), or go to our website [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## ANTIQUES

**Zurko's Grayslake ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE MARKETS**  
**July 10th & 11th**  
**NEW HOURS:**  
 Sat. 10am -4pm; Sun. 8am - 3pm/\$6  
 Early buyers- Sat. 8am-10am / \$25  
 NEW Lake County Fairgrounds  
 GRAYSLAKE  
 (1060 E. Peterson Rd.)

**POSTCARDS & PAPER**

\* NEW Vendors WELCOME! \*

**Wheaton 29th Annual Massive ALL - NIGHT FLEA MARKET**  
 SAT. Aug 21 (5pm -4am)  
 Dupage County Fairgrounds  
 Wheaton (County Farm & Manchester)

**ZURKO • 715-526-9769**  
[www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com)

## ARTISTS

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 49TH ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 10 & 11, 2010.** Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. Apply now. For applications or information: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) or 847-677-8163. [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) (6/30/10-8)

## CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES:** We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate

function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. **Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. [www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com) (4/27/11-52)**

## CONTRACTORS

**GORT GENERAL CONTRACTORS.** New homes/commercial, remodeling/additions, basements/decks, drywall/tile, kitchens/carpentry, concrete/roofing. Complete home improvement general contractors at your service. Call Gerry, 708-601-4678. Family owned, over 25 years experience. Licenced and insured. [www.GortHomes.com](http://www.GortHomes.com) (7/14/10-8)

**OUT CONSTRUCTION CO.** Out Construction is a full service General Contractor that has been serving the GLBT community for 5+ yrs. We have the experience and know how to make your remodeling dreams a reality. We are very professional, punctual, clean, and courteous and affordable. We do everything from a small paint job to adding a second story to your home. We also think of our planet by using green products and recycling all waste possible. We are fully insured and bonded. Call Mike @ 224 828 2592 or email us at [outconstruction@sbcglobal.net](mailto:outconstruction@sbcglobal.net) anytime for a friendly consultation and a free quote! (6/23/10-4)

## COUNSELING

**LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPY:** 20 years experience providing counseling and clinical hypnotherapy. I specialize in relationship issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. Individuals and couples. Starla Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, [info@starlasholl.com](mailto:info@starlasholl.com); [www.starlasholl.com](http://www.starlasholl.com). (8/25/10-26)

## FLOORING &amp; WINDOW COVERING

**FLOOR & WINDOW COVERINGS FOR ALL BUDGETS.** Tile, Hardwood, Bamboo, Carpet, Laminate, Vinyl, and Window Coverings. Specializing in Helping with Material Selections for your Budget. Professionally Installed. Nationwide Floor & Window Coverings, We Bring the Showroom to You! Call or email for a free consultation and estimate. Charles 773-935-8700, email [cjones@nfwchicago.com](mailto:cjones@nfwchicago.com) [www.nfwchicago.com](http://www.nfwchicago.com) (9/29/10-26)

## HEALTHCARE

**NEW YOU COSTA RICA.** We offer USA quality Medical & Dental in Costa Rica for a lot less (lipo anyone?). Please request a free quote today: [www.NewYouCostaRica.com](http://www.NewYouCostaRica.com) 1-888-660-8060 or [info@NewYouCostaRica.com](mailto:info@NewYouCostaRica.com) (2/11/11-52)

## HEALTH GOODS

**HIS OR HER LOVERS COFFEE.** All Natural, No Drugs, Aphrodisiac Coffee works for Him OR Her.... Really!!! More Arousal, More Stamina, More Sensation, Multiple Releases. All details at [www.OurSecretCoffee.com](http://www.OurSecretCoffee.com) including business op. Email me for questions at [PassionBeverages@gmail.com](mailto:PassionBeverages@gmail.com). Coming Soon - Lovers Water. (6/30/10-2)

## INTERPRETER

**FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS:** To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certified Interpreter, 773-401-1339, or e-mail [thorpe2001@aol.com](mailto:thorpe2001@aol.com) [P-TB]

## MOVERS

**WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community.** We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew \$65/hr.; 3-man crew \$85/hr.; 4-man crew \$105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) Call 773-777-1110 or [www.chicagocrescentmovers.com](http://www.chicagocrescentmovers.com). (9/15/10)

## TRAVEL

**THE BEAUTY OF DOOR COUNTY:** beckons for your romantic stay in the warmth of Birchwood Lodge. Elegant suites include a king size bed, in room whirlpool and fireplace. Some suites are equipped with walk in showers. Visit us at [www.birchwoodlodge.com](http://www.birchwoodlodge.com). (8//10-52)

**LOG CABIN, SAUGATUCK SLEEPS 8,** fireplace, kitchen, decks, bath w/ Jacuzzi, one bedroom, walk-out lower level with windows three sides two queen beds. 10 minutes from Saugatuck, beaches, shops, restaurants, recreation. [www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p250786](http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p250786) (9/15/10-15)

**DEERPATH LODGE, MI WOW!** Check this out: a secluded women's resort on the edge of a gay-friendly Lake Michigan beach town. Spacious, romantic suites, riverfront trails. Visit us first at [wherethedeerplay.com](http://wherethedeerplay.com) 269-857-3337 (7/14/10-4)

## REAL ESTATE

## FOR SALE



Are you looking for elegant vintage at a reasonable price in a hot neighborhood? The Edgewater Beach Apartments is offering 1, 2, & 3 Br. units from \$95,000 to \$425,000. Steps to the beach, trans and dining. **Open Sunday 1-3PM.**

Alice Rae Casey - 773.293.3000  
 Lakefront Group Realty  
[alicecasey@comcast.net](mailto:alicecasey@comcast.net)  
[www.AliceCasey.net](http://www.AliceCasey.net)

## OUT OF TOWN

**SAUGATUCK GET-AWAY.** Buy a 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home, in gay friendly Saugatuck Michigan. Perfect as a vacation or weekend get-a-way. Ready to move into, small mobile home community just two miles from downtown. **WE FINANCE - EASY APPROVAL.** Several to choose from. Call Maggie at 269-857-1191 or e-mail [qsphomes@comcast.net](mailto:qsphomes@comcast.net) (9/22/10-26)

## FOR RENT

**IN THE HEART OF ANDERSONVILLE,** Large 2 bedroom 3rd floor unit in 3-flat building steps from Clark Street. Separate dining room, sunporch, hardwood floors, free laundry in basement. Available Aug 1. \$1400 includes heat. Call: 312-909-0052

**4 BEDROOM - LOGAN SQUARE,** Moffat street at Kedzie (south of Armitage), 4 BEDROOM, TWO BATH TWO STORY DUPLEX, new fridge/oven/carpeting. Central AC/heat. Quiet street. \$1290. 219.902.1715 (7/28/10)

## REALTORS

**WWW.GAYREALSTATE.COM** Free On-Line Directory of the Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors in Chicago & the Nation. Instant access at [www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com) or Toll Free 1.888.420.MOVE (6683). (6/24/11-52)

## BOOK REVIEW

## Sordid Truths

Written by Aiden Shaw  
 \$15.95; Alyson; 235 pages  
 REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

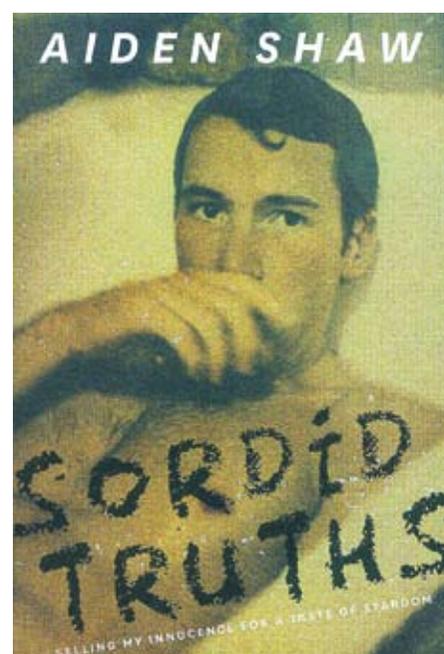
When you were a child, you dreamed of being a star.

You were going to wow 'em from center stage with your incredible acting abilities, bringing the audience to tears with your words. You practiced air guitar or air drums, sure that fans would someday clamor for your autograph. Or maybe you told and re-told your best jokes, in order to get the timing just right.

When you were a child, the whole world was your stage. But what would you really do to become famous? In the new book *Sordid Truths* by Aiden Shaw, you'll read about the early years of one man's career and how he got into film.

It was 1986, and when the first phone responses came in from the local personals ads, Aiden Shaw and his flatmate, Cubus, were nervous and well beyond their comfort zones. Broke, randy and looking for excitement, the boys were planning on making big money by giving "massages": For the two of them together, a punter paid sixty pounds British—just under 100 dollars U.S.

Within three years, Shaw was in high demand, working days at a "gentlemen's club" and making an abundance of money by giving massages and "extras." After-hours were spent at night-clubs with friends and lovers, doing drugs in



toilet stalls and dancing.

Outside the gentlemen's club, Shaw found his own clientele, eventually moving up to a management position at a "clinique." That, and his physical attributes, allowed him to claim the best customers for himself. And he claimed a lot.

"I was a good whore," Shaw said. "I knew my job and I knew men."

But life wasn't all a happy bag of tricks. One of the boys Shaw loved tried to commit suicide and

succeeded. Favorite punters drifted in and out of his life, as did beautiful men and boyfriends. Though money was never a problem, AIDS was a constant worry. But what was worry with opportunities everywhere: when he met a man at a charity ball, Shaw decided to move to LA to ply his talents in the adult-film industry.

"Sometimes," he said, "I felt as though the things I'd experienced in life had, on a profound level, soiled me...." Still, when asked to choose a pseudonym, he chose his own name, unapologetically deciding to remain unashamed of his life.

With the wonderfully understated sense of sarcasm that only a Londoner can achieve, author Shaw Shaw tells a story of eccentrics, sex, parties, sex, drugs, and more sex in the late 1980s, long before everyone got careful.

Though sometimes those same Britishisms can be half-confusing and half-charming, *Sordid Truths* is an enjoyable book because of its lack of self-consciousness and its wealth of honesty. Much like he does in his films, Shaw bares all in this memoir that starts pre-career and ends when Shaw moves to California.

Fans of *My Undoing* (Shaw's prior memoir) or anyone seeking a quick memoir will definitely want to add this book to his wish list.

Want more? Look for *My Life in Porn: The Bobby Blake Story* by Bobby Blake; or *Bigger Than Life: The History of Gay Porn Cinema* from Beefcake to Hardcore by Jeffrey Escoffier.

## MUSIC

## Tegan &amp; Sara in town Aug. 18

Lesbian twin singers Tegan & Sara, who just performed in Chicago, will be back Wed., Aug. 18, at Charter One Pavilion, where they will perform as part of the Honda Civic Tour with Paramore and various special guests.

Since the tour began in 2001, acts such as blink-182, Incubus, Black Eyed Peas and Fall Out Boy have played shows.

See [www.LiveNation.com](http://www.LiveNation.com).

## Vanessa Carlton comes out as bi

Singer/songwriter Vanessa Carlton—best known for her breezy pop hit "A Thousand Miles" from her debut album, *Be Not Nobody*—came out as bisexual at the Nashville Pride Festival, according to the *New York Daily News*.

Carlton, 29, told the crowd of approximately 18,000 that "I've never said this before, but I am a proud bisexual woman."

She had been previously tied to Third Eye Blind lead singer Stephan Jenkins and musician John Mayer.

## Showing 'Pride



Throng of celebrants gathered on the city's South Side over the Fourth of July weekend for Chicago's annual Black Pride festivals. Attendees traveled from far and wide to witness featured artists, dance performances and to partake in an atmosphere that celebrates LGBT pride with family, food and fun.

Organizers for Chicago Windy City Black Pride-SGL hosted their annual festival July 3 at Rainbow Beach, marking the end of a week that included an award reception (at Club Escape) and several parties. The day's entertainment included performances by a marching band from Chicago's Youth Pride Center and a Detroit-based dance troupe. Chicago drag legend Ms. Ruff-N-Stuff also excited the crowd with her performances.

Windy City Black Pride (WCBP) hosted its annual "Love Fest" July 4 at Sherman Park. Thousands gathered to witness the day's live entertainment, dance in the park and gobble down goodies sold by various vendors. Toward the end, rain clouds threatened to spoil the fun, but participants ignored the weather and celebrated Pride anyway. Earlier in the week, WCBP held several other events, including workshops and a poetry slam. Text and photos by Mason Harrison



Artists performed at the Lakeview spot Rehab during "Art & Soul." Photo by Mason Harrison

## Performers show 'Art & Soul'

BY MASON HARRISON

A small contingent of local spoken-word and music artists descended upon Rehab cocktail lounge July 2 to celebrate the beginning of Black Pride weekend in an event dubbed "Art & Soul." Featured artists included singing sensation Erthe St. James, hip-hop diva Le Ciel and neo-soul artist Kashan. Keith Romell hosted the standing-room-only event.

Along with the evening's featured talent, an open mic brought several artists to the stage, including nationally known spoken-word phenom Ra P. LaMar Shelton who, accompanied by St. James on guitar, sang a raspy inspirational piece about keeping your head up during adversity in search of "brighter days." Transgender spoken-word artist KOKUMO Kinetic recited an emotional poem detailing her struggle with securing funds for sex-reassignment surgery. Kinetic was frank about her efforts to save enough funds from sources like her student loans to pay for what she called an "anticipatory vagina."

Other artists who performed included the Heavy Poet; actor and spoken-word artist Will Green of "Kevin's Room 3" fame; and Sharon, a Chicago native now living in New York, who recited a defiant poem in response to anti-gay remarks made by professional basketball star Tim Hardaway several years ago. Romell played host as well as comedian during the two-hour event and ignited the crowd with a sexually charged poem about love, romance and intimacy between two men. Kashan asked audience members seated near him to sing back-up in call-and-response fashion as the sultry sounds of neo-soul tunes escaped his lips. Raised fists and snapping fin-

gers greeted Le Ciel's lively hip-hop performance as she called for her audience to "evolve" into being better people.

Then it was time for St. James to close out the event with rhythmic covers of nationally known artists. Audience members rocked to funky beats as St. James cooed over the microphone in a soulful twang all his own.

## WCBP's poetry slam

BY MASON HARRISON

Contestants at Windy City Black Pride's (WCBP's) annual poetry slam squared off July 3 at the South Loop Hotel to compete for an event that has become a staple of Black Pride celebrations in Chicago. A few years back, WCBP sponsored the first poetry contest of any Black Pride celebration in the country and the event has gained notoriety in the years since. This year's event, however, fielded only two contestants: Renee Williams and Osiris Khepera.

The contestants competed in three rounds and were judged on volume, speed and emotion. In the end, Khepera walked away with the \$800 first-place prize and Williams won \$150 in Southwest Airlines gift certificates.

Khepera—who, as the winner of the contest, will appear on the WVON's "He Say, He Say" talk program hosted by radio personality Tommy Bennett—called his victory "really exciting" and a validation of all of his hard work. He also promised to give a portion of the prize money to a Buddhist organization of which he is a member and to use the remaining funds to jump-start a few business ventures. Williams told Windy City Times, "I put a lot of work into my writing. [LGBT Pride] means staying strong. This is something that I want to do. This is me."



Osiris Khepera (above) prevailed during the poetry slam. Photo by Mason Harrison

# calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., July 7

**Graffiti Party at Minibar** Come see the uber-hot David G. and Jay P Wednesdays at Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe; 9pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, <http://www.minibarchicago.com>

**Dollar Drink Night at SPIN** That's right, \$1 cocktails, wine, and beer all night long. 9pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

**Wednesdays at Crimson with DJ Dealer & Mike Mac** Weekly tryst taking place in an eccentric yet relaxed atmosphere in the heart of downtown Chicago. Sultry and sophisticated music fills the eight or ten divisions providing an appropriate backdrop to the mix of hotel patrons and local nightlife savants. 9pm, 312-391-5006, Crimson Lounge in Hotel Sax 333 N. Dearborn, [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=112052665482379](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=112052665482379)

**Drink & Ride (girls Night Out)** Skylevel Presents: Level Ladies Along With Iq2 Ent Bring You: drink & Ride (girls Night Out), the hot new Wednesday night party exclusively for women. 10pm, 773-942-3483, Hogs and Honeys, 901 W. Weed, [www.facebook.com/q.of.iq2ent](http://www.facebook.com/q.of.iq2ent)

## Thursday, July 8

**Half Price Champagne in the Champagne Lounge** Join us and listen to LIVE JAZZ and sip your favorite Champagne in our VIP Champagne Lounge. 5pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**Boystown Tour** Come join me in a trip through one of Chicago's most distinctive neighborhoods. Boystown was the first officially recognized gay village in the

## RICE 'N EASY Saturday, July 17

Out singer Dylan Rice will perform songs from his newest CD at Martyrs, 3855 N. Lincoln.

Photo by Emily J. Nelson



country and believe me, it has a lot to show for it. 5pm, 773.593.4873, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://chicagoelevated.com>

**Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS Chicago: ME Join ME** (Motivate + Educate) as we take the fight against AIDS to neighborhoods around Chicago, one drink at a time. ME motivates and educates about the HIV/AIDS epidemic and why working together to spread awareness is so important. 7pm, SUB-T, 2011 W. North

## Friday, July 9

**Leather & Spoke Weekend - HIV POZ & Friendly** Make new friends and enjoy Campit Campground in Saugatuck. RSVP early for best cabins, lodges, RV, and tent sites. All our events are HIV POZ & Friendly! Visit website for more information. 3pm, (269) 543-4335, Campit Campground - Saugatuck, Michigan, <http://www.hiv-campground-project.org>

**Scarlet First Ward Ball Featuring DJ dolo**

Non-Halsted DJ dolo brings his great mash ups and dance tunes to Scarlet's First Ward Ball parties. 10pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, [www.scarletbarchicago.com](http://www.scarletbarchicago.com)

**Reina live at Roscoe's** Roscoe's & Fusion Radio present dance artist Reina performing her Billboard Dance Chart HIT singles "Just Let Go", "Forgive", and "If I Close My Eyes" live on the Roscoe's stage. \$5 cover beginning at 11pm. Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted

## Saturday, July 10

**Ride for AIDS Chicago** Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 180-mile, bicycling event created by volunteers and designed to raise needed funds for TPAN, and our community partners. The Ride travels from Evanston to Lake Geneva, Wisc. 7am, [www.rideforaids.org](http://www.rideforaids.org)

**Boystown Tour** Join us in a trip through one of Chicago's most distinctive neighborhoods. Boystown was the first officially recognized gay village in the country and believe me, it has a lot to show for it. 5pm, 773.593.4873, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://chicagoelevated.com>

**Chicago Red Stars of Women's Professional Soccer** Red Stars host LGBT Night, gay groups 8 or more discount tickets or individual fund raising ticket packages, when the Red Stars face defending WPS champion Sky Blue FC, plus an exclusive post-game meet-and-greet with players from both Chicago and Sky Blue at which Windy City Media, the Lesbian Community Care Project and the Red Stars are teaming up to raise money for LCCP. LCCP promotes healthcare, advocacy, public education, research and programming toward the lesbian community. 6pm, 866-WPS-2009, Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, <http://www.chicagoredstars.com>

**Fu\_king Men** Tony-nominated writer Joe DiPietro's latest play, FU\_KING MEN, observes the sex lives of the modern urban gay American male. 7pm, 773-327-5252, Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, <http://www.fmenchicago.com>

**Girl Action 847** Girl Action, a hot new night at Temptations that takes place every Saturday Night. Each Saturday is something new, the largest party in the suburbs for girls. Doors open at 8pm, \$5 cover; 8pm, Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W Grand

## Sunday, July 11

**Ride for AIDS Chicago** Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 180-mile, bicycling event created by volunteers and designed to raise needed funds for TPAN, and our community partners. The Ride travels from Evanston to Lake Geneva, Wis. 7am,

<http://www.rideforaids.org>

**Glenwood Sunday Market** A weekly farmers' market of locally grown and produced foods at Morse and Glenwood, within the Glenwood Avenue Arts District. The market will run every Sunday from June 6th through October 17th. There will be a variety of live entertainment. 9am, Glenwood & Morse Avenue, <http://www.glenwoodsundaymarket.org>

**Lambda Legal at the Zoo** Lambda Legal presents a fun filled day for LGBT families at the Brookfield Zoo. Start time and details to come. Jeff Souva, 312-663-4413, ext. 335. 12pm, 312-663-4413, ext. 335, Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, <http://www.lambdalegal.com>

**WACT brunch** WACT is a brunch and social support organization for all lesbians and bisexual women. We are especially interested in meeting and befriending each other across ethnicities, ages, incomes, etc. Bring a dish. Call Cheryl 773-271-2393 to get involved, or to get on the mailing list, elist, etc. 12pm, 773-271-2393, TBA

## Monday, July 12

**\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate** Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

## Tuesday, July 13

**SAGE Lunch** The Center on Halsted's SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) group lunch. Join us for some coffee and conversation followed by lunch in the John Baran Senior Center. 12pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

**Conversational French** This group is designed for all proficiency levels. Come practice your French and make some new friends. 1pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

**I2I-Invisible to Invincible**, Asian & Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago Queer/LGBT API supper getting together, foster a queer Asian community! 6:30pm, Thai Pastry Restaurant, 4925 N. Broadway, Chicago, <http://www.chicagoi2i.org>

## Wed., July 14

**\$1 Drinks & Karaoke** Come join us for \$1 Drinks and Karaoke every Wednesday; 5pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**BISEXUAL Panel Discussion** BISEXUAL Panel Discussion is a casual, peer-lead conversation group. This is an event for bisexuals, bi-curious, and bi-allies to form community, share ideas, and connect with peers. Come check us out and help build the bisexual community! 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

**Graffiti Party at Minibar** Come see the uber-hot David G. and Jay P Wednesdays at Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe; 9pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, <http://www.minibarchicago.com>

## Thursday, July 15

**'San Francisco' exhibit** "San Francisco in the 1970s"—a photographic exhibition featuring the photos of Jerry Pritikin, a Chicago publicist, gay-rights activist and Chicago Cubs fan known as the "Bleacher Preacher" Features photos of gay life in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, which was an epicenter for the gay-rights movement prior to the AIDS epidemic of the '80s. Through Aug. 13, 2010. 1am, Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, <http://www.roosevelt.edu/gagegallery>

**\$5 Martinis, Margaritas & Live Jazz** Join us Thursday's for Martinis, Margaritas and LIVE jazz! 5pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**Threat Level: An Evening of Queer Shorts** Featuring "best of" favorites such as



## SWEET DREAMS Thursday, July 22

Vital Bridges' annual Chefs and the City will entertain (and fill) many at The Peninsula, 108 E. Superior.

Photo from 2009 by Andrew Davis

"Queer Teen Romance" and "Rosebud" followed by \$10 Backyard BBQ Central at the; 6pm, The Pig Pen, 1920 W. Berwyn, Chicago, <http://www.actorslashmodel.com>

**Martha Ackmann** Biographer Ackmann presents the remarkable story of Toni Stone, the first woman to play professional baseball in the Negro League, when she replaced Hank Aaron on the Indianapolis Clowns. 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St.

## Friday, July 16

**Zander Mander 30th Anniversary Celebration** Spin Nightclub proudly brings you the official party celebrating the 30th anniversary of Chicago's iconic club kid Zander Mander. 9:30pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave

**Enrique Iglesias CD giveaway** Grab your copy of Enrique Iglesias' 'I Like It' while supplies last. 10pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted, [www.roscoes.com](http://www.roscoes.com)

## Saturday, July 17

**Chicago Gender Society & EQIL Summer BBQ** The Chicago Gender Society and Equality Illinois invite you to a summer BBQ on the Sidetrack roof deck! \$25 at the roof deck or visit the website. 4pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted, [www.chicagogender.com](http://www.chicagogender.com)

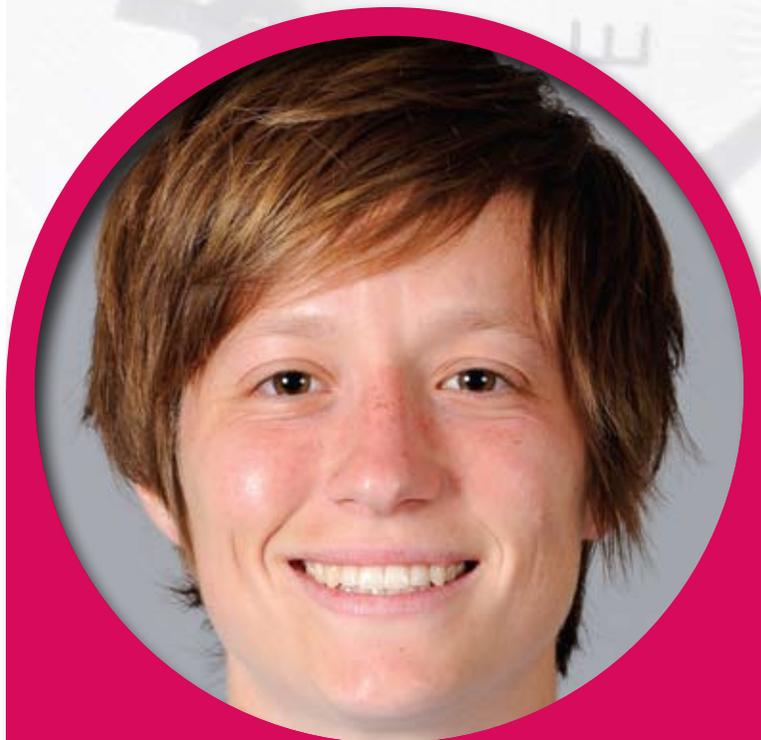
**Dylan Rice performs from new CD** Dylan Rice performs in celebration of his new CD, Electric Grids & Concrete Towers with guest vocalist Grazyna Auguscik, \$10 at the door, 21+. The Greenwoods and Milhous also perform. 9:30pm, 800-594-TIXX, Martyrs, 3855 N. Lincoln, Chicago, <http://www.musictoday.com>

## Thursday, July 22

**Chefs and the City** Chicago's premier dining event, Chefs and the City featuring tastes from 33 Club, Aldino's, Arun's Thai Restaurant, avec, Avenues, Belly Shack and Urban Belly, Blackbird, Café Spiaggia, Charlie Trotter's, David Burke's Primehouse, English, Fulton's on the River, Graham Elliott, Japonais, Kendall College, Lockwood Restaurant, MK The Restaurant, NAHA, Perennial, Province, Ria, RL Restaurant, Sepia, Spring, Sprout, Swirlz Cupcakes, The Bristol, Union League Club of Chicago, Vie, and many more! 5pm, The Peninsula Chicago, 108 E Superior, <http://www.vitalbridges.org/>

## Friday, July 30

**Lincoln Park Lagoons Annual Wilderness Weekend** Chicago's most active gay social/sports organization wilderness weekend with camp fires, hiking, horseback riding, antiquing and a raft trip down the Wolf River in the tranquility of northern Wisconsin through Aug. 1. See [www.lincolnparklagoons.org](http://www.lincolnparklagoons.org).



## STARS IN THEIR EYES

Saturday, July 10

Meet Megan Rapinoe (above) and other members of the Chicago Red Stars when the professional women's soccer team hosts "LGBT Night."

Photo courtesy of Chicago Red Stars

# BILLY MASTERS

"No one. They should all wait till I'm fuckin' dead. I pass the mantle to no one. They'll have to rip it from my dead shoulders. I know—gracious till the end!"—Joan Rivers answers the question of who is the next "Joan Rivers." As if there could be another...

Last week, Joan Rivers caused a bit of controversy when The Advocate asked her if young gay performers should keep their sexuality a secret: "It's part of the game. If you're going to be a romantic idol and try to get every teenage girl to love you, then you'd be an ass to come out and say you're gay. Ricky Martin was so smart. He did what he did, made his millions and then he said, 'Guess what, everybody? I'm gay.' It didn't matter anymore because he didn't have to bring in 16-year-old girls. If you're looking at someone who's your idol, thinking that maybe one day they'll come ring your doorbell, you don't want to hear, 'There's no chance in hell, honey, but still buy a ticket to the movie.'" For some reason, people have taken Joan to task for basically stating the truth. It's something women have dealt with for years. Tell me that a woman who is up for a big job that requires lots of travel and powerful negotiations is going to have the same chance of landing that job if she tells the employer that she's pregnant. Not gonna happen. I know you hate it when I say this, but its show BUSINESS.

By the way, Joan makes it very clear that she's only talking about romantic leads. Comics and character actors don't have these problems. "No single guy ever had Ellen DeGeneres' or Rosie O'Donnell's picture up on the wall and thought, 'Maybe one day I'll meet her and she'll marry me.'" That may be true, but I'm sure a few flannel-wearing truckers with names like Marge and Gert did!

During an interview with Upscale Magazine, Queen Latifah was put in the hot seat when it was queried that she could end all speculation about her sexuality by openly discussing it. Latifah didn't bite: "I don't have to explain anything. I don't have to confirm anything. Look, I need my time. I need my life." She also said that her life is an open book to people close to her: "I don't have to tell Joe Blow. Joe, you worry about who YOU are sleeping with!"

Deborah Gibson and Tiffany are teaming up, and this isn't the first time. Four years ago, I hosted back-to-back concerts by both gals at LA Pride. This time, they're actually working together—in an original movie for the Syfy network. Yes, this is the same network that once had Shannen Doherty scaring people by showing up at their doors and saying, "Hi, I'm Shannen Doherty." Our '80s pop princesses are co-starring in Mega Python vs. Gatoroid. Why, I can almost hear the theme song now! Deb plays an animal-rights activist who frees snakes from pet stores and lets them grow to monstrous sizes in the Everglades. Tiff is a park ranger trying to save endangered alligators. And, as they say, " hilarity ensues." The ladies have a fight scene in a swamp that sounds like a cross between Joan Collins' climactic moment in Empire of the Ants and her Dynasty fight in the lily pond with Linda Evans! They're going into this project with the right attitude. Tiffany said, "Only in my dreams have I been able to have a catfight with Debbie Gibson ... until now! This is sooo MEGA Cool!"

This leads perfectly into a story about Adrienne Barbeau. After all, back in 1982 she was the romantic lead in Swamp Thing. Adrienne has joined the cast of General Hospital—a soap that enjoys bringing in "name" actors. Barbeau plays a tough cookie named "Suzanna Stanwyck" (no relation to Barbara, I'm sure) who runs a charity for children in Italy. Does this mean Adrienne gets to sport an accent? I can dream, can't I?



She may rap and sing, but when it comes to sexuality, Queen Latifah keeps her mouth shut.

One '80s diva who has somehow avoided the temptation of swamp movies is Kylie Minogue. The former "Locomotion" gal is a huge star everywhere in the world—except the U.S., where she remains the best-kept secret of the gay community. She showed up at the Glastonbury Music Festival in the U.K. to join the Scissor Sisters for their new song, "Any Which Way." The resulting sound is kinda like a gay version of The Bee Gees—as if that's not redundant! To see Kylie cavort on stage with Jake Shears (who co-wrote most of Kylie's new CD, All The Lovers), head on over to BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question is from Ronald in Salt Lake City: "I just saw A Single Man and fell in love with the guy who played Colin Firth's student. What do you know about him? Is he gay? Do you have nude photos of him? And what was he doing wearing an angora sweater?"

All very good questions. I'll start with the important one—I have no clue why Nicholas Hoult was wearing that angora sweater. It certainly seemed a curious choice to me. But who am I to question Tom Ford? Speaking of Mr. Ford, he hired the sexy 21-year-old to model his line of eyeglasses. Here's a fun fact: Do you remember the movie About A Boy, with Hugh Grant? Hoult was the boy! Since then, he most notably appeared on the U.K. series Skins, where he indeed showed some skin—particularly when he seduced (and briefly orally pleased) the equally delectable Mitch Hower. We'll post that scene and the one with Mr. Firth on BillyMasters.com. As to your first question, alas, young Nicholas has been linked with women. Yes, a guy wearing an angora sweater and lip gloss could be straight. What would Joan Rivers think of that? It's a world gone mad!

When a hot guy who has made a career playing gay is being outed as straight, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Only a few more days for this trip, and then I'm briefly back to the States. I have to admit I feel incredibly unpatriotic having spent the Fourth of July unfurling my flag with several lads who didn't speak a lick of English (but were quite talented in the licking department). Fireworks, nonetheless, resulted. Maybe I'll post a snap or two from my travels on www.BillyMasters.com. You never know. One thing you can be sure of is that I'm always here for your pressing needs. Just drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Latifah realizes she's not bringing in the 16-year-old boys (or girls). So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**SUMMER FUN... LET'S FIT IT ALL IN!**

**OUT at WRIGLEY**

Tuesday, July 13 • 9pm  
**National Anthem Finals**  
No Cover. Prizes too!

**COCKTAIL CHALLENGE**

Wed, July 14 • 9pm  
**Sidetrack Employee Cocktail Contest**  
Winner goes to **Palm Springs!**

Saturday, July 17 • 4-8pm  
**Chicago Gender Society & Equality Illinois Rooftop BBQ.**  
\$25 at the roof deck

Sun, July 18 2pm  
**PERONI On the Patio**  
Welcome the Peroni Boys.

facebook

**SIDETRACK**

3349 N. Halsted  
Valet Parking Available  
SidetrackChicago.com

**30 DAY Free Trial**

**mistermeetmister.com**  
Real Relationships, Genuine Friendships



Marc Chavez. Photo by Ross Forman

## Rider's journey: A personal quest

BY ROSS FORMAN

He's nervous and scared, but also quite excited.

Marc Chavez will get on his bicycle Saturday, July 10, to begin the two-day, 190-mile Ride For AIDS Chicago, and he's only thinking about one thing: Finishing it.

Chavez, 41, is a front-desk clerk at Cheetah Gym in Edgewater who truly can relate to the cause, having been living with HIV for more than 10 years.

"I'm doing the ride to help others who are unable to do it ... to raise money for so many living with HIV and AIDS. And to prove to myself that if you work hard, you can do anything you set your mind to," said Chavez, who attended Chicago's Schurz High School. "I've never done anything like this before. It's something I've always wanted to do, but never thought I could. But there have been great changes in my life that have brought me to this."

Chavez's last boyfriend was Michael Shelly, and the two were together for three years, off and on, until Shelly committed suicide in December 2005.

"The day I lost Michael I felt a part of me died with him," Chavez said. "I blamed myself for his death and told myself, 'Maybe if I had been more loving to him, instead of self-centered, he'd still be alive.'"

"When Michael took his life, my life went with him. I lost my job and my friends. If it weren't for my parents and my friend David who cared for me after Michael's death, I don't think I would be here to tell my story.

"After the smoke of Michael's death cleared, isolation became a part of my life. I stayed in my apartment not talking to anyone. I kept our dogs for a year, but realized I couldn't take care of them because I couldn't even take care of myself."

He eventually gave away the dogs, "and it felt like another three steps back," he said. "I lived with memories of what should have been. I felt lost and alone. Depression was a way of life for me. I didn't sleep, ate only because I had to, and crying was an everyday occurrence. I had a lot on my shoulders because Michael's parents blamed me for his death. But they didn't have to do that—because I blamed myself enough. They prohibited me from attending the wake or funeral. Because of all this, I hated God for a long time. I thought God should have saved Michael. But He didn't. Then, He showed me that life goes on."

And Chavez turned things around, eventually.

"All these wonderful things started to change in my life," he said. "I found a suicide survivor support group run by Edmond Yomtoob that helped me understand that I wasn't alone, and I began living again.

"Michael's death has forever changed my life. I will remember him always the way he was."

Chavez, part of the team known as Richard's Riders, has raised more than \$1,000 which goes to the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), the beneficiary of the Ride.

TPAN certainly is a source of great strength nowadays for Chavez. After all, his boyfriend of the past few months is Jeff Allen, who works for TPAN.

"I know [the ride] will be a wonderful experience," Chavez said. "I agreed to do this [ride] on the day Jeff Allen walked in to my life. We were having drinks and he brought it up, told me a little about it. I had my concerns, such as the fundraising and training. But surprisingly, I found myself signing up online. And then it became a reality.

"I'm riding in tribute to myself, and others living with HIV/AIDS, especially for those who have lost the battle."

### The boyfriend

Allen has been involved with Ride for AIDS Chicago since its inception eight years ago. As a TPAN staff member, he works with a team of volunteers to create a financially successful endurance cycling event that returns 100 percent of donations to charity.

For eight years, the ride has had growth annually in the amount returned to charity and in participation of riders and crew members.

This year's ride has nearly tripled in size from 2009.

"I have participated in Ride For AIDS Chicago as a producer, rider and crew member. Each of these roles, while very different in nature, provides a strong role in giving to the community," Allen said.

"Working on Ride for AIDS Chicago is a true joy. I have the opportunity to see people challenge themselves and reach goals they never thought possible. Marc is one such person, who had not been on a bike in years and saw a possibility of being able to give back in a very bold way. I find myself humbled when our riders reach outside their comfort zones to raise money, train, and complete a two-day, 200-mile bike ride. For many, this is easy; and for others it is a big challenge. For that reason we have Ride co-chairs and Team Leaders working with riders and crew from January through July to assist with training and fundraising. We aim to build camaraderie and supportive networks through different events and workshops throughout the year.

### Team spirit

Chavez is one of 25 on Richard's Riders, a record-setting team that has already raised more than \$32,000 for TPAN.

Now Richard Cordova—the team leader and namesake—wants to up the ante, and is looking for support from the LGBT community.

Cordova wants to raise \$40,000.

"I think it's amazing that we have been able to hit [the team] goal [of \$30,000]," Cordova said. "It just shows that when you have a group of people committed to a common goal, you really can make it a reality. I am not surprised because, considering the size of the team, it wasn't a far stretch for us."

The team had donations ranging from \$5 to \$1,000.

"The key to hitting \$30,000 was a combination of using Facebook to really raise awareness, and money, for the cause and reaching out to individuals through hard copy letters, and email campaigns," Cordova said. "I thought for sure the community would have reached out and helped to support our fundraising efforts. I was a little shocked when the anonymous team donations didn't start rolling in [during the spring]."

"That said, we have decided to set our sights a little bit higher with a new goal of \$40,000.

This is going to be challenging because, honestly, there are only so many friends, family, and acquaintances that 25 people have. Going from \$30,000 to \$40,000 is going to take some help from the community and local businesses. This is a plea from our team to the Chicago LGBTQ community to please reach out and help support this cause.

"The face of HIV/AIDS has changed in the past 20 years, but the disease is still there. The stigma, shame, and needs of those living with the disease persist. My hope is that in reading this people will decide to help us reach our goal. This is an open to call to the community for help in reaching this goal of \$40,000."

To donate, visit [www.tinyurl.com/RichardsRiders](http://www.tinyurl.com/RichardsRiders).

### Record-setting riders

TPAN announced last week that the 2010 Ride has blasted all prior records, making it the largest RFAC in its history with more than 250 riders and crew members. To date, riders and crew members have raised almost \$200,000.

And, on June 30, Chicago city council members passed a resolution saluting the RFAC's 2010 mission and its success. Aldermen Ariel E. Reboyras, Tom Tunney, Ed H. Smith and Mary Ann Smith led the passage of the item.

"We're ecstatic that the Chicago community has made this year's Ride for AIDS Chicago an overwhelming success," said Rick Heintz, a rider and RFAC co-chair. "We're thankful to all the riders and their efforts in raising awareness of HIV and raising funds to support TPAN and the Ride's Community Partners."

Opening and closing ceremonies will take place on the east lawn of Northwestern University's Norris University Center in Evanston, rain or shine. The July 12 opening ceremony begins at 7 a.m., and will feature a performance by the Chicago Spirit Brigade.

The riders will spend Saturday night in Elkhorn, Wis.

### SOFTBALL

## Chicago teams impressive in tournaments

BY ROSS FORMAN

Things looked bleak, to put it mildly, for the Green Team Properties/Gotcha Covered Blinds G-Force of Chicago, playing July 3-4 in the annual Minuteman Classic gay softball tournament in Boston, Mass.

The G-Force went 0-2-1 in the seeding round and was the 12th-seeded team in the C-Division—out of 12 squads.

"We just had a slow start," said G-Force coach Brian Kettner, who is also the team's second baseman.

But the team came alive when it mattered and

showed why it will be representing Chicago in the annual Gay Softball World Series next month in Columbus, Ohio. The G-Force won its next five games to claim the championship, including an 11-3 win over the No. 1-seeded Geoffrey's D2 Mets of Boston for the title.

"This was a great tournament, a great team win. There was great competition; all 12 teams [in our division] were very good," Kettner said. "This is a huge momentum-builder for the World Series."

Left fielder Jeff Milio was the tournament's offensive hero for G-Force, highlighted by four home runs. Pitcher Randy Detert was on the mound for all eight games. First baseman Joe Green also delivered clutch hitting from the number-three spot in the lineup.

"We only had 11 players and all stepped up over and over," Kettner said.

Outfielder Chuck Jacobson celebrated his birthday July 4 with the win, and he delivered a game-saving diving catch in right field en route to the championship.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association hosted the 5th annual ChiTown Softball Classic for 27 teams over July 4th weekend—and the local teams excelled.

Big Chick's Wicked won first place in the D-Division, edging out Hamburger Mary's, also of Chicago. The Madison (Wis.) Madd Dawgs finished third.

Big Chick's Kiss Kiss Bang Bang won the C-Recreation Division, despite the team's 0-3 record in opening-round play. The Minneapolis Racers came in second place, followed by the Fluid Flaming Aardvarks of Milwaukee.

The D.C. National All Starz, from the nation's capital, won the top-tiered C-Competitive Division, while the Cleveland Twisted Bears finished second, followed by the Windy City's Hamburger Mary's.

"Overall, it was a very successful tournament," said tournament director Gary Taylor. "We had beautiful weather and the level of play in all three divisions was really good.

"The Chicago teams were very well-represented."

## Red Stars' LGBT night July 10

The women's professional soccer team known as the Chicago Red Stars will hold "LGBT Night" Saturday, July 10, at Toyota Park in Bridgeview. The game against the Sky Blue FC kicks off at 6 p.m.

An attendee who purchases a \$30 ticket will have a chance to attend the second annual meet-and-greet with special Women's Professional Soccer league players to raise awareness for the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP). The person will also receive a special "Run with the Red Stars" T-shirt.

See [www.redstarsgear.com/LGBTgroup](http://www.redstarsgear.com/LGBTgroup) for more information.



G-Force, the team that prevailed in Boston. Photo courtesy of the team

# CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

**TSAMIS**  
LAW FIRM, P.C.  
Always on your side



**BETTY TSAMIS**  
ATTORNEY  
&  
COUNSELOR  
AT LAW

*Fighting for the LGBT community  
and making headlines since 2001*

203 North LaSalle, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL  
Office: 312-827-7973 • Mobile: 312-909-1219  
email: [btsamis@tsamilaw.com](mailto:btsamis@tsamilaw.com)  
[www.TsamisLaw.com](http://www.TsamisLaw.com)



**Family is why we do it all.**

**Rose Dalsandro, Agent**  
6610 N Milwaukee Ave  
Niles, IL 60714  
Bus: 847-647-9701  
[rose.dalsandro.bz5m@statefarm.com](mailto:rose.dalsandro.bz5m@statefarm.com)

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.  
CALL ME TODAY.



0907504 State Farm, Bloomington, IL



**You're a neighbor, not a number.**

**Linda Kuczka, Agent**  
954 W Webster  
Chicago, IL 60614  
Bus: 773-975-9111  
[linda@lindakuczka.com](mailto:linda@lindakuczka.com)

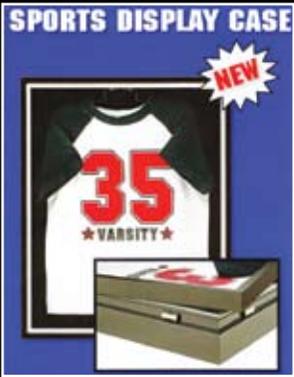
**Total average savings of \$489\***  
Getting to know you helps me find all the auto discounts you deserve. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



\*Average annual household savings based on national 2009 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

P090119 06/09

**ilolo**



**CUSTOM FRAMING**

Protect your favorite jersey!  
Regular \$315, on sale now \$249.99  
1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962



**Susan O'Dell, PhD**  
*Down to earth, change oriented therapy*

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010  
1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

**Law Offices of Nancy Jill Cox, LLC**  
Your Neighborhood Attorney

**Full-Service Law Firm**

- Bankruptcy
- Business Formations
- Real Estate
- DUI

Practicing law in Illinois since 2003

**773-944-0485**  
[attorneycox@gmail.com](mailto:attorneycox@gmail.com)  
[mybankruptcycounsel.com](http://mybankruptcycounsel.com)



**Mulryan & York**  
Attorneys At Law

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



**Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC**

A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.

He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

Clark Hill is a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities. Count on Us. Count on More.

312.985.5900 | [clarkhill.com](http://clarkhill.com)  
[rkoenig@clarkhill.com](mailto:rkoenig@clarkhill.com)



**CLARK HILL**

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

© 2009 Clark Hill PLC

**The Law Offices of Alexander Weaver**  
**312-588-5005**  
email: [violaw@rcn.com](mailto:violaw@rcn.com)

**A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988**

410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 628, Chicago

Chicago's most-trusted LGBT news source... in the palm of your hands.

DOWNLOAD THE  iPhone app

Find it at the iTunes store



# Maybe being a family business explains why working with us feels like family.

Guided by a human touch for 155 years, Baird & Warner continues to be committed to training and coaching, making sure our professionals are the very best in the business. With all of our amazing selling tools, none is more amazing than our people.

LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

Opportunity is Knocking.



**3530 N Marshfield** **\$1,300,000**  
Pristine cond & updates galore on this 2003 home in lakeview-walk to everything, whole foods, lincoln ave. shopping & rest, schools  
Catherine Byrne  
ID#04405317  
773-775-1855



**2148 W Agatite** **\$795,000**  
Lincoln Square! A 37ft wide lot is the setting for this 3+ br home. 2.5 updated bths, island kit, great perennial garden, 2c gar.  
John Byrne  
ID#02055188  
773-549-1855



**130 N Garland 1701** **\$774,000**  
Stunning millenium park & lake views from flr to ceiling wndws! 2br/2ba, 1 pkg space incl. Full amenity bldg w/pool and sundeck!  
Heather Cannon  
ID#02306231  
773-697-5555



**1026 N Crosby** **\$520,000**  
Sunny 2br/2.5ba town home in River North. Fr can be used as 3rd bed. Kitch with granite cntps, bck-splsh & ss ge profile appls.  
Millie Rosenbloom  
ID#92359227  
312-943-1515



**NEW PRICE**  
**3823 N Ashland 301** **\$499,000**  
Beautiful, newer const. 3BR 2BTH condo, high ceilings, Hwood floors, gourmet kitchen, in-unit laundry, 2 car gar. A must sell!!  
Delia Joyce  
ID#03105002  
847-491-1855



**5246 W Hutchinson** **\$399,000**  
Well-maintained Portage Park 2-flat w/spacious rms, new roof & cozy porches! 2-car gar, landscaping. Near schools, park & trans.  
Gordon Smith  
ID#03105171  
847-491-1855



**NEW ON MARKET**  
**4414 N Malden 1S** **\$379,900**  
Highly sought after Sheridan Park! Beautifully updated 2br/2ba condo with very flexible living space, large deck, 2 car tandem pkg.  
Anna Busalacchi  
ID#02306271  
773-697-5555



**3442 N Damen 3** **\$349,900**  
Gorgeous 3 floor condo with townhouse feel in heart of roscoe village. 1st floor sep eat-in kit, 42 cab. Ss appl, liv/dn hwd flrs  
George Nicosia  
ID#04405025  
773-775-1855



**NEW ON MARKET**  
**524 N Hermitage 6** **\$319,900**  
2br/2ba condo priced to sell. 1125 sq. ft. with oak hardwood floors. Lots of sun in all rooms! A must see!  
James Edward Wright  
ID#02305837  
773-697-5555



**5455 N Sheridan 3302** **\$300,000**  
Breathtaking views of the lake, park and downtown skyline. The kit & ba have been upgrd & sun shades are on the massive windows.  
Eleni Mathias  
ID#02155286  
312-640-7010



**2449 W Fletcher 3** **\$219,750**  
Roscoe Village 2 bedroom loft w/hdwd flrs, in-unit washer/dryer, large closets & garage parking included. Very secluded oasis.  
Michael Parish  
ID#02055074  
773-549-1855



**NEW LISTING**  
**2715 W Adams** **\$210,000**  
New construction 3bd/2bth single family. Granite, SS app, finished bsmt.  
Heidi Rogers  
ID#05705339  
708-697-5900



**4757 N Paulina 2** **\$175,000**  
Great location! Beautiful 1br/1ba 2005 conversion located in Ravenswood. Hdwd flrs, ss appl, granite ctrs, marble ba w/Jacuzzi.  
Michael Canaan  
ID#02055218  
773-549-1855



**5415 N Sheridan 908** **\$172,400**  
Great renovation one bedroom with fabulous open kitchen, cherry cabinetry and beautiful hardwood floors.  
Eleni Mathias  
ID#02155343  
312-640-7010



**NEW PRICE**  
**50 N Menard 2B** **\$115,000**  
Modern 3BR/2BA condo w/master bath, Jacuzzi tub and separate shower, granite counters, hdwd floors, FP, in-unit W/D, 1 pkg space.  
Heidi Rogers  
ID#95709370  
708-697-5900

**Fran Bailey, Broker Associate • CREN • CNE**  
773.793.4516 • fran.bailey@bairdwarner.com



**SHAFFER GROUP**  
773.883.2787 • dennis.shaffer@bairdwarner.com



Tap into the experience of a Baird & Warner Realtor at:

ChicagoMetroAreaRealEstate.com

— Insights for Home Buyers & Sellers —

BUY • SELL • INVESTMENT



**433 W Briar 11C** **\$699,900**  
Vintage luxury at its best. Elegant 2br/2.1ba condo w/fpl, custom granite accents, upgraded kit & baths. Many fabulous upgrades.  
ID#92059173



**525 W Hawthorne 2405** **\$230,000**  
Spectacular lake & city views! High flr 1 bedroom/1 bath in full amenity building. Heated garage parking included. Great location!  
ID#02055148



**4104 N Mozart 2W** **\$209,900**  
Highly upgraded 2br/1ba. Hdwd flrs thruout, exp brk, upgraded kit & ba. Nice flr plan with open feel. Great location.  
ID#02055134



**bairdwarner.com**

Enter the ID number in the **FAST FIND** box on our homepage to find complete details on these Chicagoland homes for sale.

