

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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**MACKENZIE PHILLIPS DISHES ON 'CLUTTER'**

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**CATHOLIC CHURCH FORCES PRIDE TIME CHANGE**

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**OUT GOP CANDIDATE IN CHICAGO**

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## Kissing 2011 Goodbye

Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, at Little Creek in Virginia Beach Dec. 22, in a historic smooch. Other notable 2011 events included (counterclockwise from upper left) President Obama's repeal of DADT; Hillary Clinton's historic UN speech; civil unions in Illinois; chaos at Pride; the passing away of Christina Santiago. Read national highlights on page 8. Photo of women kissing by Brian Clark/The Virginian-Pilot

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**'DRAGON TATTOO' REVIEW**

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## Local LGBT news in 2011: Advancements and setbacks

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

This year was a pivotal one for the area LGBT community, with everything happening from the implementation of civil unions in Illinois to Chicago hosting the largest national conference on HIV/AIDS.

—**A more perfect union:** Illinois became the sixth state to grant significant partner recognition to same-sex couples when civil unions went into effect June 1. The city celebrated the historic day with a public ceremony in Millennium Park, during which 36 couples were joined June 2. More than 3,700 same-sex couples tied the knot this year in Illinois.

—**AIDS @ 30:** Marking 30 years since the first diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, local service agencies reflect on the evolution virus that nearly decimated a generation, the community activism that challenged the government's silence and the progress in science and advocacy that

slowed the path of AIDS. Windy City Times is documenting that history with its special series, AIDS @ 30.

—**Colony collapse:** Rogers Park-based HIV/AIDS-service organization Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) closed its doors after 21 years of service to the community.

—**Cook County Jail trans policy:** In March, Sheriff Tom Dart announced that Cook County Jail instituted a policy for housing transgender detainees based on their gender identity, rather than birth sex. Combining policies from other jails in the U.S. the Cook County policy was hailed by some advocates as one of the most progressive transgender jail policies in the country.

—**Thirty's company:** In anticipation of mayoral elections, 30 LGBT groups form a coalition and put on an LGBT mayoral forum. The council goes on to launch the Chicago Policy Priorities for the LGBT Community, which detailing policy initiatives for the community. The coal-

tion remains active, often speaking out on relevant community issues.

—**Somewhere over the Rahm-bo:** Bolstered by strong LGBT support, Rahm Emanuel secured a decisive win for mayor, beating out Gery Chico, Carol Moseley Braun and Miguel del Valle. Not everyone in the community supported the former White House chief of staff, who replaced Mayor Richard M. Daley.

—**Mona-fide:** Veteran lesbian activist Mona Noriega was selected by Mayor Emanuel to head the Chicago Department on Human Relations. Noriega is former head of the Midwest office of Lambda Legal and a key early leader of Amigas Latinas.

—**The Capple-plan:** James Cappleman made history when he became only the second out gay person on Chicago's City Council, after defeating Molly Phelan in a

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**ELLEN/TARGET TEAM BRINGS QUESTIONS**

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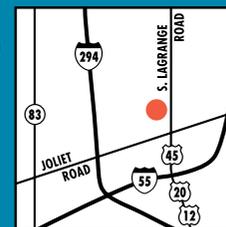
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**WINDY CITY TIMES**

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Mackenzie Phillips and Peter Walsh courtesy of OWN; Photo of Cardinal Francis George in 2004 by Tracy Baim; Fred Karger pic by Ross Forman; Girl with the Dragon Tattoo photo by Baldur Bragason; Ellen DeGeneres PR photo



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**BRAD TO THE BONE**

Read an interview with Brad Goreski (left), the star of the reality show *It's a Brad, Brad World*.

Photo courtesy of Bravo



Glenn Wharton talks about his book, *The Painted King*.

Photo from Wharton



Look at photos from performances and behind the scenes at 'VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul.'

Photo of Queen Latifah by Frank Micelotta

**GAGE OF REASON**

Read Carolyn Gage's column, "Echoing the 'Occupy': The Women Behind Social Security."

**FULL REPORT**

Read the entire interview with Mackenzie Phillips and Peter Walsh of *Extreme Clutter* online. Also, get all of the 2011 news roundup there.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Nene Leakes, Lance Bass and Adam Lambert.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

**IT'S THE REEL THING**



Tomboy (above) is just one of the movies profiled in Steve Warren's comprehensive roundup of LGBT flicks.

Photo from the film's official website

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



**TAKE A QUEER LOOK AT CHICAGO**

In 1906 police arrested Julius Duc for dressing in women's clothing in public. At the station, a *Daily News* photographer snapped a series of photographs that remained unpublished until now.

Discover the city through the lens of gender, sexuality and nonconformity at *Out in Chicago*—a groundbreaking exhibition that explores 150 years of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Chicagoans and their quests for self-identity, family, community and political action.

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# A riveting year for political campaigns

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Few in the GOP field could rival President Obama with their records on LGBT issues and, yet, the outcome of the Republican presidential race riveted the attention of LGBT people in 2012. Many of the contenders were notoriously anti-gay. They were often asked about, or were inclined to share, their positions on gay-related issues. Also, historically, no matter how much better the Democratic candidate has been than the Republican one, about 25 to 30 percent of LGBT voters vote for the Republican presidential candidate.

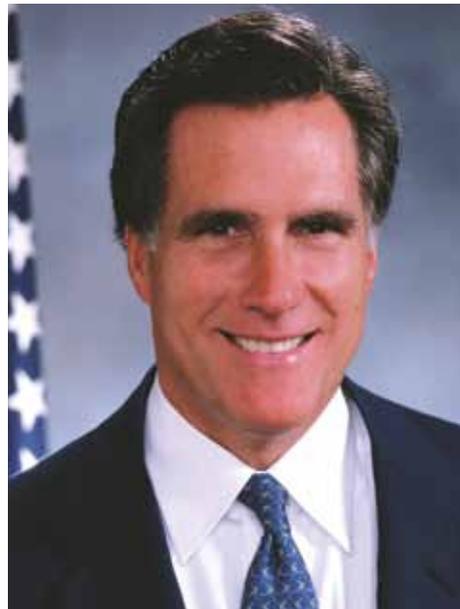
The campaign got underway this year with the large field of Republicans jockeying for position. Many of them became front-runners, and just as many dropped far behind over a sex scandal, a memory lapse or some other form of political lameness.

Fred Karger, an activist from California, made history by being the first openly gay presidential candidate to make a formal bid for the Republican nomination. However, Karger's campaign was hobbled from the beginning because he identified himself as a gay candidate for the nomination. Politically, that dinged him as a one-issue candidate. Also, except for an occasional profile of Karger as an oddity in the race, the mainstream media essentially ignored him. His name was often left out of polls, and he was never allowed to participate in the many nationally televised debates.

The few other Republicans who had relatively moderate positions on LGBT-related matters were down in the low one-digit percentile with Karger. Both were former governors: Gary Johnson of New Mexico and Jon Huntsman of Utah—and neither could be called liberal. Huntsman said he supports civil unions; Johnson said he couldn't find any legitimate reason to oppose marriage for same-sex couples. However, Johnson rarely registered even 1 percent, and Huntsman hovered around 2 or 3 percent, nationally, although recent polling in New Hampshire has him at almost 12.

Then there's Ron Paul. Paul isn't for allowing same-sex couples to marry, but he's for equality. His answer is to get government out of the business of deciding who can marry. Paul has held onto a steady third place nationally, but is leading in Iowa and improving in New Hampshire. This has brought him more scrutiny in a race where nobody can seem to hold onto first-place. However, that scrutiny brought with it news in late December that Paul had sent out a direct mail solicitation letter in the 1990s, warning people to prepare for race wars and a "federal-homosexual cover-up on AIDS." Paul told reporters he didn't write the letters and disavows their content. But Paul's real handicap—though largely undiscussed—appears to be age. He's 76—older than Ronald Reagan was when he won his second term.

The rest of the GOP field is in the rabid red zone on LGBT issues—and none worse than former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. Santorum denounces marriage equality for same-sex couples every chance he gets. He brags about his personal efforts in Iowa last year to oust three justices who were part of the ruling that the state constitution required treating gay couples equally. He promised that, if elected president, he would travel the country to try and repeal state laws that allow marriage equality—even in states where voters want to keep those laws. He wants to reinstate the ban on gays in the military and said nothing, during a debate this year, in defense of a gay soldier being booed. Instead, Santorum characterized the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as "tragic" and



Mitt Romney.

giving gays a "special privilege." Santorum has never gone above the single-digits in polling.

U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota is not much better on LGBT issues or in the polling. She had a brush with front-runner status with the Iowa straw poll in August, but a candidate's money or campaign organization can easily skew those polls. She's worked to ban marriage equality in Minnesota and wants a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. The odd thing was that, way back in June, during the first nationally televised GOP debate, Bachmann almost sounded ready to temper her views a little. The debate was held in New Hampshire and one of the local reporters asked the candidates if they were elected president would they try to repeal New Hampshire's new marriage equality law. To the surprise of many, Bachmann said no. But then she later backed off that position and emphasized her support for a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in all states.

A Bachmann compatriot, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, whose positions on LGBT issues were also fairly hostile, came in third in the Iowa straw poll in August and dropped out the next day.

Herman Cain, former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, did worse—he came in fifth in the Iowa straw poll, but stuck around and gained ground as other candidates began to fall. Like Bachmann, Cain initially said marriage equality was a states-rights issue. He even said he would not want a federal constitutional amendment. Then, once he became a front-runner, he changed his position, saying there should be a federal law "protecting" marriage as one man and one woman. The irony, of course, was that his campaign fell apart over allegations that Cain was married to one woman while having an affair with another and perhaps sexually harassing several more. He announced in early December that he was "suspending" his campaign.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry came into the race after the Iowa straw poll and immediately jumped to front-runner status. Initially, Perry also sounded like he might try to moderate his views on gays a little, suggesting maybe the marriage issue should be left to the states. He was never a moderate on gay issues, and his recent ad in Iowa—pitting gays in the military as an opposite to children celebrating Christmas—established that point. But Perry's campaign self-destructed in the debates, where he proved himself stunningly inarticulate and unable to recall his own positions.

As all the other candidates sank by their own weight, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gin-

grich rose to front-runner status in December, and prematurely declared himself the nominee apparent. On gay-related positions, he's essentially the same as the other GOP contenders, but Gingrich added one unique shocker this month: He said that, as president, he might ignore a court ruling that supported marriage equality for same-sex couples. This speak-before-you-think tendency has damaged his already history-ravaged credibility, and he's been sliding down the polls.

Finally, there's former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Romney is the candidate who is considered by most political pundits as the most viable challenger to President Obama. He's been an elected official, founded an investment firm, funded the start-up of many businesses (read: "job creator"), managed the international Olympic Games, and appears to be a happily married man and devoted father. However, polls indicate Republican voters just haven't warmed up to him, and many pundits believe it's because voters don't trust Romney to be as conservative as he talks.

Romney was challenged on this perception during the last debate of the year. Fox News reporter Chris Wallace noted that, while Romney opposes same-sex marriage now, he promised, while running against Ted Kennedy for the U.S. Senate in 1994, to be an "effective leader" in the fight for "full equality" for gay and lesbian Americans. Romney said his position had not changed—that he still doesn't believe in discriminating against people based on their sexual orientation, and that he has always opposed same-sex marriage, something voters in Massachusetts can confirm.

But while LGBT voters might buy that Romney isn't a flip-flopper on LGBT issues, they're likely to see in his positions a tendency toward self-contradiction: He's opposed to discriminating based on sexual orientation, but he's for denying equal treatment to gay couples obtaining marriage licenses.

Among LGBT Republican and conservative voters, there appears to be a split. Log Cabin Republicans recently criticized Romney for suggesting that, if a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage was enacted, he'd support allowing existing marriage licenses to same-sex couples remain valid, but not future ones. Three days later, GOProud, a conservative gay group, praised Romney for his positions on "free markets and free enterprise."

Romney is second in the national polling for the Republican nomination, second in Iowa polling, and has a significant lead in New Hampshire. In polling against a potential race with President Obama, Romney has consistently been just three points behind the incumbent, and, with a roughly three-point margin of error, that's

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NATIONAL NEWS

—Gay-rights plaintiff Lawrence dies

—Rick Santorum (left) plans to win gay vote

—Gay murder case ends in mistrial

a very close race. Among voters in general, he's a contender. And in a close general election, the LGBT vote—including the one in four who are likely to vote Republican—can make enough of a difference that neither candidate can write this constituency off.

But it's too soon to start counting those votes. Presidential campaigns are unpredictable. On Dec. 24, news emerged that both Gingrich and Perry failed to garner enough signatures to qualify for the Virginia Republican primary—an embarrassing and potentially consequential failure. Associated Press called it a "major setback" for Gingrich, who is in a head-to-head battle with Romney in the polling.

Also, presidential campaigns are entertaining. On Dec. 22, a man dressed in a silver robot suit showed up at a Bachmann event in Iowa to deliver his message against her hostile positions on gay-related issues.

He said, "Michele Bachmann, I will not rest until you support equal rights for human and robot gay people."

"You are a homophobe, you are a robo-phobe," said the man, according to a video of the interaction. A very crowded restaurant booed the man soundly and told him to "get out of here."

"I was programmed to do this. I cannot help myself. I am gay," said the gay robot, to which someone seemed to yell, "Stay in the closet."

A woman's voice can be heard saying, "Just let him go. Let him go peacefully." A woman at the door, as he's passed through, patted him on the back and said, "Good work, thanks."

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## Occupy Atlanta saves lesbian vet's home

Occupy Atlanta protesters convinced Chase Bank to save lesbian Iraq War vet Brigitte Walker's Riverdale, Ga., home, according to SheWired.com.

The protesters started camping out at Walker's home Dec. 6; a week later, discussions with the bank took place. Chase eventually agreed to modify the mortgage on Walker's home, where she lives with her girlfriend and her two children.

According to a press release, Walker is a decorated staff sergeant who served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades and was deployed all over the world, including in Bosnia, Korea, Egypt and Kuwait. In 2004, she suffered spinal injuries while serving in the first wave in Iraq, and was medically retired from the military in 2007, substantially reducing her income.

"I feel a lot of stress is off me now. I feel like now we can celebrate the holidays," Walker said.

## Korean ordinance helps LGBT people

In South Korea, the Seoul Metropolitan Council passed an ordinance granting more rights to students, the Korea Herald reported. Until the ordinance was passed, certain groups protested four disputed points of the ordinance: respect of students' sexual orientation, pregnancy and childbirth, religion and the right to hold collective protests.

According to a letter that Windy City Times obtained from activist Jihye Kim, "the Seoul Student Rights Ordinance was not the first one that contained clauses on LGBT students. There were two other local ordinances that contained such non-discrimination clauses. However, that did not have actual impact on students, because the ordinances were not something that we won through this kind of fight. The SOGI [sexual orientation and gender identity] did not become an issue, and the language in the ordinances remained as if dead letters.

"The Seoul ordinance is different. We fought, and we won. We debated, and we taught people."

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# Gay Republican presidential candidate returns to Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

Fred Karger returned home to Chicago Dec. 18 to meet with family, friends and supporters.

"It's kind of a full circle, particularly having been in the closet when I was [last living] here," he said minutes before a fundraiser and book-signing, held at the downtown home of Mary Lu and Ken Roffe. "My heart still pounds a little, because this is still new, even at 61. All of these steps that I am taking are very important for me personally and, more important, for the community that I'm hoping to help."

Karger, after all, is running for president of the U.S., although he is certainly realistic about his chances.

"I hope to be able to send the message to people that, yes, you can do anything that you want to do, regardless if you are gay, lesbian, bisexual [or] transgender. You can even run for President of the United States," said Karger, who grew up in suburban Glencoe and graduated from New Trier High School. "It's always nice coming home."

Karger's longest of long-shot dreams now stands at two—two ballots, that is. He is on the ballot for the New Hampshire primary Jan. 10, where he has focused his campaigning, and in Michigan Feb. 28, along with 11 other candidates.

"Every state is different [for getting on its primary ballot]," he said. "Some are very costly, so I'm picking and choosing which states to [try to] get on the ballot because we have limited resources."

Still, Karger said, "the response has been incredible," to his ambitious dream. "In New Hampshire, I'm tied with Rick Santorum in one poll. I was tied with Michele Bachmann. I'm hoping to do better than one or both of those [candidates] in New Hampshire."

Karger's biggest obstacle, or at least one of them, is notoriety—or the lack of it. In fact, his campaign slogan is, Fred Who?

Consequently, he's yet to be allowed into a debate.

"Just let me in one debate. What that could do with name identification" is immeasurable, he said.

"I don't expect to win [the New Hampshire primary], but, if I could beat a couple of these other candidates or do respectable, coming out of there, I could do OK."

The New Hampshire primary was rescheduled a month earlier from its original date of Feb. 14.

"I've always said, I'm not delusional; I don't think I'm going to win [the presidency]; however, if I get in the debate, [who knows what can happen.] This field now is just mediocre. One person rises, then comes crashing down. Then there's a new flavor of the week," Karger said. "Since day one, I've said that I want to send a message, particularly to younger people."

To that, he visited Minibar [Lounge & Café], among other Lakeview bars, Dec. 17.

"I'm hoping for a celebrity endorsement," Karger added. "There are a few things that, any one of them, could be a real game-changer for me. But, nonetheless, this has been an incredible experience for me."

Karger's campaign trail to this point has been focused on high school and colleges, plus grassroots campaigning, he said. Karger has been going door to door, meeting voters, particularly in New Hampshire. He will be back in New Hampshire from the day after Christmas through the primary.

Karger's campaign trail has spanned the past 22 months, and he now boasts a combined six

full- and part-time supporters, plus consultants, he said.

## Fred Karger on multiple subjects:

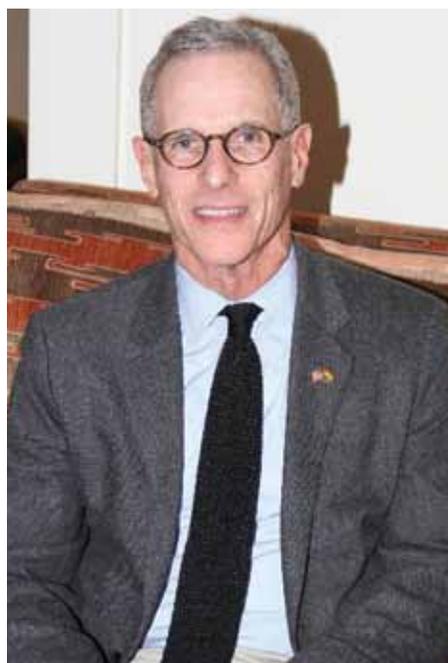
—President Obama, from an LGBT perspective:

"I give him about [a grade of] a C. He had his opportunity [during] his first two years [in office] with a Democratic Congress, and yet all we got was the Matthew Shepard Act, [signed in October, 2009.] That was the easiest of his four [LGBT initiatives]. Don't Ask Don't Tell, he gave up on that, absolutely. Instead, it was [Senators] Susan Collins and Joe Lieberman who got that done. If not for them, it would not have happened."

"I love what [Obama has] done on DOMA, [the Defense of Marriage Act.]

"I am still hard pressed to believe that HRC endorsed him without getting his agreement to come out [in support of same-sex] marriage. He supported [same-sex] marriage in 1996, filled out two questionnaires and supported it. Now he's gone the other way."

"Something that affects so many lives, he



Fred Karger in Chicago. Photo by Ross Forman

shouldn't compromise on. That's something I don't do. Sure, I'm in a very different position [than Obama], but I stick to my guns and though people don't agree with everything that I say, I think they respect me because I'll tell them what I feel on issues."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech in early December on International Human Rights Day:

## Ellen and Target team up—but questions linger about the company

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Target and viewers of The Ellen DeGeneres Show have teamed to give \$5 million to schools in need. However, questions still linger about Target's political donations to anti-LGBT candidates in the wake of their donation last year to Minnesota Forward, a pro-business group who had ties to anti-LGBT Minnesota GOP gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer. (He lost the election to pro-LGBT democrat Mark Dayton.)

In the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC's) recently released Corporate Equality Index (CEI) for 2012, Target received an 85-percent rating. Fred Sainz, HRC vice-president of communications said, "Target was docked 15 points from last year's CEI because of the political contributions they made to Minnesota Forward."

"When last year's CEI was released we made clear that this product is a measure of workplace equality and that it should not, and will not, factor in political contributions. This year, based on the most stringent criteria in CEI history including transgender-inclusive healthcare coverage Target performed exceptionally well at 85 percent. Target continues to be an exemplary employer for LGBT people and its workplace practices continue to transform workplaces to include other public and private employers as well as affect public attitudes toward issues important to the LGBT community."

Although HRC does not include a company's political contributions in its scoring criteria it should be noted that, according to the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) disclosure reports regarding political donations made by Target Citizens Political Action Committee (PAC), Target is still donating to anti-LGBT politicians and PACs.

Political giving in the year 2011 by Target Citizens PAC was split evenly between anti-LGBT and pro-LGBT politicians and PACs. Some of the anti-LGBT politicians who received money

from Target Citizen's PAC in 2011 included Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C.; Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.; Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill.; and Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., among others.

Conversely, some of the pro-LGBT politicians who received money from Target Citizen's PAC in 2011 were Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I.

Missing from the list of past recipients is current presidential candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn. Also, the other Republican candidates for president and President Barack Obama did not receive donations from Target Citizen's PAC in 2011.

According to the FEC report on individual contributions to political committees or politicians, Target CEO Gregg Steinhafel did not donate to Bachmann in 2011 after donating to her previously. He did however, make a donation to anti-LGBT politician Rep. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn., in March 2011 but this was the only donation Steinhafel made to a political candidate since 2011 began. Steinhafel's only other political donation in 2011 was to the Retail Industry Leaders Association PAC.

Target spokesperson Molly Snyder said, "Target is proud and excited to have a partnership with Ellen DeGeneres as we all share a tremendous commitment to raising awareness about the importance of education."

When asked about political donations, Snyder said that Target Citizen's PAC is funded through the voluntary efforts of its team members and is very bipartisan. "In the 2009-2010 election cycle, the PAC contributions went 50 percent to Democrats, 48 percent to Republicans and 2 percent to nonpartisan retail trade associations," said Snyder.

When reached for a comment regarding Target and its political donations to anti-gay politicians and candidates in recent years, a representative for Ellen DeGeneres and the Ellen DeGeneres Show did not respond.

"That was one of the proudest moments to be watching her speak. It was total shock and awe to be coming out of [the mouth of] our Secretary of State, at the UN, in Geneva. That was such a significant message and a courageous effort. I do commend Obama for that; obviously that would not have happened without his OK."

—Personal life:

Karger said he's single—or, as he said laughing, "Confirmed bachelor."

"I am singularly focused on this [campaign]," he said. "I've dated plenty, been in a few great relationships and consider myself very lucky to have had those, which a lot of people don't. Right now I'm very content being single."

—Who is Fred Karger?:

"I am a fighter ... a nice guy, but don't cross me ... very aggressive ... I'm fun. I love people, especially kids. I love watching the excitement in what I'm doing. I love watching the displeasure in what I'm doing. I love going into meetings where people are uncomfortable, especially if they're meeting who they think is the first gay person they've ever met. ... I'm a complex individual, but I'm loyal and just feel that I'm doing this for all the right reasons."

"For the first time in my life, I'm able to sit here without any palpitations, talking to anyone, because I had a secret that I was hiding for so long [about my sexual orientation]. It is so freeing to be completely out, to wear this rainbow lapel pin everywhere I go. It is the greatest feeling I've ever had."

## El winter transgender social Jan. 21

The Equality Illinois Winter Season Transgender Community Social will take place Saturday, Jan. 21, 1-4 p.m., at the Mayne Stage Theater, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

The suggested donation is \$10 and includes light bites, drink specials and giveaways. The funds will go to support Equality Illinois' statewide work.

Email [info@eqil.org](mailto:info@eqil.org) for more information.

## Chicago House benefits from train

This year, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) holiday train continued its 20-year tradition of supporting worthy city-wide Chicago charitable organizations. Annually, CTA employees embrace the spirit of the holidays and donate time and money to purchase groceries and assemble food baskets that are distributed to organizations across the city. Chicago House was among the organizations that benefited from the exciting event, and Santa himself delivered 10 bountiful baskets of treats for Chicago House's Families, and for its after-school programs.



Chicago House's Jeremy Hilborn poses with a CTA holiday train conductor. Photo by Jared Bonnette/Chicago House

# Patrick Dati: Gacy survivor shares his story

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

Chicago resident Patrick Dati has been to hell and back. He nearly committed suicide twice. However, he lived to share his story, and now he's helping others heal from the pain of bullying and sexual abuse.

Dati told Windy City Times that he came from a strict, conservative Italian family. He said the family is extremely racist and homophobic: "It always confused and hurt me that they were like this."

"I was bullied by my brother" he added. "It began when I had bronchitis at 2. I was taken to the hospital, and I needed to get shots every week. My brother resented the attention I got and began to beat me daily."

"If Jeff's a faggot, then you must be too," Dati was told by his brother, in reference to a close childhood friend. "If Mike teases you, you kick his ass or I'll kick your ass."

However, the worst was yet to come. One day, while still a child, Dati found himself trapped in a locked public restroom with a man who put a knife to his throat and raped him. He was warned that if he ever spoke of the assault, he would be killed.



Patrick Dati.

Later that day, his brother found him at home, hiding in the closet, crying. Young Dati endured yet another beating.

Years later, while watching news reports, he realized that his restroom attacker was the notorious serial killer John Wayne Gacy.

"I nearly committed suicide over the guilt I felt about my silence, since he had killed 33 others," Dati now says. "I thought maybe I could have saved them if I had spoken up."

Dati expressed his disgust with the book about Gacy, *Defending a Monster*, which is now being optioned for a film: "It's awful. The book was written by Gacy's attorney. He's trying to benefit from defending a criminal who raped and killed. All he cares about is money."

Following his childhood, Dati had two failed marriages, one of which produced a daughter, now 15 years old. "She's the love of my life," he proclaims. When he finally came out as a gay man at age 41, his brother threatened to kill him, and he finally ended the relationships with his siblings. Of his marriages, he says. "I did what I thought I needed to do to be normal, to please my family. But I felt phony, depressed."

It was a long, hard road towards recovery. He's undergone years of therapy, which continues today. He's very close to his daughter, who has a friendly relationship with his siblings, which he accepts. He and his daughter do not speak of his past. His siblings consider him an embarrassment to the family.

Dati, now 48 years old, is happy at last. He lives as an out, proud gay man, and works diligently towards educating people about abuse and sexual violence. He's become an in-demand

public speaker on these topics, and has appeared on network news shows to share his story and speak out against bullying. He holds down a full-time job in the marketing industry, where he's respected. "They've seen my television interviews, and they support me," he said of his employers and co-workers. "My life is incredible now. People write to me. I was able to help a woman who contacted me get help."

One of his proudest achievements is to have been chosen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a spokesperson for its 2012 National Trauma Campaign. He's also associated with the National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Rainn—The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. He also said that a book is forthcoming, though the exact title of it has not yet been chosen.

"I'm doing exactly what I've dreamed of my whole life," Dati said. "I'm grateful to be helping other people."

For more information, visit <http://www.youandmecanstopbullies.com>.

## Chicago groups among Astraea grantees

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice has announced its U.S. annual fund docket—and three local organizations are among the grantees.

Amigas Latinas—a support, education and advocacy organization for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of Latina heritage—and the multi-generational, multiracial grassroots LGBTQIA organization Gender JUST each received \$10,000 grants.

The Young Women's Empowerment Project also received a \$10,000 grant.



Amigas Latinas gala.  
Photo by Mel Ferrand

# SWOOSH.

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# National events and people of '11

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

It certainly was an eventful year for the LGBT community on the national front. Here is the list of national highlights and lowlights for 2011:

—**Mr. Cicilline goes to Washington:** Providence, R.I., Mayor David Cicilline runs for the U.S. House—and becomes the fourth openly gay member in the legislative body, joining Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis.

—**Hero effect:** Openly gay intern Daniel Hernandez Jr. was credited for helping to save the life of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was among the many shot by Jared Lee Loughner.

—**Answer this:** President Obama was once again thrust into the fray involving same-sex marriage. Reporters asked the White House about a 1996 Windy City Times survey he completed when he ran for the Illinois Senate that showed that he once supported marriage equality; he now backs civil unions.

—**Aloha, civil unions:** In Hawaii, Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed SB232, which establishes civil unions for same- and different-sex couples. Civil unions will provide a full range of state law protections and duties to all unmarried couples, such as access to family court to resolve disputes in an orderly way and other vital family protections. The law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2012. Delaware and Rhode Island also OK'd civil unions, although some marriage-equality activists in the latter state saw the move as a concession.

—**Right said Fred:** The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment protects an anti-gay protester's demonstrations in close proximity to a private funeral service. The case, *Snyder v. Phelps*, arose out of a conflict around anti-gay activist the Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers staging loud and hate-filled protests near the funerals of American soldiers killed in Iraq.

—**Taking on bullying:** The White House held a high-visibility conference on bullying prevention March 10, with the president and first lady calling on parents, teachers, students and communities to address the problem together. Members of Congress also introduced several LGBT-inclusive bills designed to address bullying of students. In addition, several states passed anti-bullying measures.

—**The beginning of the ENDA:** U.S. Rep. Barney Frank reintroduced the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to the U.S. House, characterizing it as "winnable," while Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced the measure in the U.S. Senate. However, given the current chasm in the two-party system, the measure—which seeks to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity—has been the subject of much debate.

—**An attack in Maryland:** An attack on a transgender woman at a McDonald's restaurant in Baltimore County, Md., April 18 was videotaped and then went viral via the Internet, while the victim claims it was "definitely a hate crime." Chrissy Lee Polis, 22, stopped at the McDonald's to use the restroom, but was attacked by two females, including a 14-year-old girl, who repeatedly kicked and punched her. Polis also claimed they spit in her face. Other people in the restaurant were basically bystanders, with some laughing.

—**Prop and go:** The debate involving the California anti-marriage-equality initiative Prop 8 continued, with the year ending with a federal appeals court weighing the case. Many expect the case to go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

—**In effect:** The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 went into effect in September. President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Admiral Mike Mullen provided the certification required by the act to Congress, making the repeal possible.

—**Lemon aid:** CNN anchor Don Lemon, 45, officially came out of the closet in his book, *Transparent*. He also revealed the childhood abuse he suffered. He told Windy City Times, "Long story short, I started writing about my childhood and it became cathartic—and I realized this would've been a book that would've helped as a kid, when I was abused, all sorts of things came out."

—**Not exactly Southern hospitality:** Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam signed legislation prohibiting cities in the state from passing anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT individuals. Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said, "Haslam has put discrimination ahead of the state's values and even business interests by signing this horrible legislation."

The Tennessee state Senate passed bill SB0049, also known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, that would outlaw any discussions on homosexuality in classrooms from kindergarten to eighth grade. The state House will vote on the bill in January 2012.

—**Net gain:** Several sports figures came out of the closet in 2011, including NBA executive Rick Welts, who, at the time, headed the Phoenix Suns. (He's now with the Golden State Warriors.) The day after Welts came out, former Villanova basketball player Will Sheridan revealed he is gay. Soccer player David Testo also revealed his sexuality, as did Scott Norton, the Professional Bowlers Association Rookie of the Year.

—**Not funny:** Actor/comic Tracy Morgan went on an anti-gay rant during a stand-up act in Nashville. After much backlash (including from 30 Rock co-star Tina Fey), he apologized and met with GLAAD. "I know how bad bullying can hurt," Morgan said. "I was bullied when I was a kid. I'm sorry for what I said."

—**New York, New York:** On June 24, New York became the sixth and most populous state to legalize marriage for same-sex couples. After a tense several days beyond the scheduled end of the legislative session, in which it was unclear if Republican leaders in the state Senate would even allow a marriage bill to come up for a vote, the Senate voted 33-29 in favor of the bill. Gov. Andrew Cuomo quickly signed the measure. The law went into effect July 24.

—**School daze:** In a U.S. first, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that requires California public schools to teach about LGBT people's contributions to the economic, political and social development of California and the United States.

—**Games on:** In a case from the 2006 Chicago Gay Games, a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against a group of anti-gay protesters over two complaints they filed, but the court sent a third back to the courts for review. James Deferio, Ryan Murphy and Michael Marcavage—of religious organization Repent America—were arrested July 2006 for refusing to relocate their protests at three Gay Games events.

—**The race is on:** Openly lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., announced her official bid for the U.S. Senate. In a three-minute online video, she compared herself to retiring Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl and former Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold.

—**Proving her medal:** Lesbian mother Janice Langbehn was one of 13 recipients of the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal. The medal was established in 1969 to recognize American citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens.

—**Natural election:** Various elections took place nationally Nov. 8—and the LGBT commu-



Don Lemon.

nity scored some big victories. Among them were lesbian Houston Mayor Annise Parker being re-elected and openly gay Chapel Hill, N.C., Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt winning his re-election bid with 78 percent of the vote. In a race that had implications regarding Iowa's marriage-equality law, Democrat Liz Mathis defeated Republican Cindy Golding 56 percent to 44 percent; Democrats will keep a 26-24 edge through the 2012 legislative session.

—**Notes on a scandal:** Former longtime Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, 67, is facing charges that he sexually abused 12 boys. He is charged with, among other things, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse of someone under 16; aggravated indecent assault of someone under 16; and corruption of minors. The scandal also resulted in the firing of legendary football coach Joe Paterno.

## World news in 2011

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

There was a lot of push and pull, as everything happened from Belgium getting its first gay prime minister to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's historic pro-LGBT speech to the anti-gay actions of several African nations:

—**Leader killed:** David Kato, an openly gay human-rights activist and advocacy officer at Sexual Minorities Uganda, was attacked in his home in Mukono, Uganda, on Jan. 26, and died on his way to the hospital. Sidney Nsubuga Enoch was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years in prison Nov. 10.

—**Uganda's bill:** Uganda considered an anti-gay measure that would inflict the death penalty on those found guilty of "aggravated homosexuality." After much global outrage, Parliament adjourned in May 2011 without voting on the bill. The government voted to reopen debate on the bill later in the year.

—**Showing Pride:** Dozens of people (including Chicago gay-rights activist Andy Thayer) were arrested for participating in a banned gay-pride event in Moscow. As authorities arrested individuals, things became even more chaotic as an ultra-Orthodox group, described as skinheads, gathered in anticipation of the event and attacked the activists.

—**I declare:** The United Nations issued a declaration on HIV and AIDS. The declaration was the first General Assembly statement on AIDS to explicitly include men who have sex with men, breaking a pervasive silence about this population.

—**And then there's fraud:** Many followed the "saga" of the Syrian woman behind the

### Passages:

—**Barbara Grier:** Barbara Grier, co-founder of Naiad Press, died Nov. 10 of cancer at age 78. Generations of lesbians grew up on the novels of Naiad Press.

—**Elizabeth Taylor:** The legendary actress and AIDS activist died at age 79. Taylor won numerous awards over the years, and is seventh on the American Film Institute's Female Legends List. She won two Academy Awards for Best Actress (for *Butterfield 8* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), and the Jean Herscholt Humanitarian Award in 1992 for her AIDS work. Her own Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which she founded in 1991, raised an estimated \$50 million to fight the disease.

—**Frank Kameny:** One of the gay movement's most important pioneers, Dr. Franklin E. Kameny, died of natural causes; he was 86. Kameny, a World War II Army veteran, was among the first gays to protest outside of the White House, on April 17, 1965, and later the Pentagon, Independence Hall in Philadelphia and other institutions. He fought against anti-gay bias in federal hiring, against the American Psychiatric Association's classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder, against the District of Columbia's sodomy law and for a wide range of other LGBT rights.

—**Paula Ettelbrick:** Paula Ettelbrick, former legal director at Lambda Legal and a lifelong activist for LGBT equality and social justice, died after a long battle with cancer at age 56. She also worked for other organizations, such as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Empire State Pride Agenda and, most recently, the Stonewall Community Foundation.

Read the entire national news roundup online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

blog "A Gay Girl in Damascus," who was supposedly kidnapped—but it turned out that it was all a fraud. Tom MacMaster—a 40-year-old U.S. man from Georgia working on his master's degree at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland—had been writing the blog for years under the pseudonym "Amina Arraf." He later apologized on the blog.

—**The rights stuff:** In a speech to the United Nations Human Rights Council that pro-LGBT advocates have called extraordinary, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for the fight for LGBT rights to be a foreign-policy priority. "Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," said Clinton. "It is a violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave."

—**Stepping down:** In Russia, gay-rights activist Nikolay Alekseyev stepped down as head of Moscow Pride. Alekseyev, 34—the author of two books on gay rights in the U.S. Library of Congress—has fought homophobia for years and has endured slander and even kidnapping. Nikolai Baev, who succeeds Alekseyev, said the reason he left "is totally personal. He just decided to change his activity and lifestyle, and he has a full right to this."

—**Pioneer:** In Denmark, gay-rights pioneer Axel Axlil died at the age of 96. Axlil (born Axel Lundahl-Madsen) co-founded LGBT Danmark in 1948, making it one of the oldest gay-rights groups in Europe. On Oct. 1, 1989, he and his partner Eigil—who died in 1995—were among 11 couples to exchange vows as Denmark became the first country to allow gays to enter civil unions.

Read the entire list of world news highlights online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

## LOCAL NEWS from cover

runoff election in April. The 46th Ward race got ugly at the end, with some accusing Phelan of distributing flyers with homophobic undertones against Cappleman. Cappleman is the first gay individual to be elected initially. (Tom Tunney, the first out gay alderman, was appointed a month before being elected in 2003.)

—**Yestergay:** The Chicago History Museum unveiled the first major LGBT history project undertaken by a mainstream urban history museum in U.S. history, *Out in Chicago*. The exhibit documented the LGBT community over the past century and a half and featured prominent local LGBT activists.

—**Roller-coaster:** Coming off a series of financial catastrophes in 2010, Howard Brown Health Center spent the year in recovery mode, but not without a new set of controversies that suggests the organization may be increasingly media-shy. HBHC saw the turnover of eight senior level staffers and the loss of major youth-specific transgender funding. Windy City Times received reports that many Brown Elephant employees have had their hours cut, making them ineligible for health benefits. Windy City Times reported on HBHC extensively this year, and in late October CEO Jamal Edwards announced that due to coverage, HBHC would no longer carry the paper at any of their locations.

—**Proud mess:** Chicago's 42nd annual Pride Parade saw unprecedented turnout and unprecedented chaos as an estimated 750,000 sardined into Boystown. Organizers woke to discover that the tires on 51 floats had been slashed, and matters got worse when crowds that were packed in at Belmont and Halsted exploded onto the route blocking parade traffic.

So severe were the problems in 2011 that months after the event, organizers announced a new route and moved the start time back from noon to 10 a.m. in an effort to curb drinking in 2012. Not all were excited about the parade changes; Our Lady of Mount Carmel complained that they would disrupt Sunday services. Controversy ensued, and organizers moved the start



IML 2011. Photo by Andrew Davis

time back to noon in response.

—**Take Back Boystown:** A string of violent incidents in Lakeview over the summer exploded controversy when residents started a Facebook page called "Take Back Boystown," following the Pride Parade. Following, two residents caught a late night Halsted Street stabbing on tape and leaked it to major media outlets. An estimated 700 people packed the neighborhood's Community Alternative Policing Strategies meeting in the neighborhood days later, throwing the LGBT community into a heated debate about crime, violence, racism and queer homeless youth. The result was a summer-long screaming match between concerned residents and youth advocates in a debate that seemed to embroil everyone, including Windy City Times.

—**Daddy more bucks:** International Mr. Leather (IML) drew the scorn of some activists when the annual event continued at the Hyatt Regency downtown, despite a workers boycott on the hotel. IML organizers said its contract could not be broken and that an alternate location could not accommodate the thousands who flock to the annual event.

—**Family ties:** HIV/AIDS-service organization

Vital Bridges merged with the Heartland Alliance in July, a move that advocates say bolstered the services of both organizations and secured the financial future of Vital Bridges for years to come.

—**Walking history:** LGBT leaders kicked off efforts to establish a walking LGBT history museum along Halsted Street in Boystown. The Legacy Walk, which will feature plaques about historically-significant LGBT people and events, is scheduled to unveil on Lakeview's rainbow pylons in 2013.

—**Oh, holy fight:** A group of Illinois Catholic Charities lost state foster care contracts after refusing to place children with civil union couples. The Charities sued the state, lost and finally dropped their appeal in November, after repeated attempts to amend civil-union law in the Illinois House failed. New faith-based agencies will take on the caseloads of the of those dioceses.

—**Good Greaves:** First-term Mayor Rahm Emanuel gave the boot to the City's Advisory Council on LGBT Issues, taking with it its 11-year director, Bill Greaves. Greaves and the otherwise all-volunteer council were cut in the 2012 city budget amid community protest. The new Council on Gender and LGBT Issues, which also replaces the council on women's issues, will take its place in January.

#### Passages

—**Roger "RJ" Chaffin:** One of Chicago's most prominent gay businesspeople, Chaffin, 59, died in June after a short illness. Chaffin directed International Mr. Leather for 18 years and helped to raise thousands of dollars for AIDS and LGBT organizations.

—**Christina Santiago:** A well-known LGBT advocate and the manager of programming for Howard Brown Health Center's Lesbian Community Care Project, Santiago died in August when strong winds toppled a concert stage at the Indiana State Fair, killing seven. Santiago was 29 years old. Santiago was active in Amigas Latinas as board programming chair, and she helped organize Dyke March Chicago. Santiago's wife, Alisha Brennon, survived the collapse. Brennon has filed suit against the companies involved in concert, a challenge to Indiana's lack of same-sex partner recognition, she said.

—**Iftikhar "Ifti" Nasim:** A Pakistani-born poet, radio host and gay activist, Nasim died in July following a sudden illness; he was 64. Best known for his award-winning poetry and over-the-top style, Nasim maintained a vivid presence in Chicago's LGBT scene for the past 35 years. He founded Sangat Chicago, a South Asian LGBT organization, and was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1996.

—**Lois Bates:** A pillar in Chicago's transgender community, Bates died in November at age 41.



Lois Bates. Photo by Hal Baim

She was an active member of Lakeview Action Coalition and was a co-founder of the Chicago Transgender Coalition. Her past work included serving as program director of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project and as vice president of Chicago Windy City Black Pride. She also served on the HIV Prevention Planning Group as well as the Chicago Area Ryan White Services Planning Council. In addition, Bates was a minister and a member of the Pillar of Love Fellowship United Church of Christ.

—**Paul Varnell:** A longtime Chicago-based activist/journalist, Varnell died in December due to complications of pneumonia and a stroke. Varnell penned items for Windy City Times and Chicago Free Press among other publications.

Read the entire list of news highlights and passages online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

#### PASSAGES

### Barbara Wold

BY KATE SOSIN

Barbara Wold, a lesbian progressive activist who made a name for herself as a blogger and advocate for LGBT rights died Dec. 18. She was 63.

A native Chicagoan who later moved to Albuquerque, N.M., Wold passed away after a two-month battle with metastatic colon cancer. She is survived by her partner, Mary Ellen Broderick.

Wold was best known for her blog Democracy for New Mexico, which she founded with Broderick at the urging of former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

"She was a force to be reckoned with," said Broderick. "I don't know that she knew what a big voice she had."

Wold grew up in Chicago and attended Edwin G. Foreman High School. She went on to receive her B.A. in English from the University of Chicago. She played 16-inch softball in Chicago during her youth. She left Chicago in 1981, estranged from her family after coming out as a lesbian, Broderick said.

In 1989, she met Broderick while living for a brief period of time in Boston. Two relocated to Albuquerque in the early 1990s.

Wold made her living as a technical writer, but in her spare time, Wold penned hundreds of blog posts on national and local politics, earning a name among prominent politicians and activists.

She cared deeply about marriage equality and repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, said Broderick. She wrote passionately on the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other major LGBT issues over the years.

In September, she was diagnosed with cancer, and she began preparing Broderick to take over the writing of the blog.

"I never expected her to pass away so suddenly," said Broderick.

According to Broderick, Wold woke on the morning of Dec. 18 and ate a light breakfast. Broderick left on a brief errand. When she returned 10 minutes later, Wold was gone. Broderick looked at Wold's computer to see what she had been reading at the time of her death. She had been looking up information on local politics.

Howard Dean called their house after hearing about Wold and offered his condolences.

Broderick said she intends to continue Wold's blog. She also believes that Wold may still have family in the Chicago area. Wold never reconciled with them after she came out as a lesbian, Broderick said. However, Broderick hopes to hear from them.



Barbara Wold. Photo from Mary Ellen Broderick



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# Springfield votes against benefits for civil-union couples

BY KATE SOSIN

In a move shocking LGBT-rights groups in Illinois, Springfield's city government has voted not to extend health benefits to civil-union spouses.

The Joint Labor/Management Health Care Committee, a Springfield committee comprised of staffers from various city positions as well as retirees, voted to keep its current eligibility standards for insurance. But despite civil union law, which extended the same legal rights as marriage to same-sex partners in June, Springfield's benefits have not included civil-union partners this year.

The committee voted against extending those benefits in its upcoming fiscal year, which begins March 1.

"It was decided strictly as a cost-saving measure to not expand the benefits at this time," said committee co-chair Melina Tomaras-Collins who is also the city's director of human resources. "The City of Springfield is facing serious financial constraints."

Officials said that according to an actuary, the bill for extending such benefits would total \$725,000, or an increase of 3.4 percent. The cost of insurance is already set to rise by 3.75 percent for the city.

Tomaras-Collins said that to date, no one has asked the city for benefits for a civil union partner. She said the committee took that fact into account when it voted unanimously not to extend its benefits.

City officials believe the vote is legal because Springfield has self-funded insurance, meaning money is put aside by the city in anticipation of covering benefit costs, rather than purchased commercially. The city pays the cost of 75 percent of that coverage, with employees making up the difference.

It remains uncertain how an actuary totaled the cost of civil-union benefits (both same-sex and opposite sex) at \$725,000, something that both Tomaras-Collins and City Budget Director Bill McCarty said they need clarification on.

Asked for a copy of the actuary's report, Tomaras-Collins said a full report has not yet been released.

Because the city is self-insured, however she said, it would have to set aside the money anticipated by the actuary, even if no one has yet requested civil-union benefits.

"It's not an issue of what's right or wrong," she said. "It becomes a matter of what you can do with resources you have."

"They did not want to increase the rolls," added McCarty, who does not sit on the committee.

"They didn't take away anything."

Illinois LGBT advocacy groups criticized the decision as contrary to the letter and spirit of civil union law.

Christopher Clark, an attorney with Lambda Legal called the vote "an active decision to discriminate against civil union couples."

"This is a blatant disregard of the civil union law which provides couples in a civil union the same benefits as married couples," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda in a statement. "With this vote, the committee has shown that they are willing to openly discriminate, which is also against the law in Illinois."

Others have called into question the legality of denying benefits to civil-union spouses.

Part of the problem, said Clark, is that federal law does nothing to prevent Springfield from denying such benefits to same-sex couples in civil unions. Clark said that the city might duck behind federal laws which preempt state laws and do not recognize same-sex spouses.

Still, he argued, budget problems should not be put on the backs of one segment of the population. He believes the vote might violate state civil union and anti-discrimination laws, but he said Lambda Legal is still looking at the fine print.

"It's simply unfair," he said.

Tomaras-Collins said it has been the practice of the committee to follow federal mandate on such issues, and that past debates on health benefits have deferred to federal standards.

According to McCarty, there has been talk among some alderman of introducing a city ordinance to overturn the vote.

## Midway priest accused of abuse

Father Bede R. Jagoe—a 77-year-old priest assigned to the chapel at Chicago's Midway Airport—has been charged with criminal sexual abuse after he allegedly attempted to grab the genitals of a man who had attended services before taking a flight to Kansas, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Jagoe reportedly talked with the alleged victim, 54, after services Dec. 11.

As they boarded an elevator, Jagoe allegedly told the man he was attracted to him and tried to kiss him on the mouth, then "grabbed [the victim's] testicles," prosecutors stated.

## PASSAGES

### Dione Deshawn Moody

BY KATE SOSIN

A rising luminary in Chicago's fashion scene, Dione Deshawn Moody died Dec. 19, during what appeared to be a robbery near his South Shore apartment. He was 31 years old.

Moody is survived by his partner, Keon Nickie, and 10 siblings.

Moody was born and raised on the West and South sides of Chicago and attended Wendell



Dione Deshawn Moody. Photo by Dave Ouano

Phillips Academy High School. He graduated from Robert Morris College and earned a living as a flight attendant, most recently with Express Jet Airlines.

However, most remember him for his work as a fashion stylist.

"He had a lot going on," said Nickie. "He always wanted to do so much. ... At times I couldn't keep up."

Moody had dreams of opening his own fashion boutique. He also worked as a blogger and writer, and was active with GLO TV Network, an LGBT urban network.

"He was a take-charge type of guy," said his mother, Veronica Moody. "I'm proud of the accomplishments that he made."

Veronica Moody described her son as deeply committed to his family. She said that over the years, he kept that family together.

Now, she said, her family will support his partner. The two lived together for two years.

They met three years ago, said Nickie, on Nov. 9, a day after Moody's birthday. A month later, Moody put a ring on Nickie's finger and told him that he was his, alone.

"He was a really loving, kind-hearted person," said Nickie. "He always put himself last."

Moody and Nickie were inseparable, Nickie said. The two had planned to get married.

"I'm devastated," Nickie said.

Veronica Moody felt that her son was just starting to carve his place in the world. He had a lot going on, and he was happy personally and professionally.

Moody was shot and killed in what appeared to be a robbery. According to police, the incident happened at 5:40 p.m. at the 2000 block at East 68th Street. Police could not confirm the motive, but a spokesperson for the Chicago Police Department said that the incident is being investigated as a homicide.

"It's hard to swallow," said Veronica Moody, who spoke with her son the morning he died about their plans for Christmas. She lives in Milwaukee, and the two were trying to figure out how to spend the holiday in the same city.

Her son's murder does not make sense, she said. Moody was a giving person. No matter happened on 68th Street that night, Veronica Moody is sure of one thing: There was no reason to shoot her son. "Whatever they wanted, all they had to do was ask him for it," she said.

## Heterosexuals getting civil unions in support of LGBTs

BY KATE SOSIN

Heterosexual couples in Cook County are opting for civil unions over marriages in support of LGBT rights, according to a recent survey conducted by Cook County Clerk David Orr.

Twenty-six percent of the 46 people surveyed by Orr's office said that they got civil unions in solidarity with LGBT people, making it the number-one reason why opposite-sex couples get civil unions in Cook County rather than marry.

"The fact that over one in four opposite-sex

couples in Cook County chose to obtain a civil union over marriage out of solidarity with their LGBT friends, family, and neighbors tells so much about how far we have come," Randy Hannig, director of public policy at Equality Illinois, in a statement.

"Some heterosexual couples are clearly making a statement when they are civilly united rather than married," Orr said in a statement. "One respondent put it best when she said this decision was in solidarity with the gay community until they also have the option of getting married."

A total of 138 heterosexual couples have opted for civil unions over marriages in Cook County, although just a percentage of them participated in the survey. More than 1,856 couples have obtained civil union licenses since they became available in June.

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Dear Friends,

The new year will mark a milestone for all of us here at **ChicagoPride.com**. It was 10 years ago that we set out to bring the best in news, events coverage, local guides and feature entertainment to the LGBT communities in America's heartland.

Over the last decade we have proudly committed our efforts to ensuring broad-based, fair coverage to timely items impacting our community. We have celebrated triumphs with you and shed tears with you all in an effort to be a leader in responsible journalism in Chicago and beyond. It is your unwavering support that has made us the most-visited LGBT internet news and entertainment site in the Midwest.

As we embark on our next 10 years, we will continue to serve you, our community, with the same tireless zeal you have come to expect from us.

And during this season of family and friendship, we would like to take a moment to thank you - our visitors, our contributors, our supporters and our partners.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season. We look forward to celebrating the continued journey with you throughout 2012.

All our love,

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# Cardinal angers LGBTs in comparing Parade to KKK, but start time changed

BY KATE SOSIN

In an agreement reached between organizers and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the start time of the 2012 Pride Parade has been moved back to its original noon kickoff time.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel had asked organizers and 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney to reconsider recently announced changes to the parade, which would have passed the doorway of the church during service. The changes included moving the start time of the parade from noon to 10 a.m. to curb public drinking.

"We met with representatives from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church [recently] to hear the



Cardinal George gave mass for AGLO in 2004. Photo by Tracy Baim

parish's concerns about the proposed changes to the 2012 Gay Pride Parade," said Tunney in a statement. "We discussed moving the start time back to noon to help accommodate Sunday services along the parade route. After consulting with the various city departments, we believe this is an agreeable compromise to help keep the parade safe and manageable while respecting the diversity of our neighborhood."

The parade will still take place on the last Sunday in June. Last year's event attracted more than 750,000 people, resulting in what many felt was an overcrowding of the neighborhood.

Several fistfights broke out along the parade route in 2011 and, in one incident, a group of seven people jumped on an SUV until its windshield cracked. Further, so many people attempted to sardine into the area at Belmont and Halsted, that crowds overtook the route, and the last 50 floats were diverted by police.

Responding to such issues in 2011, Tunney; Richard Pfeiffer, who organizes the parade; and

city officials met and rewrote the parade route, also moving the start time up two hours in hopes that parade-goers would be less likely to drink at 10 a.m. than at noon.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church worried the early start time and new route would make it difficult for parishioners to get to church that day. The church launched a petition and phone campaign to Tunney on the matter.

"The Sunday morning for us is sacred," Father Thomas Srenn of Mount Carmel, told Windy City Times. Srenn said that contrary to rumors, the church would not protest parade. Rather he said, he wanted organizers to reconsider the start time.

Srenn said that the agreement satisfies his church's concerns. "It was a good and reasonable solution that we all came to," said Srenn.

However, the debate turned ugly in recent days when Fox News reported that Cardinal Francis George weighed in and compared Pride to a Klan gathering.

The cardinal told Fox News Chicago that he, too, disapproves of the changes.

"You don't want the gay-liberation movement to morph into something like the Ku Klux Klan, demonstrating in the streets against Catholicism," he said.

In a press release, LGBT Catholic organization Rainbow Sash Movement sounded off against the cardinal's comments.

"Cardinal George wants to promote a doubled standard when it comes to the Gay Pride Parade," the statement read. "One only has the look at the Chicago Marathon, and negative impact that race has on parishes such as Assumption Parish, St. Joseph's Parish, Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Michael's Parish just to name a few."

It is not the first time that the LGBT community has sparred with the cardinal. In 2004, his Chicago home was the target of a protest in coordination with a national Valentine's Day demonstration for LGBT rights, after the Vatican took a harsh stance against LGBT families in 2003.

In response, the cardinal asked to meet with members of Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach Chicago (AGLO). The result was a Sunday mass of 400 people with AGLO. But some of the cardinal's statements struck a nerve with worshippers, and a dozen of them walked out.

"Marriage is a lifelong union between a man and woman, not something the states can change," George said at the mass. "In other instances the church describes homosexual actions in terms that are offensive to many in the gay community and many outside of it as well.

I believe that such descriptions are valid. ... But if I do not believe the church's understanding of human sexuality, accept her moral teaching, believing it to be true, I will resign as archbishop, as a matter of my own integrity."

Many said that George's recent comments went much further, and some argued that his recent statement ignored the strong presence of Chicagoans who are both Catholic and LGBT-identified.

Srenn declined to comment on the cardinal's remarks. "I don't want the issue to get bigger than what we're trying to do here," he said.

Srenn said he has not been in direct communication with the cardi-

nal regarding Pride issues. He said that he notified the cardinal's press office when news of the debate between the church and parade organizers spread early in December.

"It really was a local matter more than anything else," he said.

Openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris called the cardinal's comment "unfortunate." Still, he said he wants to separate Cardinal George's comments from others involved in the conversation.

"No one from Mount Carmel said anything like [the cardinal's remark]," Harris said.

Harris added that many people he spoke with did not like the new proposed time for the Pride Parade.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel hosts AGLO, and Srenn said that reservations about the event had nothing to do with the content of the parade.

According to ABC 7 News, George toned down

his controversial sentiments on Christmas day.

"Obviously, it's absurd to say that the gay and lesbian community are the Ku Klux Klan," he said. "But if you organize a parade that looks like parades we've had in our past because it stops us from worshipping God, well then that's a comparison, but it's not people-people; it's parade-parade."

In recent days, many LGBT activists have called on George to step down. In mid-January, George will offer to just that, but not because of recent controversies involving LGBT people. The cardinal turns 75 at on Jan. 16, and it is standard procedure for Catholic clergy to offer their resignations at that time.

Still, George could remain in his position for much longer. The pope will make the final call as to when George's resignation is accepted.

## LGBT groups react to cardinal's remarks

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

Cardinal Francis George angered many LGBT activists in Chicago and beyond, when Fox News Chicago quoted him comparing gay liberation to the Klu Klux Klan.

"You don't want the gay liberation movement to morph into something like the Ku Klux Klan, demonstrating in the streets against Catholicism," the Cardinal said, weighing in on a debate the start time of Chicago's Pride Parade.

Local and national groups responded to the remarks in a flurry of press releases:

—**Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda:** "The Cardinal's remarks are offensive and bombastic. To equate the LGBT movement for civil rights with that of a terrorist organization is incredibly offensive. I challenge the Cardinal to show me how these remarks are Christian... Comments such as these only further perpetuate the hate-filled rhetoric that surrounds the public and religious debate with regards to LGBT personhood and relationships, as opposed to opening up an honest and meaningful dialogue."

—**Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD):** "The vast majority of Catholics agree that LGBT people are as welcome in the church as anyone else. At a time when Christians around the world are celebrating

love and peace, the cardinal's remarks about the KKK seem particularly out of touch."

—**Wayne Besen, executive director of Truth Wins Out:** "Cardinal George's outrageous comparison of the LGBT community to the Ku Klux Klan was so degrading and hurtful that apologizing will not be sufficient. George's only road to redemption is handing in his resignation. If he has a shred of dignity and a shard of class he will immediately step down."

—**Chris Pett, president of Dignity/Chicago:** "The fact is the LGBT community is not the enemy nor have we called the Catholic Church our enemy. This is another attempt to make the church appear to be the victim when so many LGBT people and youths have been victimized by the church's exclusion and intolerance. As LGBT Catholics, we at Dignity/Chicago have experienced both great love and acceptance in the Catholic Church, but also dishonesty and condemnation from many of our churches leaders. If there is hostility in the gay community toward the Church, then the remedy from the Church is love."

—**Rev. Eric Lee, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference:** "I have spent most of my adult life engaged in the civil rights struggle for African American people who have been terrorized by racist Klan violence. I am insulted by the comparison of the Klan to the current LGBT movement. When we distort the history of terror for cheap political aims, we only inflict pain on those whose lives have been scarred by the Klan."



## Protesting Cardinal George in 2004

About 150 supporters of same-sex marriage marched and rallied on the sidewalk across the street from the residence of Cardinal Francis George for Valentine's Day in 2004. The Catholic leader had spoken against the Illinois same-sex bill and equal marriage rights for gays. The rally in Chicago was part of a nationwide series of protests for same-sex marriage. Richard Mell, alderman for the 33rd Ward, and his daughter, Deborah (now a state representative), attended the rally and he spoke in favor of same-sex unions. Photo by Tracy Baim

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**GAY** *in the*  
**LIFE**

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KIRK WILLIAMSON



Real estate agent  
**Todd Davidson**



For the purposes of this article, we'll start Todd Davidson's day at night. On this particular night, Todd is dancing at Charlie's as part of FurrLesque, the hirsute dance troupe which builds upon the rich tradition of burlesque, giving it a manly makeover. A self-professed lover of dancing (as his college dance resume will attest), Todd gladly joined up with his friend Rick Heintz, the founder of the troupe. "He had created several successful events in Chicago, and was looking to do something different. We started in February, 2011, rehearsing in backrooms of bars and a couple art/theater company spaces. Our first show was at the grand opening of 'Out in Chicago' at the Chicago History Museum. We had a blast, and have done about 20 shows since then here in Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and Saugatuck."



When Todd is rested up from dancing the night away, he plies his trade as a real estate agent for Jameson Sotheby's International Realty, working from his home office in Rogers Park. He started selling in 1993, when he went to work for his roommate at a small developer company. After five years, he was promoted to sales manager and rode the real estate wave into the 2000s, becoming a full-time realtor in 2003. He is always plugged in to his job, whether at the home office, in the car or just on the run.



Davidson has had to make some adjustments in the ever-changing economic reality. "The market was great until around 2005, when I noticed too many mortgage scams going on, and people doing interest-only mortgages. I sold the condos I owned so I had money to live on. The market continued to drop and in 2008 it hit rock bottom." Consequently, he has taken on a side gig, helping to remodel other properties for sale. "I and most other realtors have had to work over 60 hours a week, seven days a week for years, and have even taken second and third jobs to survive."

We end our day with Todd roughly where we began: at a FurrLesque rehearsal at an art space in Wicker Park. This innovative performance group is heating things up (and creating change) as we head into the cold months. "We are gearing up for a busy winter season and are always adding numbers and refining the show. Our mission: To encourage the acceptance of any male body image."

See [www.facebook.com/furrlesque](http://www.facebook.com/furrlesque) to keep up with all the furry exploits.



*the stats*

**Name**  
Todd Davidson

**Age**  
44

**Neighborhood**  
East Rogers Park right now, but also loved living in Andersonville and Lakeview.

**Job title**  
Realtor, remodeler

**Relationship status**  
Single and open to whatever happens.

**Hobbies**  
Biking, beach, gym, friends, family, movies, music

**Favorite restaurant**  
"I have a lot of favorite restaurants, but hardly get to go due to lack of funds. I go to Big Chicks every Monday night for the food and friends."

**Favorite gay bar**  
A tie between Big Chicks, Sidetrack and Charlie's

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TPAN Director of Publications Jeff Berry looks at past issues of Positively Aware. Photos by Erica Demarest

# TPAN's Positively Aware educates about HIV and AIDS

BY ERICA DEMAREST

You've just been diagnosed with HIV.

Myriad doctors, nurses and case managers are doing what they can to help you navigate the complex world of HIV-related medical care, but you're sinking fast.

Acronyms. Medications. Treatment schedules. Healthcare costs. Ryan White funding. It's all really confusing, and you crave clarity.

That's where Positively Aware steps in.

The internationally renowned HIV/AIDS magazine has been delivering user-friendly information since the early 1980s, when it was founded by the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

"It was really important—especially as new medicine came out and there wasn't the Internet at that point in time—to disseminate information not only from the scientific perspective, but also the perspective of the user and the doctor," TPAN CEO Bill Farrand said. "It sort of brought all those pieces together."

Positively Aware operates with one simple goal: to help HIV-positive people take charge of their healthcare. Doctors, activists and journalists regularly donate articles; and readers can expect to learn about everything from mental and physical health to new medications and political developments.

"We take really complex information and break it down to the lay readers in terms they can understand ... without dumbing it down," said Jeff Berry, TPAN's director of publications. "There's a really fine line."

Today, the glossy bimonthly boasts a circulation of 100,000 and stands out as the only major HIV-related journal published by a not-for-profit. But Berry, who's worked with TPAN since 1992, recalls humble beginnings.

"It started out as really just some mimeographed sheets of paper stapled together," he said. "People got all their information through print in one way or another, so we would put all the information in one source."

The black-and-white handout (then called TPA News) was distributed in TPAN's weekly meetings and quickly grew in popularity. Before long, TPAN had hired a dedicated staff, added color and increased circulation.

In the mid-1990s, a \$500,000 grant took the fledgling publication national. TPA News became Positively Aware, and weekly distribution changed to monthly. Ten quarterly regional editions even brought localized information to cities such as Atlanta, Miami and Dallas.

"It went from a local Chicago agency-based newsletter to a legitimate national publication," Berry said.

While the change was exciting, it was hard to sustain with a small staff. Plus, the advent of the Internet would soon make monthly distribution unnecessary. After several redesigns, Positively Aware eventually settled into its current form: a bimonthly magazine that focuses on in-depth, high-quality reporting.

Most issues are loosely centered on a common theme. A spring 2011 release, for instance, focused exclusively on stigma, discrimination and barriers to care. And every two years, the magazine releases its acclaimed HIV 101 issue, which is geared toward those who are newly diagnosed.

"The challenge of making that basic information something that is also valuable to somebody who's been positive for 20 years is an exciting thing to do for us," said Sue Saltmarsh, copy editor. "I believe we manage to do it."

The annual drug guide is another educational staple. Every year, Positively Aware partners with pharmaceutical companies to bring readers the latest in HIV drug developments. Articles discuss side effects and payment plans, while a pullout drug chart offers concise descriptions (dosage, food restrictions) of each leading medication.

The in-demand laminated chart can be found in doctors' and case managers' offices across the country.

"[Our readers include] everyone from folks who are incarcerated to physicians, researchers, social workers and regular people who are living with AIDS," Saltmarsh said. "We really do appeal to a wide range of people."

Part of that appeal, Berry said, is the magazine's ability to reinvent.

"It says a lot that we're still around, to be honest," Berry said. "Magazines are tough these days. Print publications have gone through a lot of challenges in recent years [trying to figure out] how to keep them viable. Even though we're not-for-profit, we still have to break even."

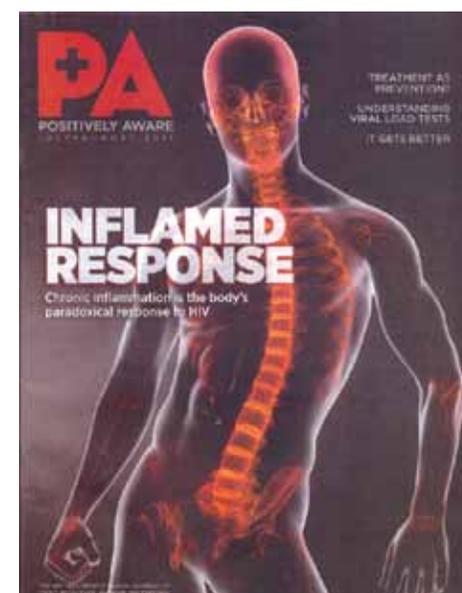
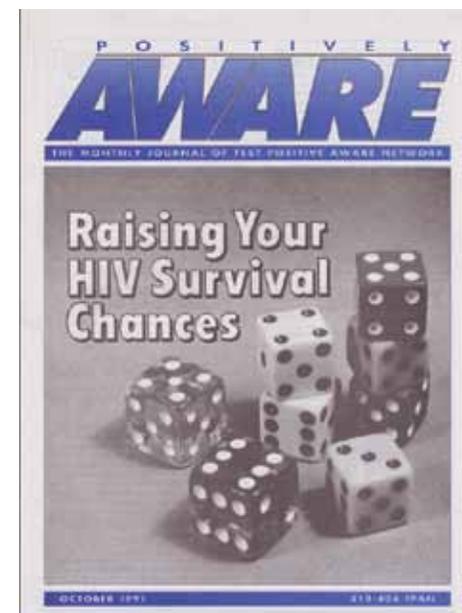
In 2010, Rick Guasco (formerly of The Advocate) signed on as Positively Aware's art director. Guasco had worked for TPAN in the mid-1990s, and he brought home with him an ambitious redesign plan.

The clean, modern reimaging, which features vibrant photography and a clutter-free layout, has been the magazine's most successful to date.

"He's really taken it to a whole new level," Berry said. "It was a conscious decision on our part to streamline and just make the information more accessible to people."

Positively Aware now offers free PDF versions of each issue online—not to mention a bevy of exclusive web content.

"People access and process information in dif-



Top to bottom: Issues of Positively Aware: October 1991; August 1991; July/August 2011.



Left: Past issues of Positively Aware. Above: TPAN Director of Publications Jeff Berry sorts through photos.

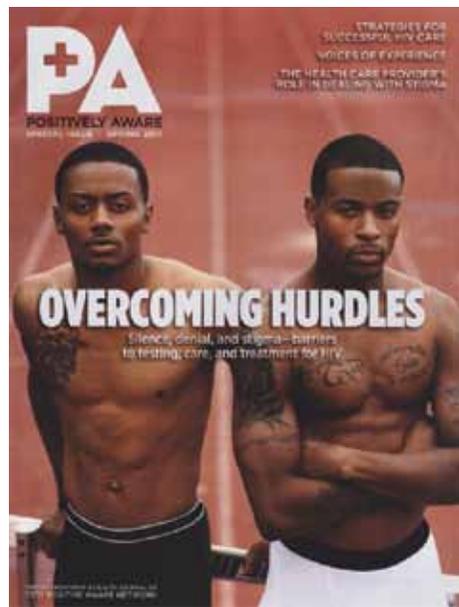
ferent ways, and I don't think one way is the right way," Berry said. "I just think the more ways we can get the information out there, the better. We want to repurpose it, present it, and give people options."

Just don't expect Positively Aware to go all-web anytime soon.

"I still think there's a great need out there [for print copies]," Berry said. "Many of our readers are incarcerated, and they have no access to the Internet. There are also a lot of people who are in transition ... who might be in a halfway house, or they use dial-up [modems], or they're just older and don't want to read things online." Bringing people information on their level is what Positively Aware is all about.

"In many cases this is life-affecting—if not life-changing—information," Saltmarsh said. "If it's in a form that people can't understand or a form that alienates them, they're not going to get the information they need ... We empower people."

To order copies of the magazine, call 773-989-9400 or email [distribution@tpan.com](mailto:distribution@tpan.com). For more information about TPAN and Positively Aware, visit [www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com) and [www.positivelyaware.com](http://www.positivelyaware.com).



The Spring 2011 issue.



Roger Beyers. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

# Roger Beyers: HIV survivor and volunteer shares his story

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Roger Beyers is not one to shy away from his HIV-positive status. In fact he shares his story to a variety of groups throughout Chicago as a way to educate people about the disease.

At 67 years old, Beyers spends his days volunteering for LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS causes at the Center on Halsted as well as shopping at flea markets, trying out different foods, keeping up with current events and starting to learn about computers.

A native of the small northeastern Wisconsin town of Amberg, Beyers was born in 1944 at the height of World War II. Describing his hometown, Beyers recalls that it was and still is like a Norman Rockwell painting, which he said gave him a limited view of the world.

That all changed when Beyers graduated from high school and went to a clown college operated by the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (he went prior to the official opening of the Clown College, which opened in 1968). After graduating, he traveled all over the world with Ringling Brothers.

Beyers' first stop was in Beijing, China in 1962 and by the time he was 20 he had traveled all over the world with the circus. This gave him a chance to see the diversity of the world. "Each place had its own unique value to me and I couldn't list a favorite place ... it was an adventure from day one until the time I left the circus," he said.

Beyers spent two years with the circus and when the troupe came to Chicago he decided to settle down and make a life for himself in the city. Taking a job at Jewel-Osco at the age of 20, Beyers worked his way up to the position of service manager over a 40-year career with the grocery store.

Along the way, Beyers had a long-term relationship of 23 years. His work colleagues always asked him about his boyfriend and included the couple in their social plans.

This wasn't the first time Beyers felt accepted as a gay man. When he was 16 his parents came to him and asked him if he was attracted to men. His parents, who grew up in small towns in Iowa (his mom) and Michigan (his dad), told him they had no issue with his sexual orientation and also said that it was a gift. It didn't hurt that Beyers had a much older sister who

had already come out as a lesbian (she had been married to a man for a number of years and was also the mother of two children).

Although his long-term relationship ended at the time of his HIV diagnosis (his former boyfriend was also diagnosed with the disease), he has been dating another man for the last year and a half and hopes to have a civil union at the Center on Halsted in the near future.

When Beyers was diagnosed with HIV in the summer of 2002 during a test at Howard Brown Health Center, he hit the ground running. Before he left Howard Brown that day, he asked the counselor to be referred to a good HIV specialist and a good HIV case manager as well as a referral to an HIV support group. He is still with that same HIV specialist, who became his primary care physician, and HIV case manager. However, he has moved on and is now a facilitator of HIV support groups with an number of organizations (his original support group at Chicago House has since been disbanded).

Currently, Beyers takes time to speak out about HIV or HIV-related issues as a member of the Center on Halsted speakers bureau as well as through other organizations. Another way Beyers helps people is through community building. He often helps members of SAGE (older LGBTs) feel more comfortable at the group events. He also hopes to bridge the gap between young people and SAGE members at the Center on Halsted by helping create programming that both groups can do together so each generation can benefit from each other's knowledge and life experiences.

The Jane Addams School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago recently invited Beyers to address a group of student social workers on what it means to be diagnosed HIV-positive at a later age as a part of their constituent advocacy program. Beyers has also worked with student nurses at Oak Park School of Nursing on the topic of HIV. On National Coming Out Day 2011, Beyers spoke to an LGBTQ employee group at Pepsi-Cola Corporation.

"We are on the cutting edge of many of these issues and I like to think that we are making three steps forward for every one step backward regarding LGBTQ equality and HIV-AIDS research," said Beyers. "Every day of a person's life can be a challenge but those challenges can be turned into opportunities."

## 2011 HIV DRUG CHART

Each drug is recommended for use in combination with other antiretrovirals (except possibly Atripla and rilpivirine/Truvada). Dose may need to be adjusted; see drug page or package insert for complete information. Drugs shown are actual size, except for Fuzeon. Drug chart information is current as of Aug. 1, 2011. Thanks to Searus Plenta, PharmD, Walgreens pharmacist. For a list of Walgreens pharmacies that specialize in HIV/AIDS care and other resources, visit [www.hiv.walgreens.com/chart](http://www.hiv.walgreens.com/chart). Using a QR code reader app, you can also scan the QR code at night with your iPhone or other smartphone to go directly to the website. See the Positively Aware 2011 HIV Drug Guide at [www.positivelyaware.com](http://www.positivelyaware.com) for more information.

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FIXED DOSE REGIMEN

PROTEASE INHIBITOR (PI)

<p><b>Combivir</b> lamivudine/zidovudine, or 3TC/AZT</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet (150 mg lamivudine, 300 mg zidovudine), twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Emtriva</b> emtricitabine, or FTC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 200 mg capsule, once daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Epivir</b> lamivudine, or 3TC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 300 mg tablet, once daily; or one 150 mg tablet, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Epzicom</b> abacavir/lamivudine, or ABC/3TC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet (600 mg abacavir, 300 mg lamivudine), once daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>
<p><b>Retrovir</b> zidovudine, AZT, or ZDV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 300 mg tablet, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Trizivir</b> abacavir/lamivudine/zidovudine, or ABC/3TC/AZT</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet (300 mg abacavir, 150 mg lamivudine, 300 mg zidovudine), twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Truvada</b> tenofovir DF/emtricitabine, or TDF/FTC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet (300 mg tenofovir DF, 200 mg emtricitabine), once daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Videx EC</b> didanosine, or ddI</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 400 mg capsule, once daily with adjustments for weight and drug interactions (see the Drug Guide). Take on an empty stomach, 30 minutes before or two hours after food or drink, except water. (Generic pictured.)</p>
<p><b>Viread</b> tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or TDF</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 300 mg tablet, once daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Zerit</b> stavudine, or d4T</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 40 mg capsule, twice daily with adjustments for weight (see the Drug Guide). No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Ziagen</b> abacavir sulfate, or ABC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 300 mg tablets, once daily; or one 500 mg tablet, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Edurant</b> rilpivirine, or RPV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 25 mg tablet, once daily. Take with food (at least 500 calories).</p>
<p><b>Intencele</b> etravirine, or ETR</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 200 mg tablet, twice daily; or two 100 mg tablets, twice daily. Take with food.</p>	<p><b>Rescriptor</b> delamanvir, or DLV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 200 mg tablets, three times a day; or four 100 mg tablets, three times a day. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Sustiva</b> efavirenz, or EFV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 600 mg tablet, once daily; or three 200 mg capsules, once daily, preferably at bedtime. Take on an empty stomach, or may be taken with a light, low-fat snack.</p>	<p><b>Viramune</b> nevirapine, or NVP</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 200 mg immediate-release (IR) tablet, once daily for the first 14 days. Then, one 400 mg extended-release (XR) tablet, once daily; or one 200 mg IR tablet, twice daily; or two 200 mg IR tablets, once daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>
<p><b>Atripla</b> efavirenz/tenofovir DF/emtricitabine, or EFV/TDF/FTC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet (600 mg efavirenz, 300 mg tenofovir DF, 200 mg emtricitabine), once daily, preferably at bedtime. Take on an empty stomach, or may be taken with a light, low-fat snack.</p>	<p><b>rilpivirine/Truvada</b> rilpivirine/tenofovir DF/emtricitabine</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One tablet combination (25 mg rilpivirine and Truvada [300 mg tenofovir DF, 200 mg emtricitabine]), once daily has been selected in the Phase 3 trials. Take with food (at least 500 calories). (Not yet approved at press time; photo unavailable.)</p>	<p><b>Crixivan</b> indinavir, or IDV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 400 mg capsules, every 8 hours; or two 400 mg capsules with 100 mg Norvir twice daily. Take with food or a low-fat snack (with food with Norvir); drink at least 48 oz. of water daily.</p>	<p><b>Kaletra</b> lopinavir/ritonavir, or LPV/r</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Four tablets (200 mg lopinavir/50 mg ritonavir), once daily if fewer than 3 lopinavir resistance mutations; or two 200/50 mg tablets, twice daily. Half-strength film-coated tablet available: 100 mg lopinavir/25 mg ritonavir. No food restrictions; take with food to improve Norvir tolerability.</p>
<p><b>Invirase</b> saquinavir, or SQV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 500 mg tablets with one 100 mg tablet Norvir, twice daily. Invirase must be dosed with Norvir. Take with food, or within two hours after a meal.</p>	<p><b>Norvir</b> ritonavir, or RTV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Used mostly for boosting, 100 mg-400 mg once or twice daily with another PI. Must be taken with food.</p>	<p><b>Lexiva</b> fosamprenavir, calcium, or FPV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 700 mg tablets with 100 mg or 200 mg Norvir, once daily; or two 700 mg tablets without Norvir, twice daily; if protease inhibitor experienced, 700 mg with 100 mg Norvir, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Reyataz</b> atazanavir sulfate, or ATV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 300 mg capsule plus 100 mg Norvir, once daily or two 200 mg capsules, once daily (see Drug Guide). Take with food.</p>
<p><b>Prezista</b> darunavir, or DRV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 400 mg tablets, once daily for first-time therapy and treatment-experienced people with no Prezista-associated drug resistance; or one 600 mg tablet, twice daily for treatment-experienced people with at least one Prezista-associated drug mutation. All doses taken with 100 mg Norvir. Take with food.</p>	<p><b>ISENTRESS</b> raltegravir, or RAL</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> One 400 mg tablet, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>	<p><b>Viracept</b> nelfinavir, or NFV</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> Two 625 mg tablets, twice daily; or five 250 mg tablets, twice daily. Take with food, preferably high in fat.</p>	<p><b>Selzentry</b> maraviroc, or MVC</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> 150, 300, or 600 mg (available in 150 and 300 mg tablets), twice daily; dose differs based upon other HIV medications used (see Drug Guide). No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>
<p><b>Fuzeon</b> enfuvirtide, T-20, or ENF</p> <p><b>ADULT SINGLE DOSE:</b> 90 mg subcutaneous injection, twice daily. No food restrictions (can be taken with or without food).</p>			

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# The Global Fund approaches 10 years of lifesaving efforts

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

During its meeting in November 2011, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria set the stage for the next five years, 2012-2016. Meeting in Ghana, the Global Fund board discussed how the organization should "invest for impact," and created several objectives to ensure continued success in fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. These objectives will support funding decisions that will impact projects for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment to meet a target of 7.3 million people alive on anti-retroviral drugs by 2016.

The Global Fund celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2012, having been established in 2002 as a result of growing concern over global health issues. Andy Seale, senior advisor for gender and sexual diversity at the Global Fund, explained that there were three major factors that contributed to the organization's founding. First, a group of African presidents met in 2000 to discuss malaria and decided that a discussion on the growing HIV/AIDS crisis was imperative. Second, the G8 countries were involved in similar conversations during their meeting, and an innovative public-private partnership approach to funding for world health initiatives was beginning to take shape. Third, organizations and individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS were speaking out, demanding better solutions to the crisis.

In 2001, the UN General Assembly held a special session. "I think it was the first time there had been a special session of the General Assembly that had been dedicated to a particular disease," said Seale.

The special session accomplished two key objectives, creating a blueprint for activity and developing a strategy for funding that would include a partnership between all stakeholders, government donors, private sector organizations, community groups, people living with the disease and implementing countries, with a particular focus on African governments.

The Global Fund was created as an international fundraising organization, which would raise and disburse money for locally driven projects to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria around the world.

From the beginning, U.S. political leaders committed strongly to ensuring the organizations success. Legislation was passed to allow the United States to contribute to the Global Fund and former President George Bush gave the first pledge. It was also established that for every \$1 contributed by the country, other countries had to contribute \$2, which would ensure that no more than 33 percent of the organization's overall earnings would come from the United States, and served as a challenge to other countries to dedicate themselves and create a truly global organization. Today, the United States remains the largest contributor.

According to Natasha Bilimoria, president of Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States steadily increased its contributions from \$300 million in 2002 to \$1.05 billion in 2010.

Today, 90-95 percent of the contributions come from donors like the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia and other developed countries.

The commitment of donor countries, private sector organizations, community groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and implementing countries has been substantial over the past 10 years.



Andy Seale of the Global Fund.

"When you look at what we've been able to achieve since 2002, it's been fairly significant," said Seale. "We estimate that around 2.5 million of the 5.3 million people who were receiving anti-retroviral treatments in 2009 were supported by the Global Fund, which is something that we pretty much started from a baseline of zero in the developing world in 2002."

Additionally, the Global Fund website reports, "By the end of 2010 more than 5 million people in low- and middle-income countries had access to antiretroviral therapy, of whom 3 million were receiving it through Global Fund-financed programs. With the substantial increase in resources available to fight the disease, AIDS mortality has decreased in many high-burden countries."

"We've had a number of targets that we've described in different strategies," Seale explained. "For example, targets that we set ourselves for 2010 around key services were very robust for HIV. We reached 100 percent of our targets for people receiving anti-retroviral therapy. We exceeded the targets we had set ourselves for HIV testing and counseling, and also around support to orphans and other vulnerable children. And, we did very well, around 94 percent, of our targets when it came to some of the HIV prevention initiatives like prevention from mother to child transmission and condom distribution."

Despite great strides, the Global Fund is preparing for an unsure future in terms of funding. For the first time, the organization experienced stagnation in U.S. contributions, with funding remaining at \$1.05 billion in 2011. Seale said it's been more difficult in recent years to raise the funds necessary to continue efforts at the same rates that were established from 2006 through 2009.

Seale warns against reading too much into recent data provided by UNAIDS, which was released in November and touts strong gains in treatment access and prevention efforts.

"One of the things we are dealing with at the moment, are figures from 2010. It is always difficult for us to have a real time understanding of what the implications are. So the UNAIDS data will be from last year, and there is probably some time lag as well as from the years of key investment and what will be happening in the immediate, next two to three years.

"I think that we should be very concerned about the short or medium term. It's true that we are still probably seeing, in terms of the results, an impact from investment that was at strong levels in 2007-2008. So in 2010 we will still be benefiting from those levels of investment. But my suspicion is when we get to 2012-

2013 the situation may not be as robust as we are seeing this year.

"It's not just the United States, it's all of our donors. We are concerned that the Global Fund does continue to be fully replenished and is able to continue the previous rates."

Seale says round 10 funding was the first time organization leaders really began to become aware of the impact of the global economic crisis and the likelihood of constrained resources. The potential impact required the organization to think differently about its funding formula.

"We've always had a prioritization formula or framework set in place that will prioritize the lowest income countries that have the highest disease burden, but what we recognized in the run up to round 10 was that if we didn't have an additional step in place we could end up de facto prioritizing programs that were just destined for Africa. So programs that we need for Asia or Eastern Europe and Latin America for example might not be funded because of things like the income status of the countries."

As a result, the organization created a smaller, reserve budget for countries with concentrated epidemics, such as drug users, sex workers and men who sleep with men, to ensure access to Global Fund financing.

## FDA is asked to approve PrEP AIDS regimen

An application from Gilead Sciences, Inc. has been filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve an HIV antiretroviral therapy to reduce the risk of HIV infection among uninfected men who have sex with men (MSM) and heterosexual women and men. The application to approve the new HIV prevention method called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is based partly on data from the Global iPrEx study, the first human efficacy study to prove that PrEP reduces HIV infection risk in people (<http://www.iprexnews.com>).

The PrEP drug is a single-tablet once-daily combination of emtricitabine (FTC 200 mg) and tenofovir (TDF 300 mg), marketed under the brand name Truvada®. The iPrEx study found that MSM who were prescribed a single daily FTC/TDF tablet experienced an average of 44% fewer HIV infections than those who received a placebo pill. Among a study sub-set those who took the tablet frequently enough for drug to be detected in their bodies, the rate of protection against HIV infection was more than 90%. All participants in the iPrEx study received condoms and comprehensive HIV prevention support. The HIV prevention benefits of PrEP were in addition to the benefits obtained from other prevention methods.

iPrEx study results were first reported in the New England Journal of Medicine in November, 2010 (<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1011205>).

Data supporting the use of PrEP to reduce HIV infection risk in heterosexual men and women were provided by the Partners PrEP study, which involved 4758 HIV serodiscordant couples (couples in which one partner is HIV-infected and the other is not) at nine trial sites in Kenya and Uganda. Both the iPrEx and Partners PrEP studies found that PrEP is safe, with very low levels of side effects and limited risk of HIV drug resistance.

— From a press release

Potential challenges like those faced in round 10 were no doubt part of the November discussion as the 2012-2016 strategy was developed.

Seale said that another key issue has been a growing concern over human rights in implementing countries. Though the Global Fund has always been a human rights focused organization, it was never implicitly stated. Beginning in 2012, human rights, in relation to all three-focus areas, is listed in the five-year strategic plan.

As a result, the Global Fund will increase investment support to programs that specifically address human-rights issues.

"What we are trying to do is really send a message to countries that we really need to see programs suggested to us by countries that properly address the entirety of the epidemics in those countries," Seale said. "For example, most countries will have an element of their HIV epidemic concentrated amongst men who have sex with men, regardless of where you are in the world it's likely that part of your epidemic will be among that community, and it is really important that countries properly address that part of the epidemic as well as other parts of the epidemic."

During its 10-year history, the organization has made tremendous strides against a disease that was decimating a nation and devastating lives around the world. At this pivotal moment when a reduction in funding could easily roll-back significant advances, the Global Fund remains focused on meeting its goal of 7.3 million people alive on anti-retroviral drugs by 2016.

## AIDS United joins coalition to establish July 2012 as National HIV Awareness Month

AIDS United has announced its participation in the Coalition for National HIV Awareness Day, a group of national HIV/AIDS organizations that is establishing July 2012 as National HIV Awareness Month.

The goal of National HIV Awareness Month is to engage civil society and the private sector in the U.S. to create broad-scale public awareness of HIV/AIDS, end HIV stigma and discrimination and engage new stakeholders in the fight against the disease, with the ultimate goal of ending the epidemic.

"July 2012—the month that marks the first time the International AIDS conference will take place in the United States in more than 20 years—is the perfect time to observe the first National HIV Awareness Month," said Mark Ishaug, AIDS United President and CEO. "We must remember that HIV/AIDS is far from over right here the United States. Significant scientific and policy advances have put its end in our sights, but we MUST continue to make significant investments in those advances to propel us to that end."

The Coalition for National HIV Awareness Month is a group of national organizations committed to addressing the domestic HIV/AIDS crisis. The group is establishing July 2012 as National HIV Awareness Month to create public awareness of the domestic impact of HIV/AIDS, end HIV stigma and discrimination, and engage new stakeholders in the fight against the disease, with the ultimate goal of ending the epidemic. Founding members of the coalition include AIDS United, amfAR, Black AIDS Institute, Latino Commission on AIDS, Magic Johnson Foundation, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA), National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), U.S. Positive Women's Network and The Well Project.

See [www.nationalhivawarenessmonth.org](http://www.nationalhivawarenessmonth.org).

# AIDS at 30: Owning your life

BY CHARLENE STRONG

Putting one's experiences on paper can bring a light that has not been considered before. I have been asked to address a part of my life that has rarely been shared with anyone.

Now is a time to share. I lost my father more than 15 years ago and it was the catalyst for dealing with my personal homophobia and pain. I was holding my Dad when he died, his once-handsome face was being ravaged with the very visible cancer that literally ate at him with a very cruel suffering, the likes of which I hope to never witness again.

When I laid him back in his bed for the first time since he was admitted a month earlier, the machines were all turned off, the quiet a gift. The calmness that came over me was strange—just an hour before I was screaming into a towel in the bathroom begging for the suffering to stop. Was it that someone heard that scream and silenced the struggle? I removed his St. Christopher medal to give to my Mom. As I sat quietly in the room with him until the funeral home came to receive his body, I felt clarity of needing to make some changes in my life. I felt at that moment that I was moving through life without any life. I was in my second marriage and my husband was nice enough, but by writing that assessment I knew my days were numbered on this one.

I rushed into this marriage after much heartache. My first marriage was a sad and damaging moment in my life. I married a very handsome young man when both of us were far too young to know who we were. Had we spent time in the same city while engaged perhaps we would have figured it out.

Shortly into our marriage the intimacy stopped and the more I pushed the farther he pulled into his own world. I would sit up wondering if he were ever coming home and calling the state patrol to see if there was a truck in a wreck that matched the description of his truck. When he would arrive home he would often be bedraggled and not in the mood for explanations which only fueled our arguments.

Finally one night he told me he thought he was gay. It was not what I had expected. I didn't want to know that this hunky man I married wanted anyone, but me. Being the good Christian I was, I set about to pray the demon away in him while he slept. He had said that he didn't want to be gay, so I could fix it.

Okay, I couldn't fix it. For that next year-and-a-half we fought like the Hatfield's and McCoy's, it was ugly and frightening. AIDS was just being understood and I knew he was out in bars, and it was obvious he was feeling his sexuality. Was he being safe, was he planning for encounters? I had no way of knowing and the fights continued and the fear in me escalated, to a boiling point. I found myself hating him and hating gay people.

Our fights led to an explosive exit and I never looked back. I was so hurt and frustrated and disgusted by his gay life and lack of concern for my health. Had my rush to be loved become my death sentence? How dare he expose me to his life?

My final task I needed to accomplish was to find out if I was HIV-negative. I entered an emergency room and asked for a test. As I sat shivering sitting in the small room waiting for the test, I wondered what I would do if I wound up positive. How long would I have? How would I explain it to my family? Would they reject me for my stupidity in marrying a gay man?

As the nurse gave me a look that I could not discern, she finally asked me why I was being

tested. I looked up at her and mumbled that my husband was gay and I wasn't sure what he had been up to. Was it important for her to know my reasons? Was she going to write in my chart? I could just see it: "Woman marries gay man, test for HIV."

The test was negative, and it was negative the three other times I was tested. It had not gotten me. I was free to find a "real" man. So I set out for redemption. I could be a good wife. I could be sexy and beautiful to a man that wanted me. It's what I was determined to do.

As the second marriage unfolded and the months turned to years, the pain in my heart was getting too much to bear. My house was either black or white furniture, which matched the way I was looking at the world. My husband and I rarely talked and rarely touched, and when we did it was as if I wished I could be somewhere else.

I knew nothing else to do. I was feeling emotions and desires that I could not deny. I had felt funny around women in the past, but that was not who I was, nor did I really understand those moments. I could easily brush them aside, but they always had a way of creeping in. I was not going to question why I found women so ... it's hard to put into words. I had felt the thrill of being close to a woman once. She and I were in a church group and our amazing friendship grew. We would laugh until the wee hours of the morning and then fall asleep in each other's arms explaining it away as a bed too small for the two of us.

One night I felt my heart beating out of my chest when she cuddled into me in the bed we were sharing on a retreat. I am sure she could feel the energy and my bounding chest. Her warm soft body was so close and my desire to touch her face and pull her into me for a soft kiss was so strong (what would it be like to kiss her lips, would she let me?) Just as I am relaxing into this moment I hear, "We need to pray. We need to pray that our love for each other is Agape and not Eros (a.k.a. friends, not lovers)." I wasn't going to disappoint and closed my eyes and prayed my gay away.

I never forgot that feeling and it only served to shut me down further into my denial and, after my first marriage, my homophobia was never far from the surface. I had prayed about my husband being gay and had prayed not to be gay myself. Why was it so hard?

My heart was asleep. I was trapped in my heart that was not willing to live.

As that second marriage continued to stagnate I decided to find something to do to bring some meaning to my life. My promise to myself when my father died was also part of my quest to make those changes I was determined to explore.

My husband and I were out enjoying a nice Sunday in June and, as we ran into the Seattle gay pride celebration, we were not really able to get around the crowds waiting for the parade so we decided to watch the parade. After the parade, walking around looking at all of the vendors we ran across the Humane Society booth and picked up a brochure about a volunteer organization called The Pet Project. It was designed to help clients with HIV/AIDS who were financially disabled by their diagnosis. I thought this sounded like a good fit since I wanted to do something, and my husband was not a fan of animals in our house so it would satisfy two needs at once—my love of animals and my promise to do something that mattered in my world.

I was assigned numerous clients that I would deliver cat or dog food to in an effort to help with their animal's care. I was scared to death

at first because some of my patients were pretty shut in and their homes were often not very easy to enter. Being that their health was so poor, who had time to clean? The stench at times was overwhelming. I was completely in over my head and wondering—what had I gotten myself into?

I would visit clients about once a month and deliver food. Sometimes they would open the door just wide enough to take the food and then I was on my way. It was all they wanted or needed from me. I have to imagine that having to ask for help was not easy on their part and that the thought of it was a very difficult step. It hurt their pride. There were those patients who were more than happy to see my face. After an hour or so of talking, it dawned on me that I was most likely the only person who had talked to them in days. With this realization came a sense of heaviness, but I felt like I was really helping and that was my intention, right?

As I continued to volunteer, I learned of the financial toll the organization was taking—there needed to be some changes. It was not that we lacked enough food to bring to our clients; it was the amount of veterinary care that was tapping out our resources. Veterinary clinics that were helping us with our clients' needs were offering discounts to us, but their costs still needed to be covered and it was becoming clear that we needed to come up with a clinic.

The director of the program asked me if I could design a veterinary clinic. I went to work trying to figure out how we could get the biggest bang for our buck. I set about to take banquet tables to make dividers and set up vet treatment areas that would accommodate about six vets per clinic. Color-coded bins with every item tagged the same color and we were set. I asked for volunteers to assist our clients when they arrived at the clinic with their four-legged best friends. Veterinarians were never in short supply. It was a potent energy you could feel and the commitment of the volunteers was feeding my soul in ways I don't think I understood then.

What did surprise me was the obvious lack of my gay brothers as volunteers. The majority of volunteers were married heterosexual women and my lesbian sisters. I can only remember two gay men involved, one of whom was dealing with his own health and AIDS status. I remember that oftentimes he would arrive completely exhausted and in worse shape than most of our clients. His soul I have never forgotten. Buzz, as we knew him, was the sweetest and most gentle man. His willingness and love for giving in the world has never been far from my heart and I think of him now as I write with a deep sense of loss and sadness that yet another person is gone too soon from a disease for which we had no understanding at the time ... and are just beginning to really have now.

One night, Buzz needed someone to stay with him while hospitalized due to a death in his extended family and I said I would stay the night. As the machine raged louder than possible for anyone to sleep, I saw Buzz sit up and look at his hands. His head was down and I got up off my cot and sat next to him. His eyes were drawn and so full of fear my heart was aching. Why was I there? It had only been about two years since I lost my Dad and to see Buzz's struggle brought me back to the pain I felt then.

Buzz looked at me with the honesty of a child and said, "It's not going well is it? They want to put me in Bailey-Boushay. Charlene no one ever leaves there." Bailey-Boushay House was our AIDS hospice home in Seattle. I had no good answer and then I, too, started to look down at my hands. I told him I was so sorry, but he would not be alone, I promise. We took



Charlene Strong.  
Photo courtesy of  
Strong

each other's hands and our foreheads touched, I wanted him to feel some peace for a moment. I started to pray for my dear sweet friend with as much composure as I could muster so as to not let Buzz know how badly I felt. I am not sure it was not so much a prayer, but a pleading in my heart to let him feel peace from the disease that had its clutch on my friend.

Buzz did not leave Bailey-Boushay and, in fact I knew he wouldn't but I couldn't tell him that night. I chickened out on my friend, but I think he understood.

That night was a reminder of how life is a gift, it is fragile and capricious. It is not to be ignored. As I listened to the eulogy at Buzz's funeral and sitting in a sea of gay brothers, I felt my fear fade and I felt my heart ache with a pain that split me wide open. My years of anger and hatred for gay folks were melting away. I was gay and I was proud of that moment. Had I been afraid I would never have met Buzz. I would never have come to terms with my life, my sexuality and who I was meant to be.

Many years have passed and much has been learned about AIDS. We still have no cure. AIDS has taken far too many, far too soon. For me, AIDS took me to a place where I have wondered if I would ever be forgiven for my personal pain and hatred. But mostly it taught me to look into the eyes of AIDS to understand the pain, not only in my heart, but also in the helplessness of those struggling with its grip.

As AIDS turns 30 and I head towards 50, I feel blessed to be writing this testimony. It is a testament to live, it is a message to forgive, and it is my message to give us a break. I learned much in 30 years, it would be impossible to sum it up to a word or two, but as I have learned in my life, the word that makes most sense is Peace.

Charlene Strong has an award-winning documentary film called 'for my wife ... chronicling the making of an activist'. She is also a commissioner for human rights in Washington State (appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire in 2008). Charlene travels the country extensively educating about the inequalities that continue to be a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community without the recognition of full marriage rights. Charlene has joined forces with Sarah Toce, who is the editor-in-chief of The Seattle Lesbian, to become co-editor of the popular online news magazine.

## VIEWPOINTS

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 Community Marketing, Inc.

TRACY  
BAIM

## George and the KKK: Religious extremists live in the Midwest, not just the Middle East

Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, is not the only bigot hiding behind the heavy robes of religion, but he is a powerful leader in the Catholic Church and, therefore, his words have more meaning and power than your average street preacher or member of the church choir.

In comparing the LGBT community to the Ku Klux Klan—in his remarks about the potential disruption and inconvenience of the new Pride Parade route and start time—George has gone too far, and he should graciously apologize, and step down from his post.

Dozens of local and national leaders and

groups have spoken out against George, and some, too, are calling for him to step down. At the very least, they are asking for an apology.

Other religious facilities have long endured the Pride Parade passing their doors on Pride Sunday, with no "anti-religious" problems reported in four decades. In fact, religious groups, including gay Catholics, have been a part of Pride almost since it first began. Ironically, the KKK did march against the Pride Parade in its early years, and many spiritual people helped counter their presence.

However, George could not let the parade pass by his Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Belmont Avenue. He fought back, and did so using a vile comparison to the KKK. The parade will still pass by the church, just at a later time. The change in time really is not what upset most LGBTs; rather, it was what George said about the KKK. He told FOX News Chicago: "You don't want the gay liberation movement to morph into something like the Ku Klux Klan, demonstrating in the streets against Catholicism."

At this point, an apology is not enough. George has proven he is out of touch with the progress of the LGBT movement in this city and country, and he should pass the torch to a new generation of Catholic leadership. Like Joseph Cardinal Bernardin before him, George has tried to use the church's power to keep back civil rights; Bernardin lobbied against Chicago's gay-rights bill in the 1980s, and George has spoken out against gay civil unions and women's rights. The fact is that while many people seek out

religion as a safe haven, where they can do good work to help their neighbors, often church leadership seeks to divide, rather than bring people together. In this Christmas season, George's remarks sting particularly hard. Enough is enough, and George should not be allowed to take this hateful approach and still be a leader in his church.

What is most upsetting when religious leaders speak out, and even lobby against laws that protect LGBTs, is that they do so on an uneven playing field. Most are wealthy beyond our imagination, own properties on valuable land, and yet they pay few taxes, if any. This not only makes it more difficult to fund our schools, police, fire and other public services, but it also places a heavier burden on every other citizen, religious or not. They get to have their free speech cake and not pay taxes, too.

Personally, I feel that if all religious groups paid their fair share of property, income and other taxes, I wouldn't be as angry when they spoke out against my right to equality. We would be equals stating our own opinions. But when a bully like George gets to have a large forum to amplify his hate, and he does so off all our taxpayer backs, it is an unfair system.

The initial separation of church and state in this country was based on a strong need to eliminate potential harassment and undue influence over religion. But the opposite has happened. Religious groups influence our politics, and they do so with impunity from the law, and from the tax system.

SARAH  
TOCE

## A message to Rick Perry about holiday spirit

Somewhere in the middle of Kansas, there is a 9-year-old wide-eyed girl watching television while actively seeking solace from the fact that her brother's life partner is in the military and may be dead or alive at any given change of the second. The last thing she is thinking about is whether or not her brother-out-of-law is gay. To be frank, she doesn't care about any of that. She just wants him to come home—safe.

All of a sudden, a Rick Perry ad runs. In the advertisement, entitled "Strong," he says, "You don't need to be in the pew every Sunday to know that there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military but our kids can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in school."

Discrimination of an entire group of people based on personal religious beliefs and incoherent messaging is not appropriate and should not be tolerated. Ever. Period. End of story.

It's called harassment.

Mr. Perry, those gay people serving in the military right now are fighting for your freedom ... even though you continuously deny them theirs. They fight for the country they were born into because they believe in a better future where all men and women are safe and protected. Many of them practice religion and spirituality and, yes, celebrate Christmas.

The difference is, while you're sitting in your plush robe throwing carrots at the television because you don't like the fact that gay people are protecting your ass without an ounce of gratitude, the men and women in uniform, some of

which happen to be gay, are celebrating Christmas on a base with no comforts of home and they do so willingly and without expectation.

Let's look at the facts for a moment:

—In 29 states, you could be fired from your job for being gay.

—In 28 states, you could be fired from your job for being transgender.

—One in four LGBT employees reported discrimination in the past five years.

—Marriage is legal for gay Americans in six states and the District of Columbia.

—There are an estimated 9 million Americans identifying as LGBT.

—Census 2010 data concluded that 132,000 same-sex couples identified their partners as "spouses" and 31 percent of them were raising

children.

—An estimated 25,000 children would benefit from equal immigration laws.

Perhaps the most important bullet points to remember:

—Gay people are human beings, and;

—Many of them believe in Christmas.

A man does not grow taller by cutting down another. Mr. Perry, while there is potentially no reason for you to pay any mind to this editorial whatsoever, there is a little girl in Kansas feeling a lot less alone following your attack on her loved one today. That is what matters most.

Happy holidays,

Sarah Toce

## Letter:

Cardinal sin

Dear editor:

The Christmas season for Roman Catholics is an opportunity to turn our focus to the birth of Jesus Christ. The Church has always taught us to continually reach out to find the many faces of Christ in our various Communities. This should be a season of joy, and hope for all peoples, and not a time to attack a vulnerable community.

Sadly, Cardinal Francis George—instead of focusing on the birth of Christ—has become engaged in the politics of division. His recent words against the LGBT community are not the words of Christmas. I had hoped that the cardinal would have used his appearance on Fox News with a more open spirit, and to promote the Christian message. The substance of our shared ancient faith is one thing, and the way it is presented is another.

George clearly missed the mark of the Gospels of the season by promoting intolerance over tolerance. I call on him to set the example of the prodigal son, seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Eminence, it is time for

you to apologize to the LGBT community for your mean-spirited words.

The words you used to describe the LGBT community as morphing into the Ku Klux Klan shows a complete lack of sensitivity, as well as reckless disregard of the Christmas message of love and hope. Your view only promotes the idea that you are locked in the deep freeze of intolerance which has no relevance to what the sense of the faithful is proclaiming in the world.

I also call on George to return to the pastoral roots of our Church, and promote the Christian message for all, and to distance himself from the trappings of bigotry which only corrupts the Christmas message.

Joe Murray

Executive Director

Rainbow Sash Movement

Send letters and viewpoints to  
 Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.  
 Items may be edited for length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Manuel Harlan

## GREAT SCOT!

The National Theatre of Scotland's *Black Watch* (above) was one to see in 2011, according to Scott C. Morgan. See below for more.

## DISH

That's Italian!  
Page 32.

Photo by Shira Kollins



## THEATER

True or 'Folles!  
Page 24.

Photo from *La Cage aux Folles*  
by Peter Coombs



## MUSIC

Music to one's year.  
Page 28.

PR photo of *The Pack a.d.*



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Stage favorites for '11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

I'm always apologizing to my film-buff friends whenever they ask what movies I've seen lately. I frequently have to admit how few movies I've actually seen.

I figure that I can always catch a film when it's released on DVD, so I skip its theatrical release. Whereas with something as ephemeral as live theater, once it's gone, it's gone.

So when looking back at some of my personal favorite Chicago-area stage shows of the past year, it's with some regret that many can never be shared again. However, the memories of what was great will linger (as will a few clunkers I'd rather forget).

Since I haven't had a chance to see every single show this year, I can't claim whether this list represents the best of the best of 2011. However, if you're a Chicago theater fan, it's always fun to compare and contrast and see where your choices might match up with mine.

**Chinglish**—The Goodman Theatre produced a bona fide laughfest with David Henry Hwang's world-premiere comedy about cultural and linguistic misunderstandings when a frequently clueless man from the United States tries to do business in modern-day China. The Leigh Silverman-directed production (featuring an ingeniously rotating multiple-location set by designer David Korins) was deemed so worthy that New York producers confidently and quickly announced that the show would transfer to Broadway. Alas, *The New York Times* gave the Broadway production of *Chinglish* a rather frosty review, in contrast to all of the raves it received in Chicago. So see *Chinglish* quickly in New York while you can.

**Sophocles: Seven Sicknesses**—Leave it to di-

rector Sean Graney of *The Hypocrites* to jam pack modern-day adaptations of the seven surviving plays of ancient Greek dramatist Sophocles into a wildly entertaining marathon performance. True, the sightlines weren't always the greatest in the basement of the Chopin Theatre and there was the frequent danger of being splattered by stage blood. However, the lessons these ancient tales taught were timeless and especially pertinent for our own conflicted times.

**Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street**—Drury Lane Theatre made the drive out to Oakbrook Terrace mandatory for die-hard fans of Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's 1979 musical masterpiece. With its great mix of Broadway pros like Gregg Edelman and Liz McCartney and local actors, director/choreographer Rachel Rockwell created a truly creepy *Sweeney Todd* that abounded with talent.

**Follies**—Chicago Shakespeare Theater opened its 25th-anniversary season with a bang. The Courtyard Theater space was turned over to director Gary Griffin to stage a 40th-anniversary production of Stephen Sondheim and James Goldman's cult musical, *Follies*. True, the Chicago production had some of its thunder stolen by the Kennedy Center production that transferred to Broadway, but it was still a treat to see this show about showgirls and their husbands wading through dangerous levels of nostalgia and regret so up close and personal.

**Clybourne Park**—Steppenwolf Theatre has long cultivated the career of playwright Bruce Norris by producing many world premieres ranging from his plays *The Pain* and *the Itch* to *A Parallelogram*. So there must have been plenty of pride (and a twinge of regret) when Playwrights Horizons in New York first produced *Clybourne Park* in 2009 before it would go on to win the

Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Steppenwolf's production of *Clybourne Park* was a well-deserved victory lap, allowing Chicagoans to relish Norris' smart tangential take on Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* to explore the changing nature of Chicago neighborhoods through desegregation in the 1950s to gentrification of today.

**Black Watch**—The National Theatre of Scotland's multi-award-winning drama *Black Watch* finally made it to the Windy City, thanks to Chicago Shakespeare Theater's World's Stage series. Gregory Burke's touching and insightful examination of Scotland's elite *Black Watch* regiment throughout history and its recent involvement in Iraq fit perfectly into the Broadway Armory and showed Chicagoans just why the world over has clamored to see *Black Watch*.

**A Twist of Water**—Route 66 Theatre Company garnered plenty of publicity not only for the rave reviews that greeted Caitlin Montanye Parrish's drama about a grieving gay parent (Stef Tovar) and his adopted daughter (Falashay Pearson), but when newly elected Mayor Rahm Emanuel heeded Chicago Tribune theater critic Chris Jones' admonition that he should see the show. *A Twist of Water* soon transferred from Theater Wit to the newly re-opened Mercury Theater under the management of executive director L. Walter Stearns. Hopefully, more success is in store for *A Twist of Water*, since the show is headed to New York next fall.

**Passing Strange**—Bailiwick Chicago presented a marvelous local premiere of Stew and Heidi Rodewald's 2008 rock musical at the former Chicago Center for the Performing Arts (unfortunately converted into a full-time religious facility earlier this year). What helped made *Passing Strange*'s Chicago premiere so electric was how it featured the local band JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound. This tale of an African-American teenager who shunned his middle-class upbringing to find himself artistically in Amsterdam and Berlin thrillingly explored notions of faith and freedom (both artistic and sexual) with a rocking score.

**The Homosexuals**—About Face Theatre scored

a popular hit with Philip Dawkins' reverse-time-traveling drama that focuses on a young gay man's experiences in a big Midwestern city and the friends he encounters along the way. The *Homosexuals* offered plenty of insights into gay relationships and friendships with plenty of sex thrown in for fun and drama. There were also plenty of memorable performances, led by Patrick Andrews' Evan.

**Ariadne auf Naxos**—I have to give a plug to this wonderfully theatrical 1916 work by Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, since it's one of my favorite operas. Not only was the Lyric Opera of Chicago's revival wonderfully cast, director John Cox's 1998 staging masterfully captured the shenanigans of a baroque theater both backstage and in performance when a commedia dell'arte troupe has to perform simultaneously with a serious opera based upon Greek myth. The opera's reflections on love and transformation were magically realized in this Lyric revival.

Some other honorable mentions include *The Neo-Futurists' Burning Bluebeard* (about the 1903 Iroquois Theatre Fire in Chicago), *The Second City e.t.c.'s* savvy revue *Sky's the Limit (Weather Permitting)*, American Theater Company's generational drama *The Big Meal* and the gorgeously designed production of Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *The Madness of George III*.

As for shows that deserve raspberries, I'll single out *The Ruckus Theatre's Escape from the Haltsburg Boys Choir* as a dramatic and historically dubious muddle. More convoluted storytelling could be found in *The Mammals' Andy Warhol spoof Put My \_\_\_\_ in Your \_\_\_\_, aka Your 15 Minutes of Finger and Mortar Theatre's ultraviolet Mother Bear*.

Lastly, in a clear case of a super-talented cast having its skills go to waste on subpar material, just look at *The Marriott Theatre's* world-premiere musical adaptation of the Bette Midler film *For the Boys*. The stage musical improved upon the film flop, but it wasn't enough to justify this new jukebox musical of pre-existing song hits.

# The best of LGBT theater



In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play. Photo by Liz Lauren

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This year in Chicago theater offered a number of productions geared to LGBT themes or issues, as it always does. Some were standard-issue or special-purpose (such as the annual Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer, still running through Dec. 30 at Mary's Attic), but others were of above-average interest as mainstream theater as well as for our communities.

Perhaps the most outrageous work of the year was the world premiere of Thomas Bradshaw's **Mary** at the Goodman Theatre last February. Intentionally politically incorrect, Thomas's satire takes on late-20th-century U.S. racial history in both Black-on-white and Black-on-Black terms, and also issues of gay acceptance. As Bradshaw is gay and African-American, it was natural for him (but brave nonetheless) to combine both themes. Guaranteed to provoke all and completely please none, Mary did what theater is supposed to do: make people react, talk and—hopefully—think.

In March, Court Theatre offered Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's **Orlando**, an amazingly imaginative picaresque journey into gender identity. Woolf's novel not only spans 300

years and several continents, but also has the sexually prolific title character (who barely ages through the 300 years) wake up one morning to find that he has become a woman. As adapted by Ruhl and staged by Jessica Thebus, only five actors were employed to portray characters of all ages and genders in a wonderfully visual and physical production. Woolf herself was bisexual (and famously so), and Orlando partly is based on the life and personality of Woolf's lover, Vita Sackville-West.

Ruhl also provided an original play, **In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play**, which had its regional premiere at Victory Gardens Theater. It deals with a woman's right to expect—and demand—sexual fulfillment, if not from her husband, then from whomever/whatever is available. The delightfully creative aspect of the play is that Ruhl made it a comedy and smartly set it in the 1880s, when much about the female orgasm still wasn't understood. In so doing, she wrote the comedy Henrik Ibsen never managed to pen, in which the women are two steps ahead of the complacent and small-minded men.

As one might expect, About Face Theatre provided LGBT-theater fodder, with its two most successful works of the year being Philip

Dawkins' **The Homosexuals** in June and Sarah Gubbins' **The Kid Thing** in September (in collaboration with Chicago Dramatists). Both were world premieres by Chicago-based writers, which is a good thing. Moving backwards through the last decade, *The Homosexuals* offers a series of episodes in the life and sexual history of Evan, the episodes tied together by Evan's overlapping circle of friends who also overlap as lovers. Perhaps longer on style than substance, the work was a witty look at a cross-section of urban gay types in the early 21st century. With *The Kid Thing*, Gubbins honed in on lesbian types (some might say stereotypes) and the issues raised when female couples decide to parent. Her real theme wasn't so much the kid thing, really, but conflicts between, and acceptance of, various lesbian role models.

There were, of course, many other productions that were LGBT in some aspect or other. For example, Court Theatre staged Edward Albee's **Three Tall Women**, in which a young man's

gayness is but one issue of many, and Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook Terrace offered **Monty Python's Spamalot**, with its gay Lancelot and a prince who'd rather be a princess. Also, Project 891 Theatre Company presented Joe Orton's early success (well, he didn't live long enough to have a late success) **Entertaining Mr. Sloane**, in which a brother and sister vie for the attentions of a rough-trade young man. Caryl Churchill's genderfuck **Cloud 9** showed up, too, as staged by the Gift Theatre in Jefferson Park. Employing both cross-gender and cross-racial casting, this well-known play takes on both male and female gender roles and social expectations in the Victorian Era and in the 1970's.

This list and "best-of" picks is far from comprehensive, but gives a rough indication of a continuing strong LGBT thematic presence in Chicago theater, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.

## THEATER REVIEW

### La Cage aux Folles

**Score:** Jerry Herman;  
**Book:** Harvey Fierstein  
**At:** Bank of America Theatre,  
18 W. Monroe St.  
**Phone:** 847-634-0200; \$32-\$95  
**Runs through Jan. 1**

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's understandable why Broadway tour producers would want a "celebrity name" attached their show—to help drive ticket sales, of course. But when that celebrity doesn't deliver the goods, then it only makes the producers look like they're more concerned with box-office receipts rather than putting on a quality show.

That feels like the case with the Tony Award-winning musical revival of *La Cage aux Folles*, now on tour at Chicago's Bank of America Theatre through Jan. 1. Hollywood star George Hamilton shares above-the-title billing with Broadway veteran Christopher Sieber, but it's Sieber who carries the show, while Hamilton doesn't live up to his end of the bargain.

Right from his opening address, it becomes clear that Hamilton lacks the necessary verve, energy and command needed for the role of Georges, the boastful proprietor of the glitzy and seedy title nightclub featuring a load of talented drag artistes. Also, Hamilton's reedy singing voice definitely doesn't do justice to composer Jerry Herman's lovely ballads "Song of the Sand" and "Look Over There."

If Hamilton disappoints, then Sieber buoys

the rest of the show as Georges' effeminate long-time partner and co-parent, Albin (a.k.a. Zaza when in drag). A recent veteran of the 2010 Broadway revival (when he played Georges opposite Harvey Fierstein's Albin), Sieber definitely knows all the ins and outs of the show. Sieber's an expert at executing the perfect comic and dramatic bits that should alternately move audiences into making delighted titters and shedding empathic tears.

Also making this *La Cage* revival worthwhile is its amazing ensemble of sexy and über-limber "Cagelle" drag artists (Matt Anctil, Logan Keslar, Donald C. Shorter, Jr., Mark Roland, Terry Lavell and Trevor Downey). These six performers offer up a feast of fabulous figures and drag ferociousness.

The rest of the supporting cast is also solid, although Jeigh Madjus could work on his comic delivery as the back-talking butler Jacob, who pines for a chance to star in the show. And though the show is set sometime in the late 1980s, it's hard to believe that the Jean-Michel of Billy Harrigan Tighe would want to shun his gay parents in order to impress his potential father-in-law, the moral conservative politician Monsieur Dindon (Bruce Winant).

Although some may decry *La Cage aux Folles* for its dramatic inconsistencies and emphasis on effeminate gay stereotypes, the show still remains vital in these times where same-sex marriage is a wedge-issue for so many U.S. voters. Unfortunately, a key performance in this touring *La Cage* isn't up to snuff, so the production limps along off-balance. It's a shame, since the show's message of love and tolerance is one that definitely still needs to be heard.

## SPOTLIGHT



After a troubled Chicago tryout and a long but critically drubbed run in New York, **The Addams Family** returns to the Windy City in a retooled and rewritten production that promises to be the definitive and final version of the big Broadway musical based upon Charles Addams' merrily macabre comics. The Addams Family continues through Jan. 1 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. Remaining performances are at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 28; 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 29 and 30; 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 31; and 2 p.m. Jan. 1. Tickets are \$37-\$95; call 800-775-2000 or visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>. Photo by Jeremy Daniel



George Hamilton (left) and Christopher Sieber in *La Cage aux Folles*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

# Curtain times: Highlights of 2011

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We have heard extensively in recent years about the trend toward recognition of the “local” landscape—its crops, crafts and culture. Many of 2011’s significant plays focused on our own city, beginning with Route 66’s *A Twist of Water* and ranging through Gift Theatre’s *Northwest Highway*, Lookingglass’s *The Great Fire*, the Rude Mechanicals’ *El Stories* series, the NeoFuturists’ holiday-offering *Burning Bluebeard*, Theatre Seven’s *We Live Here* and Chicago Landmark Project.

This doesn’t mean that 2011 heralded an epidemic of myopia. Several plays addressed the big picture: Halcyon’s *Family Devotions*, Silk



**White Noise.**  
Photo by Carol Rosegg

Road’s *Yellow Face* and Goodman’s *Chinglish* presented audiences with David Henry Hwang’s view of Chinese-United States relations from the 1980s to the present, while Teatro Vista’s productions of Jennifer Barclay’s *Freedom, NY* and Candido Tirado’s *Momma’s Boyz* put a different face on xenophobic and economic tensions, as did About Face’s premiere production of Philip Dawkins’ *The Homosexuals*, with its explorations of the contemporary gay scene. Most daring, however, was the take-no-prisoners *White Noise*, an acid-etched caveat on neo-Nazi supremacist propaganda making a try-out stop at the Royal George.

Sometimes a single performance is capable of striking down outmoded prejudices: consider the

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**Burning Bluebeard**, Neo-Futurists at Neo-Futurarium, through Dec. 30. Performer/playwright Jay Torrence and his skilled ensemble of fire-singed performers offer up a haunting examination of Chicago’s disastrous 1903 Iroquois Theatre Fire. It’s definitely an eloquently theatrical warning to make you forever check the locations of fire exits and escapes. SCM

**Penelope**, Steppenwolf, through Feb. 5. The view of four decidedly middle-aged straight men in Speedos is scary, but Enda Walsh packs poetry as well as testosterone into this dark comedy of four suitors wooing Penelope as she awaits Ulysses on a sun-washed, modern Greek isle. JA

**Pump Boys and Dinettes**, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Café, through January 15. You’re right there in the diner (and sometimes the garage) with this intimate musical revue celebrating the lifestyles of humble Americans wearing their names embroidered above their hearts. MSB

**Spring Awakening**, Griffin Theatre Company at Theater Wit, through Jan. 8. Frank Wedekind’s plea for sex education is a century old, but Duncan Sheik and Steve Sater’s musical adaptation intensifies the tragedy of teen ignorance, just as the close quarters at Theater Wit heightens the intimacy. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

career of octogenarian Mike Nussbaum, whose Jeff award-winning performance in *Drury Lane’s Broadway Bound* gave the lie to so-called “senior moment” aphasia. Consider also John Mahoney’s fearless refusal to go gentle into that good night in *The Outgoing Tide* at Northlight, and Mary Ann Thebus, long one of our favorite sweet-old-grannies, who brought unexpected tough-love to the clan matriarch in *Victory Gardens’ The Boys Room* and soul-crippling secrets to a devoted widow in *Next Theatre’s The Piano Teacher*.

Success is often found in the freshness imposed on revivals of previously seen works as well, whether drawn from the classic repertoire, such as Vitalist Theatre’s vigorous rendering of the classroom-staple *Life Is A Dream* and Promethean’s no-irony staging of Irwin Shaw’s long-lost *Bury The Dead*, or a risky first-cover of a previous hit, like RedTwist’s boat-in-the-bottle stagings of Tracy Letts’ *Bug* and *Man From Nebraska*. (Not to be excluded is the annual re-

mount of *The Christmas Schooner*, now residing in the cozy Mercury Theater after 12 years sailing in opera-sized auditoriums at home and throughout the world.)

Other noteworthy boat-in-bottle settings include *Lifeline’s The Moonstone*, *Steep Theatre’s Lakeboat* and *Timeline’s The Front Page*. Let’s not forget, either, those shows where all the artistic and technical elements are so closely-coordinated as to create a full-spectrum environment: Examples include *WildClaw’s Carmilla*, *Infusion’s Soul Samurai*, *Lifeline’s Watership Down* and *Ka-Tet’s Side Man*.

Finally, what would a year-end wrap be without a few individual awards?

1. They’re talented, attractive and just starting out—they’re my Flying Star Award recipients Stephen Louis Grush, Michaela Petro, Nicolas Gamboa, Allison Torem and Brittany Burch.

2. They’ve got a few miles on them and their bodies show it, but they’re willing to bare all for art—the 2011 winners of the AARP Pin-up Award winners are *Beauty of the Father’s* Madrid St. Angelo and *Penelope’s* Speedo-clad Scott Jaeck, Yassen Peyankov, Tracy Letts and Ian Barford (at least three of whom have gone full-time for Chicago audiences in previous years).

3. The dramatic premise is problematic and the roles are thankless—the recipients of the

Heavy-Lifting Acting Award are Nick Sandys and Annabel Armour for Remy Bumppo’s *The Goat*, while the coveted Tag-Team Award goes to David Parkes and Janet Ulrich Brooks, who lent new meaning to international negotiations in *Timeline’s A Walk In The Woods*.

4. Plants and animals onstage are always hard to pull off: The Flora and Fauna Awards go to *Freedom NY’s* lush autumn garden and to Elizabeth Rex’s bear (the latter not simply pursuing an exit, but capable of expressing emotions as complex as those of the humans surrounding it). *Freedom, NY’s* *Día de Los Muertos* decorations also share the Museum-Grade Set Dressing prize with *All Childish Things’* collection of Star Wars memorabilia.

5. Finally, a pair of miscellaneous accolades: The Romantic Ambience Award goes, not to any of the season’s eight *Romeo and Juliets*, but to *Livewire’s* *The 13th of Paris*, while *The Hinterland Royalties* prize is awarded to Jon Steinhagen’s *Aces*, which ought to fit snugly into dinner, community, school and casino playhouses throughout the country for years to come.

This list is incomplete, of course—how can anyone select only a few moments from the 800-plus plays offered audiences in a single Chicago season? Next year, add your own selections to the roster, huh?

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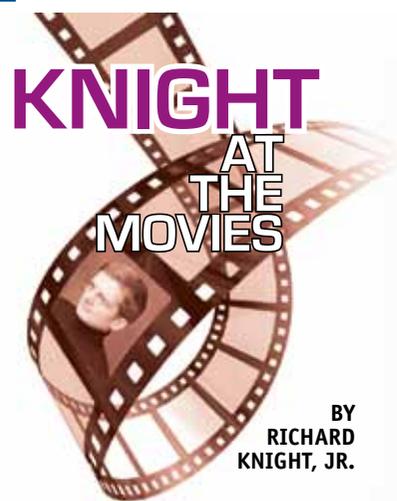
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## The Iron Lady; ...Dragon Tattoo; film note

From the light effervescence of *The Artist*, Hugo and portions of *The Adventures of Tintin* we now end the year with the dour, foreboding biopic **The Iron Lady** and the dour, foreboding thriller **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**. Talk about holiday hangovers.

The only reason to see *The Iron Lady* is Meryl Streep's performance—and then, only if you have yearned for Queen Meryl, Our Lady of the Accents, the actress who ruled the serious cinema through the '80s with one important movie after another. In the film Streep portrays, or rather perfectly impersonates, Margaret Thatcher, England's first female prime minister whose conservative economic and pro-war stance wreaked havoc on the lives of Great Britain's "little people" whom she lorded over with her harsh, take-no-prisoner policies in the '80s.

At first, Streep's meticulously crafted exterior—the impeccable accent and the slow cadences, the steely manner topped by the frosted helmet hair, the proper designer suits with just the right amount of frilliness, and the snaggle tooth—leaves one momentarily in awe. "How



Meryl Streep in *The Iron Lady*. Photo by Alex Bailey

details emerges from Streep's fastidious construct—and she offers no entry point for curious audience members, either. We are left to admire her superior impersonation skills while the juice is nowhere to be found.

Out director Phyllida Lloyd, who helmed Streep's pleasing star turn in the whisper-thin jukebox musical *Mamma Mia!*, now attempts far greater dramatic fare. However, just as in the former, she seems to simply get out of Streep's way—a huge disservice to the actress here—and the tone of the movie wobbles about, never landing for long in one place and never really exploring in depth its subject or her relationships. Whether you respond to Streep's supremely shellacked characterization in *The Iron Lady*



Rooney Mara in the title role in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Photo by Baldur Bragason

does she do it?" you wonder at the start of the movie, which finds Thatcher as a carefully guarded lioness in winter, out of office but still a powerful, though increasingly doddering presence who, apparently, is slipping into dementia.

However, as the movie shifts back and forth between Thatcher's frail twilight years, her tentative beginnings, her surprising rise to power and the years of her tough-as-nails control of the government, nothing beyond the surface

is one thing but as in this year's other sour biopic writ large, J. Edgar, one sits watching as Abi Morgan's by-the-numbers script glosses over Thatcher's severe policies and brutal impact on "her people," trying instead to humanize this tough old bird. You think, "I don't care that she was mean-spirited as all get out, but who the hell wants to sit here watching a movie about such a joyless bore?"

No such doubts would seem to exist for David Fincher's take on *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the U.S. version of the Stieg Larsson *Dragon Tattoo* literary trilogy that has been a worldwide phenomenon. The books link the Swedish investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist (played here with confidence in a series of body-fitting vests by Daniel Craig) and bisexual punk-goth princess Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara), whose superior computer hacking skills and other research techniques are in high demand by clients willing to overlook her antisocial ways. These two are improbably linked to solve a decades-old mystery involving the disappearance and probable murder of a teenage girl from an island inhabited by a powerful and wealthy dynastic family (think the Kennedys or the Carringtons) now presided over by Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer).

The film, which follows on the heels of the 2009 Swedish original adaptation, is perhaps the best match-up to the acrid yet compelling talents of Fincher since 2007's *Zodiac* or maybe even his breakthrough feature, 1995's *Seven*. Although ostensibly a mystery, the plot is fueled by the lurid sidebars in Larsson's novel that have remained intact in both versions of the movie: the horrendous rape of Lisbeth by her court-appointed overseer, her just-as-repellent revenge and the even more repellent sexually violent serial killings that Lisbeth and Mikael link to the Vanger's great-niece.

Fincher's movie jumps right in with a queasy, sexually tinged credit sequence that is bound to be as influential as the one created for *Seven*, and it's scored to the industrial throb music of Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross. The primary icy Swedish locale of the movie; the gorgeous but forlorn island with its dark, dense forests; and luxurious homes inhabited by distant members of the family (with Stellan Skarsgaard the most prominent), contrasts beautifully with the smoke-filled, cramped interiors of Lisbeth's urban existence. Early on, we see her bed a gorgeous young woman she's picked up at a bar but with the arrival of Mikael the next morning, it's quickly back to business. (Stay tuned—the girlfriend is prominent in the two sequels that are sure to follow.) Fincher keeps things moving at a furious pace and, not surprisingly, the look, sound and feel of the movie trumps the much punier budget of the 2009 Swedish edition.

However, that version—and its two sequels—boasted the astonishingly gifted Noomi Rapace in the title role. Although Mara is appropriately tough and clearly gave herself over to the character, her mousy physicality doesn't have a tenth of the defiant, in-your-face sexiness of Rapace's portrayal. Also, this new version hasn't solved the problem of the double ending; the movie should finish with the mystery being solved but heads back toward an earlier plot point, meandering on for another 40 minutes.

Still—in the challenge between the iron lady and the girl with the dragon tattoo—there's really no contest. Pick the punk chick.

### Film note:

All Ashore That's Going Ashore: This is your last call to board the SS Poseidon on New Year's Eve for Camp Midnight's 4th annual camptacular presentation of the 1972 disaster flick **The Poseidon Adventure**. The event sets sail on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 11 p.m. at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., beginning with a fun filled pre-show ('70s cruisewear costume parade, prizes, general wackiness) hosted by Dick O'Day (my alter ego) followed by an interactive audience screening in which the movie and the audience both "flip over" exactly at Midnight. The evening, co-hosted by David Cerda, Artistic Director of Handbag Productions and members of the Handbag ensemble including Ed Jones, includes party favors, one comp drink ticket, and champagne toast. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

### KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

# The 10 best LGBT movies of 2011

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

With *The Kids Are All Right*, *Black Swan*, *I Am Love*, *Chloe*, *The Runaways* and a few others, 2010 was easily the year of the lesbian-themed picture. Moreover, both the critical and box-office success of those movies paved the way for another batch in 2011—with *Circumstance*, *Pariah* and *Albert Nobbs* leading the pack. (The latter two actually open in Chicago in January.) The U.S. remake of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (reviewed in this issue) also featured a prominent bisexual character in its title. Locally, writer-director Wendy Jo Carlton's romantic lesbian dramedy-musical *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together* won critical kudos from Roger Ebert and premiered at the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Other aspects of the LGBT experience were prominent in the movies of 2011 with the gay love story *Weekend*, the excellent transgender teen drama *Gun Hill Road* and the searing AIDS documentary *We Were Here* being just a few examples. *We Were Here* was one of the centerpiece screenings at Reeling, Chicago's gay and lesbian film festival that celebrated 30 years and continues to present a plethora of LGBT-centric movies that aren't likely to show up anywhere else in town. Filmmaker Stephen Cone's opening-night selection, *The Wise Kids*, was also rapturously received by both queer and mainstream audiences when it premiered as the Opening Night presentation at the fest (and here's hoping it gets a Chicago theatrical run in 2012). The documentary *Making the Boys*, which had its local premiere at the Chicago Cultural Center under the behest of the Queer Film Society (of which I'm president) also had the support of an enthusiastic audience, hungry for rarely seen LGBT-themed movies—all of which bodes well for more of the same in 2012. (I'll have a preview of the year ahead in our mid-January movie issue.)

I'd like to point out—as I do every year—that all these "Best of" lists are completely subjective. My list tends to shift around with repeat viewings and reconsiderations. With that, here's my list of the 10 best LGBT movies of 2011 (in preferential order):

**1. Weekend:** Gay writer-director Andrew Haigh's *Weekend* is a stunningly simple, nearly perfect example of a romance movie whose burgeoning couple just happens to be gay. It's being tagged "a gay *Before Sunrise*" but Russell (Tom Cullen) and hook-up Glen (Chris New) are anything but tragic beauties in a world that certainly isn't filled with dappled sunsets and rosy dawns. They're just two regular Joes whose lives unexpectedly intersect and who find themselves hopelessly in love. It's the antithesis of Tom Ford's sleek and startling beautiful *A Single Man*, but Haigh's movie is just as perfectly controlled and it, too, is a triumphant movie—a gay triumph.

**2. Undertow:** Two years after making the rounds of film festivals *Undertow*—the sensual, compelling, romantic 2009 Peruvian film—finally got a theatrical run. The movie, which marks the feature debut of out writer-director Javier Fuentes-Leon (who also produced), is a lyrical old-fashioned weepie that combines the supernatural aspects of dozens of other similarly



Making the Boys with author Mart Crowley. Photo courtesy of Susan Bedusa

themed Hollywood dramas with the traditional wife-versus-mistress triangle. It's Back Street with a gay update: The mistress is a man. Fuentes-Leon strips down the familiar template to its emotional core and adds interesting emotional curves throughout and the result, gorgeously filmed, assuredly paced and acted by its fetching cast is nothing less than a Peruvian variation on Brokeback Mountain.

**3. Beginners:** Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer co-star in this movie based on the real-life experiences of writer-director Mike Mills, whose widowed father came out to him at the age of 75, determined to embrace the "gay lifestyle." This wistful black comedy, delicate and sure of tone, contains some of the year's best performances and Plummer is being touted as a good bet for an Oscar and he deserves it.

**4. Albert Nobbs:** Glenn Close stars, produced and adapted for the screen this somewhat flawed

version of a play that she starred in decades ago. Set in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during the Victorian era, she plays a woman impersonating a man, working as a genteel butler in a small residential hotel. Close's tightly confined performance—matching the dreams (not to mention clothes) of the carefully controlled character she's portraying—is far from the big-screen fireworks she's noted for but is a wonder, nevertheless. Although the movie has its missteps, it also has many marvelous performances—including Janet McTeer's, who is wonderful as another lesbian hiding in plain sight. The film opens in Chicago at the end of January and my full review will appear then.

**5. We Were Here:** It took two viewings for director David Weissman's documentary (which he co-directed with his editor Bill Weber) to break down my resistance to its tough subject matter—the impact of the AIDS epidemic on San

Francisco from the beginning of the outbreak at the end of the '70s through the truly terrifying decade that followed. Five individuals who lived to tell the tale and the cumulative power of the stories they relate turns out to be incredibly moving and worth the emotional journey (leavened by moments of lightness, have no fear). It's now available OnDemand.

**6. Pariah:** Writer-director Dee Rees' fictional feature debut that follows the coming out of a young African-American teenager in urban New York is like the entrance into a secret society. Sultry, powerful and beautifully shot, the film breaks free from the conventional coming-out story with its confident, gutsy approach. The film opens in Chicago Jan. 6 and both my full review and an interview with Rees and Adepero Oduye, the young star of the movie, will be featured in next week's issue of Windy City Times.

**7. Circumstance:** Bisexual writer-director Maryam Keshavarz's debut, is a moving but familiar coming of age story enlivened by its unusual location: Iran. There, with its draconian rules for women (not to mention its incredibly harsh treatment of gays), the world that the two teenage characters inhabit is filled with danger (and spy cameras), threatening its underground culture with exposure. In choosing to make this bold lesbian love story, Keshavarz (who is Iranian-American) has admitted in several interviews that she will never be able to return to Iran.

**8. Gun Hill Road:** Esai Morales plays Enrique, an ex-con who returns home to find a wife (the excellent Judy Reyes) who has taken up with another man and a teenage son who is in the process of transitioning to female. You'd better believe all hell breaks loose in writer/director Rashaad Ernesto Green's moving portrait of a fractured family trying to find a way to hang onto their love. Harmony Santana, a transgender actress in her debut as Michael/Vanessa, ably brings off the difficult role.

**9. Making the Boys:** Author Mart Crowley and a familiar line-up of talking heads (Dan Savage,

Tony Kushner, Carson Kressley, et al) add zest to queer documentarian Crayton Robey's entertaining and engrossing overview of the behind-the-scenes machinations of the groundbreaking play and the movie The Boys in the Band, America's first openly gay-themed work for mainstream audiences.

**10. Bill Cunningham New York:** One of the year's most delightful documentaries from director Richard Press is this portrait of the artistic and energetic New York Times fashion street photographer/society chronicler.

Also worth checking out are L'Amour Fou, Becoming Chaz, Leave It On The Floor and the aforementioned Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together.

Check out my archived reviews of these and other movies at <http://www.windycitytimes.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.



Still from Bill Cunningham New York.

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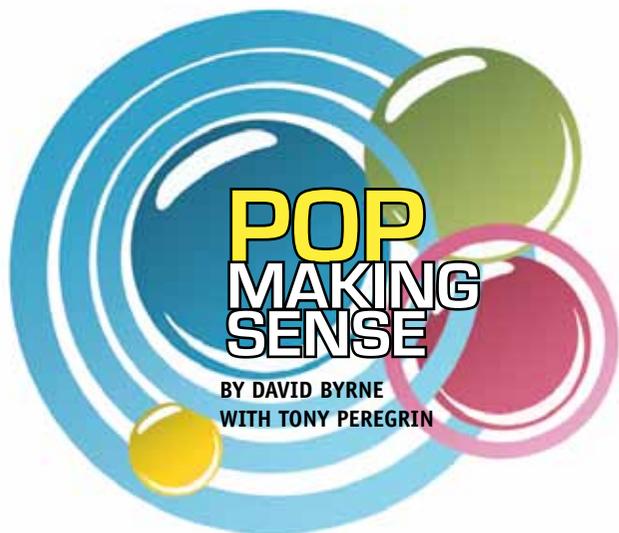
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## Looking back

Another year has flown by us. Once again, radio had a lot of fodder to play. Luckily, worthwhile music can be found beneath the slop coming through the airwaves.

The one album I kept within arm's reach throughout the year is Unpersons by Pack a.d. Here, this female duo delivers rock with blues, garage and punk leanings. "Sirens" and "Positronic" remain among my favorites with their driving drumming and dirty guitar licks. How I regret missing Pack a.d.'s Chicago concert in October.

Other songs I could not stop playing include Will Young's "Jealousy," Leona Lewis and Avicii's

soundtrack's highlights are Allison Mosshart and Carla Azar's epic remake of "Tomorrow Never Knows" by The Beatles and Skunk Anansie's fiery version of The Stooges' "Search and Destroy."

The Donnas, Schonen Knife and The Dandy Warhols are just some of the artists who contribute material on Take It or Leave It: A Tribute to the Queens of Noise. This is my favorite compilation of the year. The catalog of The Runaways is given a modern update and it ages well as heard throughout the two-disc set, but especially on "C'mon," "Gotta Get out Tonight" and "Waitin' for the Night."

kd lang is backed with The band Siss Boom Bang on Sing It Loud. The 10-track album includes a stunning interpretation of "Heaven" by The Talking Heads. Just the way lang beautifully delivers the chorus can part clouds to make a portal between mortals and deities.

Another remarkable remake is TimPermanent's reworking of Robyn's "Dancing on My Own." Here, TimPermanent does not rely on the synthesizers and beats that made this track a hit in the bars. Instead, he sings over an acoustic guitar and does not change the lyrics, personalizing it and making it a mournful ballad.

Kylie Minogue has the honors of having the



Kylie Minogue.

"Collide;" and "Titanium" by David Guetta, with Sia on vocals.

This year, Friend Slash Lover released two exceptional videos from its debut EP, As American As Ones and Zeroes.

"Breakin' Up" shows frontman Josh Mintz aimless in Los Angeles. Walls and pavement crack around him, ultimately crumbling during the clip's climax. There is one scene where the footage is spliced among three different shots as if Mintz is walking through each shot. It is absolutely fantastic and a nice nod to Depeche Mode's "Enjoy the Silence."

"Where Have I Been All My Life" is filmed with the '80s camera, Pixelvision (PXL-2000), by fine art photographer Sarah Baley. The final product is grainy, but completely effective. It gave me a flashback to the videos "Miracle of Love" by Eurythmics and Ariel Aparicio's remake of "People Who Died." These clips show the promising future of Friend Slash Lover.

Other outstanding videos this year are Will Young's "Jealousy" and "D.I.S.C.O." by The Young Professionals.

The film Sucker Punch is a 110-minute music video set to killer cover songs. The superb

concert of the year. Although her trek did not stop in Chicago, I saw it in New York. Here, her pulsating electronic hits translated well onto stage with actual live vocals. So-called dance-pop divas, take note. Aphrodite les Folies: Live in London is out now on DVD and Blu-ray. Other great live performances this year include Patti Labelle, Sia and The Alt Q Festival.

The year's best comeback belongs to Erasure. The electronic pioneers return with Tomorrow's World, which is produced by Frankmusik. This set is fresh, as heard on "A Whole Lotta Love Run Riot" and "Then I Go Twisting." Erasure's previous outings have been too similar in sound. This is a most welcomed return to fine form.

Sia joins David Guetta on the powerful club anthem "Titanium" for the collaboration of the year. I would love to offer a storyboard for this track's video. The lyrics would suit the It Gets Better theme perfectly. Capitol, contact me and I will hook you up with a compelling clip with an important message.

Although "E.T." by Katy Petty, "Pumped up Kicks" by Foster the People and "Born This Way" by Lady Gaga were overplayed this year, I never got sick of these guilty pleasures.

When I went to see Leave It on the Floor, I thought it was going to be a documentary, similar to the legendary Paris Is Burning. Instead the movie is a musical telling the story of a drag house in California. The cast is delightful, whether singing numbers like "This Is My Lament" and "Justin's Gonna Call," competing in ballrooms or throwing shade. Sure, the dramatic moments are straight from a Lifetime movie, but the characters' personalities carry the film.

The year's best documentary is Hit So Hard: The Life & Near Death Story of Patty Schemel. This moving piece shows the lesbian musician's struggle with drug addiction, her rise to fame as a drummer and her time spent with Courtney Love's band Hole. Also, Love comes across more as a laughable Joker knock-off than a messy,

self-glorified rockstar here.

This year saw some pop stars speak openly about their sexuality with little fan fare, as is the case with British soul singer Jessie J. and Brandi Carlile, the singer-songwriter behind "The Story." Other artists are left in compromising positions due to rumors and candid information trying to out them.

The worst albums of the year belong to Beyoncé and Britney Spears. On 4, Beyoncé was hoping to strike gold with material recalling her previous hits. Despite a handful of well-shot videos, there is nothing noteworthy on 4. Spears sounds bored while singing her latest single, "Criminal." The material on Femme Fatale could have been sung by any up-and-coming starlet with limited vocal capabilities.



NUNN ON ONE

## 'Gilligan's' Dawn Wells on her Chicago show

BY JERRY NUNN

Dawn Wells brightened the castaways as Mary Ann Summers on television's Gilligan's Island. In addition, she has made numerous appearances over the years from Bonanza to Roseanne. For RuPaul's Drag U her character was named Chickadee and schooled by drag queen Raven.

She is currently one of the lead cast members for Nora and Delia Ephron's Love, Loss, and What I Wore. We sat down to discuss those three topics and how they tie into her life these days.

**Windy City Times: Hello, Dawn. How did you become involved with this show?**

Dawn Wells: This is interesting because I have never done this in my life. I saw it two years ago on Broadway. I don't know Tyne Daly or Jane Lynch, but they were in it and I went right up, shook their hands and told them that I loved the play. Tyne told me that I should be doing the show. I wrote a letter to Daryl Roth, the producer, and the cast director also. They asked if I would work in the Chicago cast and I said yes because I love Chicago! The director and cast are wonderful so I hope to do it again in New York.

**WCT: Are you from New York?**

DW: L.A.

**WCT: Have you met the Ephrons?**

DW: No, although Karen Carpenter, the original director, came in town to direct.

**WCT: How much preparation did you do for the show?**

DW: Three days...

**WCT: Wow, that is fast!**

DW: Everyone else in the cast had done it before. I was the new one. You are reading but still a lot of them don't even have to look down. It has grown and we have developed it since we have been doing it.

**WCT: You have performed in Chicago before?**

DW: Yes; I did Bus Stop with Dawn Murray directing it at the McCormick Place Playhouse. I did See How They Run and The Vagina Monologues also.

**WCT: Let's talk about the three subjects from the show. Do you have a favorite outfit that you wore in the past?**

DW: How could you not say the short shorts? Would that I could still wear them—I have them, of course! They were the first short shorts on television ever. They couldn't show my navel. "What I wore" really made a difference on television. That is pretty significant.

**WCT: That is great that you kept it for all of these years.**

DW: We were waiting to see if we were picked up for another season. We had all of our scripts and we were cancelled while we were on vacation. Why I took the shorts home I don't know. My mother saves everything and was 94 when I was lost her. She told me she had the shorts and about six months ago I found them. They are just so tiny!

**WCT: I think people think that show went on longer than three seasons.**

DW: Well, because it was 98 episodes; we did 39 episodes a year. You are lucky if you get 20 now. We have never been off the air since 1964 and it is in 30 languages all over the world. There is no time, no cars, no clothes, so some new kids think it's happening now.

**WCT: Isn't that funny? As far as loss, there are only a few cast members still alive.**

DW: The professor, Ginger and myself; the first person who passed away was Jim Backus. We were doing something in at Lake Michigan and they were bringing us in with the Coast Guard. It was a rescue PR thing. They threw bouquets down mourning Jim. He was part of our family. It was a family that lost something, not just an actor. We have raised three generations of kids. There isn't any other show like that. M\*A\*S\*H\* was a grown-up show. Our age [was for those who started at] 14.

**WCT: Tell me about love in your life.**

DW: I love love. I was married. I lost my father, the series was cancelled, and got a divorce all the same year. I only had one real love in my life and moved to Nashville for him. I lived there for 19 years.

**WCT: I am going to Nashville Friday.**

DW: Are you? My best friend in the whole world lives there on 8th Avenue, with all of the antiques. I lived there before liquor by the drink. You had to buy a bottle in a paper bag. We would be in Printer's Alley and they would say, "The cops are coming" and we would run outside the bar.

**WCT: There are still dry counties in some parts. You wrote a book, Mary Ann's Gilligan's Island Cookbook. Do you cook a lot?**

DW: I love to cook and love to eat!

Turn to page 29

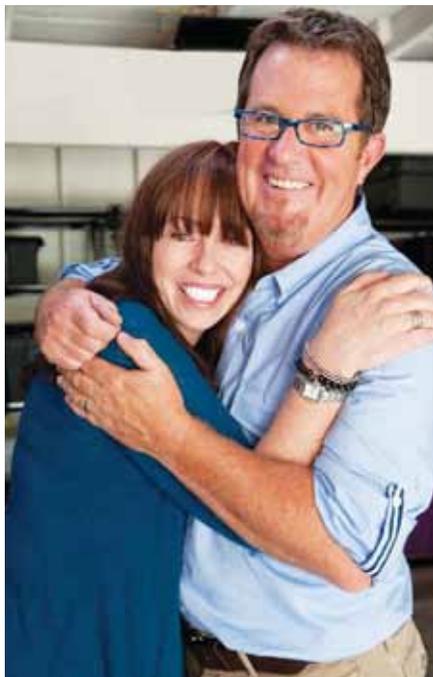
## TELEVISION

# Mackenzie Phillips and Peter Walsh get rid of the 'Clutter'

BY JERRY NUNN

Peter Walsh is back with a second season of his show, *Extreme Clutter*. Our favorite out organizational guru is heading to Mackenzie Phillips' space to see what he can dig up. What he finds may shock viewers as the former *One Day at a Time* star comes clean about her past of family problems and drug use.

Mackenzie Phillips is the daughter of John Phillips, singer from The Mamas & the Papas and half-sister to actress Bijou Phillips and singer Chynna Phillips. She first came into prominence with the film *American Graffiti* and has continued acting through the years



Mackenzie Phillips and Peter Walsh. Photo courtesy of OWN

in the Disney series *So Weird* and recently in an independent film called *Peach Plum Pear*.

Australian author Peter Walsh has appeared many times on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* along with his own show on TLC called *Clean Sweep*.

We talked Nunn on *Two* with them both about the process of letting go of the past for the new year.

**Windy City Times:** Hello, there!

Mackenzie Phillips: Hello, my Tweet buddy!

**WCT:** I tweeted you both before I called. Peter, you are such a trooper calling in from Australia.

Peter Walsh: Yes. You may have heard of it. It is a little country in the Southern Hemisphere. [Laughs]

**WCT:** Are you there for the holidays?

PW: My partner and I are here for two months. We decided to do a house swap this year. All of my family is here in Melbourne and we had a friend that we switched homes with. We are here living like locals, which is very exciting. If it were not for the difficulty of avoiding kangaroos on the road and koalas falling out of trees, it would be a very nice experience.

**WCT:** How long have you been together with your partner?

PW: We have been together nearly 15 years. We were one of the lucky few able to get married during that window of opportunity in California.

MP: They are a lovely couple, Jerry.

PW: Ohhh, Mac, you make me blush!

**WCT:** Have you both talked much since filming the show?

PW: It is quite surprising. I didn't expect to love Mackenzie Phillips as much as I did. She is a surprisingly, loving, charming, honest, direct person. We hit it off well. One thing I love about her is that she threw herself into this without any kind of artifice. We bonded very quickly. We have spoken a couple of times since then but the problem is when we start talking neither of us can shut up! We have to avoid each other or jeopardize our time for the rest of our lives.

MP: Peter and I have never run out of things to say to each other. When this all went down Peter's trepidation was about coming into a celebrity's home that would be about protecting a brand or image instead of being a part of the process. I am not that kind of a person. Here I am warts and all. My whole point was to get my home in order with someone amazing like Peter but also to show other people who might be in the same type of situation I am in. I hope people can identify what is going on in our homes and how things get out of control.

PW: The client has to be present. It can't work if the person doesn't bring himself/herself to the process and commit. I'm suspicious of working with celebrities because of the brand that comes with them. On this, you see a person who has lost her way and you see her working through a whole lot of issues. I think that is what makes this episode so compelling.

MP: I wept when I saw the episode because there was my beautiful son, Shane, standing there and my good friend, Peter, as well. I think people will get a lot out of this. Watching someone deal with the leftovers from a lifestyle where the clutter of the lifestyle is still in the home. It was redemptive for me.

**WCT:** Who reached out to whom to get this episode going?

MP: My agents were contacted so I went around and took iPhone pictures of my closet and my garage. When I did the Oprah Show for the publication of my book, *High on Arrival*, Harpo sent a crew out to my house and they could see there was an issue with clutter. I think it might have come from that.

**WCT:** Do you want your relatives to see it?

MP: I hope they will see it or someone will tell them about it, but baby steps. I know people that come out to their families or come out about abuse and they are still bullied by people that should be loving them. It is an ugly equation of the human condition.

PW: I think you have to believe that honesty will win out.

**This episode of *Extreme Clutter* premieres Jan. 2 on the OWN Network. Visit <http://www.oprah.com/own> for listings and details. Check out Peter's new app to work on your own home at <http://peterwalshdesign.com>.**

**Read the full interview at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>, and find out what other reality show Mackenzie Phillips would love to be on—and Peter's reaction to her statement.**

## DAWN from page 28

**WCT:** Are you doing more books?

DW: I am in the midst of one. We are looking for a publisher at the moment. It is about the world today with both Mary Ann's and Dawn's perspective. I don't think anyone has written a book as their character. What would she say with what is going on? Ninety percent of the men I meet married a Mary Ann. People like the values. The 40-year old fathers were raised on me and the values that Gilligan's Island portrays. Now they have a 13-year old daughter. I do a lot of motivational speaking and the questions are coming from the men "What do you do? What do you say?"

**WCT:** Are you similar to the character Mary Ann?

DW: I am very similar in values. I was raised that way. I am more broadminded and worldly so the conversation between her and me is going to be interesting. She may not come to decisions about same sex marriage let's say but she would want to know what it's about and talk to me about it. She is not close-minded. She was very fair and open. She was just unsophisticated. We will see.

**WCT:** So maybe next year...

DW: The film of Gilligan's Island is in the works. It is on the Warner Brothers list but not scheduled to shoot. The timing would be great if it were to happen at the same time. I hope they don't ruin the film. I don't think so since the authors have said they want their kids to see it. It will hopefully go into production in 2012. The script is not even approved yet. We lost Sherwood Schwartz the producer this year. He was 94 and still writing.

**WCT:** Isn't that something? We have to talk about RuPaul's *Drag U*, when you appeared as Chickadee.

DW: This last summer I did *Drag U*, went to Burning Man, and visited the House of Ill Repute outside my hometown of Reno. When they called

from Logo I told them I wanted to either be Margaret Thatcher or Queen Elizabeth and I wind up being Mae West. I was quite embarrassed how awful I was.

**WCT:** No you weren't bad at all. Was it fun working with Raven?

DW: I asked Raven if she would do my makeup. They did a Loretta Young thing with my makeup but I couldn't turn my head. They had to loosen it up. It was a great experience! Is Raven still on?

**WCT:** Raven was on both seasons of *Drag U*.

DW: RuPaul is quite proper and aloof. I wouldn't think he would be.

**Time is running out as *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* closes Dec. 31 at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut St. For tickets and details visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>; for more on Dawn, visit <http://www.dawn-wells.com>.**



Dawn Wells. PR photo

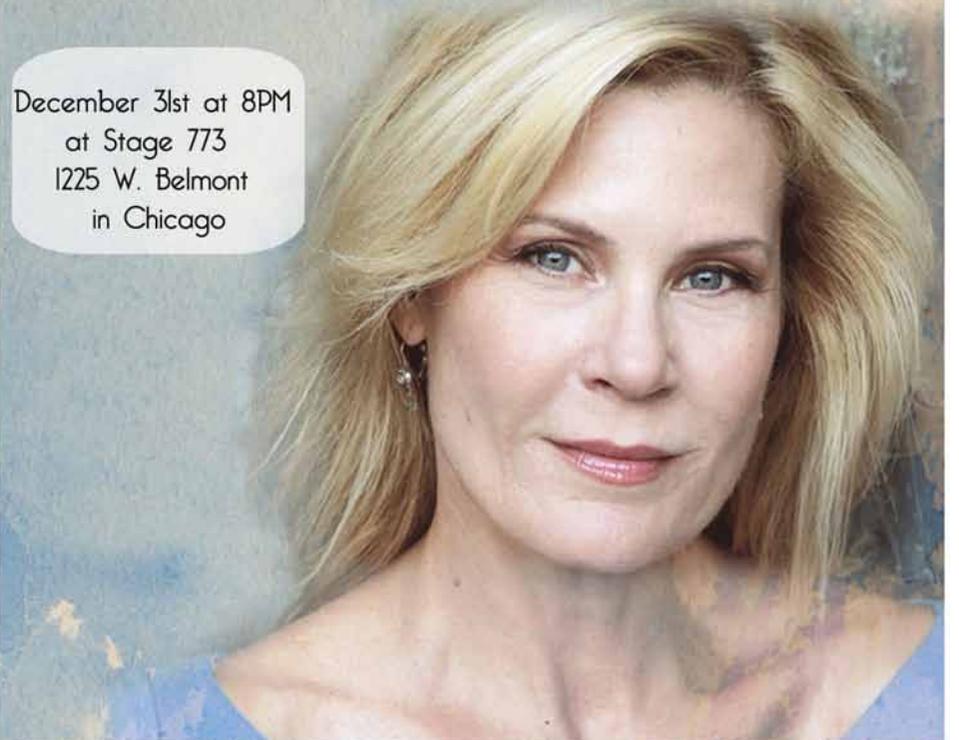
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## Three easy ways to do good this holiday season

BY RICHARD READ, GAYWHEELS.COM

At this time of year, many of us try to put our own needs aside and focus on the needs of the less fortunate—though it's often easier said than done. Providing gifts for everyone on our holiday shopping lists and giving a little something to charity can push personal finances to the brink.

If you're feeling a little over-committed this year but still want to do some good, here are three free and easy ways to make a difference in the lives of folks across the country. The donation amounts may be small, but spread the word among friends, and they can really add up. Best of all, each is done through Facebook, meaning that you won't need to go anywhere near a shopping mall. Score.

—Subaru's "Share the Love" event: Simply "like" Subaru on Facebook, visit the company's "Share the Love" tab and click a button to donate \$1 to one of five charities: American Forests, the ASPCA, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Meals On Wheels Association of America or the Special Olympics. Subaru will contribute up to \$250,000 through this year's "Share the Love" program, which runs through January 3, 2012.

—Lexus' "Bows for Charity": Visit Lexus' Facebook page and hit the "December to Remember" tab on the left-hand side. You'll see a "Share a Bow" button in the middle of the page. Click it, share it on your wall, and Lexus will donate \$5 to Toys for Tots, up to a total of \$100,000. This program also runs through Jan. 3.

—AT&T's no-texting pledge: You're no dummy. You know that texting and driving is a dangerous habit. AT&T knows it, too, which is why the company is asking people to pledge not to text and drive. Once you're logged into Facebook, visit the pledge page, click the "TAKE THE PLEDGE" button sitting smack in the middle of the screen, and AT&T will donate \$2 to a nationwide coalition of nonprofits that address problems like driver safety, substance abuse, and bullying.

Visit <http://www.gaywheels.com> for more articles.

### Auto companies and the HRC index

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released the 2012 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) and, because of more stringent ranking criteria, 148 fewer companies than last year scored 100 percent, according to Advocate.com. The index uses more rigorous criteria that considers philanthropic support and health care coverage for transgender employees alongside longtime factors such as equal employment benefits.

According to a press release, among this year's report's findings are that:

—While the inclusion of sexual orientation in non-discrimination policies has become a standard since 2002, the addition of gender identity is now part of the policies of 50 percent of Fortune 500 companies for the first time;

—The number of Fortune 500 companies offering domestic-partnership benefits has increased by 76 percent since 2002; and

—The greatest strides have come in area of transgender-inclusive healthcare coverage. As a result of new criteria instituted by HRC this year that is a requisite to a perfect score, the number of companies offering comprehensive healthcare coverage to their transgender workers has increased to 207 (from 85 last year and 49 in 2009).

Three companies in the automotive industry scored 100: Ford Motor Co., Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. and Chrysler LLC. Volkswagen Group of America Inc. scored a 90 and Subaru of America Inc. rated an 85. Bringing up the rear was Southfield, Mich.-based Lear Corp., which scored a 0.

Jerome Miller, Toyota's vice president of diversity and inclusion, said in a statement, "Toyota is honored to be recognized by the HRC. Diversity and inclusion are essential components of every aspect of our business. We believe building a workforce that reflects the communities it serves is not only the right thing to do, but also gives us a competitive advantage in the marketplace."

Read the full report at <http://www.hrc.org/cei>.

### Chicago Auto Show Feb. 9-19 at McCormick

The 104th edition of the Chicago Auto Show will take place Feb. 9-19, 2012, at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr.

"First Look for Charity" is a black-tie event that will take place Feb. 9, 6:30-10:30 p.m. The public show runs 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Feb. 10-18, and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Feb. 19. Admission for the public show is \$7-\$11.

The show utilizes 1.2 million square feet of the McCormick Place complex. Exhibitions include multiple world and North American introductions; a complete range of domestic and imported passenger cars and trucks; sport utility vehicles; and experimental or concept cars. In total, nearly 1,000 different vehicles will be on display.

See <http://www.chicagoautoshow.com>.



Chicago Auto Show 2011. Photo by Andrew Davis



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# WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



BY MEGHAN STREIT

## Ripasso

I was devastated when I learned over the summer that Terragusto was closing its doors. The tiny Roscoe Village restaurant housed in a nondescript storefront has long been one of my favorite places to indulge in homemade rustic Italian food. Terragusto was BYOB from day one, which made it for me (and many others) an affordable indulgence.

Terragusto owner Theo Gilbert told Eater Chicago (<http://chicago.eater.com/>) that one of the reasons he was throwing in the towel was that he'd grown tired of wannabes drinking cheap wine with his fancy food. The website quoted him:

"When I originally put it together, I had a specific clientele - foodies who got it who had great bottles of wine and had no place to go," Gilbert said. "As the economy tanked the demographic shifted. Those great customers we had were crowded out by people who didn't care about the food, but could BYOB their Two-Buck Chuck."

Ouch. Really, Mr. Gilbert? We're sorry we couldn't keep our wine cellars stocked to your standards during the worst economy of our lifetimes.

Nevertheless, I've developed an addiction to Gilbert's impossibly fresh pastas, crispy baked



Ripasso's strip steak. Photos by Meghan Streit.

polenta and succulent pan-seared fish. So, when I heard he planned to open a new spot with a full bar, I was still resentful, but also secretly relieved.

Earlier this year, Gilbert opened Ripasso in Bucktown. The restaurant's name is derived from the Italian verb "ripassare," which means "to enrich or make better," according to Ripasso's website. OK—I'm listening.

After a delightful visit a few weeks ago, I'm pleased to report that Ripasso has retained many of the things I loved so much about Terragusto. In fact, the menu is nearly identical, but with a few fun new additions. I don't know that I'd say that Terragusto has been "made better," but it certainly has been made more expensive because there is no BYOB option.

In fairness, Gilbert and his team have made an effort to make good wines available at reasonable prices. I loved the Colterenzio Pino Nero, which is like a pinot noir with a bit more body, and can be yours for \$35. The Stefano Farina Barbera d'Alba also works well with many of the menu items and costs \$35. If you're one of the "low-lifes" who have been drinking "Two-Buck Chuck" at Terragusto, don't worry; the knowledgeable wait staff will happily help you choose

a bottle (or three) to accompany your Italian feast.

Like at Terragusto, the food at Ripasso is meant to be enjoyed family style. Your waiter will encourage you to place your entire order at the beginning of the meal so they can course it appropriately, and if you have a party of five or more, he or she will insist upon it. So, order a glass of wine, request a basket of the delicious fresh-baked bread, and study the menu to design a strategy.

I'd recommend ordering one or two items for your antipasti course. My top pick is the sformato, which is a warm savory custard filled with seasonal ingredients. (It's like quiche, but creamier and without crust.) On my visit, the sformato was flavored with roasted onion and served with olive oil-braised rabbit, mushrooms and arugula—divine. The polpetti is also an excellent option your whole table with love. These aren't your ordinary, run-of-the mill meatballs. They're juicy, well-seasoned and doused in a tangy tomato sauce. My dining companions and I kept them around throughout the meal to munch on between courses.

For my money, Ripasso's pastas are the star of the show, and you'll want to order about one per person. The pappardelle is a must-order item. The wide ribbon noodles are baked in creamy four-meat sauce of veal, lamb, beef and pork, and then topped with Parmigianino and white

truffle. I was skeptical that a four-meat sauce would be anything I'd enjoy. But, let me tell you, it works in a big way. This pappardelle is like the most decadent (and carnivorous) mac and cheese you'll ever eat.

I also highly recommend the capellacci. In this dish, the "pope's hats"—basically, fancy homemade ravioli stuffed with autumn squashes and Parmigiano and drizzled with a sage-brown butter sauce that strikes the perfect (and very difficult to achieve) balance between sweet and savory.

For your final course, you can't go wrong with any of Ripasso's four simple choices, but if you're only going to order one, make it the fish. Gilbert and his team have a special talent for seasoning and searing fish to perfection. On my visit, they were serving rainbow trout, which every person in my party of six adored. The strip steak is also a contender. Mine was full of flavor, but was a little tough and chewy, so I'm not sure I'd order it again.

Don't skip dessert at Ripasso, even if you're full, which you will be. I sampled the ricotta-lemon torta with cherry-wine glaze, an inventive and well-executed dessert that captures the several of winter's best flavors. But, the maple panna cotta is, hands down, the best sweet offering on the menu. I eat a lot of panna cotta, and I can say this is one of the richest, creamiest versions in Chicago. The subtle maple flavoring and the apple pine-but salad on top just made a fantastic dessert even better.

Maybe I drank Gilbert's Kool-aid (or Chianti, in this case), but I will admit that his exquisitely handmade Italian cuisine does, in fact, taste even better with wines selected from his approved list. If you loved Terragusto like I did, you'll enjoy Ripasso just as much. If you've never had the pleasure of a meal carefully orchestrated by Gilbert, then you are in for a delightful surprise.

Ripasso is located at 1619 N. Damen Ave.; call 773-342-8799 or visit [http://www.ripasochicago.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.ripasochicago.com/Home_Page.html).

Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter at SugarAndSpiceMS for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.



Ripasso's lemon ricotta torta.

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773.248.3999, [MissAsiaCuisine.com](http://MissAsiaCuisine.com)

FREE APPETIZER\*  
WITH ANY PURCHASE

Promo Code "Pride"

Fresh Asian Cuisine in Boystown  
\*Does not apply to the sampler plate.

## the DISH DINING LISTINGS

### AMERICAN

**Beef 'n Brandy**  
127 S. State St., Chicago  
312-372-3451  
[beefbrandy.net](http://beefbrandy.net)  
A Chicago tradition since 1967. Serving pizza, burgers, meat loaf, homemade Focaccia bread and more.

### Roscoe's Sidewalk Cafe

3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago  
773-281-3355  
[roscoes.com](http://roscoes.com)

Visit our popular outdoor cafe. Salads, burgers, wraps, sandwiches, drink specials, and Sunday Brunch.

### Jane's Restaurant

1653-55 W. Cortland Ave.  
773-862-5263  
[janesrestaurant.com](http://janesrestaurant.com)  
An everyday, upscale eatery

located in neighborhood Bucktown. Stunning Special Events Room. Brunch, Lunch & Dinner.

### Hamburger Mary's

5400 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-784-6969  
[hamburgermarys.com/](http://hamburgermarys.com/)  
chicago  
Burgers, salads and sass served up in a kitschy atmosphere with an on-site brew pub.

### ASIAN

**Miss Asia**  
434 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago  
773-248-3999

[missasiacuisine.com](http://missasiacuisine.com)  
At Miss Asia we provide fine traditional Thai cuisine and an elegant dining atmosphere.

### BAKERY

**Swedish Bakery**  
5348 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-561-8919  
[swedishbakery.com](http://swedishbakery.com)  
European-style cookies, pastries, breads, and tortes. We'll create a cake for any celebration.

### FONDUE

**Geja's Cafe**  
340 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago  
773-281-9101  
[gejascafe.com](http://gejascafe.com)  
Romantic fondue dining. Live classical and flamenco guitar. Extensive, moderately priced wine list.

### ITALIAN

**Taverna 750**  
750 W. Cornelia Ave., Chicago  
773-348-5172

Bright and fresh Italian small plates with an exciting cocktail menu. Surprisingly affordable.

### Club Lucky

1824 W. Wabansia Ave., Bucktown  
773-227-2300  
[clubluckychicago.com](http://clubluckychicago.com)  
1940's style Italian Supper Club & Cocktail Lounge Award-winning. Holiday decorations and private party room. Accepting online reservations.

### MEDITERRANEAN

**Socca**  
3301 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-248-1155  
[soccachicago.com](http://soccachicago.com)  
Featured on Food Network. Italian/French cuisine. Dinner daily and weekend brunch. Outdoor patio.

### MEXICAN

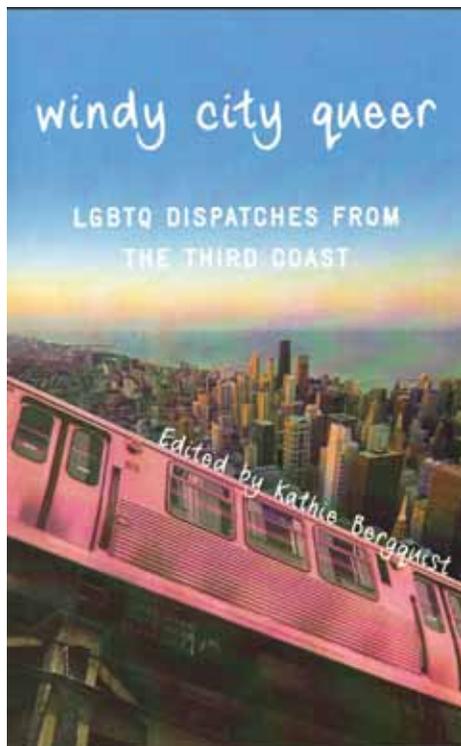
**Mundial Cocina Mestiza**  
1640 W. 18th St., Chicago  
312-491-9908  
[mundialcocinamestiza.com](http://mundialcocinamestiza.com)  
Creative Mexican cuisine in the Pilsen neighborhood. Handshaken margaritas and affordable wines.

To get your business listed in The Dish, contact [advertising@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:advertising@windycitymediagroup.com)

BOOK REVIEW

**Windy City Queer**  
 Edited by Kathie Bergquist  
 \$24.95; Univ. of Wisconsin Press; 246 pages  
 REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The beach is sounding pretty good right now. You've survived the holidays, the crush of shopping, the insanity of parties and family get-togethers, and a year's worth of weird weather. You've lived through downsizing at work, upsizing at lunch, and the changing of the middle class. Now the new year is calling, and the beach is beckoning. Since no sand-sit is satisfying without a book, what to take is the next big question. The an-



swer may be Windy City Queer, edited by Kathie Bergquist. "What distinguishes LGBTQ writing from Chicago from its well-documented counterparts in New York or San Francisco?" asks Columbia College Chicago teacher and editor Kathie Bergquist. In seven basic sections, Bergquist answers that question by pulling together over 30 contributors of "national renown and distinction," winners of awards, and writers for whom Chicago is a "vestige of a past life." That past life might've been filled with mistakes. In "Marriage and Commitment" by Owen

Keehnen, an off-hand volunteer gig brings a young man face-to-face with painful memories and a horrifying possibility. Strength arrives in the back of a taxi in "Cold Cab" by Byron Flitsch. When a cabbie spots to two men making out in the back of his vehicle, he overreacts and tries to kick them out. The date is quickly over, but the war has just begun. As the saying goes, if Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. But what if Mama is listed as Daddy? In "I Am My Daughter's Dad" by Coya Paz, the distinction is both hilarious and irritating. In "The Mudroom" by Nadine C. Warner, the presence of a toddler enriches his mothers' lives but causes "lesbian bed death." Can feng shui, a sense of humor and paint restore their dance together? And sometimes, you really have to relax and learn to remain unfazed. That's especially true when you're the passenger in a car driven by someone who was born a boy but is transitioning and dressed to kill, and you've just been stopped by a serious-looking state trooper. In "Darla Speeding" by Deb R. Lewis, you'll see why life is much more interesting when you roll with the flow.

When living in the city, one gets to know the neighbors, both human and building—and long-term residents get to mourn the changes made when people with money arrive. In Forgive: A Queer Call for Survival in the City, by Windy City Times own Yasmin Nair, the ghosts of a neighborhood with charm and history still peek out from between newly-gentrified bricks, begging to be remembered. Like so many anthologies, Windy City Queer is a mixed bag. There will be stories in here that you won't like. There are poems you might not understand. A few of the contributions will seem too long, while others will make you growl in frustration because of their brevity. Some will make you laugh, some will make you hate and some will break your heart. The good news is that you don't have to read everything. Bergquist has pulled together a nice variety of works to fit a variety of readers and moods, which makes this an easy book to browse for five minutes or for five hours. And there's the beauty of a book like this: When you're busy, restless or you're packing for vacation, you want a pick-up-and-put-down kind of read. A perfect fit, "Windy City Queer" probably sounds pretty good right now. Want more? Look for A Field Guide to Gay and Lesbian Chicago by Kathie Bergquist and Robert McDonald; or Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community by Tracy Baim.

Depending on the reception for this project, other books may be done with fathers, or queer parents, but the focus of this first book is on mothers. To submit, send photos of you with your mother to: <https://www.facebook.com/windycitymediagroup>, Twitter [windycitytimes1](https://twitter.com/windycitytimes1) or email [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) by Jan. 15, 2012. You can also submit a short essay about why you think your mother should be selected to be photographed with you. Families with multiple LGBT children are welcome to submit as well. Images may also be used in Windy City Times newspaper.

**Mom: A Tribute to Mothers of LGBTs**  
*Windy City Times soliciting people for new photo book*

CHICAGO—Mothers of LGBT individuals will be the focus of a new photo essay book from Windy City Times. The Chicago-based weekly newspaper is soliciting submissions from LGBTs in the Chicago area, or those formerly from Chicago, for this new project. Just in time for the holidays, people can submit photos with their moms via email, Facebook or Twitter through Jan. 15, 2012. Windy City Times is looking for diversity in families. Once the winners are selected, a professional photo shoot will be done by Kat Fitzgerald of Mystic Images Photography (of the winning mothers with their child or children), so winners must be available in the Chicago area, although some additional photos may be used. Winners will also be asked to submit a 200-word essay about what their mother has meant to them.

**Photographer seeks LGBT subjects**

Photographer Tom Atwood—whose first photography book, Kings in Their Castles, focused on gay men and their homes—is seeking LGBT individuals in any city who have unique living spaces. Interested persons should email Tom@TomAtwood.com.

Special content from **nightspots**  
 Turn to this space each week for all your nightspots-y goodness. Also, "like" our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nightspots](http://www.facebook.com/nightspots)) for even more pictures of all your favorite nightlife denizens. Look for the next issue of Nightspots, on newsstands January 18, 2012.

**Homos for the holidays**

A very warm and special edition of the Bear Den at Big Chicks on Thu., Dec. 22.  
 Photos by Dave Ouano



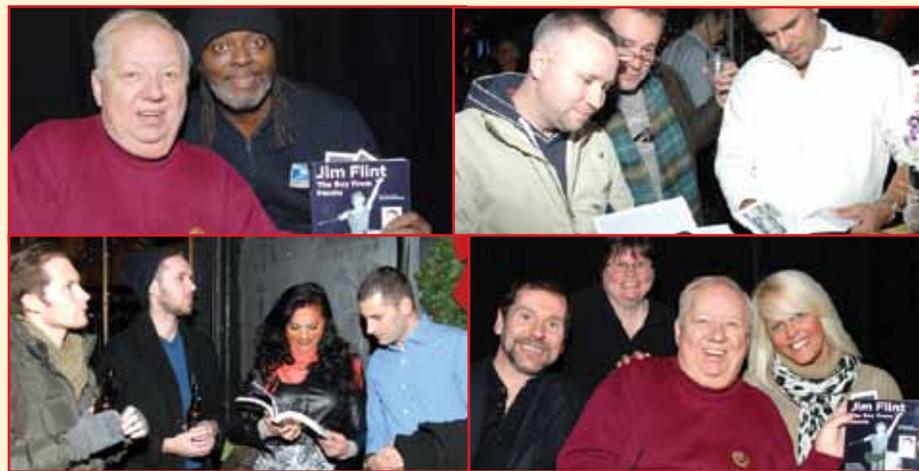
**Don't be tardy ...**

... for this party with Kim Zolciak and Kroy Biermann at Spin on Sat., Dec. 17.  
 Photos by Jerry Nunn



**A sign of greatness**

Booksigning for the new biography, Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria at 3160 on Wed., Dec. 7.  
 Photos by Hal Baim



**DaveOuanoPhotography.com**  
 Events • Fashion • Fitness

ModelMayhem.com/DaveOuano  
 Facebook: Dave Ouano Photography  
[daveouano@me.com](mailto:daveouano@me.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, or go to our website www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

## ANTIQUES

**ANNUAL \* NEW YEAR**

**ANTIQUÉ MARKET & SALE**  
Dec. 31st & Jan 1st - \$6  
Sat. 11am - 5pm • Sun. 9am - 3pm  
DuPage Expo - St. Charles, IL

**ANTIQUÉ & COLLECTIBLE MARKET**  
Sat., Jan 7th - 10am - 4pm  
Sun., Jan 8th - 8am- 3pm / \$6  
Early buyers Sat. 8am-10am / \$25  
Lake County Fairgrounds

**ANTIQUÉ \* FLEA \* MARKET**  
Sat., Jan 21st- 8am - 3pm /\$5  
(County Farm & Manchester)  
Dupage County Fairgrounds  
Wheaton, IL  
Dealers Welcome!

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

## ASTROLOGY

**UNDERSTAND YOURSELF, YOUR MOTIVATIONS, YOUR FEELINGS.** Recognize your talents, strengths, successes. Overcome difficulties and confusion. Astrology can help pull it all together. Relationships. Career. Plan the future. Serious astrology for serious seekers. **Private, personal consultations.** [www.astrologicaldetails.com](http://www.astrologicaldetails.com)  
Lin Ewing 847.609.0034 (1/7/12-52)

## 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 down-sized 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 (11/21/12-52)**

**PROFESSIONAL GREEN CLEANING COMPANY.** Get ready for the holidays today. We are an experienced and reliable residential, commercial and post-construction eco-friendly cleaning company. Call today and receive a 10% discount on your first cleaning. **BBB accredited business. 773-547-5388 www.servicelantoday.com (1/18/12-4)**

## COUNSELING

**Counseling and Clinical Hypnotherapy:** Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. **Starla R. Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, www.starlasholl.com (3/7/12-26)**

**THE JUNIPER CENTER/CENTER FOR RELATIONSHIP HEALTH.** Life gets complicated. You have tried all that you know to solve a problem or repair a relationship. When you are not sure what's next, we are here to help. LGBTQ individuals, couples & families. [juipercenterchicago.com](http://juipercenterchicago.com) 847-759-9110 (1/18/12-13)

**SOLUTION FOCUSED COUNSELING** Counseling for individual & couples in warm, safe atmosphere by licensed psychotherapist. Depression, anxiety, body image issues & relationship problems. **Lakeview location. Sliding scale. John D. Moore, PhD, www.johndmoore.net (773) 704-5300 (2/8/12-12)**

## HELP WANTED

**EXPERIENCED KITCHEN & BATH DESIGNER WANTED.** Join our easy-going, professional team. Nothing comparable in Chicago. We offer full luxury design services at outlet prices in our beautiful showroom. Seeking an outgoing, friendly, intelligent, eye-on-the-prize cabinet & tile closer. We treat all of our employees like family. **If you're not happy in your current position, email your cover letter & resumé to alan@designerstoneoutlet.com**

**LUXE HOME MERCHANDISE MART SHOWROOM:** High End stone and wood sales. Mart/Design experience preferred. Use your winning smile and imagination to close the deal! Immediate opening with great earnings potential and benefits in the future. **Email cover letter and resumé to info@maestromosaics.com**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**BATHROOM REMODELING, HOME REPAIRS, PAINTING & MORE.** Licensed-Bonded-Insured. One year warranty. Price by the job - not the hour. **FREE estimates! Check**

**us out on Angie's List. Andy OnCall, 773-244-9961. www.getandy.com (8/1/12-52)**

**DAN MCINTYRE CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING,** New Buffalo, Mi. Serving Harbor country over 20 years. Licensed and insured. Additions, remodeling, home maintenance. Interior and exterior painting. **Small jobs welcome. Call 269-469-6391. (1/11/12-13)**

**JOB FRIENDLY GAY & LESBIAN TRAVEL AGENCY** looking for an experienced or no experienced (willing to train)-Bilingual (preferably Spanish speaking) Travel Agent. For more information please contact Sean ext. 306 or Waqas ext. 304 at **(847)677-1700 or e-mail your resume to info@adamvacations.com (12/21/11-4)**

## LEGAL SERVICES

**NEED LEGAL HELP?** Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at prideslaw@tsamislaw.com.**

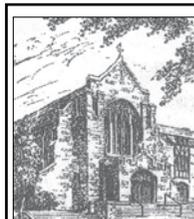
## MASSAGE

**EROTIC, M4M, HOT OIL RUBDOWN;** enjoy a relaxing and nurturing full bodied massage by a good looking, hairy, broad shouldered, sexy Italian with "talented hands", prostate-less. One hour \$80/\$90, in/out. **708.945.4940 (12/28/11-4)**

## 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. (9/21/11-26)**

## SPIRITUALITY



*Reviving  
The Spirit...  
Renewing  
The Life...*

**Atonement Episcopal Church  
5749 N. Kenmore  
www.ChurchOfTheAtonement.Org  
Sundays at 11 A.M.**

# REAL ESTATE

## FOR SALE - HOMES

**WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM** Free Instant Access to Chicago's Top Gay REALTORS® on-line at [www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com) or Toll Free **1.888.420.MOVE (6683)** (4/25/12-52)

## FOR RENT - TWO BEDROOM

**EDGEWATER COMMUTER ADVANTAGE** You'd be happy to come home to. Walk to beach, bus, redline and shops. Joyously sunny and secure first floor. Big kit with diningroom. Large bedrooms with walkin closets. \$1200 with heat plus laundry, patio, new sink and intercom. **It's your move...773 706 6065. (12/21/11-3)**

**WEST HUMBOLT PARK.** Very nice 2 bedroom apt with dining room, appliances, heat and electric included. **\$1050. 773-384-5099 (12.21/11-3)**

## FOR RENT - THREE BEDROOM

**ANDERSONVILLE LARGE 3 BEDROOM.** 3rd Floor Foster and Ashland. Newly Decorated. Separate Dining Room. Wood Finished Floors. \$1200.00 per month. **Heat included. Available Immediately 773-561-6568. (12/28/11-8)**

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Instant Access  
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Toll Free:  
**1.888.420.MOVE (6683)**

**nightspots**

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your  
New Year's Eve  
needs.**  
Check out our calendar at  
**www.windycitymediagroup.com**

# WCMG Facebook winners announced



First-place winner Anthony Galloway.  
Photo by Louis L. Boroff

The winners of the recent Windy City Media Group Facebook context have been announced. Winners were drawn at random from the followers of WCMG on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/windycitymediagroup>.

First-place winner was Anthony Galloway. He won \$500 cash and selected the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) as the agency to receive \$5,000 in advertising in WCMG products. Second-place winner was Maura Ross. She won \$250 and the agency she selected to receive \$2,500 in advertising is Center on Halsted.

Galloway is an independent public health consultant. He has worked with community-based organizations across the country in implementing evidence-based behavioral community level interventions. He is the newly elected co-chair of CBGMC, alongside Keith R. Green. Galloway chose CBGMC as his charity of choice for two main reasons: the desire of the organization to build a healthy and strong community of Black gay men, and his aspiration to live in a world free of all "isms".

Maura Ross works as the community and cultural program coordinator at Center on Halsted. She helps plan and facilitate events such as recreation classes, art gallery openings, and

the Center's OUT Series. She is a Chicago native and graduated from Northwestern University in June 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Gender Studies and Art History.

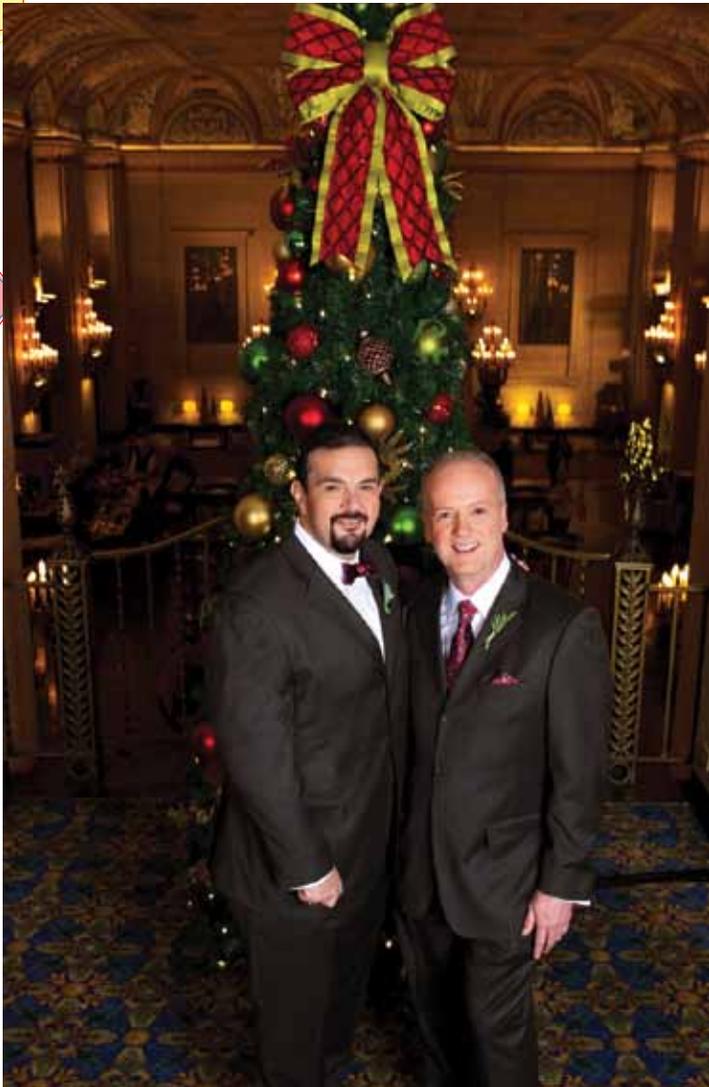
Join the WCMG Facebook pages for your chance to win prizes throughout 2012. See <https://www.facebook.com/nightspots> and <https://www.facebook.com/windycitymediagroup>.



Second-place winner Maura Ross. Courtesy of Ross

# Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times' new announcement section!



## CIVIL UNION: Garcia/Larson

Bonnie Garcia and Vicki Larson tied the knot on Sunday, November 6 at Bristol Court Banquets in Mount Prospect.



## CIVIL UNION: Aguilar/Lynch

The Palmer House, Chicago's 140-year-old hotel, is known for many firsts, including the first-ever brownie created in their kitchens. On December 16, Rick Aguilar and George Lynch celebrated the Palmer House's first civil union.

Rick and George have been together for 19 years and vowed to have a civil union when it became legal this year.

Rick has been a photographer in Chicago all of his life. His studio was the official wedding photographer of the first civil unions in Millennium Park on June 2 of this year. He has been a noted photographer for many GLBT events in Chicago over the years. George is a credit manager in radio broadcasting in Chicago.

*Celebrate Your Civil Union  
Beautiful Rooms for 50 to 500*

**Midlane Golf Resort**  
MidlaneResort.com

**Complimentary Indoor  
Fireworks if deposit received  
before Jan. 1, 2012**

**847-623-Golf  
Wadsworth, IL**

# MOM

A Tribute to

# Mothers of LGBTs

Mothers of LGBT individuals will be the focus of a new photo essay book from Windy City Times. We are soliciting submissions from LGBTs in the Chicago area, or those formerly from Chicago, for this new project.

Just in time for the holidays, people can submit photos with their moms via email, Facebook or Twitter through Jan. 15, 2012. Windy City Times is looking for diversity in families. Once the winners are selected, a professional photo shoot will be done by Kat Fitzgerald of Mystic Images Photography (of the winning mothers with their child or children), so winners must be available in the Chicago area, although some additional photos may be used. Winners will also be asked to submit a 200-word essay about what their mother has meant to them.

Depending on the reception for this project, other books may be done with fathers, or queer parents, but the focus of this first book is on mothers.

### To submit:

Send photos of you with your mother to

-  [www.facebook.com/windycitymediagroup](http://www.facebook.com/windycitymediagroup)
-  [Twitter: windycitytimes1](https://twitter.com/windycitytimes1)
-  [or email editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com)

**DEADLINE: JAN. 15, 2012**

You can also submit a short essay about why you think your mother should be selected to be photographed with you. Families with multiple LGBT children are welcome to submit as well.

Images may also be used in Windy City Times newspaper.

# calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

nightspots

CHICAGO  
PRIDE.COM

## Wed., Dec. 28

**Women's Dodgeball Sign-up Party** If you are a new player or are looking for a team, join CMSA for this dodgeball sign-up party. League starts Fri., Jan. 6 at Pottawat-  
tomie Park in Rogers Park. Email womens-  
dodgeball@chicagomsa.org for more info.  
6pm-8pm, T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N  
Clark, <http://www.chicagomsa.org>

**SAGE open computer lab** Second floor.  
1pm-3pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Hal-  
sted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**SAGE Drama Club** Learn about stage per-  
formance while having loads of fun. 2pm-  
4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted,  
<http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**\$1 Drink Night** Enjoy \$1 cocktails, and beer  
drafts and wine all night long! Free en-  
try before 9pm, \$7 cover after; 8pm, Spin  
Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

**You're the Star Karaoke with Honey West**  
Take your place in the spotlight as host-  
ess, Honey West entertains throughout!  
An evening and a diva not to be missed!  
9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Thursday, Dec. 29

**Drag Idol** Chicago's newest drag competi-  
tion. Audience decides who stays and who  
goes. Hosted by Kelly Lauren. Sign up with  
sean@hydratechicago.com. Winner of the  
13-week competition will win a prize  
package worth over \$10,000, including  
\$1500 cash, a trip for two, a professional  
photo shoot and more. 9pm-11:45pm,  
Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**The Ultimate Open Mic - LIVE music ka-**

## HERE AND 'WOW' Tuesday, Jan. 3

**POW-WOW Tuesdays** take place  
at Jeffery Pub, 7041 S. Jeffery  
Blvd.

Photo by Linda "Kizzy" Ramos



**raoke** It's open mic done like no other.  
Acoustic LIVE music karaoke. You can  
use Lloyd's guitar or he will play for  
you. 100's of songs with word sheets to  
choose from. Take the next step after ka-  
raoke. Be in the band. You are the star.  
9:30pm, 773-871-8887, Charlie's, 3726  
N. Broadway, <http://www.facebook.com/events/315969498424292/>

**Frat House Thursday** Join Scarlet as they  
host all frat guys and their fans. Scarlet  
ramps up the frat factor with a night of  
40-ounce beer specials, HOT bartenders,  
cranked-up music and hottie high jinks!  
21+ with ID; 10pm, Scarlet, 3320 N. Hal-  
sted St., <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

**Open gym co-ed volleyball** All partici-  
pants must sign in and purchase a gym  
pass at first floor receptionist desk. 6pm-  
9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted,  
<http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Friday, Dec. 30

**A Klingon Christmas Carol** The first play

ever to be produced entirely in the Klin-  
gon language. Tonight's guest star is  
Amy Guth (Social media manager for the  
Tribune, radio host on WGN and author.);  
7:30pm, Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257  
N. Lincoln Ave., <http://www.cbtheatre.org>

**Hot Jockstrap Contest** Sofia Saffire hosts  
the hottest contest in Uptown. First place  
\$100! Show up by 11 to sign up. No jock  
strap? Crew's got you covered. 9pm, Crew  
Bar & Grill, 4804 N Broadway, <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

**It's Britney, Bitch** All Britney all night with  
DJ Riley York. 9pm, The Call (Chicago),  
1547 W Bryn Mawr

**Bi-Polar Fridays at @mosphere Bar** Every  
Friday the ONLY place to be is @mosphere  
Bar in Andersonville for Bi-Polar Friday's.  
Hosted by Regina Upright; 10pm, 773-  
784-1100, @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St.,  
<http://atmospherebar.com>

## Saturday, Dec. 31

**New Year's Eve benefiting Equality IL** Join  
Equality Illinois for an evening of celebra-  
tion and revelry as they welcome in 2012!  
Champagne toast at midnight, noisemak-  
ers, and leis...plus amazing giveaways!  
This event sells out every year, so pur-  
chase your tickets today: <http://tinyurl.com/8ay6s56>; 7:15pm, 773-477-9189,  
Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://tinyurl.com/8ay6s56>

**Viennese Pops New Year's Eve** Champagne  
corks will pop, when New Philharmonic  
and Music Director and Conductor Kirk  
Muspratt provide a special way to ring in  
the new with two performances of "Vien-  
nese Pops New Year's Eve with an Interna-  
tional Twist" at the McAninch Arts Center  
at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd.,  
Glen Ellyn, IL. 4pm-11pm, McAninch Arts  
Center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell  
Blvd., Glen Ellyn

**New Year's Eve Bash for a Cure** Join Chi-  
cago Red Dress Party and host Derek Cut-  
ting, Tyler Powell and Eric Knee for a New  
Year's Eve Bash. Open bar, small bits and  
champagne will be provided. \$20 donation  
requested to benefit Chicago Red Dress  
Party, a non-profit organization dedicated  
to raising awareness for HIV/AIDS and  
raising funds to support vital community  
organizations providing services to those  
affected by HIV/AIDS. Feel free to stop  
by before, after, or during your New Year's  
Eve adventures. No red dresses required,  
but it wouldn't hurt! 7pm, 3000 N. Sheri-  
dan Rd.

**Hydrate NYE: Dance until the end of the  
world** This New Year's Eve, surround your-  
self with great people, a fantastic venue,  
and amazing DJ's as Hydrate celebrates  
2012. 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted,

<http://www.hydratechicago.com>; Tick-  
ets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/209936>

**Stonewall's Rockin' Eve** See RuPaul's Drag  
Race star Phi Phi O'Hara, along with Miss  
Stonewall Mia Sherrington, Demii Cache,  
Amber Nyte, Myka Myleah, Camryn Styles  
and Chamilla Foxx. \$20 hosted bar 8-10  
pm includes all-you-can-drink well and  
drafts, appetizers and access to VIP meet-  
and-greet. Sexy go-go boys and DJ An-  
thony Pacelli. \$10 cover; \$20 VIP. 8pm,  
Stonewall Inn, 8143 W. 47th St., Lyons,  
<http://www.stonewallchicago.com>

**Roscoe's NYE 2011** Champagne toast, hors  
d'oeuvres, midnight balloon drop. \$25  
cover. 8pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St,  
<http://www.roscoes.com>

**Scarlet's Enter the New Year in Style!**  
Scarlet throws a no-cover "fancy" New  
Years Eve party with popular Frat Night  
DJ, Lil Mikey. FREE; 8pm, Scarlet, 3320  
N. Halsted St., <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

**Extravaganza NYE 2012** Circuit's Extrava-  
ganza New Year's Eve Party includes party  
favors, champagne toast and Midnight  
Countdown with confetti/balloon drop  
and nitro system effects. Non-stop en-  
tertainment includes three DJs: DJ Treni,  
Hugo and Alex-A, plus divas Eddie Cou-  
ture, Whitney Gayton, Jennifer, Nancy  
Montenegro, Shadiamond and Amaya. \$20  
advance/\$30 at the door. \$5 discount for  
Circuit Members. Tickets available online.  
8pm, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N. Halsted  
St., <http://www.extravaganzachicago.com>

**D.S. Tequila's Black & White Party** The  
biggest and sexiest women's countdown  
in the heart of Boystown! Come impress  
with your best black and white attire and  
dance the night away inside and outside  
on their new heated retractable roof pat-  
io with DJ All The Way K and rock out to  
GirlBand as we say farewell to 2011 and  
welcome 2012 in style. \$25 pre-sale ticket  
includes drink ticket, Hors d'oeuvres and a  
champagne toast. Pre-sale tix available at  
[www.dstequila.com](http://www.dstequila.com) or \$35.00 ticket at the  
door. 9pm, D.S. Tequila Company, 3352 N.  
Halsted St., <http://www.dstequila.com>

## Sunday, Jan. 1

**New Year's Day Pajama Party** Wear your PJs  
to Scot's and have your first Bloody Mary  
of 2012. Open at 11 am. Brunch with full  
omelet bar (and Houlihan's famous sau-  
sage ring) at noon. 11am-4pm, Scot's,  
1829 W Montrose Ave.

**Taverna 750 New Years Day First Call  
Brunch** Come sample the amazing food  
and drink of Taverna 750. Spruce up your  
Sunday as Taverna 750 unveils its tasty  
creations and wonderful libations. \$20  
packages to meet your Sunday Brunch  
goals! 12pm-4pm, Taverna 750, 750 W.  
Cornelia Ave., <http://www.taverna750.com>

**"Well Hung" Hangover Party** Midway Mon-  
ster bloody Marys, continental breakfast  
buffet until 3 pm, club room open at 6,  
movie night at 7. 12pm-10pm, Touche,  
6412 N. Clark St., <http://www.touchechicago.com>

**Liquid Brunch** Scarlet's Liquid Brunch is  
an all day Sunday Funday affair, complete  
with the city's best DJs, a slightly dishe-  
veled staff and lots and lots of champagne.  
1pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

**Madonnarama** Get into the 2012 groove  
with this special New Year's Day edition  
of DJ Riley York's premiere Madonna party.  
10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont  
Ave, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

## Monday, Jan. 2

**Salsa Lessons** with Anna Marie every Mon-  
day. Stick around for open salsa dancing.  
Bring your partner or come alone; 7pm-  
11:30pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728  
W. Lake St., <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**Recovery Over the Rainbow** New Narcotics



GO, WEST!

## Wednesdays

Dazzle and be dazzled  
at You're the Star  
Karaoke with Honey West  
(above).

Photo by Jerry Nunn

Anonymous sponsored/governed meeting,  
geared toward GLBTs and open to the pub-  
lic. Questions to Anthony Oltean; 8pm-  
9pm, Haymarket Health Education, 20 N.  
Sangamon

**United House: A Night of Unity in House  
Music** Join Hydrate Nightclub, Chicago-  
Pride.com, and host Cyon Flare for United  
House: A Night of Unity in House Music,  
featuring Resident House DJ Semaj; 9pm,  
Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong**  
Every Monday night at 10PM in the Front  
Bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Arm-  
strong; 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted  
St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Tuesday, Jan. 3

**Pow Wow Tuesdays** Bring your poetry every  
Tuesday. \$5 cover, food at 7:30pm, open  
mic at 8:30pm. 7:30pm, Jeffery Pub, 7041  
S. Jeffery Blvd.

**Bottoms Up Bingo!** Join Miss Tajma Hall  
every Tuesday as she hosts Bottoms Up  
Bingo! The balls start rolling at 9:30  
weekly. 9:30pm-11:30pm, 708-358-8840,  
Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**Drag Race with Frida Lay** Chicago's only  
amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida  
Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in  
2000. 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St,  
<http://www.roscoes.com>

## Wed., Jan. 4

**Neighborhood Night** Every Wednesday eve-  
ning is Palette Bistro's local neighborhood  
night. Anyone with a 60614 or 60657 zip  
code gets 15 percent off their bill; 6pm-  
11:30pm, Palette Bistro, 2834 N. South-  
port Ave.

**Gay Liberation Network organizing meet-  
ing** Join with Chicago's LGBT direct action  
group at their monthly organizing meet-  
ing—new members welcome! 7pm-9pm,  
773-209-1187, Berger Park Cultural Center  
6205 N. Sheridan Road, <http://www.gay-liberation.net>

## Saturday, Jan. 7

**Burning Bowl** A longstanding Affinity tradi-  
tion involves purging the previous year's  
challenges and negativity, writing down  
affirmations, goals, and focus areas for the  
current year, words of inspiration, special  
performances, and fellowship. The event is  
also a great place to learn about the orga-  
nizations accomplishments, direction for  
the new year, and upcoming events. Co-  
hosted by Amigas Latinas! 1pm-3:30pm,  
Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Wood-  
lawn Ave., <http://www.affinity95.org>



## HAPPY NEW YEAR, BABY

### Saturday, Dec. 31

Find all sorts of New Year's Eve parties throughout  
Chicago.

Photo from NYE 2010 at Sidetrack by Dave Ouano

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ChicagoPride.com

# BILLY MASTERS

"Good things don't end unless they end badly."—Ben from The Bachelorette tells Ashley his feelings after being dumped. Something tells me it won't end any better when he becomes the next Bachelor Jan. 2.

I don't consider myself a nostalgic person. However, since this is the end of the year, I'm forced by tradition to look back on some of the stories we covered in 2011. Just a cursory glance at the list of topics shows how much the world has changed since this column began. Back in 1995, if you talked about a gay man having a little boy, it was invariably a story about Michael Jackson! Yet, the first story of this year was news of Elton John and David Furnish becoming fathers to little Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John. It's a different world, indeed.

There were also celebrity break-ups, which happen even to the gay couples. After months of speculation, George Michael finally confirmed what we all knew—that his long-term relationship with Kenny Goss was kaput. In fact, it ended two years ago. Interestingly, a month after this admission, we discovered that GM had bounced back with hairdresser to the stars Fadi Fawaz, who was previously known by his gay-porn moniker of Isaac Mazar. This news was confirmed by Fadi while George was convalescing from severe community-acquired pneumonia in Vienna ... which sounds far more glamorous than I'm sure it is.

The line between celebrity and the skin trade got blurred more than ever this year. The most notorious case involved Calvin Klein and Nick Gruber. Nick has been somewhat vocal about the on-again/off-again status of their relationship, and it would appear that Calvin and the former gay-for-pay "model" are still together. While the 67-year-old designer has never made any public statement confirming his homosexuality, he did throw the young man quite an elaborate 21st-birthday party at New York's Indochine, and reportedly paid for some extensive plastic surgery. However, somehow I missed telling you about when the twosome turned up at a Halloween costume party. Nick was partially dressed in some sort of military garb. I believe Calvin went as the host from Tales from the Crypt! Naturally, photos of the duo and video of Nick's porn work can be found on our website.

However, even that story paled next to the one regarding the son of soap-opera star Katherine Kelly Lang. Jeremy Skott Snider had done some acting; as a tyke he played his mom's onscreen son on The Bold and the Beautiful. Later he worked as a production assistant. But who could have predicted that he'd emerge as a gay-porn star? For someone who's allegedly never had gay sex, he certainly took to it with aplomb—in fact, it looked like he could have taken a whole bushel of plums! His virginity-losing scene was one of the hottest videos of the year—and certainly people who saw it on BillyMasters.com enjoyed themselves.

Many of you wrote to me lusting after Dustin Zito from The Real World. While the show was still filming, I had reported about his gay-porn work as Spencer on Fratmen and Fratpad. Good thing I did my research prior to the show hitting the air. If not, I might have come up empty-handed. It seems that certain execs at MTV worked overtime to scrub the web of any evidence from Dustin's porn past. So while the video of Zito performing oral sex on another guy mysteriously disappeared from most websites, it remains on BillyMasters.com to this day.

Sometimes the stars align themselves just right for your humble scribe. It was only a day before I was to host the white-carpet arrivals at Jeffrey Sanker's legendary White Party in Palm Springs, Calif., when we discovered that Reichen Lehmkuhl from The A-List: New York had been

jerking off online. Reichen was slated to attend the Sanker event and would need to talk to *moi*. Adding to his trepidation was the fact that we hadn't spoken since a disagreement a few years back. In the end, he had nothing to worry about—as the video on our website proves. I certainly am the last to judge anyone ... especially when they look as good as Reichen. We can all take shots at his shortcomings, but I'd seriously consider giving up an inch (or three) to look like him.

This past year, two books really grabbed my attention for different reasons. Bob Smith's Remembrances of Things I Forgot was one of the most fascinating, provocative and hysterical books of the year. The HardBody Chronicles, by Jake Smith and Luca Barbieri, was the most titillating recounting of the hedonistic circuit party days. Both should be required reading for everyone.

We can't end without remembering a few of the people we lost this past year. Three spring to mind. Arthur Laurents had one last major suc-



Billy takes in all of Reichen Lehmkuhl (above)—as did many viewers this year.

cess with the LuPone-led revival of "Gypsy" on Broadway. He planned to work with Barbra Streisand on a big-screen remake of the musical; his death leaves that project in limbo. Betty Garrett was a tireless champion for the fight against AIDS and really galvanized the LA fundraising scene. She will be sorely missed. But the biggest loss for our community—and the world—was the death of Elizabeth Taylor. Long after her acting career had faded, this eternal beauty proved that her life had more meaning than ever by focusing her energy on AIDS research. When a cure is found, Elizabeth will and should receive much of the credit.

When I'm waiting for the ball to drop, it's definitely time to end yet another column. So, with mixed emotions, I bid farewell to 2011. Also, farewell to our website, www.BillyMasters.com—at least as you know it. We've been working on some changes behind the scenes and they'll be making their debut around New Years, so do check them out. What hasn't changed is my devotion to my readers and their needs. Obviously, I can't personally service each and every one of you (although I'll try). But I am happy to do what I can via e-mail. Drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I break all of my New Year's resolutions! So, until next year, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Make NO small plans!

SAT, DEC. 31

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# An eventful year in local LGBT sports

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chicago played host to the largest annual LGBT sporting event, the Gay Softball World Series, for the first time since 1983—and Chicago even had a championship team in the five-tiered international tournament, held at three suburban multi-field complexes from Aug. 30-Sept. 3.

The Chicago Sidetrack Classics coasted to a 20-5 championship game victory to claim the inaugural title in the 50-and-over Master's Division at the 35th annual Gay Softball World Series.

The Classics won one game and lost two in pool play, then won three straight for the title. They were the only Chicago team to win a championship.

The series, hosted by the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), attracted about 150 teams from across the U.S. and Canada, including teams in all divisions from Chicago.

"The 2011 Gay Softball World Series will be remembered as a proud moment in Chicago's rich LGBT sports history," said Chicagoan Jack Neilsen, who serves as the commissioner for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) open division softball league and was a member of the eight-person Series 2011 Board of Directors.

"The 2011 Gay Softball World Series was one of the pinnacle accomplishments of CMSA's open division softball [league.] We ran a very successful tournament that ran smoothly from the Opening Ceremony through the final out. The national feedback I've received is that everyone was overjoyed with what Chicago presented."

Clearly, the 2011 Gay Softball World Series was the top Chicago LGBT sports event of the year. Here's a look at the top 21 area LGBT sporting moments from 2011:

1. Gay Softball World Series held in Chicago for first time since 1983.

2. The city mourns the death of Christina Santiago and continues to support Alisha Brennon in her recovery from the tragic accident at the Indiana State Fair. On a Sunday after the accident, the CMSA Open Division softball teams, and even its umpires, wore pink in support of Santiago and Brennon, who is a member of the Chicago Force football team.

3. The Chicago Sidetrack Classics, including 70-year-old second baseman John Lewis, win the Master's Division in Gay Softball World Series.

4. Marcia Hill has done just about everything in the local sporting community—from participant to official to CMSA president. She was inducted into the City of Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in the fall.

5. The Coady Roundball Classic had its largest turnout ever in April for the 21st edition. The largest and longest-running LGBT basketball tournament attracted 35 teams from across the U.S., the same number as last year, but 310 players—up 20 from 2010. Organizers said the event has reached its maximum for the seven courts used over two days. Eight teams from Chicago participated, and local teams were winners in two of the five divisions, and two other Chicago teams were runners-up.

6. The Athletic Alliance of Chicago (AAC) was formed, replacing the Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA).



The Chicago Sidetrack Classics. Photo by Ross Forman

7. The Chicago Outfit Roller Derby League, of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), formally voted in a policy to allow transgender women skaters to join the league.

8. DePaul University, the largest Catholic university in the United States, has its first openly gay student-body president. Anthony Alfano, a senior, played hockey at Huntley High School in the suburbs and is now a member of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA).

9. CMSA Open Division Softball has its largest registration ever: 49 teams (up from 45 in 2010).

10. The Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls deal with anti-gay situations.

11. Ben Cohen practices with the Chicago Dragons rugby team during his time in Chicago in conjunction with the Gay Softball World Series.

12. Men's basketball: The largest and longest-running LGBT basketball league joins CMSA.

13. Ride For AIDS Chicago sets records: About \$504,000 was raised for the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) through the two-day, 200-mile bicycle ride—up from \$295,000 in 2010. The Ride attracted 299—up from 225 in 2010. The top fund-raising team was Richard's Riders, a 66-member group that raised just under

\$110,000. The top overall fundraiser was James Summers, who raised about \$16,000.

14. The CGHA hosted the inaugural LGBT ice hockey tournament in Chicago, the Market Days Classic, held in mid-August.

15. The Chicago Women's Rugby Football Clubs celebrates its 35th anniversary.

16. Gay bowler Chuck Jacobson of Chicago rolls his third career 300-game and an 800-series.

17. The Chicago Sky holds inaugural Family Gay Pride Outing.

18. The Chicago Force, led by star lesbian quarterback Sami Grisafe and numerous other lesbians, advance in the playoffs.

19. Team To End AIDS (T2), the endurance-training program of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), expands nationally; delivers six successful events.

20. The Chicago Cubs, among other teams from the mainstream sports world, release an It Gets Better video.

21. The lawsuit involving bisexual softball players against the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association, centered around the 2008 World Series and yet still lingering during the Chicago tournament, is settled.

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## THINKING OF BANKRUPTCY? – MAKING A FRESH START

**Q.** During the holidays I have been going wild with my credit cards. I find myself buried in debt and I don't even know how much I owe. I just lost my job this year and have been afraid to open my mail because of all the bills. Should I file for bankruptcy?

**A.** Over five years ago, Congress enacted a new bankruptcy law. The law made substantial changes to Chapter 7 requiring a "means testing" approach to consumer bankruptcy. The law requires people with incomes above their state's median income level, who can pay at least \$6,000 over five years (that is, \$100 a month), to involuntarily enter into repayment plans. Currently, the median income for single people in Illinois is \$45,545.00.

When an individual files for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, their income is subject to a two-part means test. The judge subjects the individual's income to a formula that exempts certain expenses (rent, food, etc.) to determine whether that individual can afford to pay 25 percent of their "nonpriority unsecured debt", such as credit card bills. Second, the individual's income is compared to the median income of the state where they reside.

If the individual's income is above their state's median income and they can afford to pay 25 percent of their nonpriority unsecured debt, then that individual cannot file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, but can under Chapter 13. If the individual's income is less than the state median income but they can still pay 25 percent of their unsecured debt, then they may be able to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy still. In a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, your assets, minus those exempted by your state, are liquidated and given to creditors, and many of your remaining debts are cancelled. Since many Chapter 7 filers don't have assets that qualify for liquidation, credit card companies and other creditors can get nothing.

For the individual in the question, since you are unemployed the threshold to file a Chapter 7 is much lower and its benefits and burdens should be thoroughly reviewed with your bankruptcy attorney. AND be careful with credit card charges; the law does not allow you to run up your credit cards and then discharge your debts in a bankruptcy. Some of those debts may not be dischargeable if they are incurred too close to a filing.

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## CMSA women's dodgeball and basketball sign-ups

Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association women's dodgeball and basketball leagues are having signups soon.

The women's dodgeball season starts Jan. 6, 2012, 7-9 p.m., Pottowattomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers Ave. The player fee is \$20; the team fee is \$275. A new player sign-up party will take place Wed., Dec. 28, at T's, 5025 N. Clark St., 6-8 p.m. Contact Jack Neilsen at [womensdodgeball@chicagomsa.org](mailto:womensdodgeball@chicagomsa.org) or see [http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa\\_new/Leagues/Dodgeball.aspx](http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa_new/Leagues/Dodgeball.aspx).

The women's basketball league will be on Saturdays starting with an open gym Jan. 7; the first games are Jan. 14. It is a 10-week regular season with one day of playoffs March 24. Games are at Pottawattomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers Ave., with the first game starting at 10:15 a.m. and continuing until 4:15 p.m.

There are two divisions, competitive and rec. (Those who played college ball in the past 10 years must play in the competitive division.) The team fee is \$400 and the player fee is \$45. All fees must be paid online on the Chicago MSA website. For more info email Marcia league commissioner at [womensbb@chicagomsa.org](mailto:womensbb@chicagomsa.org) or visit [http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa\\_new/Leagues/Basketball/BasketballWinterWomensLeague.aspx](http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa_new/Leagues/Basketball/BasketballWinterWomensLeague.aspx).

## Sony Ericsson ending WTA sponsorship

Sony Ericsson is ending its sponsorship of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tour at the end of next year, according to ESPN.com.

The mobile-phone company became the title sponsor of the women's tennis tour in 2005 in a six-year, \$88 million deal. Although the contract was extended through the end of 2012, Sony Ericsson's name was dropped from the tour's title in 2011.

The WTA said in a statement Friday that "2012 will be the eighth and final year of the partnership. They have been a great partner and we will miss them."

## Midwest Gay Ski Weekend Feb. 3-5

SkiBudz, Chicago's gay ski and snowboard club, will travel to the 2012 Granite Peak/Midwest Gay Ski Weekend Feb. 3-5, 2012, in Wausau, Wis.

This is the Midwest's largest gay ski and snowboard event.

Special discount rates are available at the Jefferson Street Inn, the host hotel in downtown Wausau. Visit <http://www.skibudz.org> for more trip information.

Contact [information@skibudz.org](mailto:information@skibudz.org) if you have any questions about this event.

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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. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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