



LORNA LUFT INTERVIEW
PAGE 24



TALKING WITH MEGAN HULTY OF NBC'S 'SMASH'
PAGE 26



STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL'S GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE
PAGE 11



SINGER MATT ZARLEY
PAGE 30

Gerber/Hart refuses to reveal group info

BY KATE SOSIN

Amid growing concern about the future of the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, Chicago's LGBT library, the organization remains steadfast in its silence about its plans for relocation and basic operations.

In late January, Windy City Times first reported that the library's current home at 1127 W. Granville Ave. was for rent. Karen Sendziak, president of the library's board, later confirmed that the library would move. She has provided little information since, stating that media inquiries would be handled by the library's attorney, who Sendziak said is out of the country and cannot be named.

To date, WCT has not been able to obtain the names of any other board members, nor has the paper been

provided a copy of the organization's current bylaws.

WCT submitted multiple inquiries to Sendziak but received no response.

On Feb. 5, two WCT reporters arrived at the library and asked Sendziak for a copy of the organization's bylaws and a list of its board of directors, both of which she declined to disclose, stating that the library's attorney was working hard on getting that information to the newspaper. Sendziak would not provide the name of that attorney when questioned further. Asked when such information would be made available, Sendziak replied, "When we are ready."

Sendziak did note that the Windy City Times newspaper remains at the front of the library. The Feb. 1 issue featured a front-page investigation on the library.

On Feb. 6, Gerber/Hart released an update on the

move. "The new location will be a place where we can ensure the safety and protection of the books and historical archives we have been entrusted to hold," the statement read.

The language of the statement suggests that the library has not yet found a new home.

"We will keep you apprised throughout our search and will let you know as soon as we find and secure a new home, and are looking forward to sharing the excitement of this next, new chapter of our existence with you all!" the library said in a statement.

The library's lease is up at the end of April. The Gerber/Hart has not yet stated the anticipated costs of the move or what neighborhoods it is considering.

Turn to page 8

California's Prop 8 ruled unconstitutional

Divided fed appeals court panel hands down landmark decision Tuesday in controversial battle for marriage equality

page 4

Univ. of Chicago aims to be site for gender and sexuality studies

BY KATE SOSIN

When the University of Chicago founded its gender studies department in 1996, it trailed other colleges and universities in doing so by about two decades. It is perhaps no surprise then that the prestigious school never became a target for gender studies majors.

However the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, an old campus house wedged into a muddy lot at 5733 S. University Ave., is abuzz this year with change.

The center is going after a reputation as destination school for LGBT and women's studies. That effort started with adopting a new name last summer (it was formerly called the Center for Gender Studies), will continue with the hosting of lesbian comic writer Alison Bechdel and will stretch over the next three years as the campus begins recording its LGBT history for the first time.

"We're trying to make the center more visible," said Director Linda Zerilli.

That has meant updating the name of the center to highlight work on LGBT lives and history, which faculty

Turn to page 9

RIVERS DEEP

Joan Rivers (left) and daughter Melissa talk with Windy City Times about everything from marijuana to plastic surgery. Read the dish on page 27. Photo courtesy of WE tv.

page 27



See Both for Only \$99!

LILY TOMLIN

Sat, Feb 25 at 5pm & 8pm

Save \$16! Use Code: LTWCT1*

PAULA POUNDSTONE

Fri, Mar 30 at 8pm




NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE
9501 Skokie Blvd. FREE PARKING

*Good for Price Level 2. Some restrictions apply.

847.673.6300
NorthShoreCenter.org

0% financing for 60 months[^]



**\$199 PER MONTH
SIGN AND DRIVE LEASE***

Plus \$0 due at signing for 42 months on a \$16,000 FIAT Pop model

**\$0 Down Payment
\$0 Security Deposit
\$0 First Months Payment**

2012 FIAT 500 Pop



Was: \$16,000
Sale Price: **\$14,498**
STK# FI57

\$1,502 OFF MSRP

All rebates, incentives and discounts applied. Cannot be combined with special financing. Excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. See dealer for details. Offer expires: 2/29/12

2012 FIAT 500c Lounge



Was: \$26,050
Sale Price: **\$22,369**
STK# FI34

\$3,681 OFF MSRP

All rebates, incentives and discounts applied. Cannot be combined with special financing. Excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. See dealer for details. Offer expires: 2/29/12

2012 FIAT 500 Sport



Was: \$19,850
Sale Price: **\$16,678**
STK# FI71 • Demo
HEATED SEATS

\$2,622 OFF MSRP

All rebates, incentives and discounts applied. Cannot be combined with special financing. Excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. See dealer for details. Offer expires: 2/29/12



FIAT 500 Abarth
Coming March 2012
160 hp - \$22,700[†]
Reserve yours **TODAY!**

Contact us for more details and to arrange your test drive today!



Fields FIAT of Highland Park

250 Skokie Valley Road
Highland Park, IL 60035

(847) 579-6900 / fieldsfiatofhighlandpark.com



Simply *more.*

Offers expire 2/29/12. Tax, title, license and documentation fee not included. All offers subject to credit approval. Please see dealer for details. [^]Finance offer excludes Abarth model and cannot be combined with any other special offer or rebates. *Lease based on a 42 month term, 12,000 miles per year. Vehicles shown may differ from actual vehicle to be sold. †Price refers to the base model, optional equipment not included.

this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS		ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
Wash. Senate OKs marriage bill	4	Dancin' Feats	17
N.J. gay man runs for U.S. Senate	5	Lorna Luft interview	24
Man walks for equality; Sotomayor	6	Wes Perry's 'Girl' talk	25
Gerber/Hart move; justice panel	8	Megan Hulty of NBC's 'Smash'	26
Univ. of Chicago center	9	Joan and Melissa Rivers	27
AChurch4Me looking for space	10	Knight: Romantic movies	28
Stevenson High School GSA	11	Dish: Bakers & Nosh	32
Passages: Dennis LoBue	12	Billy Masters	37
T in the Life	12		
Gay in the Life	13	OUTLINES	
AIDS @ 30	14	Real estate; classifieds	34
Viewpoints: Rudolph; letter on HBHC	16	Calendar Q	36
		Title IX; CMSA women's social	38

Photos on cover (left, from top): PR photo of Lorna Luft; photo of Megan Hulty courtesy of NBC; photo of Stevenson High School GSA by Ross Forman; PR photo of Matt Zarley

DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



GOING TO 'TOWN'
See photos from About Face Theatre's "(Ho)Motown" event that brought out local theater faves.
Photo of Hollis Resnik (left) and E. Faye Butler by Steve Starr



Read an interview with judicial candidate Celia Louise Gamrath.

Campaign photo



Psychologist Edward Fajardo explores myths about depression.

Photo from Fajardo

HAVING OUR PHIL
Financial guru Phil Sitar tackles market volatility.

NEWS YOU CAN USE
Read about the results of a teen sex survey, a conference about the DREAM Act and a Roe v. Wade celebration.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Read about news involving celebrities such as Spice Girls, Zachary Quinto and Katy Perry.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS



See images from shows by British chanteuses Rumer (above) and Estelle.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

nightspots
Love is in the air at Nightspots!
Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

The legendary **CAROL BURNETT**
Show #454
WINDY CITY QUEERCAST
www.WindyCityQueercast.com

BAYARD RUSTIN AT 100: REDISCOVERING A FORGOTTEN HERO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
COCKTAILS 5:30 P.M.; PROGRAM 6:30 P.M.
\$12, \$10 MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

Known as the "Invisible Man" of the civil rights movement, Bayard Rustin was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and organized the iconic 1963 March on Washington D.C. But despite his many achievements, Rustin was expunged from history—largely for being openly gay. Chicago Urban League President **Andrea L. Zopp** moderates a discussion on Rustin's enduring legacy with filmmaker **Bennett Singer**, co-director of the acclaimed documentary *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, and Rustin's life partner **Walter Naegle**.

Out at CHM 2012 is sponsored by The Pauls Foundation.

OUT IN CHICAGO
Out in Chicago has brought a vital part of our shared history out of the shadows and into the light. Come see this exhilarating exhibition before it closes its doors on March 26, 2012.

Presenting Sponsors: The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, *Genius* ELIZABETH MORSE CHARITABLE TRUST, Northern Trust, THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST AND AFFILIATES

OUT AT CHM

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614
Call 312.642.4600 or visit www.chicagohistory.org

Washington state Senate clears marriage bill

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Washington is now poised to become the seventh state in the nation to provide marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The Washington State bill for marriage equality cleared a crucial hurdle Feb. 1, passing the state Senate 28-21 after it first rejected an attempt to put the issue to a statewide referendum in November.

The bill now goes to the full House, where head counts gives it a clear margin for victory. Washington United for Marriage, a coalition of groups working for passage of the legislation, said the vote in the House could come as early as next week.

The Senate dealt quickly with 11 amendments, most dealing with proposed religious exemptions. It adopted seven of the amendments but, on a 26-23 vote, rejected an attempt to put the issue before voters in November.

Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Olympia, who proposed the referendum, announced before the debate that he would vote for the bill. But during debate, he warned his colleagues that groups opposed to same-sex marriage are already preparing to gather signatures to force a referendum on the measure this November. Such opponents will likely have until early June to collect more than 120,000 signatures.

Sen. Edward Murray, an openly gay legislator from Seattle and a 15-year veteran of the legislature, sponsored the bill. It calls for "ending discrimination in marriage based on gender and sexual orientation to ensure that all persons in this state may enjoy the freedom to marry on

equal terms, while also respecting the religious freedom of clergy and religious institutions to determine for whom to perform marriage ceremonies and to determine which marriages to recognize for religious purposes."

The religious-protection language in the bill stipulates that "no official of a religious denomination or non-profit institution ... may be required to solemnize any marriage in violation of his or her right to free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by the Washington state Constitution." It also enables religious institutions to bar use of their facilities to same-sex couples for marriage ceremonies.

Many of the amendments approved the night of Feb. 1 sought to add to the religious exemptions. One particularly ominous amendment sought to add that no state or local government can "base a decision" to do business with "any religious organization" based on the organization's refusal to accommodate same-sex marriage ceremonies. That amendment failed.

The Senate also rejected, by 27-22, an attempt to enable individual judges, justices and commissioners to refuse solemnize a same-sex ceremony by stating that their personal religious beliefs. In addition, it rejected an amendment seeking to allow individuals and businesses, including wedding planners, photographers, and florists to provide services and accommodations for same-sex ceremonies.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire (D), a longtime supporter of rights for same-sex couples but not always a strong supporter of equal marriage rights, announced Jan. 4 that she would support the bill. Local news media reported that



Washington state Gov. Chris Gregoire.

the governor was in the Senate for the debate and she issued a statement immediately after the vote.

"Tonight the Washington State Senate stood up for what is right and told all families in our state that they are equal and that the state cannot be in the business of discrimination," said Gregoire. "I believe that this decision should be made by our state Legislature, and I'm proud our elected leaders recognized that responsibility."

Gregoire thanked Murray for his leadership on the bill.

A live feed of the debate provided by the state-run cable network malfunctioned during most of the session, apparently due to the number of people attempting to watch the debate. The network, TVW, reported that "record num-

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS

- Five Anchorage mayors back pro-LGBT ordinance
- Romney (left) glitter-bombed in Minn.
- Gay man running for Gabby Gifford's Congressional seat

bers" were watching the debate. However, TVW and The Seattle Times provided timely updates through their blogs, as did the Senate website.

Murray has been a key mover behind much of Washington state's legislation to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people. He led the successful effort in 2006 to pass a statewide non-discrimination law to protect LGBT people and, in 2007, led the fight for passage of a domestic partnership law. In 2009, he sought passage of an "Everything but Marriage" bill.

According to the Seattle Times, Murray urged his colleagues to support the bill, saying that marriage "is how society says you are a family—the way the community knows a couple loves each other.

Lambda Legal National Marriage Project Director Camilla Taylor issued a statement saying same-sex couples in Washington state are now "one step closer to enjoying the freedom to marry, thanks to the impressive efforts of Washington United for Marriage, and the bravery of supporters of equality in the State Senate."

©2012 Keen News Service; all rights reserved

Fed appeals court rules Prop 8 unconstitutional

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, said a divided federal appeals court panel in San Francisco Feb. 7.

The highly anticipated ruling also rejected a motion from Proposition 8 proponents to vacate the district court ruling of former Chief Judge Vaughn Walker because he had not disclosed, prior to presiding over *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, that he was in a relationship with a man.

And, as expected, the three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with a California Supreme Court ruling that Yes on 8, the coalition which successfully campaigned for the ban on same-sex marriage in 2008, did have legal standing to appeal Walker's decision, even though state officials chose not to.

The 2-to-1 majority opinion was written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt and joined by Judge Michael Hawkins. A partial dissent was registered by Judge Randy Smith, a Mormon.

The court will almost certainly be asked to issue a stay on its ruling, pending further appeal. In the meantime, the ruling is a relatively narrow one, said an attorney on the American Foundation for Equal Rights' legal team—one

that would affect only same-sex couples in California, not the entire Ninth Circuit.

The majority opinion upheld Walker's decision that found Prop 8 a violation of the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process.

The Ninth Circuit panel heard oral arguments concerning these key issues in the case in December 2010.

Yes on 8 attorneys argued during the December 2010 argument before the appeals panel that the ban on same-sex marriage was justified because same-sex marriage would make children "prematurely preoccupied with issues of sexuality."

Conservative icon Ted Olson, arguing against Proposition 8 at the oral argument before the panel called the reasoning "nonsense" and said, "If believed, that would justify the banning of comic books, television, video games, and even conversations between children." And during their 2008 campaign to pass Proposition 8, said Olson, Yes on 8 claimed the ban was justified to protect children from the idea that marriage between same-sex partners is OK.

©2012 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

J.C. Penney won't fire Ellen, despite anti-gay protesters

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has applauded national retailer J.C. Penney's decision keep Ellen DeGeneres as its national spokesperson after "OneMillionMoms.com, a project of the American Family Association" demanded she be fired because she is gay, according to a press release.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has designated OneMillionMoms.com as a hate group.

In an email statement to Yahoo! Shine, J.C. Penney confirmed Feb. 3 that it "stands behind its partnership with Ellen DeGeneres."

GLAAD is continuing to ask supporters to thank J.C. Penney by signing a Change.org action. In fewer than two days, nearly 25,000 have signed.

"This week Americans spoke out in overwhelming support of LGBT people and J.C. Penney's decision not to fire Ellen simply for who she happens to love," said Herndon Graddick, senior director of programs and communications at GLAAD.

"But while Ellen has the nation on her side, in 29 states today, Americans can still be legally fired just for being gay. Our elected officials should use this incident as yet another example of the support for legal protections for all hard working employees."

An poll in the Los Angeles Times showed that 96 percent of readers support DeGeneres, Newsday reported.

Coalition supports bill aimed at repealing DOMA

A coalition of civil rights, labor, progressive, faith, student, health, legal, women's and LGBT organizations announced support of the Respect for Marriage Act—the bill to repeal the discriminatory so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), according to a press release.

Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, said, "This broad and diverse coalition has come forward to urge members of Congress to end the unfairness. In America, we don't have second-class citizens, and shouldn't have second-class marriages, either."

"The federal government should not be in the business of picking which marriages it likes and which it does not, but that is exactly what DOMA does," said Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign president. "The breadth and depth of this coalition shines a bright light on the heart wrenching discrimination against loving, committed families caused by DOMA."

Among the many groups in the coalition are Log Cabin Republicans, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Stonewall Democrats, Alliance for Justice, National Black Justice Coalition, National Center for Lesbian Rights and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Openly gay man in New Jersey running for Senate

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jon Maher is convinced his lack of political experience won't affect his run for the U.S. Senate from New Jersey—or his chances to oust incumbent Bob Menendez (D).

"I am 100 percent certain that it's possible for me to win," Maher said in a phone interview. "The obstacle that I have to overcome is that I have to get a critical mass of the public attention. If I can align people's perceptions with the reality that I am more qualified than any of the alternatives out there, and will do more good for them, which is absolutely the case ... if I can get enough people aware of that, then I can win."

Maher, 30, who is openly gay, is the author of two books: *Building a Successful Organization* and *The Destiny of Humanity*.

The Destiny of Humanity discusses war, poverty, trade, clean energy, economic development and gay equality.

Maher said being gay is less of an issue today than in past elections. "If I had run, say, five years ago, my viability would have been determined exclusively by that," he said.

He added, "I, of course, support full gay equality in every way possible."

Maher needs 300,000 signatures to get on the November ballot and isn't worried that can be done. He already is registered with the Federal Election Commission, he said, and only needs to be on the ballot 90 days before the election.

Getting on the ballot, he said, "is not really a difficult obstacle, though the signature requirement is very high in New Jersey."

Can you get 300,000 signatures, as needed?

"Oh, I can probably do that in a day or two—that's not even something I'm thinking about," he said.

"I don't want to let all of the other candidates who are competing. ... I don't want to give them a huge heads-up [that I will be running]."

According to Internet reports, Gwen Diakos, a defense contractor, is the lone Democrat to already declare that she will challenge Menendez. Newark Mayor Cory Booker (D) has reportedly stated that he will not run for the Senate. The Republican field to oppose Menendez is deep, but there are just potential candidates at this point.

Maher said he wants to run "to help people, which is something I've always enjoyed and how I was brought up."

"The other more substantial reason is, I think there's an opportunity to do this right now because I think we're significantly short on intellectual resources in the U.S. Senate. Our most important challenges are not being addressed properly."

Maher said Menendez is, "pretty vulnerable."

"The majority of [New Jersey] residents don't know who he is, and of those who do know who he is, [the majority] don't like him. His contributions to the Senate have been unremarkable," Maher said.

So what will Maher do?

"I've laid out in my book, positions on every issue that would come up in the Senate," Maher said. "I bring a whole array of new ideas that aren't now out there."

The problem is, not many have heard of him yet—and he acknowledges that issue.

Enter the mainstream media, which Maher is courting feverishly.

"If I'm not in the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal seven months from now, I'm not going to win. If I can [get exposure in such outlets], I think I have an extremely good chance,"



Jon Maher. Photo courtesy of Maher

of winning, he said. "What I've found is, no journalist wants to take any risk at all; they are all very timid. They don't seem to want to go out on any limb to back someone who does not have a major public profile."

Maher—who said his focus, if elected, will be expanding job opportunities for residents—added he plans to contact every journalist he can find who writes about Menendez, or about gay Congressional candidates, and ask to be profiled, too.

He is convinced his lack of political experience will not affect his chances come November.

Windy City Times: What is your political background?

Jon Maher: I've written extensively on politics in my most recent book—every topic that would come up, or be relevant while holding office.

WCT: So you basically want to go from writing about politics to jumping into the political field?

JM: Joe Biden got elected at 29. Thomas Jefferson was a senior member of the Senate at 29. It's not something that is unprecedented, but is something that we need. The incumbents are not delivering; they are not doing the job. We need something new, different, and more thoughtful than what is going on right now.

WCT: So, am I accurate [in saying] that you want to go from writing one book about politics to wanting to be a politician?

JM: Sure.

WCT: You feel you are more qualified than Bob Menendez, and any other candidate, based on what?

JM: Based on my ideas, my thinking, my ability to address new problems and issues as they arise...

WCT: What about what Bob Menendez has done in office?

JM: If you look at what he's accomplished, it's so generic and mediocre. People are desperate for an alternative. So, the opening [for someone to oust Menendez] is that there's no substance there, no delivery of results.

WCT: Clearly, the experience edge goes to Menendez.

JM: We have more experience than we need in the U.S. Senate. Any potential lack of experience that I might have as a bureaucrat will be well more than made up for by the other senators there, as well as by Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.], who is 90. [Lautenberg was actually born Jan. 23, 1924.]

QUOTELINES

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

"It's all baby steps: You have to be OK with telling your friends you're going on a date; you have to be OK with the people in your world meeting and judging them; you have to be OK with breakups. I'm infinitely grateful all those steps led to Mr. Burtka—once we started talking, we never stopped."—Neil Patrick Harris on *coming out and finding love*, to *Out*, Jan. 18.

"The [Kay Jewelers'] commercials seem to bother almost everyone, although they must trigger some man to head to the mall or they wouldn't air. As a lesbian, I find the ads particularly annoying. The closest thing I'm going to get this year to watching a gay proposal on TV is Hillary Clinton's address to the U.N. on global gay rights. I just wish girlfriend had gotten down on one knee."—Los Angeles Times producer Jamie Wetherbe on the Huffington Post, Jan. 18.

"I never let my politics supersede my manners. [Michele Bachmann] came up with her husband and they were sweet as can be. She was like, 'My kids love the show. I don't watch it myself, but I'd love it if you could sign these postcards.' It dawned on me that she didn't know what the hell Glee was."—Glee star Darren Criss to *Details Magazine*, February issue.

"But when Facebook entered my life, everything turned upside down ... It feels like we're all connected on this large and mighty highway and yet no one really knows, or seems to care, what the speed limit is. My wife thinks it's satanic. I'm sort of inclined to agree with her, and yet, I can't seem to stay away. I've had friends leave it in disgust, and yet always, within months, come crawling back to it as if they'd left the water running in their bath tub. It has us all. It has us all and it knows it."—Trans singer/actress Alexandra Billings, on her blog *Stilettoes and Sneakers*, Jan. 11.

"This is confetti! We just won Florida! We're just going to win the White House next! Let me tell you, President Obama is not going to be seeing a lot of confetti."—Mitt Romney on being glitter-bombed by gay rights activists, to *Think Progress*, Feb. 1.

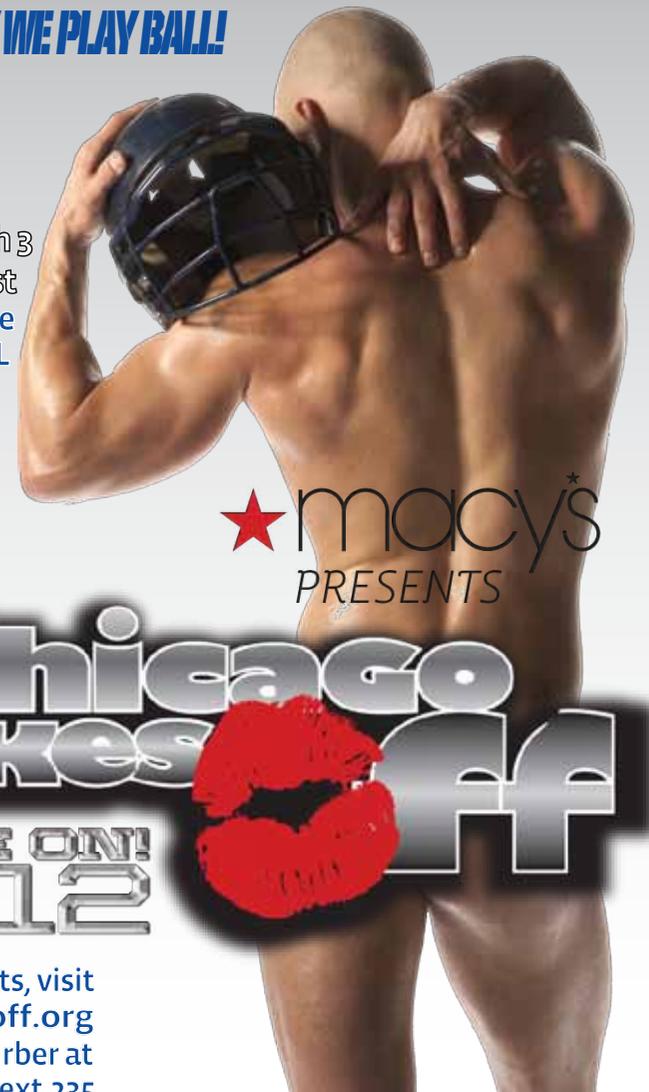
"In this, as in so many things, the gay community were early adopters of the only strategy that beats the resurgent religious right: fight morality with morality. Once the category of morality was opened, every kind of debate became possible—and so did victory. It arrived in 2011."—Lawyer and philosopher Linda R. Hirshman on *Salon.com*, Dec. 30.

NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU SWING, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THE WAY WE PLAY BALL!

Saturday, March 3
Park West
322 W. Armitage
Chicago, IL

Chicago Takes Off
GAME ON!
2012

For tickets, visit
chicagotakesoff.org
or call Billy Surber at
773-989-9400 ext.235



Man walking across U.S. to promote LGBT equality

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

When his Walk Across America For Equality began, Palm Springs, Calif., resident Richard Noble received a proclamation of support from state Sen. Mark Leno, who is openly gay.

"I commend your unwavering strength and dedicated advocacy underscoring the important issues of the LGBT community," Leno wrote. "It is notable that you have dedicated your walk to the memory of Elizabeth Taylor as you work to promote the American Equality Bill in Congress. You are a role model for those who seek to change the world one step at a time."

As of this writing, Noble is in Texas, halfway across the United States from his starting point at San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

"Necessity is the mother of activism," he said in a telephone interview to Windy City Times. "We are tired of the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Task Force bartering our equality with Washington pragmatics. While you are waiting for a Democratic majority you're sending a message to our youth that their lives aren't worth fighting for."

It was the death of 13-year-old Asher Brown that inspired Noble to take his walk. Technically, the bullied teen was a suicide, but Noble uses a much stronger word to describe what happened to Brown. "When Asher Brown was murdered, it was the straw that broke the camel's back. Here it is, 2012, and we still don't have our equality. Gay rights are human rights."

"I'm carrying the Rainbow Flag across America, and a copy of the American Equality bill," Noble said. He wants the bill to go before Congress immediately, and asks that people support it, either as an addendum to the 1964 Civil Rights Act or as a separate bill unto itself. The bill would give LGBT people the same sweeping protections that are offered to African Americans courtesy of the Civil Rights Act.

Noble reports that people have been kind and supportive as he makes his way across the country. He's been given food, and offered places to stay from total strangers. When he spoke in Salt Lake City, Mayor Ralph Becker declared a National Civil Rights March Across America Day in Noble's honor.

In Houston, Mayor Annise Parker, an out lesbian, gave him another proclamation.

After meeting with Parker, Noble headed over to Lakewood Church, whose pastor, Joel Osteen, conducts a television ministry and has publicly spoken out against marriage equality. "Homo-



Richard Noble. Photo courtesy of Noble

sexuality is shown as a sin in the scripture," Osteen stated in a recent interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Beginning Jan. 27, Noble stationed himself in front of Lakewood Church to conduct a three-day fast to protest Osteen's remarks. "Pastor Osteen has hurt me with these statements," he said. "He has a moral and civic duty to not go on TV and call us sinners. These negative messages are being reinforced. It's the job of the government to protect minorities."

Lakewood Church did not respond to calls from Windy City Times requesting a comment regarding Noble's action.

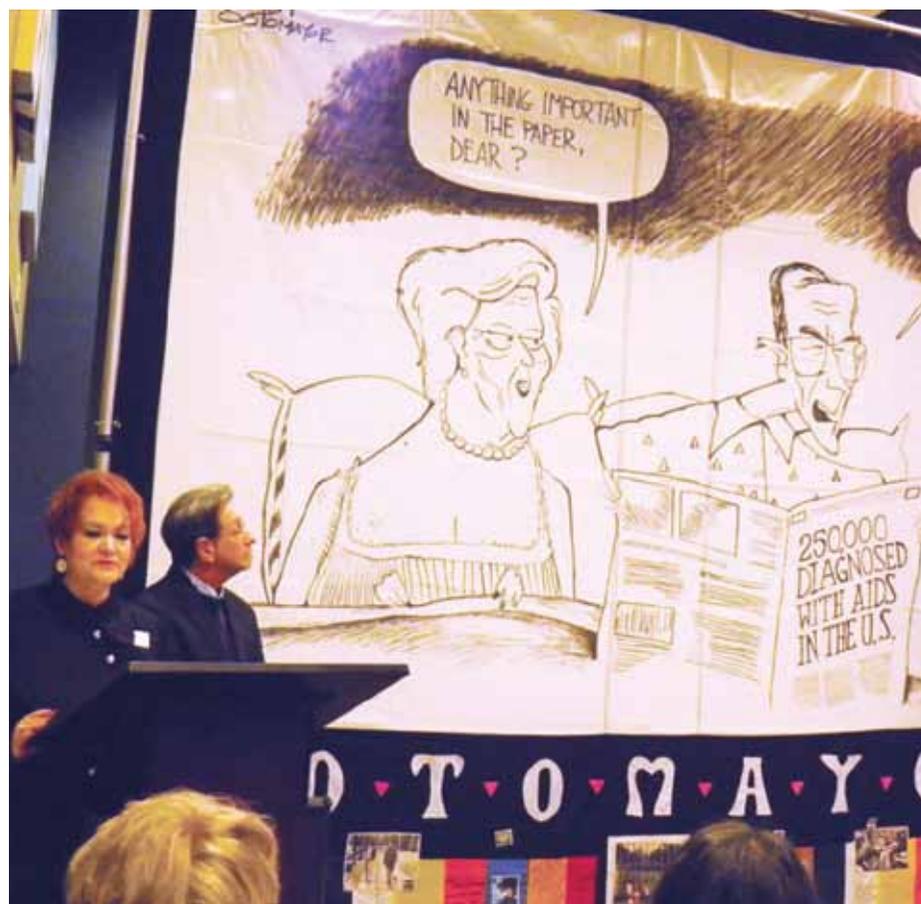
Noble hopes to garner more support for the National Equality Bill. When his walk concludes in Washington, D.C., he hopes to meet with openly gay Congressmen Jared Polis and Barney Frank. His goal is to get them to file the bill. However, he knows he can't do it alone.

"You have to take it to the streets," he urged supporters. "Visit your Congressmen, visit your schools. They talk about bullying but don't talk about homosexuality. We can't change the past, but people are waking up."

To support Richard Noble, and to follow his journey, look for him on Facebook or visit www.walk.usfreedomring.com.



Richard Noble with Houston Mayor Annise Parker. Photo courtesy of Noble



Lori Cannon and Victor Salvo in front of Danny Sotomayor's NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Photo by Tracy Baim

Sotomayor tribute at Center

About 40 people paid tribute to the late Chicago activist and artist Danny Sotomayor Feb. 4 at the Center on Halsted. Photos, memorabilia and Sotomayor's NAMES Project AIDS Memorial quilt were displayed in honor of the 20th anniversary of his death.

Sotomayor died Feb. 5, 1992, of AIDS-related complications. His partner, playwright Scott McPherson, died later that same year.

Victor Salvo and Lori Cannon organized the tribute. Dean Ogren, Gary Chichester and Ed Woslyus helped stage the event, along with Center on Halsted staff.

Salvo and Cannon spoke about their memories of Sotomayor. Other speakers were former Ald. Helen Shiller, who remembered Sotomayor's help in getting Mayor Richard Daley to increase AIDS funding; Mayor Harold Washington's liaison to the gay community, Kit Duffy; professor Gabriel Gomez, a former ACT

UP member with Sotomayor; Sidetrack bar owner Art Johnston; activist Rick Garcia; and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Speakers remembered Sotomayor's passionate commitment to increase attention and funding to the fight against AIDS.

"It was truly a lovely gathering, so heartfelt and bittersweet ... one of those times to count your blessings for the opportunities that put all these amazing people in your life to share such a special evening," Salvo said. "My love and gratitude to you all—especially my cohort Lori Cannon who inspires us all to reach beyond our perceived shortcomings to find the magic that makes everything possible if we just try."

For the video portion of the Sotomayor tribute, see www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zGxwS84j14. Photos by Tracy Baim; more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Equality Illinois appoints liaison

Equality Illinois has appointed Mitchell Locin as its first communications liaison, according to a press release.

A native of Chicago, Locin worked for 34 years at the Chicago Tribune, where he was a political reporter and an editor.

"Mitch brings to Equality Illinois decades of understanding how the media work and a wealth of contacts in newsrooms throughout the state. He will help carry our advocacy for LGBT equality to all media in print and broadcasting, on the internet and through social media," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois. "We are pleased that he is coming out of retirement for this important mission."

D'Emilio reading at Center Feb. 8

Crossroads Fund's Reading Change—a year-long reading and events series exploring racial, social and economic justice in Chicago—continues with author/activist John D'Emilio discussing his recent collection of Allan

Bérubé essays, *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*.

The free event will take place Wed., Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m., at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services and Tania Unzueta, coordinator of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Project at the Association of Latino Men for Action, will join D'Emilio for a discussion of LGBTQ activism and its intersection with issues of class, race and gender.

For more information about Reading Change, visit <http://www.crossroadsfund.org/readingchange>.

EQ IL's 'Justice for All' gala Feb. 11 at Hilton

The annual Equality Illinois "Justice for All" gala will take place Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

More than 1,000 guests are expected to attend, including elected officials, candidates and other VIPs.

Individual tickets start at \$300 each; see <http://www.eqil.org> or call 773-477-7173.



Men Overboard.

The Florida Keys
Key West
 Close To Perfect - Far From Normal

Actually, between the warm water, endless sunshine and incredible variety of things to eat, drink and do, it's quite easy for everyone to go a little overboard in Key West.
fla-keys.com/gaykeywest 1.866.904.0543



Island House
 Award-winning clothing-optional resort for men. Luxurious rooms. Poolside café and bar. Gym, sauna, steamroom, Jacuzzis. Poolside massage pavilion.
 800-890-6284 or 305-294-6284
islandhousekeywest.com



Pearl's Key West
 Guesthouse ambience, resort amenities, 2 pools, 2 spas, gym, Wi-Fi, patio bar, full breakfast, perfect location. Award-winning property. Gay owned.
 800-749-6696 or 305-292-1450
pearlskeywest.com



Historic Hideaways
 Providing an exceptional collection of private vacation homes. Historic homes, cozy cottages and condos you are sure to love!
 800-654-5131 or 305-294-3064
historichideaways.com



Oasis - Coral Tree - Coconut Grove
 Everything You Could Want. Three Jacuzzis - One Giant Hot Tub - Three Pools - Sundecks. Buffet Style Breakfast Daily. Clothing Optional.
 800-362-7477
keywest-allmale.com

GERBER from cover

The organization's most recent statement notes its reason for moving as being "presented with a new, non-negotiable three-year lease reflecting a significant rental increase without any offer of upgrading the premises."

Rent at the library in 2011 is believed to have been approximately \$5,570 a month, as listed on documents WCT uncovered.

Rae Ann Cecrle, the building's landlord, said that the lease was negotiable like all leases and

In 2009, she founded Edgewater Artists in Motion, the community group that fills empty neighborhood storefronts with artwork in an effort to attract businesses to the community. The project has been featured in Chicago media outlets throughout Chicago and in The New York Times. Neighborhood organizations like Cecrle's have been trying to put more visible storefront windows on the street, which some argue deters crime and attracts new business.

In keeping with that work, Cecrle said she did include one non-negotiable clause in the new Gerber/Hart lease; she wanted the library to



Gerber/Hart President Karen Sendziak at the library's gala in 2010. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

that the library never requested significant upgrades to the building.

"[Sendziak] never told me anything she wanted except she said the windows were leaking and cold air was coming through the mail slot," Cecrle said, adding that she called a contractor and fixed both issues.

According to Cecrle, the new lease contained a \$250/month rental increase, or an increase just shy of 4.5 percent. Cecrle offered to donate the rental increase to the library for 2012 up front and said the library could use its security deposit towards updating the library.

Cecrle said she increased the rent because it had not been increased in two years, and she needed to show income on her mortgage.

She said that before signing its 2011 lease, which began in February, the Gerber/Hart operated without a lease for 18 months under the management of neighborhood organization Edgewater Development Corporation.

"They kept trying to get her to sign a lease, and she just wouldn't sign the lease," Cecrle said. Since that time, new management has taken over the building. Cecrle said that the organization eventually signed a lease in March.

Windy City Times obtained copies of board meeting agendas from December 2010 and February 2011. Those agendas suggest that a move may have been discussed during those months. Both agendas contain items on "physical plant" and "lease."

Given difficulties of getting the library to sign the past lease, Cecrle said she sent Gerber/Hart a three-year lease for 2012.

Cecrle's name is well-known in Edgewater. In addition to owning the building that houses Gerber/Hart, M.Henrietta and the Granville Anvil gay bar, Cecrle has been involved in Edgewater community planning for more than 25 years.

open its blinds more often and install a welcoming window display. According to Cecrle, she hired consultants and told Sendziak she would fund any upgrades to the library's window display.

"I was very willing to spend money, but I never got any feedback from her on what she wanted," Cecrle said. The blinds have been open more, she said, but the upgrades never happened.

It was Cecrle who told 48th Ward Ald. Harry Osterman that she thought the library intended to move two months ago. Both Cecrle and Osterman have stated that they wanted the library to stay and hoped it had the financial resources to do so.

"I'm really sorry that this is happening," said Cecrle about the move, adding that she continues to wish the best for the organization.

Cecrle has found one possible tenant for the space already, she said.

It remains unclear if Gerber/Hart has the money to purchase property or if it intends to lease a space. Information on the organization's current board of directors and finances is hard to come by because the organization has not filed its 2010 IRS Form 990.

WCT independently obtained a copy of the organizations bylaws from 2000 as well as a copy from 1996.

The 1996 version of the bylaws was provided by the Illinois attorney general's office. According to Robyn Ziegler, a spokesperson for the office, those bylaws were used to register the organization and have not been amended with the attorney general's office since.

The version of the library's bylaws from 1996 reveal that, at that time, the library was required to operate with at least 18 people on its board. In the 2000 bylaws, the board of directors was set at a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 15.

In its 2009 IRS 990 Form, Gerber/Hart Library listed just two board members in addition to Sendziak—Owen Keehnen and Sukie de la Croix. (de la Croix did not actually join the board until late 2010). Both board members have since left the organization.

It remains unclear who replaced them. It is also unknown if the library's bylaws have been amended since 2000 to allow the organization to operate with fewer than 10 board members. Windy City Times is continuing to investigate this issue.

Participation on the board appears to have dropped between 2007-2009. In its 2007 IRS filing, the library listed nine members. A 2008 filing reflects just five members. Sendziak is listed as president in all three available filings. Sendziak is also listed as the person in charge of the organization's finances in 2009.

According to the 2000 bylaws, board members were to be elected annually, with each serving one-year terms. Board members at that time were only allowed to serve four terms consecutively, taking a year off before becoming eligible for re-election. Terms began in January of each year.

Windy City Times has received reports that dues-paying members have not been informed

of annual meetings or elections in recent years. Some say they have also not received renewal applications.

In 2007, Sendziak was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for her decades of commitment to the library and Chicago's LGBT history. According to her biography at that time, Sendziak had been serving as president of the board since 2004. If Sendziak has served as president uninterrupted since that time, she is serving her eighth consecutive year. Available financial documents indicate that Sendziak has been an unpaid volunteer throughout.

The library has yet to release requested information on the length of Sendziak's term or the date of the organization's last annual meeting and elections.

Chicago's LGBT community, long-acquainted with Gerber/Hart, has also been silent on these issues. Few have been willing to speak on the record to provide even basic information about the library. Fewer yet are willing to speak about their concerns widely, but they quietly expressed concern about a community whose archives are in a dark locked room on Granville Avenue.

—Assistance: Tracy Baim,
Jamie Anne Royce

Panel discussion features queer-justice activists

BY KATE SOSIN

Some of the biggest names in queer transformative justice appeared in Chicago Feb. 2 for a panel discussion at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

"Crime and Punishment: The Attack on Queer, Trans, and People of Color" featured Sylvia Rivera Law Project Founder Dean Spade and co-authors of the book *Queer (In)Justice* Andrea Ritchie and Joey Mogul.

More than 150 people attended the talk, organized by The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP).

Ritchie highlighted the ways in which queer people and people of color are often targeted disproportionately by police.

"One person's loitering is another person's waiting in line for the movie theatre," Ritchie said, pointing out that policing often depends on who police and neighbors feel "belongs" in a neighborhood and who does not.

Mogul continued on that theme of belonging by talking about discrimination against queer people in the courts, where transgender people are often referred to as "it," she said.

Mogul argued that queer peer are "deemed

inherently untrustworthy" in court and often are subjected to discrimination from prosecutors, judges and jurors when facing criminal charges.

Spade focused on the lives of queer people and people of color behind bars, which he argued is an extension of slavery.

"We have to let go of the fantasy that prisons are full of dangerous people," Spade said.

Spade advocates against hate-crimes legislation, which he said has not been proven effective in fighting hate violence and gives extra muscle to a system biased against LGBTQ people.

"There is really this important myth in the United States ... that if you want to change the lives of marginalized people, you change the law," Spade said.

The talk wrapped with comments from Erica Meiners, visiting scholar at IRRPP and a question and answer session.

The event coincided with a zine launch party held later in the evening by the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois. "Hidden Expressions, volume 1" features work by and for incarcerated transgender people. More information is available at www.tjlp.org.



Joey Mogul at the panel. Photo by Kate Sosin

UNIVERSITY from cover

members say the department has engaged with since the department's inception. The inclusion of the word "sexuality" is more about acknowledging current work than changing course, said Zerilli.

The shift happened over the summer of 2011, without resistance from community members—a surprise to some who thought that feminists might worry about the role of women's studies in a growing and more inclusive department. Other project names that bore the name "gay and lesbian" have also been updated to include the full LGBT.

Part of growing its visibility for LGBT life and studies in the future, will be an effort to look back at the school's past. In March, the center

made their way into the archives. Gathering up oral histories may dig up some of those lost records, she said.

"I think that people don't realize that what they have is valuable," Mercado said.

The project is hardly business-as-usual for a department that works to bring in some of the more current names in LGBT and women's studies. The department will host Alison Bechdel, cartoonist behind "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic" and "Dykes to Watch Out For," this spring. It is also home to English and gender-studies titan Lauren Berlant. It regularly hosts talks, programs and workshops, including a recent talk with controversial feminist figure Catharine MacKinnon.

Looking back into the LGBT past has not always been the focus, said Mercado. The oral

until graduation." Hoover uses the terms "LUG" and "GUG" for short.

Hoover wanted to interview people who had identified as LGBTQ in college and then went on to have long-term heterosexual relationships or changed the way they identified to heterosexual.

However, finding people to interview was hardly easy. As expected, the university's alumni office thought his request to interview LUGs and GUGs was weird, and they declined to put the call out on through their networks. In the end, Hoover found seven people, all women, using other school resources to interview. His thesis will be completed later this year.

When he graduates, he will have the option of taking the department's new name in gender and sexuality studies on his diploma or keeping the old.

The building that houses that center, an odd mix between the Harry Potter-esque architecture of the university and the bare space-like updates that now adorn it, was quiet on a recent Thursday afternoon. Upstairs, longtime Affinity Community Services member Kelly Saulsberry—who

is studying public policy at the university and working at the center—tapped away at a computer.

Mercado notes that when helping other students find the center, she often describes its proximity to the math building, well-known because an extra-alarm blaze burned through its roof in October, 2010.

The center itself, however, is less known on campus, something that Zerilli is determined to change.

"Gender studies has to create a lot of energy. ... This place just has to be an intellectual magnet," she said. "I think we're really rocking here now."

Upcoming events at the Center include a talk by Katherine Crawford entitled "Love Talk and Dirty Jokes: French Erotic Poetry and Masculinity in the Renaissance" Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:30–6:00 p.m., at Harper Memorial Library, Room 103. There's also a lecture by Jasbir Puar, "Homonationalism Gone Viral: The Affective Politics of Sensation," on Thursday, Feb. 16, 4:30–6:00 p.m., in the same venue.



Monica Mercado. Photo by Kate Sosin

in launching its "Closeted in the Quadrangles" project (the "quadrangles" refer to a part of campus), a three-year oral-history project aimed recording the school's LGBT history from the early twentieth century through the present.

In the coming years, the center will be working to supplement its lack of archival records with oral testimony from LGBT people who experienced the campus in decades past.

Monica Mercado, a graduate student in history, is kicking off that effort in her Spring undergraduate class. Over the course of the quarter, approximately 12 students will begin digging through the university's archives and through its rolodex. Students will be contacting alums and past community members in hopes of recording a history of the institution not yet on paper.

The task is not an easy one, said Mercado. "We're really starting from scratch," she said. "If I walked over to the archives in Regenstein Library right now, I wouldn't find anything [on LGBT history at the university]."

Mercado speculates that historical LGBT documents on the university exist, but that few have

history project will change that.

"In some ways, it's not a super-sexy project," she said. "Most of what we do here is very current."

The project was inspired by another successful undertaking from the department that completed in 2009 when students compiled women's oral histories from the university. That project included between 80 to 90 interviews and culminated in the thin, glossy book "On Equal Terms."

But the challenges facing the LGBT oral history project will be steeper. For one, the project will rely on alumni relations to outreach to former students. With the women's oral history project, contacting right alums was simply a matter of looking up women who attended the college. With the LGBT history project, determining where to start looking means figuring out who identifies as LGBT to begin with.

It's an issue that Christopher Hoover, an undergraduate student in the department ran into when he started working on his thesis. The fourth-year is studying people often derogatorily deemed "lesbians until graduation" and "gay

Anti-gay foster care bill is back

BY KATE SOSIN

An anti-gay foster care bill that was unsuccessfully introduced repeatedly in the Illinois General Assembly last year has made its first 2012 appearance.

House Bill 3942 seeks to make it legal for religious institutions to turn away foster care applications "if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs."

Similar bills were introduced repeatedly last year after civil unions went into effect and a group Catholic charities lost their foster care contracts for refusing to place children with same-sex spouses. The charities sued the state and lost when a judge ruled that the charities were not entitled to the contracts.

Advocates have said that such bills pose a threat to LGBT people but are unlikely to make it far.

"This is the same bill that we have been fighting for a year now," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, in a statement. "It is just another attempt to codify into law the ability to discriminate against Gay people."

"The separation of Church and State is absolutely imperative to this argument, because these agencies are State funded. They are funded with tax payer's money, so they should have to follow the laws like every other State funded agency. The fair-minded voters and elected officials of Illinois do not allow discrimination, and this should not be the exception."

Internat'l law firm announces minority scholarships

International law firm McDermott Will & Emery announced the recipients of the 2012 McDermott Diverse Law Student Scholarships Feb. 6.

Law students Larry C. Guess (Northwestern University), Lauren Schuster (Loyola University Chicago School of Law) and Brianna Serrano (Cornell Law School) will each receive a scholarship in the amount of \$15,000 under the program.

Schuster is the first LGBT recipient of the McDermott Diverse Law Student Scholarship. She attends Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, where she is a member of OUTLaw and the Education Policy Society.

Forum on Bayard Rustin's life Feb. 9

Brothers OUTLive will celebrate the life and legacy of the late gay civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

The event will take place during Black History Month—and two days following National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. There will be music, poetry and performance art by artists such as Marshall Titus, Nhojj, Tim'm West, Keithromell, and Ra Perre' Shelton.

There is a \$5 suggested donation; email MRoss@CenterOnHalsted.org for more information.

BE HEARD. GET PAID.

University research study looking for LGBT men and women to participate in a completely anonymous 5 minute survey

Participants will be entered into a drawing for up to four \$50 Amazon.com gift cards.



<http://goo.gl/eavit>

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

Chicago's Dedicated and Comprehensive LGBT Program

Valeo at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital provides comprehensive psychiatric and addiction-related treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. The program offers a safe, affirming therapeutic environment for members of the LGBTQ community. The Valeo staff is comprised of well-trained, experienced gay and gay-sensitive behavioral health professionals from a wide variety of disciplines.

4840 N. MARINE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60640
1-800-888-0560
www.chicagolakeshorehospital.com

Lakeview church searches for new home

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Members of aChurch4Me?, a Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Lakeview, will temporarily meet at Second Stage Theatre, 3408 N. Sheffield Ave.

What originally started as a small Bible study at the Center on Halsted in 200, blossomed into an MCC congregation hosting worship services for more than 70 members at National Pastime Theater in Lakeview.

The theater abruptly moved locations, so aChurch4Me? scrambled to find a new venue, leasing Second Stage Theatre for six weeks. Because the temporary space only seats 57 people, Sunday worship services have been split into 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. sessions.

"We call it 'church in a box,'" said Pastor Rachelle Brown. "Pretty much, we have things in

totes and they go down in the basement. We bring it up and set up."

During this temporary move, the church will assess the congregation's needs, and decide on possibly renting a permanent space full time. In the meantime, they will also host weekly Bible studies in six different neighborhoods.

"We see [the move] as an opportunity to see what other organizations like us and are looking for larger space like we are, with the same vision of helping people, social justice and that are making space available for folks that are GLBT, so they don't even thinking twice about walking in the church," said Brown.

Gay men who were kicked out of their own churches because of their sexuality founded MCC in 1968. MCC prides itself on non-traditional, contemporary spirituality worship.

"Christianity is missing something very big.

We're not interested in reforming any particular Christian church, we're interested in reforming Christianity, and opening the door and saying, 'The way people have read the Bible about sexuality in the past is completely inaccurate to the intent of the way it was written,'" said Brown.

In that way, MCC is a unique religious denomination, because it is founded by and for the LGBT community. Although, Brown stresses that everyone is welcome at aChurch4Me?

"They feel the need to explore spirituality in a safe way," said Brown. "While churches may be open, may be welcoming, we understand that sometimes the welcome comes with a 'but we don't really understand you.' There's a discomfort sometimes."

The church is using Facebook, email and phone calls to update members on the venue change.



Pastor Rachelle Brown. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

MCC conference in Chicago next year

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Fairmont Chicago will host the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) General Conference July 1-5, 2013.

Rev. Troy Perry, who was kicked out of the Pentecostal denomination because of his homosexuality, founded the MCC denomination in 1968.

"He felt there needed to be a church for all people, where everyone is welcome at the table," said Jennifer Justice, director of global community building and strategic implementation at MCC.

MCC prides itself on non-traditional, contemporary spirituality worship, planning to showcase those touchstones at the conference.

aChurch4Me?, an MCC affiliate in Lakeview, will host a pre-convention network meeting of north central churches June 23, 2013, to acclimate conference planners to Chicago.

The summit is not limited to members of MCC or the ministry—anyone interested in the church is welcome. All worship services offered at the conference are free and open to anyone, but workshops and plenary sessions are for registrants only.

"There'll be a little bit of something for everyone who is interested in church and ministry and how to grow spiritually," said Justice.

The conference will also feature musical acts, children's activities and a youth day.

Members of MCC will travel from around the world to attend the conference, as the church has nearly 300 congregations in 22 countries.

Internationally, MCC has a presence in Latin America and Eastern Europe, recently expanding to its missionary to Africa.

"It's really underground for safety. They can't be out. It's literally dangerous. Some of the laws in Africa, they will kill people," said Pastor Rachelle Brown of aChurch4Me. "We have to be very cognizant that our work is here, it's liberating people who are comfortable being gay and lesbian and out in Chicago. We're very aware that in our mission of reforming Christianity, this is like a speck in the sea of what's happening."

MCC prides itself on the diversity of its ministry, especially within the LGBT community.

"We have quite a few transgender pastors ... bisexual as well. It's not just gay and lesbian," Brown said.

To register for the conference or for more information, visit <http://believe.mcccchurch.org>.



Sketch of the senior-housing building at 3600 N. Halsted St.

Tunney, Heartland and Center on next phase of senior housing

Ald. Tom Tunney, Heartland Housing, Inc. and Center on Halsted announced Feb. 6 that the redevelopment plans for a LGBT-friendly affordable senior-housing building in Lakeview would be moving onto its next phase, according to a press release.

In May 2011, Heartland Housing—a division of Heartland Alliance—and Center on Halsted were selected to be the developers of an affordable senior rental community of up to 90 units for the former historic 23rd District Town Hall District police station and adjacent city-owned land at 3600 N. Halsted St. The Department of Housing and Economic Development has chosen this project to receive city funding and will work with Heartland to transition onto Stage II of the allocation and reservation process.

"Since our announcement last year, many people have already begun to contact my office to express their support. I am excited to say we are one step closer to making this project a reality," said Tunney. "This facility will be the first-of-its-kind in the Midwest and will be a destination where our seniors can have a safe space to live their lives with pride and confidence."

"We applaud Mayor Emanuel and the Department of Housing and Economic Development for bringing [LGBT] and other seniors within reach of safe and affordable housing options in the Lakeview community. We look forward to breaking ground on the project, and eventually, opening new doors to seniors in need," said Michael Goldberg, executive director of Heartland Housing.

The housing will be open to all seniors and there will be an age minimum and an income ceiling. Center on Halsted will offer resident and community-based services for seniors who will live in the new building, as well as

expand its existing SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elderly) program.

"Due to a lack of adequate housing options, LGBT Seniors are often forced back into the closet as they get older," said Modesto "Tico" Valle, CEO of the Center on Halsted. "This project will unlock new possibilities for LGBT seniors, by providing an affordable and affirming place to live their golden years right in the heart of Chicago."

The new development is expected to preserve a major portion of the old police station building while creating a new building with commercial space on the ground level that will benefit from and complement the Addison/Halsted commercial corridor.

Black pride group's gala Feb. 11

Chicago Windy City Black Pride is holding "The Color Is Red" gala Saturday, Feb. 11, 6-10 p.m., in Macy's Narcissus Room, 111 N. State St.

The gala marks National Black HIV Awareness Day.

Jackie Anderson, a longtime board member of the organization POW-WOW and an activist, will be honored with the 2012 Lois Bates Legend Award.

Tickets are \$55 per person, and \$550 for a VIP table. See www.CWCBP.com.



Jackie Anderson. Photo by Hal Baim



Your financial needs are unique.

Whether you want to provide for your loved ones, support the organizations that are important to you, or plan for your own comfortable retirement, I can help you plan for your goals. I'll look at all aspects of your finances, then find solutions that are right for your unique needs. And as your goals and needs change, I'll be there to adjust your plan and help put your dreams within reach.

Our Advisors. Your Dreams. MORE WITHIN REACH®

Call me today at (312) 849.3002



Phillip J. Sitar, MBA
Financial Advisor

Ameriprise Financial
Services, Inc.

307 N Michigan Ave | Suite 1818
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 849.3002
phillip.j.sitar@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/phillip.j.sitar



Ameriprise Financial is proud to be recognized with another perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.



Brokerage, investment and financial advisory services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Some products and services may not be available in all jurisdictions or to all clients.

© 2011 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Emotions, support at Stevenson GSA meeting

BY ROSS FORMAN

They met Jan. 3 for an hour after school let out in an English classroom at Stevenson High School in suburban Lincolnshire. It was the first day back at school after winter break—and some of the school's gay-straight alliance (GSA) members had emotional, personal stories to share.

An area mom of two—Marti Goldswig, who lives in Hawthorn Woods—serves as the co-sponsor of the GSA, which has about 40 members, although only 14 students attended on this day. Goldswig has been a part of the Stevenson GSA for four years since her daughter (Glenn

likely head to the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall, led casual discussions on multiple pertinent topics for LGBT teens—starting with how people learned of Stevenson's GSA. (Answers included through friends, club notices, a family member and more.)

One male said he heard of the GSA while in eighth grade, but admitted he was afraid to go due to the social stigma.

The group discussed changes they've witnessed at the suburban school of close to 4,000 students that, during their four years, have directly impacted LGBT students.

"It does seem to be getting increased aware-

change next school year.

"For the most part, I did not have any problems" after coming out last year, the college freshman said. "Any homophobic situation that ever arose [at Stevenson], the teachers would stop immediately.

"For the most part, I think Stevenson is a pretty safe place to be out."

Still, some GSA members admitted that they lost friends when they came out.

"Speaking from the other side," said another male, "I'm straight. I'm sort of jealous of all you because each of you has pride, but I don't really have pride in anything."

"Things are actually really good for us in comparison to what they could have been, or what they were years ago," an open lesbian said.

The group talked about coming out, and many shared their personal stories from winter break, which had taken place days ago.

There was the 17-year-old lesbian who told her uncle—and he was accepting, even offering dating advice.

Graves, for instance, shared the tale of telling her grandparents.

One lesbian was teary-eyed when she told a close, 25-year-old female cousin during a family dinner in Chicago. The cousin replied, "It doesn't matter; I still love you."

Another female student came out to her parents, who live in their native Philippines. Both were accepting, she said.

However, things weren't as rosy for another Stevenson student, who admitted that her brother disowned her over winter break after hearing the news.

Paul, the Stevenson alum who is now a college freshman, offered perhaps the best advice to the group, first admitting it might be a bit cliché, but certainly true: "It does get better. [Coming out] is worth the happiness [that comes eventually]."

This is part one of a two-part series on LGBT students at Stevenson High School. Part two will run in the next few issues.



Stevenson High School's gay-straight alliance. Photo by Ross Forman

Tietzer, 17, a senior) started questioning her sexual orientation in middle school. Tietzer is straight, her mom said, but mom is still overly supportive of the LGBT community.

She attends the GSA meeting, sitting by herself, listening and chiming in at times with thoughts, opinions and family experiences.

Mostly though, it was lesbian senior Sarah Graves who led the group of students, talking freely and openly about life in, or at least around, the LGBT rainbow.

There were several coming-out stories from the holiday break.

There was a new name for a transgender student—one of three openly trans students at Stevenson.

There were tears of joy, tears of sadness, acceptance and rejection.

However, in the GSA, it's all support. Most of the students enjoyed lollipops during the meeting, a fitting sign of acceptance as the Dum Dums were in a rainbow of flavors.

"There's some magical feeling that you get from being here," said another lesbian student. "It's just a happy feeling I get when I come [to the meetings]."

A male student added, "I come just for the physical space, being with people who think alike, [to] feel safe, to be able to express yourself, be who you are, even if it's just for one hour per week."

Graves, who lives in Buffalo Grove and will

ness, or maybe I'm just hanging with a better group of friends," one student said.

Graves started her coming-out process as a sophomore, initially revealing she was bisexual, and then ultimately saying that she is lesbian.

Nick Holcman, a transgender student, is the group's other co-president.

Graves, standing behind a podium, led the thoughtful discussions about personal and revealing topics. Students raised their hands to reply; she never singled anyone out.

All who attended commented on at least one topic. No one is ever asked his or her sexual orientation—but, at this meeting, one said he is heterosexual and a proud supporter of the LGBT community.

There was a debate and discussion about the N-word in comparison to the F-word, one that is derogatory to African-Americans and one that is offensive to the LGBT community.

Attendees also offered tips and suggestions for any anti-gay comments they may hear, or situations that may arise.

"The way things are here [at Stevenson], it's almost worse to be homophobic than it is a bad thing to be gay," said a gay male student who came out last year during his senior year. He is now a college freshman at American University.

The group also discussed what still needs to be fixed on campus for a better LGBT student life. One issue involved unisex bathrooms for trans students—which club members expect to

Justice Theis reception Feb. 13 at Kanela

A cocktail reception for Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis will take place Mon., Feb. 13, 6-7:30 p.m., at Kanela Cafe, 3231 N. Clark St.

Theis has served at every level of the judiciary in Illinois, including 17 years on the state Appellate Court. In 2010, she was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Illinois Supreme Court when Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald retired.

Admission is \$100 (individual), \$500 (friend), \$1,000 (host) and \$2,500 (chair).

Members of the host committee include Congressman Mike Quigley, Jay Paul Deratany, Anthony Martinez, and Christopher Johnsen and Scott Clay, among others.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Sharon Weber at 312-527-3667 or sweber@kohnconsulting.com.

DIFFA event Feb. 10

The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA)/Chicago Auxiliary Board will hold a fundraiser Friday, Feb. 10, at Greenhouse Loft, 2545 W. Diversey Ave.

The event will include live music by M13 and the sounds of Toast & Jam, in addition to dancing, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are \$65 each, with proceeds going towards DIFFA/Chicago's Excellence in Care Grant Awards, supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS. Visit <http://www.diffachicago.org/events.html>.

Get 10 FREE tennis or fitness lessons when you join in February.



You belong at Midtown.



MIDTOWN
ATHLETIC CLUB®

2020 W Fullerton Ave • 773.235.2300 • midtown.com/chicago

Offer ends February 29, 2012.



COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

Lyseth Rhiannon Brandt

Preferred pronoun(s)

She, Her, Hers (when presenting as a woman) and He, Him, His (when presenting as a man).

Identifies as

Bi-gender

Neighborhood

Vernon Hills, Ill.

Life's work

"Retired, and living every moment making memories."

Hobbies

"Model building, reading, my children and my grandchildren."

When did you start questioning gender?

"Somewhere around three or four years of age."

What is your coming out story?

"Fifty-eight years of repressing my feminine identity left me standing at the edge of the abyss of suicide. Running from that moment, I found Tri-Ess, and Chicago Gender Society, and life 're-started.'"

What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?

"The calendar stays quite full living two lives."

Whom do you admire most?

"My parents and all those who have helped me set and achieve goals."

How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?

"Gender is an identity. It is how we perceive ourselves and how we present to the world. Whether that gender identity matches our birth sex, or not, it is who we are, who we were meant to be. It's not a choice, and it cannot be cured. Gender and sex are not, and as we learn more, cannot be considered the same thing. Simply put, sex is a reproductive role. Gender, is a 'societal role,' and sexual orientation is independent of both."

What issues outside of the queer community do you care about?

"The Constitution of The United States is the supreme law of the land and must always remain so if human equality is to survive. The book, edited, and rearranged to give 'man' power, by the emperor Constantine, that we refer to as the Bible, as well as any of the 'great books' cannot, and must never, replace the Constitution as the supreme law. When that happens, freedom dies."

Do you consider yourself an activist?

"Not really, but I have gone with Equality Illinois on three separate Lobby Days trips to Springfield to lobby for LGBT rights and protections."



PASSAGES

Dennis LoBue

Dennis LoBue died Feb. 1 at the age of 70. He was born in Chicago Heights, Ill., Aug. 31, 1941.

He was a lunchtime waiter at Lino's and Bentley's Wine Bar; co-founder of the Fairy Gardeners Guild; a prize-winning gardener; a onetime female impersonator named Dee LoBue; and all around charming guy.

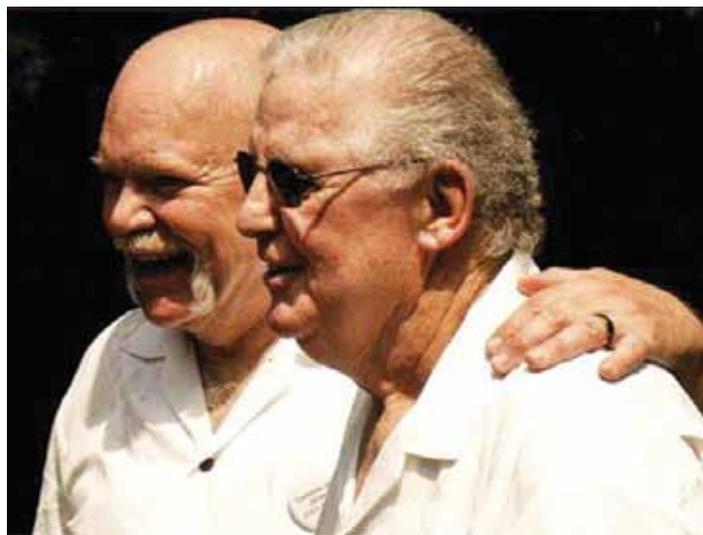
While sharing his garden for a Rogers Park Historical Society Garden walk, he and Thomas Kach envisioned a garden walk hosted by gays and lesbians. The idea grew into the Fairy Gardeners Guild, a group of gardeners from all areas of Chicagoland that meets six times a year for information exchange and to enjoy a shared meal.

LoBue was also a member of the Rogers Park Garden Group. In 2010 he won first place for the northern portion of the city in the mayor's annual garden competition. He was proud to present Mayor Daley a bottle of honey from his bees when he received the award.

During his time at Lino's he waited on then-President and First Lady Clinton, Vice President Gore, U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and Gov.



Dennis' award-winning garden on Juneway Terrace. Photo courtesy of Darwin Corrin



Darwin Corrin (left) and Dennis LoBue at their civil union last year. Photo courtesy of Jim Yeaman

Jim Edgar. He was known to deny his customers menus and to tell them what they would enjoy for lunch. He relished in helping his customers enjoy a great lunch, and many patrons remained friends with him after his retirement.

He always enjoyed preparing a meal and sharing it with others. He and his partner of 34 years, Darwin Corrin, hosted numerous parties in their home and garden.

When asked what he wanted people to remember about LoBue, Corrin told Windy City Times, "First, he was an amazingly charming man. He made friends with everybody he met, just through his sense of humor—even the nurses at the hospitals where he spent the last four weeks. He did the same thing at Lino's.

"The other thing is that he was a marvelous gardener. He had more energy than anyone I've ever known."

LoBue is survived by Corrin; mother Adeline; brothers Russell and Mark (Nancy); sister Linda Zyback, who preceded him in death; nephews David, Tom Markanich (Linda) and Tony Markanich (Wilma); and nieces Gina Hernandez (Tim), Tracy Vanderah (Kurt) and Jaclin Eiermann.

A celebration of LoBue's life is planned for Saturday, Feb. 18, at 2:30 p.m. at Unity of Chicago Church, 1925 W. Thome Ave. Dinner will follow.

—Andrew Davis

WCT seeks nominations for 30 Under 30

CHICAGO—Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, 2012, and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 20.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

Honorees will be notified in May and recognized at a free ceremony Thursday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Still up for debate is how the city will handle non-election-related issues such as zoning changes, liquor license moratoriums and city service requests.

"It's still really up in the air," Max Bever, director of communications for Ald. Tom Tunney, told Windy City Times. "At this time, [the aldermen] are working on clarifying and amending that original ordinance that was filed with the city clerk about when these boundaries go into effect."

Bever expects most issues to be clarified during Chicago's next city council meeting, slated for later this month, although he did say some items might not be nailed down until March.

As the redistricting process continues, some worry that Chicagoans living in redrawn wards might be ignored; reigning aldermen must balance continuing to serve current wards and drumming up support in new electorates.

Ald. Pat O'Connor, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's City Council floor leader, told the Chicago Sun-Times protecting those citizens will be a priority.

"We want to make sure portions of communities don't get left out of consideration for infrastructure improvements based on incumbency and new wards versus old wards," O'Connor said.

Augie & C.K.'s founders' reunion in May

Augie & Cary will hold their first-ever reunion May 12 at the L26 Restaurant and Lounge in the Chicago South Loop Hotel, 11 W. 26th St., 7 p.m.-3 a.m.

They started Augie & C.K.'s, a lesbian bar that ran during the 1970s and '80s. It was at 3726 N. Broadway, Charlie's present location.

All raffle proceeds will go to breast-cancer awareness.

Rooms are available at a discount when you call 312-225-7000 and mention Augie & C.K.'s. For more information about lodging, call 773-507-6378 or email martinez-victoria@sbcglocal.net.

Ward changes won't happen until 2015

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Chicago Elections Board ruled Feb. 1 that new ward changes will not go into effect until 2015, clarifying some of the confusion over recent district revisions.

Under the board's ruling, Chicago's current boundary lines will still apply for the upcoming ward committeeman elections, set for March 20. In addition, any special elections that take place before 2015 will also be subject to old boundary lines.

On Jan. 19, the Chicago City Council voted 41-8 for a new map that dramatically shifts many of the city's wards, creating 17 predominantly Black districts (two fewer than currently) and 13 majority Latino districts (three more). City officials have since debated how to best to implement the citywide shifts.

"It takes time," election board spokesman Jim Allen told the Chicago Sun-Times. "You can't just flick a button. You have to check every block and every street address."

Allen said that with 1,700 polling places and 2,369 Chicago precincts, it would be impossible to restructure citywide voting efforts by March 20.



Tony Abruscato

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
47

Lives in
West Loop, and has a vacation home in Michiana Shores, Ind.

Relationship status
Dating Samuel Griffith, 24

Pets
Dog named Emma, nicknamed "The Baby"

Favorite TV show
Family Guy

Favorite gay bars
Sidetrack and minibar

Little-known fact I
One of his English teachers at Wheeling High School was Art Johnston, co-owner of Sidetrack.

Little-known fact II
He was the youngest elected official in Illinois history. Abruscato campaigned at age 18 for the Wheeling Park District Municipal Board, and was elected at 19; he served for six years.

He was 10, living in suburban Wheeling, when Tony Abruscato grabbed a pitchfork to remove sod in his family's backyard. He dug a section about 15 feet wide by 10 feet deep to start his own vegetable garden, where he grew lettuce, tomatoes, carrots and cucumbers.

"I still remember the taste of those [vegetables]," Abruscato said.

He's still toiling in the garden nowadays, but on a much grander scale.

Last May, Abruscato took over the annual Chicago Flower & Garden Show—and is prepping run the show for the first time. The event is March 10-18 at Navy Pier.

"I'm both excited and nervous," for the show, Abruscato said. "One thing I will say is, this isn't your grandmother's garden show."

In other words, don't expect to just see a bunch of plants sitting on tables. Instead, it will be the wild and unbelievable, and also plenty of do-able options for even the green-thumb beginner.

The 2012 show has been tagged "Hort Culture," a blending of flowers and fashion, and the mantra is "Inspire, Educate and Motivate."



With 30 full gardens on display, there is something for everyone, Abruscato said, "and everyone can realistically pick up something that they can do on their own, in their own space—be it a yard, patio, balcony or even on their desk."

The Flower & Garden Show showcases exotic flowers and plants, as well as common foliage. There are paving stones, decks, ponds and more.

"In my new role with the show, it's sort of a visualization of my life's work, combining marketing, design, logistics management, sponsorship, sales, finances and more," Abruscato said.



Have your premiums increased recently?

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 16
7:30 p.m.
Poetry Reading
Catherine Theis
The Fraud of Good Sleep
Jessica Savitz
Hunting is Painting

Saturday, Feb. 18
7:30 p.m.
Sappho's Salon
Midwinter Dance Party and Mixer



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

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

Joyce Ford

Coming Soon!

The All-New 2013 FUSION

At the Corner of 24th & Michigan Avenue in Chicago's New South Loop
Call us: 312-842-4200 • Email us: joyceford1301@aol.com • Visit us online: joyceford.net



Keith Haring mural in Rush University Medical Center's fourth floor atrium. Photo by Erica Demarest.

Haring murals live on at Rush University Medical Center

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Famed American artist Keith Haring got his start in the New York City subway system in the early 1980s sketching chalk murals on unused advertising panels. He quickly grew in popularity, achieving international acclaim within a decade.

Fans flocked to Haring's large-scale murals, known for their simple, distinctive and cartoonlike illustrations. Having been diagnosed with HIV in 1988, Haring spent his later years focusing on creating images for AIDS and children's programs.

In May 1989, Haring stopped by Chicago to work with some 300 public-high-school students on public murals. Mayor Richard M. Daley had issued an official proclamation creating "Keith Haring Week" and ordered several public art projects.

"[Haring] is respected for committing his life and work to the democratic ideals of social justice, equality and compassion for his fellow man," Daley wrote.

On his last day in the city, Haring stopped by Rush University Memorial Hospital to paint two wall murals, both of which are proudly displayed to this day.

The first, located in the bustling fourth-floor atrium, features black-and-white figures of all shapes and sizes surrounding a red heart. The second, situated near a walkway that connects buildings along Harrison Street and Congress Parkway, is much brighter. Colorful animals, television sets and astronauts wave and smile at passersby.

"I could earn a lot more money by only painting and selling canvases," Haring told the Rush newsletter NewsRounds in June 1989, "but I really enjoy creating murals for children."

The murals stood untouched for about a decade, but Rush covered them with glass panels in the late 1990s to protect Haring's images.

"This is a main traffic area, so it was starting to get a little dingy," said Nathalie Wheaton, Rush University Medical Center assistant archivist. "People would bump into it."

Today, visitors are invited to stop by Rush and check out Haring's murals, which are predominantly displayed on the fourth floor. Haring died of AIDS-related complications on Feb. 16, 1990; he was 31 years old.

To learn more about Haring, visit www.haring.com.



Above: Keith Haring paints a mural on May 21, 1989. Photo courtesy of Rush University Medical Center Archives

Keith Haring mural (left) and plaque (below) on the fourth floor of Rush University Medical Center. Photos by Erica Demarest



Rush hospital treats, researches HIV/AIDS

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Since 1984, the Section of Infectious Diseases at Rush University Memorial Hospital has stood out as one of the city's largest HIV/AIDS clinics. While the facility remains committed to providing high-quality care for those with HIV, it has since evolved through partnerships with local hospitals and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to become one of the nation's top research institutions.

"We look at effectiveness, availability and what's trending," said Craig Johnson, community health promoter at Rush. "The doctors and researchers here are really on top of what's new and what's next."

The HIV-focused clinic boasts a staff of more than 30 physicians, nurses and fellows, and treats about 800 clients annually. Researchers



Craig Johnson, community health promoter at Rush University Medical Center. Photo by Erica Demarest.

evaluate various antiretroviral medications, linkages to care, and new health developments such as inflammation and tuberculosis among HIV populations.

Johnson said one of the hospital's main focuses moving forward is expanding research to include historically underrepresented at-risk populations.

"If we know that a broader number of African-Americans, Latinos and women are getting infected, but that number is not getting more involved in research, then we're looking at a disparity in the pool," Johnson said. "When others are trending down, why are these groups going up?"

Rush doctors have studied whether certain medications work differently in men and women, or among Caucasians and racial minorities.

Johnson regularly works with local organizations such as the South Side Help Center and the Black Treatment Advocates Network to rally community members into participating in trials.

"I know there are a lot of elephants in the room when it comes to research, but we've got to get past that if we want to make a difference," Johnson said. "We would not have six classes of antiretrovirals available to keep 20,000 people in Chicago alive, and 1.1 million nationally, without that research."

Johnson reminds patients that clinical trials will not negatively affect their health. Each participant receives antiretroviral medication, plus supplemental medical care.

"The progress is going to happen no matter what," Johnson said. "The question is: At what rate is it going to happen? Do you want people holding on and dragging their feet? Or do you want people to really push the effort forward?"

To learn more about clinical trials, visit www.rush.edu.

AFC advocates for extension of benefit lottery tickets

In honor of National Black AIDS Awareness Day Feb. 7, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and a team of advocates made their voices heard in Springfield, urging the extension of a crucial program that funds HIV prevention and treatment. They planned a press conference at the State Capitol, to support a bill that would extend the sunset date for the Quality of Life Fund's "Red Ribbon Cash" lottery ticket expiring Dec. 31, 2012.

Co-sponsored by Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-16th) and Rep. Karen Yarbrough (D-7th), S.B. 2971 would extend the ticket sunset date to Dec. 31, 2017.

"This epidemic is particularly hard on young Black men and the African-American community, in general," AFC's Director of Government Relations Ramon Gardenhire said. "We simply cannot allow this lottery program, which provides critical funding for HIV treatment and services, to expire when we know it saves lives."

Enacted in 2007, 100 percent of the proceeds from Red Ribbon Cash lottery tickets go to organizations throughout Illinois that provide treatment and prevention services to those populations most affected by HIV/AIDS—such as youth, African-Americans and Latinos, and the LGBT community.

The Quality of Life Fund is a self-generating revenue fund based on sales. Last year, the Red Ribbon Cash scratch-off game generated \$1.4 million for HIV/AIDS prevention and care. This year, the lottery ticket will fund 14 community-based organizations across the state.

Despite representing only 14% of the U.S. population in 2009, African Americans accounted for 44% of all new HIV infections in that year, according to the most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Research focuses on HIV risk in Latino immigrants

The Medical College of Wisconsin has received a two-year, \$411,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Mental Health to research new strategies aimed at increasing HIV testing and counseling in new immigrants to the United States.

Laura Glasman, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine in the Medical College's Center for AIDS Intervention Research, is the primary investigator of the grant. Latinos are disproportionately affected by HIV, accounting for 20 percent of new HIV infections in the U.S., while representing about 16 percent of the population. According to the Centers for

Disease Control, the HIV infection rate among Latinos in 2009 was nearly three times as high as that of whites. Factors accounting for the discrepancy include uncertain immigration status, high levels of stigma, and unawareness of risk, particularly in new immigrants who come from areas of low HIV prevalence.

Glasman will investigate peer-led strategies to engage recent Latino immigrant men in voluntary counseling and testing for HIV. The goal of these new strategies is to prevent further increases in HIV risk, and help identify HIV-infected individuals earlier.

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research at MCW is one of five HIV prevention research centers in the U.S. funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

HealthHIV surveys HIV and primary care providers

Rising HIV caseloads among overworked specialists and insufficient reimbursement for HIV services are key findings from the 2nd Annual HealthHIV State of HIV Primary Care survey.

Set against a landscape in which the federal government prepares to extend healthcare coverage to 32 million newly insured individuals (including an estimated 600,000-800,000 people living with HIV), the survey reveals a shifting landscape between the readiness of the HIV workforce and its ability to treat the growing number of people living with HIV, especially in primary care settings.

Among HIV treatment providers, two-thirds report an increase in their HIV caseloads and more than a third report inadequate reimbursement as a barrier to expanding their practices. As demand for HIV care providers continues to increase, new HIV care providers are scarce. Twenty-two percent of primary care providers cite reimbursement as a significant barrier to providing HIV services.

Other survey findings reveal that while systemic obstacles keep many primary care providers from treating HIV, out of necessity some have taken steps to begin offering HIV care. Based upon their responses, HealthHIV built a profile of the typical "HIV Primary Care Provider." She is female (58%), non-Hispanic (83%), white (68%), M.D. (58%), aged 50-59 years old (40%), living in an urban community (64%). Further, she is a family practice specialist (46%), practicing in the South (39%), in a community health center (36%).

HealthHIV is a national non-profit working with organizations, communities, and professionals to advance effective prevention, care, and support for people living with, or at risk for, HIV through education and training, capacity building, advocacy, and health services research and evaluation. See www.HealthHIV.org or www.NCHCMC.org.

Talking 'Skin' with author Biodun Abudu

BY JOHN J. ACCROCCO

Chicago author Biodun Abudu's debut novel, *Tales of My Skin* is a book about one man's journey from Africa to the United States. This book confronts issues of sexual orientation, HIV and identity of teens in two different cultures that have more in common than meets the eye.

John J. Accrocco: Who do you hope to reach with this novel?

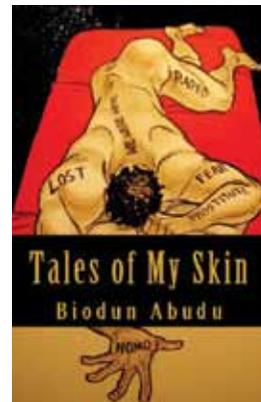
Biodun Abudu: Mainly, I hope this book reaches the LGBT community and the parents of any LGBT children or anyone who has questions about the LGBT lifestyle. It's a book for anyone who is looking for love and finding it in the wrong places. It's a book of advice for people in these situations.

JA: Tell me about your life, what is your story?

BA: I was born in Rhode Island, but a few years later I was relocated to Nigeria. My parents had a bad separation in the '90s and my mom thought it was best to protect me by taking me back to Nigeria. She felt the schooling was better there. I returned to the United States to pursue my dreams of working in fashion, which is considered inappropriate there. In Nigeria, to do my drag shows and costume designing and even to write this book would have been impossible. I found a school in Chicago where I had some family living and it felt like a good idea. I attended the International Academy of Design & Technology and finished with a B.A. in Fashion Merchandising.

JA: What prompted you to write this novel?

BA: It's a story that I think people need to hear. When adults look into teens' eyes, so often they don't see that they have stories to tell, stories that would frighten them. In my country, being gay is against the law, but there's this



Cover of Abudu's book, *Tales of My Skin*.

huge underground LGBT scene and people don't even know to protect themselves, that five minutes of pleasure could cost them their lives.

JA: What was the writing and publishing process like for you?

BA: It took me about two years to actually finish the book: about a year and a half to write it and then another six months of editing and finding a publisher.

I found my publisher [Lalibra Books] on a Facebook ad, believe it or not. It was this new company in California and I emailed their editor and told them about myself and my novel. I'm actually the first author aside from the editor. She loved it, and from there we began the editing and discussing the contracts. Privacy was something we had to concern ourselves with since a lot of the book is based on a few people I know.

JA: What kind of books does Lalibra usually publish?



Biodun Abudu. Photo courtesy of Abudu

BA: Well, it's mostly self-publishing, as I said I'm one of the first authors. I went with them because their prices were pretty reasonable and because they got back to me so soon. I could have waited around for an Indie publisher, but rather than waiting for them to notice me, which can sometimes take years, I knew that I had to get my message out there and start saving lives right away.

JA: Do you plan on publishing any more novels?

BA: Definitely. I'm hoping to release a book of poems soon. My next novel I think is going to be about a family member dealing with drug addiction.

JA: What specific LGBT issues is your novel addressing?

BA: It talks about HIV and the online addiction and how the LGBT world struggles in the world of dating. It also is about rape victims and about parents who aren't always there for their kids. In Nigeria, people want to think that there is no LGBT scene and this book discusses it.

JA: What do you mean by the LGBT world struggling with dating and online addiction? What is the correlation?

BA: For example, if a person for certain reasons can't get a real "date", they'll start turning to websites like Adam4Adam and Grindr. It's so easy for people on this site to go from guy to guy, place to place in just one night. This poses a serious danger for people on these sites who are really looking for love and think that this is the only way to find it. There are also people on these sites who only make profiles to scam people and it's usually hard to detect until it's too late. Young men also fall prey to older men with bad intentions who use these sites. The scariest thing I think about is that everyone lists themselves as HIV-, which in reality is just not true.

JA: Is your novel your truth or someone else's?

BA: Some of it is me. It's mostly my friend's truth. I blended some of his life with mine and to protect him, I don't discuss which parts are him and which parts are not.

JA: What are your goals as a writer?

BA: I want to create avenues for youth to speak their truths. Adults want to shut us up because they don't always like the truth, but more young people should speak up to save lives. Without the right people giving you advice, it's really easy to go down the wrong paths and I've seen so many people in my life give up and stop pursuing their goals.

JA: How have sales been so far?

BA: Surprisingly good. I'm at about 200 sales, mostly through Amazon. I'm getting a lot of buyers in Nigeria, Zambia and even a few in London. The book has only been out since October, so I'm very hopeful. I've done a few readings, one at the Center on Halsted. So far no stores are carrying the book but I am talking to a few local bookstores.

Tales of My Skin is available on Amazon.com in a digital and paperback edition.

AIDS @30

The Windy City Times AIDS @ 30 series, originally slated for April-December 2011, will continue through February 2012. Turn to Windy City Times each week for more news and features.

See past articles online at
www.windycitymediagroup.com/aids.php

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 27 No. 18, Feb. 8, 2012

The combined forces of Windy City Times,
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,
founded May 1987.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Meghan Streit
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Dave Ouano, Kirk Smid
PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes
NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Kate Sosin, Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregryn, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.
BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS Mary Shen Barnidge, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Alicia Wilson, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Lisa Keen, Charles Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Tyler Gillespie, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Sally Parsons, Emmanuel Garcia, Jamie Anne Royce, Joe Franco
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia, Dave Ouano, Tim Carroll

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2012 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

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

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

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640
 U.S.A.
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 www.WindyCityQueercast.com
 www.QueerTVNetwork.com

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

 Community Marketing, Inc.

DANA
RUDOLPH

MOMBIAN

Children's book
list shows
diversity across
LGBTQ spectrum

A new American Library Association (ALA) list of recommended LGBTQ-inclusive books for children and young adults shows that characters who are transgender, bisexual, and of ambiguous identity are taking their place solidly beside more traditional gay and lesbian ones.

Wisconsin high school librarian Lynn Evarts, who chairs the ALA committee that chooses the annual "Rainbow Bibliography," said she is "very happy" that the fifth annual version of the list, announced recently, is so diverse.

The bibliography's Top 10 books, selected for special recognition out of the full list of 32, include four titles with characters outside "gay" and "lesbian" labels. In Steve Brezenoff's teen-punk romance *Brooklyn Burning*, readers never know the gender of the protagonists Kid and Scout. In Patrick Ryan's *Gemini Bites*, a girl and her twin brother each fall in love with a young man of ambiguous sexuality—and who may also be a vampire. Libba Bray's *Beauty Queens* includes a transgender character. And Cris Beam's *I Am J* tells the story of a transgender boy growing up in New York City, informed by Beam's years of volunteering with transgender youth and her experience as foster mother to a transgender girl.

Not in the top 10, but also reflecting this mix of sexuality and gender are Lili Wilkinson's *Pink and Alex Sanchez' Boyfriends with Girlfriends*, which have bisexual leading characters, and Shimura Takako's graphic novel *Wandering Son*,

which has a gender variant girl and boy as protagonists.

Evarts said she was also "thrilled to see" Jennifer Carr's *Be Who You Are*, about a child born biologically male who knows she is really a girl. The book is a rare example of a book for elementary school children that has a gender variant protagonist.

Carr is herself the mother of a gender variant child, and takes us through a fictional but realistic account of what she and other families with gender variant children have experienced, such as seeking support, dealing with schools, and retraining themselves—parents and siblings—to use the child's preferred name and pronouns. Although it is self-published, Evarts said the book is "quite high quality" and she hopes its presence on the list might get it noticed by a larger publisher.

Other books on the list do have gay and lesbian characters, including the Top 10 titles *Sister Mischief*, Laura Goode's tale of an all-girl hip-hop crew in Minnesota; *Huntress*, Malinda Lo's fantasy romance; *Shine*, Lauren Myracle's wrenching tale of an anti-gay hate crime; *She Loves You, She Loves You Not*, a romance by the prolific Julie Ann Peters; and *Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy*, by Bil Wright, which also won the ALA's Stonewall Book Award for exceptional merit in LGBTQ children's and young adult literature.

However, books for younger children were sadly lacking this year. Aside from *Be Who You Are*, the only other title for that age group (and a Top 10 pick) is the picture book *Donovan's Big Day*, by Lesléa Newman, author of the classic *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Unlike *Heather*, *Donovan* does not preach about acceptance, but simply and joyfully shows a boy preparing for the wedding of his two moms.

For middle readers, beyond picture books but not yet ready for young adult fare, there was "not a darn thing," Evarts said, except possibly *Wandering Son*, which shows its protagonists at the end of fifth grade.

On the other end of the age bracket, several books not specifically for youth made the list, including actor Jane Lynch's biography *Happy Accidents* and Scott Pasfield's photographic survey *Gay in America: portraits*. Evarts called *Gay*

In America "one of the most fabulous books I have seen in years ... one of those books kids are going to look at and say, hey, wow, cool."

Other non-fiction books include *It Gets Better*, a collection of transcripts and original essays from the online anti-bullying project launched by Dan Savage and Terry Miller; *Dear Bully: Seventy Authors Tell Their Stories*, edited by Megan Kelly Hall and Carrie Jones; and *Queer: The Ultimate Guide for Teens*, by Kathy Belge and Marke Bieschke.

Evarts said the Bibliography can be a valuable tool for librarians needing to support their purchases of LGBTQ-inclusive books, especially in schools. "They feel far more comfortable purchasing these books, having them on their shelves, giving them to their students, when they have an ALA-sanctioned list to back them up," she explained.

Parents or others may still ask for LGBTQ-inclusive books to be removed or restricted in some way, Evarts said, but the Bibliography "makes it a little bit easier to put a book on our shelves, knowing there is something out there that we can wave in people's faces when they get sassy about it."

Also, while the ALA recognizes a few of the very top LGBTQ books through its Stonewall Awards, the longer list provided by the Bibliography can help librarians "purchase several different titles that serve different needs," she explained.

Finding books with LGBTQ content isn't easy, however, Evarts said, because they aren't always identified as such from the title or cataloging information. And there were also fewer nominations this year because of a general decrease in publishing during the down economy.

Evarts said she would "welcome suggestions" for next year's list, because "We don't want to miss anything if we can at all help it." Send ideas to levarts@aol.com. (Books must have been published after July 2011.)

View the full Rainbow Bibliography for this and previous years at rainbowlist.wordpress.com.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a blog and resource directory for LGBT parents.

LETTERS

Terminated

Dear Editor:

As a participant in MACS (Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study) since its beginning in 1984, I was shocked to learn that the Howard Brown Health Center terminated Kate Lindsay as the project coordinator. The reason? She had allegedly "forwarded two complimentary [participants'] emails to her mother."

I consider myself a staunch defender of the privacy rights of the persons who volunteer for medical studies such as the MACS program. On the other hand, if Kate had forwarded a complimentary email of mine to the media, I would've gladly given her permission to do so. All of the participants in the MACS program, whether they wish to be identified as such or not, should be proud, as I am, of what we've done. Every six months (myself and many others for 28 years), we give 17 vials of our blood; submit to thorough, time-consuming and exhaustive physical and psychological examinations; and answer highly specific questions as to our sexual and drug-and-alcohol-taking activities.

Participating in the MACS study says nothing about the HIV status of the persons who do so. As I understand it, from discussions with the designers of the study (who are heroes to me), HIV-negative participants are required as "con-

trols," in scientific terminology. Without them, the study would be useless. Even so, there is absolutely no more reason for HIV-positive persons to be ashamed of that aspect of their lives than there is for human beings to feel loss or disapproval because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and/or queer.

The MACS study has answered many vital questions as to HIV and AIDS and led the way in reducing HIV infection from a "death sentence" to a serious but still-too-often fatal disease. Participation in it is the only worthwhile thing I've done in my life, but at least I've done that.

I know Kate's firing—together with the recent death of her beloved predecessor, Marilyn Urso—has left other MACS participants in the same condition I'm in: with unstoppable tears in our eyes.

I don't wish to blame Jamal Edwards or any other persons at Howard Brown for what they've done. I've yet to connect with an employee at Howard Brown, including Mr. Edwards, who wasn't kind, caring and compassionate. I don't know what constraints Howard Brown faces under current privacy rules and regulations. I fervently wish, however, that Kate's alleged violations of the privacy guidelines (two emails to her mother!) had resulted in a reprimand and not her termination.

I don't know how to contact Kate personally, but I hope she knows that her termination has left my comrades and me devastated, and we will always love her.

Ron Fritsch
 Chicago

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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

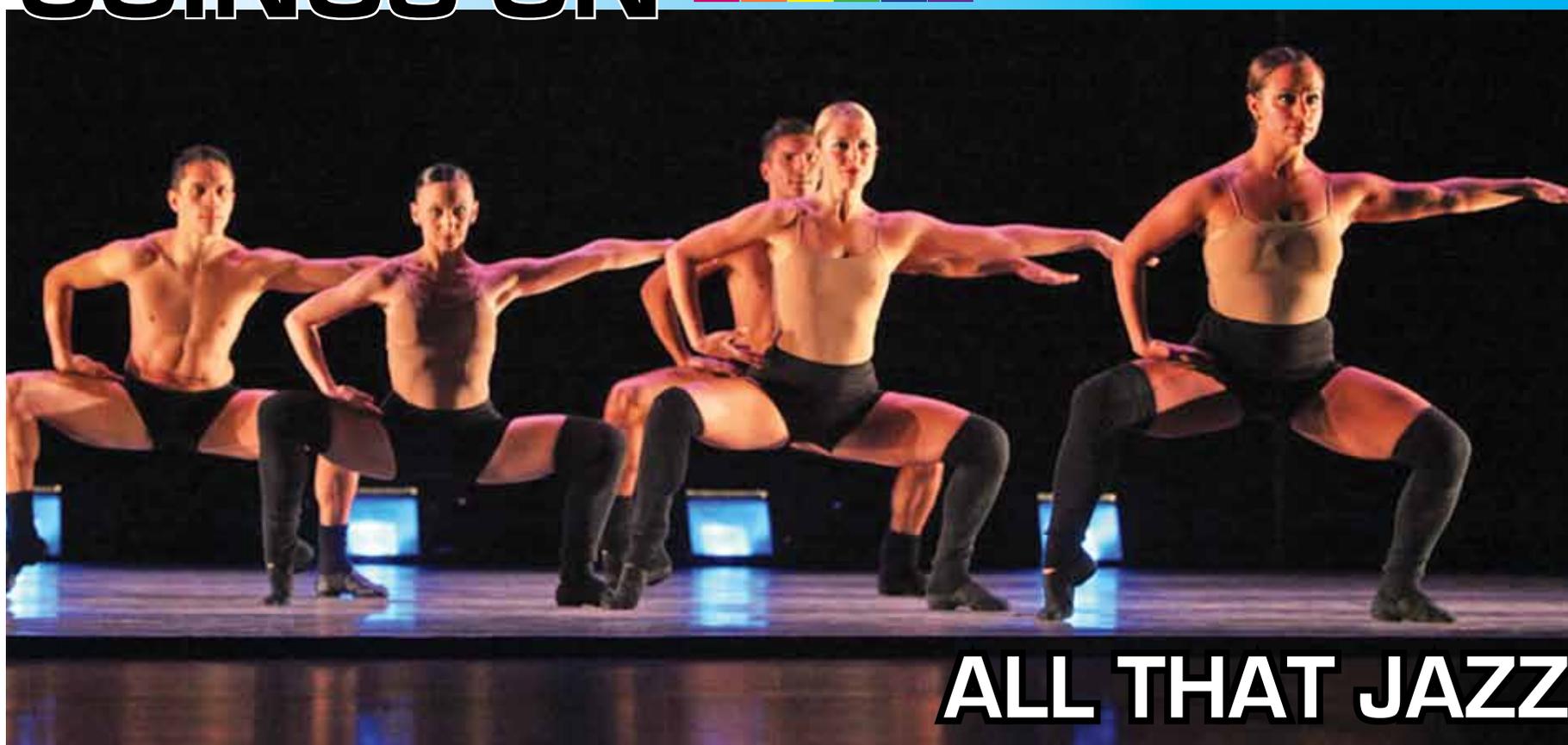


Photo by Gorman Cook Photography

ALL THAT JAZZ

Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago (above) is one of many local troupes with shows this month. See below.

DISH

Bun house.
Page 32.

Photo courtesy of Meghan Streit



THEATER

Call of Judy.
Page 18.

Photo courtesy of GayCo Productions



SPORTS

Social graces.
Page 38.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



Dancin' Feats

BY VICKI CRAIN

Making a point

The **Joffrey Ballet** brings the heat with 10 performances at The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. This triple bill showcases three of the hottest contemporary ballet choreographers. Winter Fire performances are Wed.-Sunday, Feb. 15-26—with evening shows at 7:30 p.m. and weekend matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$149; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.joffrey.org.

Internationally acclaimed **Grigorovich Ballet** comes all the way from Russia to dance the three-act ballet *Spartacus* (Friday, Feb. 24), as well as a Legends of Russian Ballet (Saturday, Feb. 25) program at the Arie Crown Theater, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr. Performances start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$250; call 800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Girl power

The Dance Center at Columbia College presents multiple show of works by female choreographers. San Francisco-based **Margaret Jenkins Dance Company** delves into a multimedia work inspired by light cycles in *Light Moves* Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 9-12, at 8 p.m. Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak continues to expand her three-year choreographic experiment with the new work, *The Delicate Hour* Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 23-25, at 8 p.m. A triple bill explores dance and theatricality featuring *The Space/Movement Project*, Rachel Damon/Synapse Arts and Erica Mott Thursday, March 8-10, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dancecenter.

Dance Center alum, Atalee Judy's **BONEdanse** presents the '50s and '80s psychological mash-up *This is a DAMAGE MANUAL* at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Thursday-Saturday, Feb.

9-11, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$24; call 773-975-8150 or visit www.bonedanse.com.

Collaborators **Lauren Warnecke** and **Enid Smith** pair again for a split bill *Refill*, revisiting works (*Grind* and *Pier*) they debuted in a combined show last August. The upcoming shows are Friday-Saturday, Feb. 10-11, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St. Tickets are \$12; call 312-664-4631 x105 or visit www.menomoneeclub.org.

Love is in the air

Treat your sweetie to some dance for Valentine's Day. **River North Dance Chicago** takes the stage at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park at 205 E. Randolph St., with two world premieres along with four audience favorites. *Love is...* runs Friday-Saturday, Feb. 10-11, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30-\$75; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.rivernorthchicago.com.

For another Valentine's Day option, head north to The Athenaeum Theatre in Lakeview (2936 N. Southport Ave.) for **Dance Chicago's** *Dances from the Heart*. For this one-night-only show, 15 companies share the stage, including ballroom stars Tommie Giacchino and Gregory Day. The show will take place Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17-\$30; call 773-935-6860 or visit www.dancechicago.com.

Also at the Athenaeum, the annual favorite **Duets for My Valentine** shows a slew of sizzling duets from across the dance spectrum. It's co-presented by Chicago Dance Crash and Bread & Roses Productions Saturday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; call 773-935-6860 or visit www.duetsformyvalentinechicago.com.

Keep the fire burning with **Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago's** *Passion & Fire* mixed program

featuring a world premiere by Autumn Eckman, also at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St. Mar. 9-10. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.giordanodance.org.

Happy anniversary!

Two companies are hitting milestones on the dance scene. Modern ensemble **Same Planet Different World** turns 15 and presents a mixed bill including two world premieres (one by director Joanna Rosenthal) at The Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave., Thursday-Saturday, March 8-10, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$24; call 773-871-3000 or visit www.spdwdance.org.

Thodos Dance Chicago celebrates its 20th anniversary with two performances at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. The Winter Concert features last season's hit story ballet *The White City: Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893* along with past works. It runs Friday-Saturday, March 2-3. Tickets are \$25-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.thodosdancechicago.org.

If you're up for a road trip, **Thodos Dance Chicago** is also performing a shared program with **Luna Negra Dance Theater** in Skokie. Besides multiple pieces from each company's repertoires, the directors switch sides to set a work on the other company's dancers. Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$36-\$46; call 847-673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Creative collaborations

Celebrate Mardi Gras early with some New Orleans jazz music and contemporary dance. **The Trey McIntyre Project** comes to town for one night, performing with **The Preservation Hall Jazz Band** at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. Friday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22-\$73; call 312-294-3000 or visit www.cso.org.

Artistic collaborations are nothing new to local troupe **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**. At the Echo Effect Event, watch these world-class dancers amid the artwork in Griffin court of the

Joffrey Ballet.
Photo by Herbert Migdoll

Modern Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. The free event runs Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m.

On the screen

Documentaries on dance are all the rage. Chicagoan Bob Hercules directs a much-anticipated film on the history of the Joffrey Ballet. **Joffrey Mavericks of Dance** traces the small company's beginnings all the way to its current home in Chicago. The premiere is at the Gene Siskel Film Center on Saturday, Feb. 18, and Wed., Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$11. For more information visit www.joffreymovie.com or www.siskelfilm-center.org.

If you haven't already seen it, **Pina**—a 3-D film on German choreographer Pina Bausch—is a must. It's playing through Wed., Feb. 29. Visit AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St.; AMC Northbrook Court 14, 1525 Lake Cook Rd., Northbrook; and Century 12 Evanston, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston.

Emmy-Award winner Chris Olsen follows the making of Thodos Dance Chicago's 2011 dance hit **The White City**. Olsen's projections provided background for the dance and his half-hour documentary on the creative process—*Beneath the White City Lights: The Making of an American Story Ballet*—premieres on WTTW-11 Thursday, Feb. 23, at 10:30 p.m.

Vicki Crain also writes a Chicago-based dance blog at www.rogueballerina.com. Send dance-related news to Vic@VickiCrain.com and Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Bachelorette. Photo by Shawn Cagle

THEATER REVIEW Bachelorette

Playwright: Leslye Headland
At: Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway
Phone: 773-549-1815 or
www.profiles theatre.org; \$35-\$40
Runs through: March 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The posh hotel suite is decorated in gold and white. A wall placard indicates its preparation for a wedding, as do the gifts wrapped in similarly delicate colors and the bottles of champagne chilling in the offstage bathtub. In the room are three angry women—Gena (snorting cocaine), Katie (snorting coke and guzzling wine) and Regan (snorting, guzzling *and* gobbling pills). None of them are the bride—in fact, they all *hate* the bride. This is why maid of honor Regan has invited the train-wreck duo of Gena and Katie to crash the nuptial-eve festivities.

Well, of *course* she has! Just as alumni in school-reunion plays are required to have diverted dramatically from previous expectations, so do literary conventions of marriage-ceremony backstage comedies dictate that the damsels in attendance be obsessed with the pursuit of high-status husbands and be uniformly envious of their peer's success. In Leslye Headland's contribution to the genre, these emotions are expressed in the expected cat-chat, as well as the physical destruction currently in vogue for

modern mean chicks. Her trio of saboteurs fall down, throw up and pass out. They trash the furniture. They rip the wedding dress. Regan invites a bad boy and nerd boy in for some fun. Then the target of their wrath arrives and *she's* angry, too.

Not content with sitcom hijinks, the actresses assembled by Profiles director Darrell W. Cox attack their gynocentric archetypes with a ferocity that makes you scour the playbill credits for a referee. Playing the volatile Katie, Linda Augusta Orr conveys the self-loathing of a former prom queen chafing under post-grad disappointment. Hillary Marren likewise lends the statuesque Regan a vulnerability belying her hard-boiled veneer, while Amanda Powell's Gena emerges the most fully recovered from her obligatory trauma-crippled past, and, therefore, the most capable in an emergency. Adam Soule and Erik Burgher, as the (respectively) wily Jeff and nurturing Joe, delve their characters for subtextual continuity. Finally, Rakisha Pollard rejects cheap sight gags to forge a *schadenfreude*-free portrayal of the plus-sized woman of the moment.

Headland claims to have written a morality play aimed at young people on the brink of adulthood (in our society, that means approaching thirty). Beneath the screwball mayhem, however, there also lies a timely lesson in the true meaning of friendship, and the price of the sisterhood that must, inevitably, triumph—in fiction, anyway.

SPOTLIGHT



Quest Theatre Ensemble is known for attaching the term "The People's" onto all the titles of its shows since they almost always come without an admission charge. So don't be confused with Quest's production of *The People's Barnum*, since it's really the acclaimed 1980 Broadway musical simply known as *Barnum*. Find out about the life of the famous circus showman as imagined by playwright Mark Bramble and the peppy score of Cy Coleman (*Sweet Charity*, *City of Angels*) and lyricist Michael Stewart (*I Love My Wife*). *Barnum* plays through March 18 at the Blue Theatre, 1609 W. Gregory St. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays with 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. There is no admission charge, though donations are appreciated; call 312-458-0895 or visit www.questensemble.org. Photo by Julie Taylor



THEATER REVIEW

Death and Harry Houdini

Playwright: Nathan Allen
At: The House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.
Tickets: 773-769-3832;
www.thehousetheatre.com; \$25
Runs through: March 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

A rabbi's son born in Hungary in 1874, Erik Weisz grew up in Appleton, Wis., (hard to believe) and New York City, and was a champion cross-country runner before turning to magic. By his death in 1926, he was a showbiz superstar and an immortal of popular culture as Harry Houdini. Today, 85 years after his death, the name "Houdini" remains synonymous with magic and seemingly impossible escapes.

Many details—such as the place of his birth, where he grew up and his Jewish heritage—are missing or barely present in *Death and Harry Houdini*, but that doesn't stop it from being gangbusters entertainment presented with all the bells and whistles that the House Theatre famously musters. Written and directed as a vaudeville show by company artistic director Nathan Allen, *Death and Harry Houdini* incorporates live music, dance and caricature. It was The House's first show in Chicago, and this enlarged revival honors the troupe's 10th anniversary.

At the center then and now is founding company member Dennis Watkins, a master of sleight-of-hand magic as well as of the daring escapes pioneered by Houdini and his magician brother, Theo (a behind-the-scenes figure in this show, although he had a long and successful performing career). Watkins flawlessly performs various escapes from straitjackets, boxes, locks and chains as well as Houdini's "death-defying" upside-down water-torture cell escape. He also walks on broken glass.

Looking and feeling like a Lookingglass The-



Death and Harry Houdini. Photo by Michael Brosilow

atre circus show, *Death and Harry Houdini* has charisma and color, a class act that nonetheless retains appropriate carnival vulgarity in substantial part thanks to the design team of Collette Pollard and Sally Weiss (scenic), Lee Keenan and Amy Prindle (costumes) and Ben Wilhelm (lighting).

The magic is under Watkins' personal supervision, as it must be. He makes it clear, as Houdini did, that some daring stunts (walking on glass, straitjacket escape) are matters of physical discipline involving no special tricks or secrets. However, the curtain of "magic" is drawn on what are called big-box illusions such as the cell escape, which retain their thrill and danger.

Dazzle notwithstanding, this isn't as profound a piece as The House has developed since. Houdini's fascination with conquering mortality through death-defying feats is a constant theme in the show, yet his deep interest in the afterlife and his repeated debunking of phony spiritualists is not handled. Houdini and his wife famously had a pact that he would contact her from the beyond, if such communication was possible. She held séances on his death date for 10 years before giving up. This absence makes the show's portrait of Houdini somewhat superficial, but doesn't diminish the pleasures and dynamism of this grand vaudeville.

Are You There, Judy? It's Me, Cancer

Playwright: Judy Fabjance
At: GayCo Productions at Donny's Skybox, 1608 N. Wells St.
Phone: 312-337-3992; \$13
Website: www.gayco.com
Runs through: Feb. 24

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Performing a comic solo show can be daunting for any performer—and if the subject matter is about surviving breast cancer, then good luck wringing out laughs from audiences who might be reluctant to even see the show in the first place.

However, Judy Fabjance of GayCo Productions fearlessly delves into her own personal experience with breast cancer in the company's first one-woman show, *Are You There Judy? It's Me Cancer*, at Donny's Skybox Theatre. Fabjance does provide a lot of laughs in addition to personally poignant moments about her four-year breast-cancer odyssey involving diagnosis, mastectomy, chemotherapy, reconstructive surgery and a painful recovery (all without steady health insurance, too).

That Fabjance could find so much creative and entertaining humor from her life-threatening ordeal is certainly impressive. Yet, there are times when you feel she's taking on too much.

Fabjance's show isn't just an affair where she stands and gabs into a microphone for an hour. *Are You There Judy? ...* is essentially

a full GayCo sketch-comedy revue. However, instead of a company of many performers, it's all executed by Fabjance (with occasional assistance from musical director Amanda Murphy at the piano and the uncredited tech crew who were occasionally shaky with the sound cues on opening night).

Unfortunately, Fabjance's show is front-loaded with material that is only so-so. Fabjance's opening interpretive dance about a woman confronted with cancer isn't as polished as it should be, while her cheerleader routine about reconstructive breast-surgery options just about fell flat.

Luckily Fabjance gets into her comic groove with great comic-video vignettes featuring other GayCo company members, silly songs (including one about her complicated relationship with broccoli) and even an interactive cancer game show where an audience member has to guess if a woman is a lesbian, or a just straight woman with short hair.

Opening just days after news broke about the Susan G. Komen Foundation's plans to phase out breast cancer screening grants to Planned Parenthood (whose plans were reversed thanks to a massive backlash), Fabjance's show doesn't wade into any of this recent controversy. While some people might be disappointed by this omission since GayCo isn't afraid of tackling controversy, it's probably a better choice on Fabjance's part.

Are You There Judy? ... keeps the audience's focus squarely on Fabjance's own personal struggles with breast cancer. That Fabjance was able to buoy her own spirits with so much laughter and productivity (just look at this frequently funny show), be grateful that she's willing to share so much about herself in order to educate and entertain.



Disgraced. Photo by Michael Brosilow

DOUBLE REVIEW

Disgraced

Playwright: Ayad Akhtar

At: American Theater Company,
1909 W. Byron St.

Phone: 773-409-4125; \$35-\$40

Web: www.atcweb.org

Runs through Feb. 26

Hesperia

Playwright: Randall Colburn

At: Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe

Phone: 847-242-6000; \$45-\$65

Web: www.writerstheatre.org

Runs through March 18

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

People struggling with faith, religion and the messiness of life populate the two current Chicago-area dramas of Ayak Akhtar's *Disgraced* at American Theater Company and Randall Colburn's *Hesperia* at Writers' Theatre. While both offer high-impact dramatics based around religious issues and customs, the emotional explosiveness of one turns out to be more satisfying than the personal conflicts explored in the other.

Disgraced focuses on the rising New York Muslim-American corporate lawyer Amir Kapoor (Usman Ally) and how his goal of achieving American Dream-style success gets spectacularly derailed practically overnight. Amir has largely turned his back on his faith to get ahead in the United States, but is later torn asunder when a series of professional and personal biases and betrayals come to a heated boil.

Akhtar's very topical world premiere is definitely designed to push buttons and to simultaneously prod audiences intellectually and emotionally to consider their own cultural and religious views in post-9/11 America. While some of Akhtar's character choices and plotting might be a tad too neatly designed for conflict (particularly with the revelation of infidelity), *Disgraced* certainly allows for great acting moments from director Kimberly Senior's amazing cast. In addition to Ally's powerhouse performance, great work is delivered all around from Lee Stark as Amir's wife, Emily, Alana Arenas as Amir's lawyer colleague, Jory, Benim Foster as her husband, Isaac, and Behzad Dabu as Amir's nephew, Abe (later Hussein).

In *Hesperia*, Randall Colburn tackles the intersection of born-again Christianity with human sexuality. And with its main characters of two former lovers who used to work in Los Angeles' porn industry returning to their small-town America roots, there's potential for explosive conflict.

However, instead of embracing those high-drama stakes about a religious community shocked by a sexual scandal, Colburn instead makes *Hesperia* into a more personal play about "sinners"

trying to return to lives of goodness and purity and of upstanding Christians trying to cope with their natural sexual urges. It's a valid choice on Colburn's part, but it also makes *Hesperia* feel like a missed dramatic opportunity (especially in American entertainment, where sex is often viewed as more damaging than violence).

Nonetheless, director Stuart Carden gets well-rounded performances from the cast and prevents the upstanding Christian community members from becoming do-gooder caricatures (particularly skillful performances in this respect come from Erik Hellman as the pun-filled youth pastor, Trick, Tyler Ross as the newly baptized teenager, Aaron, and Rebecca Butler as Trick's lonely cousin, Daisy).

As the former lovers of Ian and Claudia, Nathan Hosner and Kelly O'Sullivan respectively gave fine and intense performances. These two often fill in the gaps of character motivation that Colburn doesn't always provide for these damaged, but ultimately striving people trying to remake their lives.

CRITICS' PICKS

Black Pearl Sings, Northlight Theatre, through Feb. 19. The amazing musical leading ladies of E. Faye Butler and Susie McMonagle make this two-hander by Frank Higgins about a Depression-era ethnomusicologist and an imprisoned woman very worthwhile. SCM

The Caretaker, Writers' Theatre, through March 25. You simply won't find a better staging of Harold Pinter's quintessential 1960 Comedy of Menace, set in a tough London 'hood where an old bum nearly comes between two vastly dissimilar brothers. Beautiful acting and direction. JA

Don't Act Like a Girl, Annoyance Theatre, through Feb. 12. Wes Perry's one-man and a band memoir of growing up gay and heavily medicated on prescription drugs is an eminently enjoyable journey of great comic timing and reflection. SCM

Mr. Rickey Calls A Meeting, Lookingglass Theatre at the Water Works, through Feb. 19. A dream-team squad of masculine brain and muscle deliver the kind of ensemble performance that made Chicago famous in Ed Schmidt's speculative drama of the landmark moment in American history that almost didn't happen. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Time Stands Still

Playwright: Donald Margulies

At: Steppenwolf Theatre,
1650 N. Halsted St.

Phone: 312-335-1650 or

www.steppenwolf.org; \$20-78

Runs through: May 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Human beings are born seeing, but don't learn to talk for several years. This is why "a picture is worth a thousand words"—and the more the picture approximates what we believe to be the actual experience, the easier it is to forget the flawed human being reproducing that "reality" experience for our viewing. Cameras don't lie, right? Is it any wonder that the camera operators, themselves, begin to forget, too?

James Dodd and Sarah Goodwin were war correspondents—he, a writer; she, a photographer—in the Middle East when they met. Eight years later, James succumbs to stress-related disorders and returns stateside for some R&R. Soon after, Sarah is medivacked back with several broken limbs and a faceful of shrapnel, following a close encounter with a roadside bomb, only to find her consort a changed man, his appetite for blood-soaked violence now sated by Hollywood slasher-flicks being research for a forthcoming pop-cult book, and his future now focused on a gooey domesticity like that of his complacent editor and the latter's young and fecund wife. Oh, and he expects Sarah to share his newly adopted lifestyle.

The ensuing discussion covers the usual topics—the role of the tragic messenger, the temptation for those messengers to inject speculative opinions into their accounts, and

whether they do what they do for humanity or for the thrills. Austin Pendleton's contemplative direction takes the agenda further, however, encompassing existential questions regarding each individual's choice of his or her life's mission: Is Mandy's protectiveness toward her own baby more, or less, noble than Sarah's worldwide crusade on behalf of motherless children in foreign lands? Is it healthier to shroud oneself in placid comfort, or to bravely confront ugly chaos? Is a man diminished by his embrace of the nesting instinct, or a woman by her rejecting it?

Sarah's arguments for her devotion to duty are somewhat undermined by her speaking through a fog of painkillers for a large portion of the play, emphasizing Sally Murphy's spunky-little-girl mannerisms, but Margulies' dialectic loses none of its intelligence for being rendered with the careful attention to personal reflection characteristic of Pendleton's Chekhovian approach to his projects. With the current plethora of dramas relying on battlefield reports for their inspiration, an exploration of how those reports are obtained should provide intriguing conversation for audiences for whom war is a spectator sport.



Time Stands Still. Photo by Michael Brosilow

FOLLOWING THIS FALL'S SOLD-OUT RUN OF *FOLLIES*, CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER AND DIRECTOR GARY GRIFFIN BRING YOU A *DREAM LIKE NO OTHER*

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

written by
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
directed by
GARY GRIFFIN

NOW PLAYING

25TH
ANNIVERSARY
SEASON

chicago
shakespeare theater
on navy pier theater

312.595.5600
chicagoshakes.com

INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTION SPONSOR Raymond and Judy McCaskey MAJOR 2011/12 SEASON SUPPORTERS AA Official Airline Marketing Partner BOEING Season Sponsor ComEd Lighting Design Sponsor HYAT Upstairs Theater Sponsor LandOfPrest Subscription Series Partner MacArthur Foundation Season Sponsor ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION Shakespeare Trust

NUNN ON ONE: PERFORMANCE

Lorna Luft:

Her shows and mother Judy Garland



BY JERRY NUNN

Lorna Luft has carved her own legendary career as an actress and singer. A star was born to Judy Garland and Sid Luft—also making her the half-sister of fellow performer Liza Minnelli. She showed early talents at the age of 11 years old by singing “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” on The Judy Garland Show on TV. She continued making appearances on the small screen that eventually led to Broadway in such hits as Guys and Dolls as well as Gypsy.

She recorded her debut CD, Lorna Luft: Songs My Mother Taught Me, as a tribute to her mother’s songbook. Her AIDS charity work has been prolific over the years, giving back to the community that has supported her family tree.

Luft tackled the movie Grease 2 as Paulette Rebchuck, then followed it with a book about her family called Me and My Shadows: A Family Memoir that became an Emmy winning miniseries on TV.

Before Luft makes her way to Aurora, Ill., for a Sunday, Feb. 12 performance, she talked about her life and family.

Windy City Times: Hi, Lorna. I have been studying up on your career and was amazed to find out you have been performing at least since age 11. Is that correct?

LL: That’s about right.

WCT: Was your mom a stage mom and trying to push you to be in the biz?

LL: No, it was sort of that white elephant in the room. She let us make our own decisions, but she didn’t encourage or discourage. She just didn’t talk about it. She thought maybe we would make up our own minds. When we decided to do it she backed us a hundred percent.

WCT: What is it like to look back on the old shows?

LL: It’s great. Some people only have a still photograph. I have television shows, recordings, all sorts of things, so I feel that I am very, very lucky.

WCT: You just performed in Irving Berlin’s White Christmas this past holiday so you are still performing those Christmas songs.

LL: I finished White Christmas about four weeks ago. I love doing that show and have done it for the last five years. I am always very grateful when they call me to do White Christmas. It is one of my favorite shows. What I think I enjoy most is all the cast become sort of a family. We all keep in touch with one another even from the first year. It was a wonderful experience at a fantastic theatre, the Paper Mill Playhouse. There was nothing but joy for October, November, or December.

WCT: It must be your favorite time of year.

LL: It is my favorite time of year in the fact that I am employed. It is not my personal favorite time of year.

WCT: What is?

LL: Spring. There is something about after going through a miserably cold winter about seeing daffodils and crocus breaking through with life. I love spring.

WCT: You have done tons of Broadway shows. Do you have a favorite moment from any of them?

LL: No; all the ones that I have done hold a special place for me. I’m old enough that shows I have done in the original cast are now seeing revivals. That is interesting because Promises, Promises was one of my first shows. I went to see my girlfriend, Kristen Chenoweth, and Sean Hayes and I thought, “My God! I am looking at revivals now of shows that weren’t that long ago.” I think if you have the opportunity to do eight shows a week just treasure it because there are so many people that would love to be in your shoes.

WCT: Speaking of shoes, you did the Wizard of Oz.

LL: I did in the UK. They made me an offer I couldn’t refuse to play the Wicked Witch. I have to say I found a new respect for all of the girls that have been in Wicked and have to wear that green makeup eight shows a week. I found it to be the worst.

WCT: You performed at Carnegie Hall with Rufus Wainwright to your mother’s song “After You’ve Gone.”

LL: He’s a charming lovely guy, that Rufus. I have nothing but nice things to say about him. He’s delightful.

WCT: I loved the Judy Davis movie that you worked on from your book, Me and My Shadows.

LL: Thank you.

WCT: Her depiction was amazing.

LL: I think she did an extraordinary job on that movie. All of us were on the same page from Tammy Blanchard to Judy Davis and the fantastic director Robert Allan Ackerman. Funny enough, last night I had dinner with the writer of the series. We all realize what a special and unique miniseries that was.

WCT: Do you still talk to Liza often?

LL: I talked to her yesterday.

WCT: For your show in Aurora will you be singing “Chicago” for us?

LL: Absolutely. It is one of my favorite arrangements. I adore Chicago. I have a special place for that city. It is the Midwest but it has the same excitement of New York. I think it might be colder than Palm Springs there.

WCT: Just a bit!

LL: Should I wear a coat or scarf?

WCT: Maybe. [Laughs]

LL: You have had it pretty mild there so I won’t see penguins or polar bears in the audience, I hope.

WCT: Do you tell stories between songs in your act?

LL: Yes. This whole show is very scripted. I think it is very important to tell a story to match what you are about to sing. This show is written by two talented people named Ken and Mitzie Welch, who wrote all of the Carol Burnett and Barry Manilow shows. He introduced me to them. They wrote Songs My Mother Taught Me. It is like a theatre piece where it has a beginning, middle and end.

WCT: It has some hi-tech aspects to it, I heard.

LL: It is all multimedia. It is what makes Song so special and that is why we have been doing it for 11 years now. It is in fact like coming into my living room. These are parts in my life that I grew up in that I share with the audience. It is interesting because I know what is coming next but most of the audience doesn’t. To watch them laugh, cry and go through a roller-coaster of emotion is terrific.

WCT: You have a duet with your mother on the album.

LL: We have a long duet. There is a whole mother daughter medley. The technology that

we were able to do that with is great. We are putting two orchestras together because we couldn’t take hers off the tracks we are using. My husband who is my musical director had to match her orchestra seamlessly. We can now achieve things that were impossible thirty or forty years ago.

WCT: I asked Lucille Ball’s daughter this same question: Do you know how Judy felt about her gay following?

LL: You have to remember something: Back in the 1960s there was no gay following. It was different. The whole gay community was incredibly closeted. It is not what it is today. The gay community has made huge strides forward and they still have a long way to go.

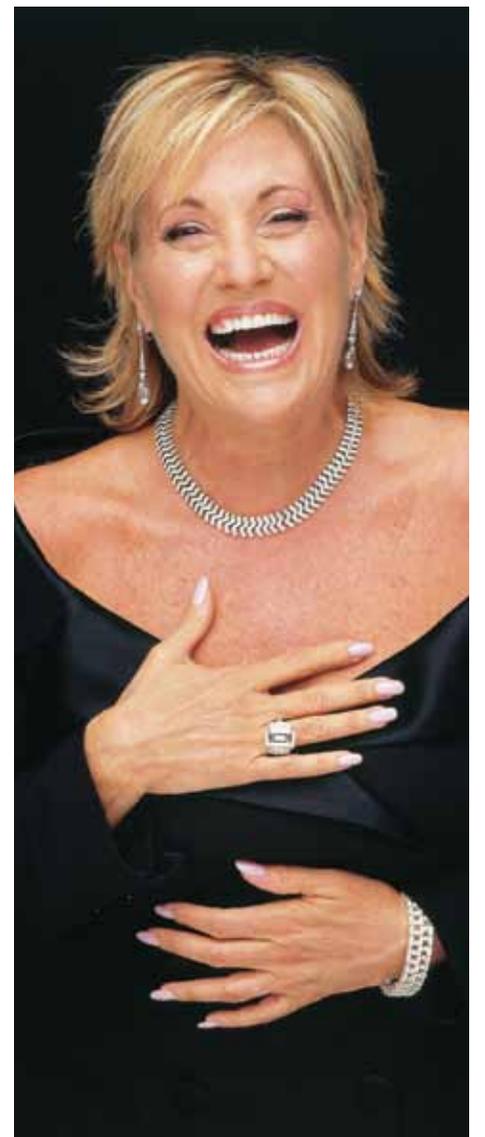
I have always been incredibly grateful to the gay community for keeping her image, name and likeness in the forefront. I have been at so many rallies and marches because to me it is what we strive for to be in the human race and be kind to each other, understanding, and tolerant. If people have to demonstrate to get that kind of respect then I am there with them.

WCT: Well, our community appreciates that.

LL: That was the way I was raised. We were raised colorblind to any kind of different. I think show business has been more understanding of people who are different. When you think about what we do it’s pretty nuts.

WCT: You have legions of fans for Grease 2.

LL: [Laughs] You know a lot of people love that movie. I met up with Pat Birch when I was in New York for Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS. I saw the entire cast of Grease on that stage because it was a huge anniversary for the show. Pat worked on the Broadway show, the first movie and directed part two. I am grateful that people enjoyed our little movie. We didn’t go out to make Shakespeare we were just having a really good time!



Lorna Luft. PR photo

Lorna Luft celebrates her mother with a swinging seven-piece band at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Sunday, Feb. 12, at 4 p.m. Visit www.paramountaurora.com or call 630-896-6666 for ticket details.

For lots more on Lorna, visit www.lornaluft.com.

‘Laramie Project’ opens at Redtwist March 4

The Chicago premiere production of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later—directed by Jeff Award winner Greg Kolack—will open at Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., will run March 4-April 7, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$25-\$30.

There will also be staged readings of the original project, The Laramie Project, beginning Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

In addition, there will be a benefit performance of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later on Saturday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. Judy Shepard, the mother of the late Matthew Shepard—on whom the original project is based—will introduce the performance. Tickets are \$100 each.

See www.redtwist.org or call 773-728-7529.

‘Color Purple’ at GSU Feb. 8

The Governors State University Center for Performing Arts, 1 University Pkwy., University Park, will host a production of the Broadway musical The Color Purple for one night only Wed., Feb. 8, at 8 p.m.

Gary Griffin directs the production, which features a libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winner Marsha Norman; music and lyrics by Grammy-winning composers/lyricists Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray; and choreography by Donald Byrd.

Tickets are \$15-\$65, and student tickets are \$28. Tickets are available by calling 708-235-2222 or visiting www.centertickets.net.

About Face’s Wonka Ball has prom theme

About Face Theatre’s annual Wonka Ball will have a school theme this year.

The ball’s theme is “Your Prom: The Remix.” The event will take place Friday, March 30, at the Chicago Illuminating Company, 19 E. 21st St. VIP admission begins at 7 p.m.; general admission starts at 8 p.m.

Attendees will be revisiting the ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s. They can take prom photos, enjoy decadent desserts and an open bar, and celebrate the crowning of a prom king and queen.

General-admission tickets are \$150 each; VIP-admission tickets are \$250 each. See www.AboutFaceTheatre.com.



Wonka Ball 2011. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

THEATER

Out theater actor Wes Perry dishes 'Girl' talk

BY TYLER GILLESPIE

Wes Perry's one-man show, *Don't Act Like A Girl*, is his baby. He is the writer, actor, producer, costume designer, poster designer and what-ever-else-needs-to-be-done person. Perry, who describes his comedy style as a mix of Whoopi Goldberg and Ella Fitzgerald, has been getting rave reviews for his performance. The show is performed on Sundays and ends its current run at The Annoyance Feb. 12, but Perry is hoping to put it on again in the summer.

Windy City Times: How would you describe the show?

Wes Perry: Almost like cabaret-esque. It is kind-of like a David Sedaris reading interspersed with a Chaka Khan concert.

WCT: Tell me about the inspiration for the title *Don't Act Like A Girl*.

WP: The title specifically refers to the fact that my dad used to tell me that when I was really little, [but] not in the typical movie-style gruff dad, "Don't act like a girl or I'll throw you out of the house;" it was never like that. It was more like when your parents say "Stop picking your nose." If I was laughing too loudly or playing with my long-curly hair, he'd say, "Don't act like a girl," just in that same tone. The last time that he ever said that to me was when I came out at 13. He said, "That's fine. I love you just the same; that's who you are. We just don't want you acting like a girl." And I never heard him say

that to me again.

WCT: Have your parents seen the show?

WP: No! I've banned my parents from the show. My mom asked me when was a good time to fly out and come, and I said "Never."

WCT: Why is that?

WP: I do talk about them. A lot of the show is about how they put me on medication when I was really little. I was a kid in the '90s, where everyone was being diagnosed with ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities of this or that kind—and I was thrown into that category when I was really little. And I sort-of kept on that train—given a lot of medications—until, ultimately, when I was in high school and I went to fat camp and I was on like four or five antipsychotics and antidepressants, and I overdosed by accident.

WCT: What's part of the show are you most proud of?

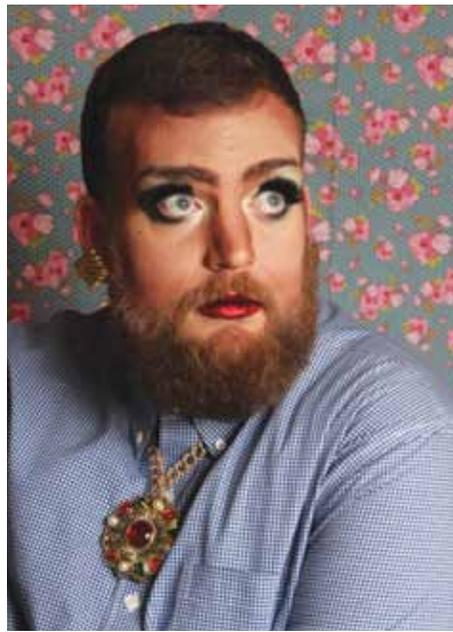
WP: It feels like a rock concert. I think what's so great for me is that I picked all these songs that I like and all these really personal stories, and I'm just presenting myself. I enjoy doing it and that people enjoy watching it is extra special.

WCT: What is the feel of the show?

WP: I want the show to be a celebration of life. That sounds so cheesy, but when you're in heels it's fine.

WCT: There is a three-person band in the show. Were they people that you knew?

WP: I met the pianist/musical director, Char-



Wes Perry in *Don't Act Like a Girl*.

lie Worth, at The Annoyance. We worked on a little show together there, and I emailed him about my idea for the show. I thought it would be great if I could have maybe a drummer or a guitarist and he was like, "I've got both," and he called up his friends and they were nice enough to do it.

WCT: How has the audience response been?

WP: After opening night someone said that the show was great and that it was just, "You being the truest you." I'll have some people come up to me and tell me that "it's such a wonder that I turned out so well" and other people will be like, "I was on the same medication that you were—I've lived it."

WCT: Will there be another run of the show?

WP: I think what the plan is now is that we are going to try and put it up again in the summer. We've gotten great response. We might rework it a little again.

WCT: Have you learned anything from doing the show?

WP: The show ends when I'm in high school and my senior year of high school. I had so much confidence—I was like the gayest person in my high school and I didn't care. ... By my senior year of high school I really did not care what people thought of me. When I was writing the show I realized that I missed that. Now I'm older and I just can't help caring what people think. I like to be able to go back to that world and remember how good that felt and also how much easier life is when you are yourself and don't care what other people think.

WCT: What do you think people can most take away from seeing the show?

WP: By me being myself, I can inspire other people to be more themselves. Does that sound too Oprah? I think that is infectious. When you see someone do something that they want to do—no matter what people think—I think that's always inspiring to me.

***Don't Act Like a Girl* concludes at The Annoyance Theatre & Bar, 4830 N. Broadway, on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 9:30 p.m. See <http://annoyancetheatre.thundertext.com> to purchase tickets (\$5-\$10).**

Nathan Lane, Brian Dennehy in 'Iceman'

Artistic Director Robert Falls announced the cast for his major revival of Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* at Goodman Theatre, running April 21-June 10 in the Goodman's Albert Theatre.

As previously announced, Falls' production features Tony Award-winning stage and screen stars Nathan Lane as Theodore "Hickey" Hickman and Brian Dennehy as Larry Slade.

Tickets are \$53-\$119, but prices are subject to change; visit www.GoodmanTheatre.org or call 312-443-3800.

JOFFREY ★ BALLET
 CHICAGO
 ASHLEY C. WHEATER
 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WORLD'S HOTTEST CHOREOGRAPHERS:
 FORSYTHE | WHEELDON | MCGREGOR

WINTER FIRE

FEBRUARY 15-26, 2012

PERFORMS AT:
AUDITORIUM THEATRE
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

50 EAST CONGRESS PARKWAY CHICAGO
800.982.2787
JOFFREY.ORG/WINTER
TICKETS START AT \$25

WAYNE MCGREGOR'S INFRA PRESENTING SPONSOR
 ANNE AND BURT KAPLAN FUND OF THE
 MAYER AND MORRIS KAPLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

2011 - 2012 SEASON SPONSORS

INFRA PRODUCTION SPONSOR
 ORLI AND BILL STALEY

WILLIAM FORSYTHE'S
 IN THE MIDDLE, SOMEWHAT ELEVATED
 PRODUCTION SPONSOR
 ELIZABETH F. CHENEY FOUNDATION

JOFFREY DANCER: RICARDO SANTOS | PHOTO BY: SANDRO

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Megan Hilty hopes for a 'Smash' hit

BY JERRY NUNN

A star was born as actress Megan Hilty paraded into the world of musicals, where she played Glinda in *Wicked* and Doralee Rhodes in *9 to 5* on Broadway. She has also guested on numerous television shows, from *Desperate Housewives* to *Ugly Betty*.

Hilty is hoping to soon be a household name with the NBC series *Smash* hitting this week with cast members such as Katherine McPhee, Debra Messing, and Anjelica Houston. The plot revolves around the casting and production of a musical based on the life of performer Marilyn Monroe.

We talked with Hilty the week before the big debut.

Windy City Times: Heyyy, Megan. I heard you are still currently working on *Smash*?

Megan Hilty: Oh, yeah. We have about three episodes left. We have done 12 out of 15 right now.

WCT: So the first season is all about Marilyn Monroe being made into a musical, correct?

MH: Yes.

WCT: I heard Steven Spielberg wanted to make every season about a different musical.

MH: That was the idea when he first brought it to Showtime. Each season was going to making a new musical. Now that it is at NBC, they



Megan Hilty. Photo courtesy of NBC

MH: Oh, my gosh—like a model!

WCT: Tell me about your character, Ivy Lynn. How do you relate to her?

MH: Ivy is a girl that eats, breathes, sleeps theatre, like myself. She is a person that grew up in the theatre and that is all she ever wanted to do. She wanted to be a leading lady on Broadway.

When you meet her she has spent about ten years in the ensemble of various Broadway shows. She feels stuck and willing to do anything to make that next step to become a leading lady.

WCT: I thought there would be some cat-fights. Is that coming?

MH: Absolutely—it's a nighttime drama! Are you kidding me? They have the two of us set up perfectly.

WCT: They make the point on one episode that you look more like Marilyn Monroe than Katherine does.

MH: Maybe in some ways. I think both of us have different characteristics of Marilyn in us. I have got the blonde hair going for me, that is for sure!

WCT: A little bird told me Uma Thurman is going to guest star.

MH: She's actually working with us right now. She's fantastic.

WCT: People will be able to order the soundtrack, right? Because they are going to want this music...

MH: I think the plan is to have the big songs from the show available on iTunes the morning of the episode. So every Monday you will be able to go online and get the songs we are going to sing that night. People can hear what we are going to do before we actually do it.

WCT: So similar to how *Glee* has released a lot of their music.

MH: Hey, if it ain't broke!

WCT: This is going to be more for adults. I think people think *Glee* is for younger kids and this will be an older demographic.

MH: I sure hope so. It does tackle more adult themes but I think there is something for everybody. I think it is going to reach a wide audience.

WCT: Speaking of a younger audience, you made a cartoon called *Dorothy of Oz*.

MH: Oh, yeah. I have a little voiceover career on the side. I am currently in an animated feature film called *Dorothy of Oz*. That will come out in the fall of this year. I think I have been working on it for a year and half now. These things take a really long time to animate and edit, especially when there music elements. There are some really great songs.

Bryan Adams is one of the major composers of the movie. The cast is ridiculous. It is Lea Michele, Kelsey Grammer, Dan Aykroyd, Martin Short and Patrick Stewart. It is a crazy list of people.

WCT: How do people keep up with you?

MH: I [am on] Twitter. Also, there is www.meganhiltyonline.com that two women run for me. They know more about what I am doing than I usually do! My parents don't even ask what I am doing, they go to the website.

WCT: Do you have a favorite all-time musical?

MH: Into the Woods.

WCT: That's a good one!

MH: It is the perfect musical. It is the musical that made me fall in love with musical theatre too. Once I got a hold of that soundtrack it was over. I wanted to be the witch. I wanted to be Bernadette Peters. I hadn't even seen it yet but just from the recording you get everything.

WCT: So you haven't got to play it yet?

MH: No, but somebody told me they are making a movie out of it.

WCT: They are definitely making a movie.

MH: Who do I call about this? This is the best musical ever!

Smash debuted this week so don't miss an episode; it airs every Monday. Go to www.nbc.com/smash for listings and details.

CULTURE CLUB

HESPERIA
By RANDALL COLBURN
Directed by ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STUART CARDEN
NOW PLAYING at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

PURCHASE EARLY FOR BEST PRICES!
WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000

WT
WRITERS' THEATRE

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 10-12
TICKETS START AT \$30

LOVE IS...

JOIN RIVER NORTH DANCE CHICAGO ON VALENTINE'S WEEKEND FOR TWO WORLD PREMIERES: CONTACT-ME AND THE GOOD GOODBYES.

AND THE LOVE IS... CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY NIGHT 2.11. Party tickets: \$25
For more info go to www.rivernorthchicago.com

HARRIS THEATER
FOR MUSIC AND DANCE
MILWAUKEE/CHICAGO AREA
HarrisTheaterChicago.org 312.334.7777

RIVER NORTH DANCE CHICAGO
Frank Chavez—Artistic Director

THE CARETAKER
BY HAROLD PINTER
DIRECTED BY RON OJ PARSON
NOW PLAYING at 664 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe

"RIVETING!"
-CHICAGO CRITIC

"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!"
-CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

PURCHASE TICKETS EARLY FOR BEST PRICES!
WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000

WT
WRITERS' THEATRE

could still do that but they are hoping to ride out the Marilyn musical as much as possible. By the end of the first season it doesn't even make it to Broadway. Musicals take years and years to develop before they actually make it. So they are hoping to ride that out or bank on the fact that these characters are so interesting in their relationships with each other that it transcends that.

WCT: It seems like a good idea to have a Marilyn Monroe musical, but I don't know of one.

MH: They have had one before but it was technically a flop. It didn't do very well at all.

WCT: Do you think they will make a real version of the production after the series?

MH: I don't know but I think it is a fantastic idea. I know originally the goal at Showtime again was to develop these musicals and put them on Broadway.

Here, it is a little different. They are writing the music not only for the Marilyn musical but the lyrics in the songs and the tone of the songs actually fit the characters in the show and what they are going through at the moment they are singing it too. It serves a dual purpose, all of the songs do, so it may not be appropriate for a stage show.

WCT: That makes sense.

MH: It is a great idea and would make a good starting point but these shows take years to produce so it wouldn't just pop magically at the end of the season. [Laughs]

WCT: You are no stranger to musicals. You did *Wicked* and *9 to 5*.

MH: It almost seemed too good to be true to find a script and a show that was about my world. It is an honor to be able to represent my community on TV like this.

WCT: There is a lot of hype about *Smash* being big. All the gays are aflutter about it!

MH: Yayyyy, good!

WCT: I've had lunch with Katherine McPhee. How do you like working with her?

MH: Isn't she lovely? She is so great and fun to do scenes with. We goof around all the time on set, when we are not shopping! When we are not on location we like to go shop or have lunch.

WCT: She's very pretty, too.

TELEVISION

Joan and Melissa Rivers: Who knows best?

BY JERRY NUNN

Joan Rivers always brings a lot to the entertainment table. From being a comedian to television star to actress when you get to know the lady behind the makeup she is anything but plastic. She had a gay following before many comedians followed in her stand-up footsteps such as Kathy Griffin and Margaret Cho. She was a talk-show host before Oprah and was the first woman to break into the boy's club nightly television circuit by hosting *The Late Show*.

This pioneer continues to be one of a kind on E's *Fashion Police* and the second season of her reality show *WE tv* series *Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best*.

We caught up with Joan and Melissa before the new season was about to start.

Windy City Times: Hello, ladies.

Joan Rivers: How cold is it in Chicago?

WCT: Bitter cold!

MR: I feel very connected to Chicago because of Giuliana and Bill Rancic.

WCT: I love them! I interviewed Giuliana and Kelly Osbourne both from the Fashion Police last year.

MR: What about George?

WCT: I need to.

MR: There you go so you can have all of the playing cards!

WCT: Perfect. This is my fourth time talking to Joan.

Joan Rivers: I would think so, yes. We were talking about it today.

WCT: My first time meeting Melissa. I watched the first three episodes of the new season of Joan & Melissa and really enjoyed them.

JR: Which is plastic surgery, marijuana—and what is the third?

WCT: There was a big fight.

MR: With me and my ex-boyfriend.

JR: I don't know which order they are all airing in. The network can switch it all around. Well so far so good!

WCT: I was looking for Carol Burnett because I had interviewed her last week.

JR: She was wonderful and amazing. She is coming on a little bit later.

WCT: Have you had a favorite moment from this season?

JR: You start talking about it and like you say the first one is so good with the plastic surgery, then the pot smoking on the second episode...

MR: Which I will tell you the pot-smoking episode will be singed into my memory for many years to come!

WCT: You got to be the adult in that one, Melissa!

MR: You know I am the adult a lot of the time.

WCT: The plastic surgery showed no makeup on Joan and an emotional moment between the two of you.

JR: Well, that is what reality should be. Everyone forgets what reality started out to be which is reality. It is mothers and daughters, it can be sad. Now it has become getting punched in the face and be drunk or sit at table and fight with ladies. I think our show is a success is because it is back to basics.

MR: Relationships have many colors and lots of levels. You see families on TV now in my opinion that are becoming one-dimensional.

WCT: The two of you seem very different.

MR: Well, we are.

JR: We are.

WCT: Different sense of humor...

MR: Definitely.

JR: ...With everything.

WCT: In what ways are you like?

MR: I think we both realize the importance of

family. We are both loyal.

JR: Once we make a friend we stick with our friends.

MR: I think in a lot of ways I am very much in temperament like my father. My parents were married for 20 odd years, which makes for a very balanced relationship that worked with my mother. So I think my temperament is good for my relationship with my mother.

JR: Absolutely!

MR: We live by the rule that only one person can be crazy at a time. I think that is a good rule for any relationship. Is today your day or my day? *[All laugh.]*

WCT: How do you work together? I can't imagine working with my mother for even one day.

JR: We have always worked together. Everyone forgets we started the red carpet. We go back 15 years together. It is funny when I am not working with Melissa in a sense. She is a great producer and I let her be the producer.

MR: We have such a short hand. There are three different careers, there is the Joan career, Melissa career and the Joan & Melissa career. It is funny because the Joan & Melissa one is such a part of the pop culture phenomenon.

WCT: You balance each other so well. It was neat to show behind these scenes and see how you work on Fashion Police together.

JR: It is a madhouse there, I don't know if they put it all in. It is 5 a.m. when it is happening. We get there very early. We start taping at 8 a.m., which is very strange for a television show. It is working together with morning crankiness.

WCT: Congratulations to you both with that show. It has done very well.

MR: Thank you and now we are going to an hour.

WCT: Are you?

MR: *[Sighs]* Yes, we are...

WCT: You are going to have to keep those jokes coming, Joan.

JR: I know. As long as they keep making dresses like Sarah Michelle Gellar's there won't be any problem!

WCT: What did you think of the Golden Globes this time?

JR: Most of them looked beautiful but they were not ones you want to throw up at to make a good show.

MR: Even with a similarity to the palette there were a lot of styles represented. You had Stacy Keibler in a traditional red Valentino all the way over to Piper Perabo in a deconstructed ball gown. Everyone was in that similar color palette but lots of different variations on actual design.

WCT: Do we have any frontrunners for the Oscars? Have you ladies seen any of the movies?

JR: I have seen so many. I think if Meryl Streep doesn't win they are fools because I think she is so head and shoulders above anybody this year. Just get out of the way. I think she will win.

I think *The Artist* is adorable.

WCT: I haven't seen that one yet.

JR: Oh, it is really charming.

MR: George Clooney is charming—talk about charming.

WCT: They are saying he will win.

JR: He should, just that body of work and the upholding of the Hollywood tradition. He is single handedly taking over for Cary Grant.

MR: I love it when you said, "He allows himself to be vulnerable in the movie."

JR: Yes, very much so. He also did that a lot in that movie when he was flying around whatever that was called...

WCT: Up in the Air.

JR: Yes, he is such a good actor that you sometimes forget.



Joan and Melissa Rivers. Photo courtesy of WE TV.

WCT: I noticed on Twitter you went to see Porgy and Bess on Broadway.

JR: I adored it. I am so sick of people bitching about it. "Oh it's not big enough." "They should add a larger cast." You want to know something? You sit there and that Gerswin music comes on and you go, "Oh, my God!"

MR: You said that Audra McDonald hit it out of the park.

JR: Again, she has to win the Tony. There is nothing to compare with it so far this year.

WCT: I am talking to Lily Tomlin again soon. You mentioned her on one episode of the reality show.

JR: Oh, give her my best. We go way back forever together. We go back before either one of us were successful so really a long time.

WCT: I got to see you in Skokie this last time.

JR: I remember yes.

WCT: You run around that stage back and forth like a hamster.

JR: That is my work out. I love being onstage

because I get to perform, and work out. I like multitasking.

WCT: You always do a big shout-out to your gay fans.

JR: Yes, yes, yes. I am coming back to Chicago for my one-woman show. I want every gay man that is alive to be there! They are filming it for Showtime the end of March.

WCT: Anything else about the Mother Knows Best?

MR: Yes, watch it! Set your TiVo and your DVR. They will be talking about it at the water cooler the next day.

WCT: Carol Burnett told me she has it on her TiVo.

JR: She is brilliant.

MR: She has that cameo on our show so you have to watch it.

JR: It is a very funny turn.

These mothers know best so record or watch it live every Tuesday with details and listings at <http://www.wetv.com>.

HESPERIA

By RANDALL COLBURN
Directed by ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STUART GARDEN

NOW PLAYING at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

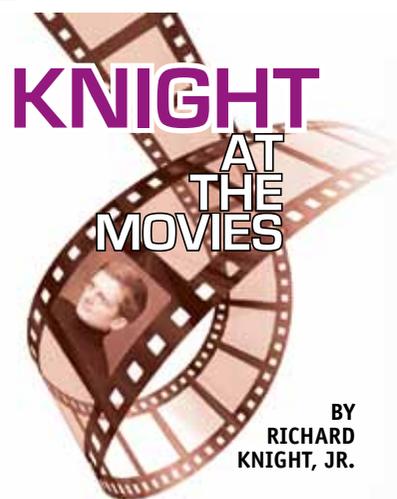
Nathan Hosner and Kelly O'Sullivan in Hesperia. Photo by Michael Brosilow.

PURCHASE EARLY FOR BEST PRICES!

FOR TICKETS:
WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000

20th Anniversary Season Sponsor Corporate Sponsor Partner

BMO Harris Bank urban innovations **WT WRITERS' THEATRE**



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Movies for a romantic Valentine's Day

For straight movie lovers, there are plenty of romantic choices to choose from in theaters as the season of love (aka Valentine's Day) approaches. For Our People ... well, skip down to the DVD recommendations below. This weekend, Chicago will finally get a look at Madonna's feature directorial debut, **W.E.**, the story of the "romance of the century" (20th, that is) between the Duke and Duchess of Windsor—whose romance scandalized the world (and caused the Duke to give up his crown and, reportedly, his self-esteem, opting instead for a life as a whipping boy to the steely duchess). After a batch of wildly divided reviews following the film's festival debut, the movie's distributor has pulled way, way back on plans for theatrical distribution and, not surprisingly, *W.E.* wasn't screened in time for WCT deadlines. (Also, as of this writing, the movie is only scheduled to play one theatre in Chicago beginning this Friday: Webster Place.)

Nevertheless, for moviegoers of a historical romantic bent, the curious (and the curiously profane)—I'm veering somewhere in between at this point—Madonna's movie might just be the ticket (and certainly her recording of "Masterpiece," the theme from the film, has whetted a few appetites). Queer writer-director Michael Sucasny (who helmed HBO's marvelous *Grey Gardens*) now makes his feature debut with the romantic melodrama **The Vow**, in which comely young wife (Rachel McAdams) wakes up from a coma following a devastating accident to find that she can't remember her equally gorgeous husband (Channing Tatum). Jessica Lange, who



Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams in *The Vow*. Photo by Kerry Hayes & SMPSP

won an Emmy for *Grey Gardens*, is featured and heartstrings are sure to be plucked and tears shed as said gorgeous husband does whatever it takes to win back the long-suffering wife. I can't vouch for the emotional temperature of the picture, as it also wasn't screened in time for critics (although the score by Rachel Portman is indeed, lush and lovely, and the theme song by Taylor Swift appropriately wistful).

For those not willing to risk tamping down the embers of love, however, look no further than the weekend's one bona fide romance classic. This is the Music Box Theatre's special matinee screening, on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. of Blake Edwards' **Breakfast at Tiffany's**.

Writer and queer icon Truman Capote was never happy with Audrey Hepburn as his Holly Golightly; he wanted Marilyn Monroe (who would've made a stunning, although very different, Holly) for the part and famously carped about Hollywood's 1961 ruination of his novella, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. However, Capote's is a lone voice in the wilderness: True the re-imagining of the George Peppard character from gay best friend (best on Tru himself) to hunky would-be lover for Audrey Hepburn's Holly Golightly is a big switch from the novella—but, poured into the traditional Hollywood romance mold, it improbably works.

Between Hepburn's effortless chic (dressed, as usual, in a combination of Givenchy's French couture and Edith Head's sensible daywear), Edwards' sure direction of George Axelrod's clever script (and Edwards expert choreography of the

memorable party sequence), Peppard at the height of his stunning blond looks and the acidic voiced Patricia Neal as his monetarily generous "patron of the arts," the movie is gloriously romantic. All of it, of course, is bathed in Henry Mancini's gorgeous music, highlighted by the Oscar-winning "Moon River."

The making of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*—detailed in Sam Wasson's recent book *Fifth Avenue, 5 A.M.*—is filled with fascinating backstory details (including the truth behind the movie's major false step: Mickey Rooney's unintentionally offensive performance as the outraged Japanese neighbor). However, delving into Wasson's breezy tome might spoil much of the mystery for hardcore romantics, so those folks might want to wait to read it after the Music Box screening.

The event kicks off with a "Sweetheart Sing-along" with the Music Box organist, and the venue is offering a special after-screening dinner tie-in with the newly opened DeLeece restaurant just up the street. For lighter movie fare, Music Box is also programming 1984's wacky fairy-tale comedy *The Princess Bride* on Valentine's Day itself (Tuesday, Feb. 14) at 7:30 p.m. Details and tickets are at www.musicboxtheatre.com.

'Extreme Makeover' casting call Feb. 11

There is a casting call for the show *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition* Saturday, Feb. 11, at Dave and Buster's, 1030 N. Clark St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

People (who must be at least 18) are asked to bring non-returnable photographs to the call. The show's staff will provide applications.

Individuals can also submit video auditions. For more information, visit www.Extreme-MakeoverCasting.com.

GLAAD wants CNN's Martin fired after tweet

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is calling for the ouster of CNN's Roland Martin after he tweeted messages the organization sees as anti-LGBT, according to a press release.

In his first tweet to approximately 95,000 followers, Martin posted, "If a dude at your Super Bowl party is hyped about David Beckham's H&M underwear ad, smack the ish out of him! #superbowl" After GLAAD responded, "Advocates of gay bashing have no place at @CNN #SuperBowl #LGBT," Martin tweeted, "well you're clearly out of touch and clueless with what I tweeted. Way to assume, but you're way off base."

Although queer romantic films (the sort where no one dies or is mourned, that is) are rarely found in cinemas these days, here's a list of five favorite, random recommendations for home viewing to increase the room temperature on your own Valentine's Day's celebration (and feel free to add to this short list with your own suggestions at our website):

1. **Normal** (2003): Jessica Lange is the understanding wife when husband Tom Wilkinson becomes a female after their 25th-wedding anniversary in out writer-director Jane Anderson's compassionate view of middle-aged transgender love.

2. **Maurice** (1987): Forbidden gay love in Edwardian England is told through the lens of Merchant-Ivory. James Wilby and best friend Hugh Grant begin a tentative romance that is thwarted by societal conventions, but hang on; the handsome "underkeeper" is waiting in the shadows to save the course of true love.

3. **D.E.B.S.** (2004): Out writer-director Angela Robinson's spy caper parody is fun and funny. It also features a budding—and forbidden—love between plaid, mini-skirted schoolgirl/spy Sara Foster and her equally comely nemesis, superspy assassin Jordana Brewster. Holland Taylor is hilarious as the tough house mother.

4. **Were the World Mine** (2008): Queer writer-director Tom Gustafson collaborated with off-screen partner Cory James Krueckeberg on this delightful gay fantasia, a teen musical re-imagining of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, set at an elite male boarding school.

5. **Big Eden** (2000): All the residents in tiny Big Eden, Mont., are trying to help Henry (Arye Gross), the big-time artist from New York, who has returned home to take care of his ailing grandfather. Gross figures out that the man of his dreams is not the hunky Dean (Tim McKay), his best friend from boyhood, but rather the shy Native American, Pike (Eric Schweig), who is waiting in the wings. This delightful romantic comedy (my fave gay-romance movie of all time) was the debut feature from out writer-director Thomas Bezucha.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

Earlier in the day, Martin posted on Facebook, "Who the hell was that New England Patriot they just showed in a head to toe pink suit? Oh, he needs a visit from #teamwhippedass"

Since making the comments Martin (a regular guest on CNN and a commentator on TV One) has suggested his tweet regarding Beckham was intended for soccer fans. He did not respond to a question from *Metro Weekly* about why, if the tweet was about soccer and not based in anti-gay sentiment, he only referenced his concern about "a dude ... hyped" about the ad and not any soccer fan.

A petition on Change.org is urging CNN to fire Martin.

'Rosie' cuts staff

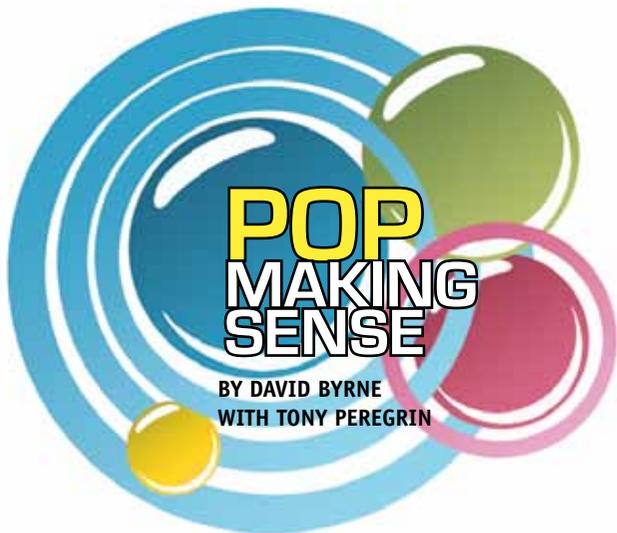
The Oprah Winfrey Network's *The Rosie Show*, shot in Chicago, is retooling its show by cutting staff and moving to a more intimate space as it tries to boost ratings, according to *ChicagoBusiness.com*.

The show, cut approximately 30 employees and contract workers in the past month. It has also moved to a smaller studio and has taken out certain segments of the program, including the game-show aspect.

The show's changes followed the departure of Lisa Erspamer, who was executive vice president of production and development for the network in Los Angeles.



Andrea Riseborough and James D'Arcy in *W.E.* Photo from the Weinstein Company



BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

It is a fact: **Rumer** just released the ultimate soundtrack for Valentine's Day—Seasons of My Soul. The British sensation is drawing comparisons to Karen Carpenter and Dusty Springfield as she delivers her timeless material. The songbird draws a romantic mood with the opening number, "Slow." Rumer reveals how the Queen of Soul becomes her confidante through her headphones on the standout "Aretha." The singer-songwriter faces the end of a relationship on the somber yet breathtakingly beautiful "Take Me As I Am." Although Season of My Soul has been out overseas for awhile, it is finally available stateside. (Also, check out photos from Rumer's recent Chicago show online at www.WindyCity-MediaGroup.com.)

British duo **Goldfrapp** just came out with its first retrospective, *The Singles*. The collection spans the electronic pair's five full-length

albums and has two brand new tracks, "Yellow Halo" and "Melancholy Sky." The upbeat "Ooh La La" and "Strict Machine" are sleek, sexy and glamorous, while "A&E" is a melodic, twisted tale about ending up in the emergency room after a night out. Sorely missing are the dreamy "Fly Me Away" and the pop-driven "Alive." The former was used in an ad campaign for Target. Upon the release of 2010's *Head First*, lead singer Alison Goldfrapp spoke openly about being in a relationship with a woman, but clearly preferred to redirect the conversation to her art.

Hot & Heavy Burlesque is paying tribute

once again to Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. Running from Thursday, Feb. 9, until Sunday, Feb. 12, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., performances will be to the classic 1979 double album, which contains the signatures "Another Brick in the Wall, Part 1" and "Comfortably Numb." The dancing finds inspiration from the movie and the band's concert productions. Tickets are available at www.stage773.com. **Hot & Heavy Burlesque** recently had the industrial band Tool and the musical comedy *This Is Spinal Tap* as themes to its revues.

Avant-garde cellist **Zoe Keating** returns to The Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, on Saturday, Feb. 11. Her 8 p.m. show is sold out, so a matinee at 2 p.m. has been added. Her music beautifully marries her cello-playing with rhythms from samples using her foot-controlled lap, similar to what I have seen Helen Money and Imogen Heap do in their live performances. Keating has collaborated with many including Amanda Palmer of The Dresden Dolls and Curt Smith of Tears for Fears. Her latest album, *Into the Trees*, is out now.



photo of Emanuel Vinson by Jim Newberry.

the Push." There is also a companion mixtape, *Living Better*. Also on the bill with Vinson are Show You Suck, Milo & Otis and Lamon Manuel and SKECH185.

Death in Vegas has wowed me with its knack to be boundless with its music. Now fronted only by Richard Fearless, the genre-bending outfit released *Trans-Love Energies*, its first album since 2004's instrumental outing *Satan's Circus*. *Death in Vegas* might be best known for having its electronic gem "Girls" appear in the films *D.E.B.S.* and *Lost in Translation*.

Instead of resorting to recruiting a legion of

guest vocalists, Fearless steps up to singing, most notably on the chilled introduction "Silver Time Machine" and the rocking "Black Hole." Austra's Katie Stelmanis brings her heaven-sent vocals to "Your Loft My Acid" and "Witch Dance." The former recalls Orbital's ethereal staple from the '90s "Halcyon on and On," while the latter is an icy synthesizer masterpiece straight from 1980. The instrumental "Savage Love" has guitar riffs and keyboards to fittingly conclude this otherworldly odyssey. A limited edition is also available with remixes and material not included on the standard issue of *Trans-Love Energies*.

The Republicans got a knockout blow as **Survivor** filed a federal lawsuit against Newt Gingrich for using the 1982 hit "Eye of the Tiger" during his campaign. Damages are being sought and the plaintiff wants to prevent the presidential hopeful from using this energizing anthem in any fashion ever again. Prior to the lawsuit, co-writer Frankie Sullivan's lawyer had no success in trying to get Gingrich's team from using the track. "Eye of the Tiger" is best remembered for its use in the blockbuster *Rocky III*. The Repub-

Manilow postpones Chicago dates to July

Following medical orders, singer Barry Manilow postponed his Feb. 2-4 show dates at the Chicago Theatre.

The shows have been rescheduled to July 12-14. Tickets purchased for the February shows will be honored for the new dates.

Manilow recently had surgery on his hips. "All of us are greatly disappointed and feel terrible that we are disappointing so many others," Manilow said.

"We have all worked very hard on creating the new show and at the same time spent hours with physical therapists to get back in shape. Unfortunately, my hips just aren't ready yet; and these hips don't lie."

Madonna's halftime show

Madonna received generally good reviews for her Super Bowl halftime show Feb. 5.

"It's Madonna Louise Ciccone's world; we're just living in it," *Billboard.com* wrote about her performance. The *Chicago Tribune* wrote, "This was Madonna's party, and besides breaking off bits of her greatest hits to remind people of a time when she was the biggest pop vixen on the planet, she had important career-advancing work to do," referring to her upcoming album, *MDNA*.

During the show, Madonna was everything from an Egyptian queen to a choir member, and has special guests such as Nicki Minaj, M.I.A. (who stuck out her middle finger in one spot), LMFAO and Cee Lo Green.

Madonna's song selections included "Vogue," "Like a Prayer" and "Gimme All Your Luvin'," the last one from *MDNA*.

Lakeside Pride's 'Evening of Romance'

Lakeside Pride Symphony Orchestra will present "An Evening of Romance" Valentine's Day (Tuesday, Feb. 14), 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre in Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The orchestra will perform an evening of romantic classical music, including selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 door; they're \$5 for seniors and there's a \$5 student rush (door).

See <http://www.LakesidePride.org> for more info.

lican Party has had repeated struggles finding music to play during its rallies. Recently, Tom Petty issued a cease-and-desist order to Michele Bachmann from using "American Girl" as her theme song.

The music community suffers another loss as **Don Cornelius** was found dead due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his home in California on Feb. 1. With a budget of \$400, Cornelius laid the tracks for the popular, long-running TV series *Soul Train* in Chicago. Here, a studio audience would dance to R&B and soul hits while showing off the hottest moves in the latest fashions. Although *Soul Train* continued to air, Cornelius stopped hosting the weekly program in 1993. The classic episodes from the '70s and '80s are the most beloved. An array of guests has appeared during its 35-year run, ranging from Aretha Franklin to Duran Duran to Christina Aguilera and The Jackson 5. Using his deep, smooth voice, Cornelius would sign off at the end of each episode with the message, "Peace, love and soul."

Writing contest bans same-sex entries

The Romance Writers Ink chapter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA) is holding its annual "More Than Magic" contest, with entries due March 2.

However, organizers of the contest—which has several categories, including erotic romance, paranormal and "sensual contemporary"—are not allowing stories with LGBT themes.

The addendum to the very first rule on the contest website (<http://romancewritersink.wordpress.com/our-contests>) reads, "MTM will no longer accept same-sex entries in any category."

On her blog, *The Amazon Iowan*, Heidi Cullinan wrote, "As president of the Rainbow Romance Writers, RWA's chapter for LGBT chapter, it's my job to address the situation. ... Does that [rule] seem harsh? Probably only if you're not gay or passionate about the rights of LGBT people."

"You know what, judges of RWI who are uncomfortable reading about same-sex relationships? I'm uncomfortable with you judging my work like that without reading it. I'm uncomfortable with you pasting RWA on yourself and then saying, with RWA national's blessing, that you don't want to read that gay stuff."

Windy City Times reached out to the contest coordinator, Jackie Kramer, who did not respond as of press deadline. However, RWA's Donna Mathoslah referred WCT to a press release regarding chapter contests. The release reads, "So long as chapters fulfill their obligations under state law, as well as RWA and chapter bylaws, and their programs and services support the professional interests of career focused romance writers, policy affords them rather broad latitude in determining which programs and services to offer. Absent policy governing chapter-level contests, RWA's board cannot intervene in the decisions of individual chapters."

"Romance Writers of America does not condone discrimination of any kind. RWA's policies regarding chapter programs and services will be discussed when the board reconvenes in March."

—Andrew Davis



From left: PR photo of Rumer; photo of Emanuel Vinson by Jim Newberry.

MUSIC

Martha Berner: The journey transcends 'Fantasy'

BY ALEX LUBISCHER

Singer/songwriter Martha Berner's new year is off to a sterling start. With her new album, *Fool's Fantasy*, and upcoming shows in Chicago venues, the out frontwoman of Martha Berner and the Significant Others is primed to take 2012 by storm.

Windy City Times had the pleasure of meeting this honey-voiced rocker on the rise.

Windy City Times: I love the album. I've been listening to it over and over, and wanted to say congratulations.

Martha Berner: Thank you. I'm really happy with it.

WCT: How did life in the Windy City affect *Fool's Fantasy's* creation? Do you see yourself as a Chicago artist?

MB: I do see myself as a Chicago artist. I've lived here for about eight years now. I moved here for music. I think this album is what it is because of the exact combination of the players involved in producing it. Every single member, each part that they brought, is so important and integral.

WCT: This album was mastered by Gavin Lurssen! This is a guy who's worked with Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen. What was that like for you?

MB: It was really, really exciting. It was kind of my long shot wish list: "Wouldn't it be great to have this mastered by Gavin Lurssen?" So I called a good friend of mine out in LA—a fellow artist—and she's friends with Gavin, and I said "What are the odds that I can get Gavin to master this for me?" She said, "Well, let me drop him a line." And he agreed.

We flew out there and sat in the room; he had his three Grammys lined up on the wall and it was awesome. It felt like: "I'm giving the record the best shot I could possibly give this."

WCT: Are there any queer artists whom you feel a particular affinity towards?

MB: There are so many great ones—certainly the folksier lesbian scene, the smaller artists. Probably more of the queer men. You know, stuff like The Smiths and Morrissey. And, obviously, women like Melissa Ferrick and Catie Curtis, some of the more indie folk rockers.

I don't know: Where would music be without the queers? The entertainment business, creative anything? A day without queers is what the U.S. should experience at least one time. In protest to some of these human rights issues in our country we should have a day without the queers and see how everyone gets along.

WCT: Exactly!

MB: [Laughs] The day without gays! I mean the restaurants would close down, the flower shops—I mean what would everybody do?

WCT: Perfect. [Laughs] How has your identity as a queer woman influenced your songwriting?

MB: Specifically, there's a song on the record called "Brave," which is basically written about being gay, young and afraid, and trying to figure out how to come into my own and stand for who I was, and all of that going against who I was raised to be. I came from a very Christian family. So it was a really frightening experience for me growing up to realize that I was gay because... There's one thing that my family was asking of me and that was to love God and love Jesus and not be gay. If you could accomplish those two things you were pretty alright.

Had I not experienced that discomfort... You have to sort of leave where you're from, right? To give yourself the space and the room to explore who you are and who you want to be and shape your own vision of yourself. That was the impetus for the get-up-and-go that took over

the next 10 years of my life. And exploring and moving and letting myself grow into the woman that I wanted to be.

WCT: The track "People Are Crazy" has such killer attitude. What was the impetus for that song?

MB: That was politically inspired. I started writing that song while Bush was still in office and just—you know—the jaw on the floor. [Laughs] His getting reelected was shocking and just the state of our country... Now, I think it still applies today to politics.

Your mind's for the taking,

Your savior is waiting,

Try to take a sucker down with you—

It's degrading.

That line is about the influence of religion in politics and the non-separation of church and state that drives me absolutely nuts in this country. People are crazy!

WCT: What aspect of your album is particularly accessible to the LGBTQ community?

MB: Certainly the song "Irene." That's just a very blatant song from a woman to a woman. The song "Brave" has been mentioned, specifically about my journey. [Pauses] The whole thing [laughs] the whole thing's just so gay because I'm gay!

For some reason I was listening to a lot of Johnny Cash when I was writing that song. It's my little folksy ballad, sorta like Ring of Fire. It's about loving someone you're not supposed to love.

WCT: The track "Some Stay Awhile" had such a personal pain to it, but also a sense of recovery—of getting back on the horse. Many songs harbored a lovely, reflective quality. What journeys were you traveling as you wrote this album?

MB: What I was going through a lot of during that time was feeling a bit lost in my journey as a young adult trying to achieve all the things I wanted. So the song "Some Stay Awhile" is that no matter what happens, you get back up and you get back on your horse.

But what's as important as getting back up on your horse is that you never lose the ability to laugh and enjoy also, because it is the journey and not the destination. The destination is important and you need to have a destination.

I think you also need to know that destination may change as your life evolves in different ways. But more importantly, are you enjoying yourself? That was my resolve. I know the things that I'm giving my attention and my time and



Martha Berner. PR photo

my life to be worthy. That at the end of the day, it's not about being rich or being famous. It's about: Was it worth it, those things I sacrificed for? Did I live well? Did I love well? Did I laugh?

Berner is performing Saturday, Feb. 4, at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, Feb. 12, at T's Bar and Restaurant, 5025 N. Clark St., at 3 p.m. See <http://www.marthaberner.com> for more information.

The CD is available at Women and Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., Berner's website or iTunes.

MUSIC

Matt Zarley: Change begins with him

BY JOE FRANCO

Matt Zarley released his first album, *Debut*, in 2002, the same year *People Magazine* named him the first openly gay "Hottest Bachelor." Since then he's had numerous albums, appearances and is still going strong. In late 2011, he released his latest album, *Change Begins With Me*, featuring one of *Billboard Magazine's* top new dance singles, "WTF." *Windy City Times* spoke with Zarley on his work, life and loves.

Windy City Times: Your first album, *Debut*, received much critical success. You now have *Change Begins With Me* under your belt. How do these albums differ and what influences have led to your own evolution as a singer and songwriter during the last decade?

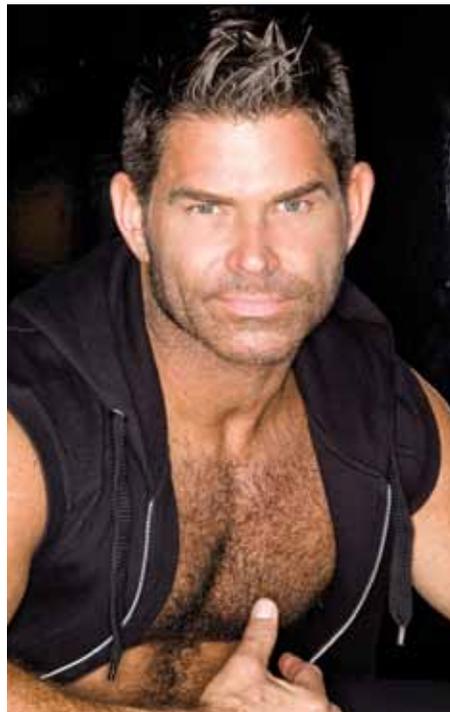
Matt Zarley: This recent album was cathartic. A bulk of the project was written after a bad break-up of a long-term relationship. I had to learn to come to terms with what had happened. This was a lot more personal than my older material. I knew what I wanted to say but didn't have an overall view of the end product. Being an independent artist is expensive. I needed an album with a long shelf life so I have lots of remixes of the songs on that album already released and coming up.

WCT: Whom did you work with on the remixes?

MZ: I was extremely honored to have *Moto Blanco* work with me on "WTF." I also have a great artist, K-Hill, doing some remixes. I am extremely fortunate and grateful to be working with such great artists in their own right.

WCT: Now, "WTF" is based on a whirlwind romance that you had with someone described as a "famous Hollywood actor." Why the reluctance to divulge his identity? Has the song generated any word from him since your break-up?

MZ: Well, it was a whirlwind romance, like you said. Ten years ago I might have been more about making sure everyone knew whom



Matt Zarley. PR photo

that song was about, but I'm not about that. I wrote a song, got it out of my system and that was that.

It's funny that there is all of this buzz surrounding who it's about. I only off-handedly mentioned that he was an actor in an interview and it's grown to be this tremendous story. He's an "out" actor but people *really* caught on to the "famous Hollywood actor" angle.

We have talked since then and have made up. It's been superficial. I'm sure he's heard the song but I'm not sure he knows it's supposed to be about him.

WCT: When did you come out? Did you find it difficult? Why did you decide to come out when so many others on Broadway or in Hollywood or the recording industry still remain silent on their sexuality?

MZ: I came out when I was 21 and it was one of the best experiences of my life. I felt freer. My dad took it a lot better than my mom did. I think she had this vision for what she wanted my life to be and it was just more difficult for her. My dad just took my hand and said, "I know." I'm still very close with both of my parents.

It's so important to be yourself. Hopefully, that will make things easier in the long run. When I first started recording music and *Debut* came out, *People Magazine* really wanted an openly gay guy to feature in their "Hottest Bachelors" issue. My sexuality was not something I had intended to push, but there you have it.

As far as the recording industry goes, Billy Porter was quoted as saying, "Matt Zarley is a do-it-yourself bitch." Personally, is it more difficult for an out gay man? I don't know. The major labels might ask, "How do we cover this up?" But I really don't know.

WCT: Your website, your press releases and a number of your interviews are focused on your personal appearance. Do you find that the focus on your body and your looks undermines your music?

MZ: Believe it or not, I have always had body issues. I started work as a dancer. I'm built like a football player. I don't look like a dancer. If I had to pick whether people remembered me for my music or my looks, I'd rather they respond to the music. The physical focus is so prevalent—not just for gay men but for everyone! It's exhausting! Unfortunately the gay community can sometimes be unforgiving or not as accepting when it comes to personal appearance.

I'm not a gym rat. I also do not want people looking at me and thinking, "God, he's a slob." It's much harder when you get older to keep that up. I just wish people could see past all of that.

Read the entire interview with Matt at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and find out who his musical influences are.



The Chicago Auto Show: What to expect this year

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The 104th edition of the Chicago Auto Show will take place Feb. 9-19 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. (Blues Traveler is slated to perform.) 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. (McCormick Place offers a total of 2.7 million square feet of exhibit halls, with an additional 700,000 square feet of meeting-room availability.)

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.

Attendees will have the opportunity to renew their driver's licenses, order vehicle stickers and license plates, order handicap placards, and sign up to be organ/tissue donors. The secretary of state's office will be in McCormick Place's South Hall.

Windy City Times talked with Auto Show co-chair Mike Ettleson (principal of Ettleson Cadillac-Buick-GMC in Hodgkins, Ill., and Ettleson Hyundai in Countryside) about everything from crowds to trends.

Windy City Times: Approximately how many people are expected to attend?

Mike Ettleson: That's a good question. My guess would be—based on previous years—about 700,000 to 800,000. Ticket sales are up, based on the same time frame as last year, so it seems like there's more interest earlier. Even in my own dealership, where I give out tickets to customers, it seems like there's more interest.

WCT: I know that every year the show reflects automotive trends. What can people expect in this year's show?

Ettleson: I think a lot of it is going to be [about] alternate fuels, so you'll see gas-electric hybrids and more electric cars. You're also going to see some technology where your iPhone or iPad are automatically integrated in the car; your stuff will appear on the screen and you can download music or emails you have. There's more what I call synchronizing technology, where the car might read emails to you.

You're also going to have more safety features. One of my GMC Terrains alerts you if you get too

close to a car in front of you, or your radio might shut off [if the distance is too close]. There are also lane-departure warnings, where it alerts you if you're wandering out of the lanes. I've also heard of something with cameras all around the car.

WCT: Last year was my first time at the show...

Ettleson: Really? I've been going since I was 5; last year was probably my 45th time. My dad sold Chevrolets for many years so I went for many years. I actually went by myself with another friend when I was 10 years old.

WCT: It's a different time now; that couldn't happen. But last year, I didn't realize there was such a military presence. Is that happening this year as well?

Ettleson: Yes, it is. The U.S. Army, for some reason, feels it's a great venue to display and do some military recruiting. They purchase space just like everyone else. I wanna say they're buying a tiny bit more space than last year.

WCT: I was around the tank last year.

Ettleson: Yeah, that's fun—who wouldn't want to hang around that? A couple years before, they had a helicopter there. People could climb into that.

WCT: Last year, there was a security incident where several cars were vandalized. Is security being beefed up this year?

Ettleson: We've always had very good security. We may add one or two more people but, truthfully, we caught and prosecuted [the offenders]—they were high school kids or something like that. I don't know if we need any more security like that. Our security works, and they're plain-clothes; you wouldn't know they're around.

WCT: So what would you say are the must-see stations or items at the show?

Ettleson: That's a good question. Being from the brand that I represent—so I'm biased—Cadillac will have two new models there. One is going to be the XTS, and the other is the ATS; they're not on the road yet, and one is top-of-the-line while the other is entry-level.

There are going to be a lot of concepts there. Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep are going to have three separate tracks, where you can ride in their cars. Toyota will also have a track.

But make sure you go to both sides of the hall. I'm not sure what concepts will be there; I haven't gotten my press kit yet. I know that GMC is unveiling a product, and they haven't told me what it is yet! My curiosity is piqued.

See www.ChicagoAutoShow.com for more info.



More from the 2011 Chicago Auto Show. Photos by Andrew Davis



The 2011 Chicago Auto Show. Photo by Andrew Davis

Personal Injury • Employment • Civil Rights

Tsamis
Law Firm, P.C.

Always On Your Side™

You Deserve
a Lawyer Who:

- Is Compassionate and Understanding
- Has a Proven Track Record
- Is Focused and Aggressive



Betty Tsamis, Attorney-At-Law

1509 W. Berwyn, Ste 201E, Chicago
(866) 703-5509 • www.TsamisLaw.com



WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



BY MEGHAN STREIT

Baker & Nosh

A touch-and-go strip of Wilson Avenue in Uptown just got a whole lot cuter (and tastier). Baker & Nosh opened its doors recently to customers eager to try chef/owner Bill Millholland's goodies.

According to the café's website, Millholland studied at The French Culinary Institute in New York. He worked in a few New York pastry kitchens and then took a job baking bread at the Levain Bakery in Manhattan and the Hamptons. After that, he worked as a chef instructor at a cooking school in Tuscany, Italy. Seven years ago, he found his way to our fair city, where he has worked as a chef instructor at Le Cordon



Artichoke soup at Baker & Nosh. Photo by Meghan Streit

Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Chicago.

Suffice to say, this guy knows how to bake an extraordinary loaf of bread. And, I can report he's also quite adept at filling it with chocolate, rolling it into crispy flatbreads, stuffing it with meat to make a mean sandwich and baking it into sticky, sweet desserts.

Baker & Nosh is part minimalist urban café (polished concrete floors and cool neutral walls) and part quaint Parisian boulangerie (actual bakers working in plain sight and a case full of artisan cheeses and salami for sale). Even in the dead of winter in Chicago, I felt inspired to buy a baguette, a hunk of Camembert and a bottle of Orangina and head straight to the River Seine for a picnic.

I didn't do that, but I did have a leisurely afternoon festival of carbohydrates with a friend. Baker & Nosh offers a small rotating menu of

sandwiches, flatbreads, soups and pastries. They stop cooking at 3 p.m., so get there early or plan ahead. I called (anonymously) to check on the menu before I visited, and was told the staff would be happy to set aside my order so my top picks wouldn't be sold out by the time I arrived. How's that for customer service?

I devoured a flatbread topped with artichokes, Gruyere and thyme. The crust was crisp and the flavors of the toppings melded together perfectly. I also tried the ham sandwich – layers of sweet ham piled high on sourdough bread with melted Swiss cheese and generous smears of tangy mustard. Baker & Nosh's Facebook page advertised the sandwich as including arugula, which was sadly missing from the one I got. I think the arugula would have bumped up this very good sandwich into the great category. I'm willing to give it another shot.

I also tried the soup of the day, which was cream of artichoke. (A little artichoke with your artichokes, anyone?) It was flavorful, comforting and delicious, if just a tad too salty. The bowls of soup come with your choice of a roll, making it a cheap and filling lunch.

The best manifestation of Millholland's many breadly offerings was the apricot coffee cake I had for dessert. It was incredibly moist, just sweet enough and topped with real cooked apricots rather than the congealed "apricot product" you'd get at most bakeries. The sticky buns also make a nice companion for a latte or a cappuccino. The buns are soft, sweet and clearly baked with love. I desperately wanted to try Millholland's rustic fruit tart, which had been beckoning me from the moment I walked into the place. But, despite my repeated requests, he wouldn't cut up the large pastry and sell me just one slice. The bigger desserts, he said, are for customers who drop in to pick up something special to bring to parties. I considered throwing a party just so I could get my hands on this thing. Sigh—maybe next time.

Baker & Nosh definitely has some kinks to work out. Service is a little scattered, coffee drinks may not be quite as hot as you'd like, and there currently aren't knives strong enough to cut through the crusty sourdough bread. However, I'm not worried. I predict things will be running smoothly in a matter of weeks, and I expect Baker & Nosh to quickly become an Uptown favorite.

When the weather warms, the café will also offer outdoor seating on an adjacent patio. Even more exciting, Millholland said he plans to plant an accessible herb garden so customers can pick their own herbs to spice up and customize their meals—a true farm-to-table experience, right here in the heart of the big city.

Baker & Nosh is located at 1303 W. Wilson Ave.; call 773-989-7393 or visit www.bakerandnosh.com/index.php.

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

PRIVATE PARTIES • VALET PARKING • CATERING & CARRY OUTS

Club Lucky EST. 1990

TRADITIONAL Italian FOOD
Family Style Service

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Open at 11:30am

MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN
OFF THE KENNEDY EXPRESSWAY

www.clubluckychicago.com

1824 WEST WABANSIA • BUCKTOWN • 773.227.2300 • OPEN SEVEN DAYS

Jane's restaurant
Love Is All Around

janesrestaurant.com

1653-55 W. Cortland • 773-862-5263

Chicago Brauhaus

4732 N. LINCOLN CHICAGO
IN THE HEART OF LINCOLN SQUARE

ENTERTAINMENT & DANCING NIGHTLY

EXCELLENT GERMAN-AMERICAN CUISINE

773.784.4444

WWW.CHICAGOBRAUHAUS.COM

Closed Tuesdays • Major Credit Cards Accepted

LOTS OF GEMÜTLICHKEIT!

the DISH DINING LISTINGS

<p>AMERICAN Beef 'n Brandy 127 S. State St., Chicago 312-372-3451 beefbrandy.net A Chicago tradition since 1967. Serving pizza, burgers, meat loaf, homemade Focaccia bread and more.</p>	<p>located in neighborhoody Bucktown. Stunning Special Events Room. Brunch, Lunch & Dinner.</p>	<p>BAKERY Swedish Bakery 5348 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-561-8919 swedishbakery.com European-style cookies, pastries, breads, and tortes. We'll create a cake for any celebration.</p>	<p>Bright and fresh Italian small plates with an exciting cocktail menu. Surprisingly affordable.</p>	<p>MEXICAN Mundial Cocina Mestiza 1640 W. 18th St., Chicago 312-491-9908 mundialcocinamestiza.com Creative Mexican cuisine in the Pilsen neighborhood. Hand-shaken margaritas and affordable wines.</p>
<p>Roscoe's Sidewalk Cafe 3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago 773-281-3355 roscoes.com Visit our popular outdoor cafe. Salads, burgers, wraps, sandwiches, drink specials, and Sunday Brunch.</p>	<p>Hamburger Mary's 5400 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-784-6969 hamburgermarys.com/chicago Burgers, salads and sass served up in a kitschy atmosphere with an on-site brew pub.</p>	<p>FONDUE Geja's Cafe 340 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago 773-281-9101 gejascafe.com Romantic fondue dining. Live classical and flamenco guitar. Extensive, moderately priced wine list.</p>	<p>Club Lucky 1824 W. Wabansia Ave., Bucktown 773-227-2300 clubluckychicago.com 1940's style Italian Supper Club & Cocktail Lounge Award-winning. Holiday decorations and private party room. Accepting online reservations.</p>	<p>GERMAN Chicago Brauhaus 4732 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago 773-784-4444 chicagobrauhaus.com Serving up traditional German specialties, beer, wine, music and dancing 6 days a week.</p>
<p>Jane's Restaurant 1653-55 W. Cortland Ave. 773-862-5263 janesrestaurant.com An everyday, upscale eatery</p>	<p>ASIAN Miss Asia 434 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago 773-248-3999 missasiacuisine.com At Miss Asia we provide fine traditional Thai cuisine and an elegant dining atmosphere.</p>	<p>ITALIAN Taverna 750 750 W. Cornelia Ave., Chicago 773-348-5172</p>	<p>MEDITERRANEAN Socca 3301 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-248-1155 soccachicago.com Featured on Food Network. Italian/French cuisine. Dinner daily and weekend brunch. Outdoor patio.</p>	

To get your business listed in The Dish, contact advertising@windycitymediagroup.com

SPORTS BRIEFS

Neilsen named to NAGAAA position

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jack Neilsen, who spearheaded Chicago's bid to host the 2011 Gay Softball World Series, has been named the director of business development for the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), which sponsors the annual series.

Neilsen, 36, who lives in the Ravenswood neighborhood and works as an account manager, is the commissioner for the predominantly male open division of the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) softball league, entering his fourth year in that position in the spring.

"The director of business development is re-



Jack Neilsen. Photo from Neilsen

sponsible for securing and activating new sponsorships for NAGAAA and the Gay Softball World Series," Neilsen said. "It is a lot of communication and research work, and working with the correct people within corporations to ensure NAGAAA is meeting their expectations as a valued partner."

He said the job came about partly due to the success of the 2011 series. Plus, "I felt now was the time for me to be able to give back to my softball community," he said.

Neilsen will be responsible for reaching out to potential sponsors across the country in an attempt to gain sponsorship dollars as well as in-kind donations to assist NAGAAA.

"I chose to run for this position [because] I felt I could be a great asset to the national organization," said Neilsen, who was elected in late January. "I feel, with my work background and the individuals I know, I can help grow the NAGAAA brand to the next level."

Neilsen said this NAGAAA position will not directly impact CMSA.

Opening day for CMSA's open division is slated for Sunday, April 29. Neilsen said the upcoming season will, like last season, feature 49 teams with about 750 players.

The 36th annual NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series is Aug. 13-18 in Minneapolis.

Journalist's Packers post nets backlash

NBC Chicago journalist Ted McClelland's Facebook post showing his dislike of the NFL's Green Bay Packers has resulted in at least a little backlash.

McClelland, a columnist for NBC Chicago's Ward Room (where he's listed as Edward McClelland), posted a green decal with the words "Green Gay Fudge Packers" Jan. 15. Responses included "Maybe this is meant to be clever or ironic, but that doesn't keep it from being pretty

fucking stupid" and the more innocuous "I'm not sure what to say about this."

Steve Rhodes, an editor and publisher at Beachwood Media, initially pointed out the anti-gay blurb on The Beachwood Reporter website under the headline "Mental Ward Room," writing, "NBC Ward Room correspondent Ted McClelland started with a Facebook post about Green Bay's playoff loss yesterday with a status update that said 'So long, Fudge Packers. The stereo in the bar is playing 'New York, New York.'" Rhodes added that the decal "really took it over the top."

McClelland—who wrote the book *Young Mr. Obama: Chicago and the Making of a Black President*—also lists his activities on his homepage as "white people" and "heterosexuality."

Windy City Times sent messages to McClelland and NBC Chicago; they were not returned by press deadline.

FFC complex completed in West Loop

McShane Construction Company has completed the expansion and renovation of the new 52,000-square-foot West Loop fitness-center assignment on behalf of owner Fitness Formula Clubs (FFC), according to a press release.

The full-service facility is located on the ground level and third floor of Presidential Towers at 10 S. Clinton St., near the Ogilvie Northwestern Transportation Center.

FFC West Loop offers its members general cardio and strength-training areas, custom Tri-Monster triathlon and endurance sports-training classes, group fitness studios, locker rooms, day spa and airbrush tanning salon, Kids Club center, a retail sports shop, the Protein Bar cafe and NovaCare physical therapy.

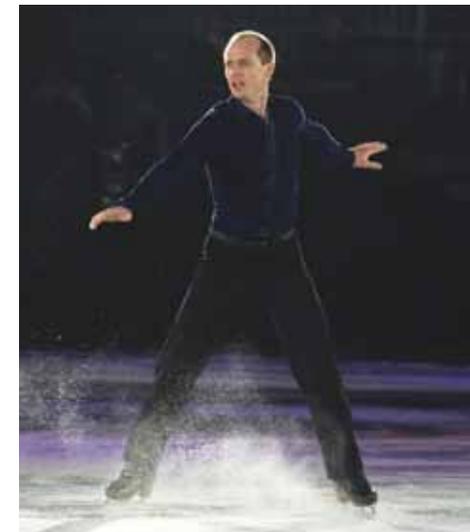
'Stars on Ice' at Rosemont March 11

The figure-skating tour "Stars on Ice" will visit Rosemont, Ill., Sunday, March 11, 2012, for a 5 p.m. performance at Allstate Arena.

The tour will get a new infusion of creativity from legendary skater Kurt Browning, who will co-direct and choreograph this year's production.

The event includes Browning; Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen; two-time Olympic gold medalist Ekaterina Gordeeva; 1998 Olympic gold medalist Ilia Kulik; and world champion and six-time U.S. national champion Todd Eldredge, among others.

Founded in 1986 by skating icon Scott Hamilton, the Stars on Ice tour has played more than 1,000 shows for over a quarter of a century. Tickets start at \$25 and are available via all Ticketmaster outlets, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>, 800-745-3000 and the Allstate Arena box office.



Kurt Browning.



The "daily deal" site with our roots, vision and focus linked to the LGBT community

LAST MONTH'S DEALS
www.QponChicago.com

Alford Enterprises

A specialty communication firm specializing in photography (portrait & union/wedding), event planning (all types including unions/weddings), genealogy research, and more

www.alfordenterprises.net
630-752-9434



Chicago Premiere
Man Boobs
A Dark Comedy by J. Julian Christopher
February 16-March 10
BrownPaperTickets.com

PRIDE
Films & Plays

Conns Catering "Entertain With Style"

Let Conn's Catering plan your Civil Union/Wedding, private house party or special occasion. Our Uniformed attendants, bartenders and executive chefs are available to manage your event.

<http://connscatering.com>
773-262-2666



Radiant Smiles For
You

General Dentistry for All Ages
Serving the Community since 1982
Quality Dentistry with
Affordable Prices.
Most insurance plans accepted
-Early Morning and Saturday-
Appointments available
5555 N. Sheridan Road
773.334.3882
RadiantSmilesForYou@gmail.com

Mac in a Minute!

"One-on-one training for your Mac, iPad or iPhone"
Craig J. Burns
- Extensive Apple Training Experience -

312-363-8557
craig@macinaminute.com



Thanks To All QponChicago.com 2011 Partners

About Face Theatre • Adam's Skin Care • AIDS Foundation of Chicago • AIDS Legal Council of Chicago • Alford Enterprises - Uniquely You Photo Shoot • All Nourishing Wellbeing Alliance Chiropractic Health Center • America's Dog • Annoyance Theatre • ArtPhoto Chicago Studios • Babes With Blades Theatre Company • Bark Place • Be Optimal • Boba Bryan K Osburn Collection • Canine Massage Chicago • Carbon Hair Salon • Chicago Archery Center • Chicago Force Football • Chicago Sky WNBA • Conn's Cafe & Catering, Inc. • Curves - Edgewater Fitness Club • E Joseph Fleming & Associates • Eastern Elements Acupuncture • Evil Squirrel Comics • FallAway Film SoundTrack • For Your K9, Inc. • GayCo Productions • Hal Baim Photography • Harris Theater for Music and Dance • Hell in a Handbag Productions • Howard Brown Health Center • Illinois Nut & Candy • Jason Boehm Nutrition • John Hassey Resolution • K9 University • Know No Limits Fitness and Wellness • Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles • Love Your Website • Mac in a Minute! • Miss Asia Music Box Theatre • National Museum of Mexican Art • Nolan Studios • NorthSide Dance Theater • Northstar Medical • Paramount Theatre • Paws-N-Effect LLC • Pilates Chicago • Pixme2.com • Pride Films and Plays • Radiant Smiles For You • Ryan Swanson Design • Second City Events • Sentier Italiani • Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago • Spencer Massage • Spoil Me Hair Salon • Superstars of Burlesque • Sweet Atilla's • The Lattice Inn • Thousand Waves Martial Arts & Self-Defense Center, NFP • Ties & Tassels Productions • To the Point Myotherapy • Toujours Spa & Salon • V-Tone Fitness • William Strauss Chocolate • Workout Partnerz: Personal Fitness Training • Writers' Theatre

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.**

ADULT DVDs

XXX DVDs No computer necessary! Get DVD's the old fashion way, by mail order. FREE XXXDVD catalog 1-800-722-4336 Mention WCT, get \$10 voucher. **RADVideo.com** for you online buffs. (2/1/12-4)

ANTIQUES

ZURKO ANTIQUE EVENTS

ANTIQUÉ & COLLECTIBLE MARKET
Sat., Feb 11, 10am - 4pm
Sun., Feb 12th, 8am - 3pm / \$6
Lake County Fairgrounds
Greyslake, IL 1060 E. Peterson

ANTIQUÉ * FLEA * MARKET
Saturday, February 18th
8am - 3pm / \$5
(County Farm & Manchester)
DuPage County Fairgrounds
WHEATON, IL - Vendors Welcome

ZURKO • 715-526-9769
www.zurkopromotions.com

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (11/21/12-52)**

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 847-759-9110 (4/25/12-13)

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

NOW HIRING DRIVERS MV Transportation is hiring bus drivers to start immediately. \$12.50/hr to start weekdays, \$13.00/hr weekends. We offer medical, vision, dental insurance, 401k plan, paid holidays and paid vacation. Must have a class "C" CDL with passenger endorsement or be able to obtain one; we provide training. Must have a clean driving record, criminal background and pass a drug test. We're looking for hard working people that enjoy helping others. **Apply in person at 6230 W. Gross Point Road, Niles, IL. www.mvtransit.com EOE (2/15/12-4)**

OUTSIDE SALES PERSON Self-motivated, sell advertising specialties, promotional products, draw against commission, car necessary - **NOT JUST A JOB - BUT A CAREER.** Call **Judy or Joel - 312-234-9981 or email your resumejmessier.ftppc@gmail.com (2/8/12-1)**

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)**

LEGAL SERVICES

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D12128966 on January 27, 2012, Under the Assumed Name of "Kimberly Katz PR and Talent" with the business located at 2551 North Clark Street, Suite 206., Chicago, IL 60614. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) are: Ken Payne, 8802 W. 45th Place, Brookfield, IL 60513 and Kimberly Katz, 6150 N. Kenmore, 15B, Chicago, IL 60660 (2/22/12-3)

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

FIRST-CLASS ASIAN MALE MASSEUR. London-trained and qualified. Over 25 years of worldwide experience and 100% attuned to your needs. Satisfaction assured. **Please call Dennis at 773-248-9407 (4/18/12-15)**

PERSONAL FITNESS

PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER You can have the body you want. A 12-week individually tailored fitness program that includes nutrition and workouts from a certified fitness trainer who uses her experience and education (Masters of Arts degree in clinical psychology, a fifth degree Black Belt in karate) to help people overcome obstacles to achieving success. The marriage of psychological and physical fitness enables people to create a plan and stick to it. "Whether you think you will or think you won't you're probably right." Call **Rachel Lavin at 773-251-7874. (2/8/12-4)**

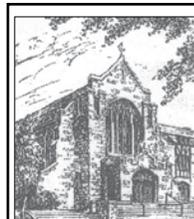
PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

PIANO OR VOICE LESSONS - in my Boystown area studio or your home offered by young gay professional with Master's in music. Take lessons with a neighborhood teacher! **Jonathan at 646 418 4043. (2/22/12-4)**

RESEARCH STUDY

CRYSTAL METH RESEARCH STUDY Are you a gay man who has quit a meth addiction without rehab? You could be eligible to take part in a research study that examines your past crystal methamphetamine use and attitudes toward current rehab methods. Eligible participants are gay males, ages 18 and up, who have quit a crystal meth addiction without going to rehab, and who have been sober for at least two years. If eligible, you will be asked to take part in one interview lasting approximately 1-2 hours. We will ask you to discuss your life during your addiction and how you managed to quit and remain sober. The interview will be audio-recorded and anonymous. You will not be asked to reveal your identity. **Eligible participants will receive a \$30 Visa gift card. Contact Richie Magallano at the UIC College of Nursing, 888-569-1512, for more info. (2/15/12-2)**

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 or Toll Free **1.888.420.MOVE (6683) (4/25/12-52)**

STONE TUDOR HOME with slate roof built in 1928 on its own block in Sterling IL. Living room, dining room, kitchen & breakfast room, porch, den, seven bedrooms. Asking \$399,000. Call **Roberta Dillon @ 815-631-2938 or e-mail edsoncox@gmail.com or robertasdillon@gmail.com. (2/15/12-4)**

FOR SALE - OUT OF TOWN

WILTON MANOR FL CONDO Reasonably priced, remodeled 1 bedroom/1 bath condo within walking distance of Wilton Manor activities. Free boat dockage. Located a mile from Fort Lauderdale beaches. **Contact scot564@live.com for more information/pictures. (2/1/12-4)**

FOR SALE - CONDO



Open House Sunday
February 12 - 1 - 4pm
5555 N. Sheridan - Chicago

The Edgewater Beach Apartments
One bd \$92,000 - \$169,000
Two bd \$140,000 - \$329,000
Three bd duplex - \$290,000

Premier lakefront building with indoor pool, fitness cntr, 2 acre garden w/bbq area, parking & guest parking for fee, 24 hr drmen Shops & Services. Steps to beaches, fine dining & transportation. 20% down.

You're going to love it.

**Alice Rae Casey
Lakefront Group
773.293.0000
Alice@AliceCasey.net**

Furnished Condo For Sale Asking \$107,000! Top 3rd Floor one bedroom condo in NW Burb! Large bedroom, new bathroom, home warranty, fullsize W/D in unit, pets ok, workout room, pool, great location! Not a short sale or foreclosure, so quick closing makes this condo your home! **Call Barb at Remax 1-847-726-4663 for showing! (2/1/12-4)**

TWO BEDROOMS FOR RENT

EDGEWATER COMMUTER ADVANTAGE. You'd be happy to come home to. Walk to beach, bus, redline or shops. Joyously sunny and secure first floor. Big bedrooms with walkin closets. Large kitchen with diningroom. \$1200 with heat plus laundry, patio and yard, new sink and intercom. **It's your move...773-706-6065 (2/22/12-3)**



**PARKVIEW PET
SUPPLIES**
EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

773-561-0001

*Sensible Food
Sensible Prices*



Honey is a big, strong, busy adolescent. She is still reckless with her mouth when excited so this will need to be discouraged, in addition to her jumping up on tables. Honey is powerful and impulsive and will require training to keep her brain and body active. She can use her strength to her advantage when on leash, so a body harness and teaching loose-leash walking will be beneficial.

Animal ID 14920839
Shepherd/Mix
9 months
Female
Large

The Anti-Cruelty Society, 312-644-8338,
www.anticruelty.org

GayRealEstate.com

FREE!
Instant Access
to Chicago and
the Nation's
Top Gay &
Lesbian Realtors.

SOLD

Choose Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com
Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

Celebrations

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

Windy City Media Group holiday party



Photos by Hal Baim

Windy City Media Group (parent company of Windy City Times) held a winter party for its staff, contributors and delivery personnel, Feb. 2, at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

The Windy City folks chowed down on mac and cheese fritters and "Mary burgers" while art director Kirk Williamson doled out a huge variety of giveaways, donated by local businesses. Prizes included delicious brownies from Sweet Miss Givings; champagne from Parlour; theater tickets from MidTangent Productions; restaurant certificates from Club Lucky, Fireside Grill, and Jane's Restaurant; and concert tickets to see Lorna Luft, Magnetic Fields, Thomas Dolby, and G. Love and Special Sauce.

After the first round of giveaways, publisher Tracy Baim took the stage and gave a speech in tribute to John Pennycuff, who served as Windy City's office manager until 2006 and passed away late last month.

Some Windy City employees could not make the event, but we honor all who make what we do possible!



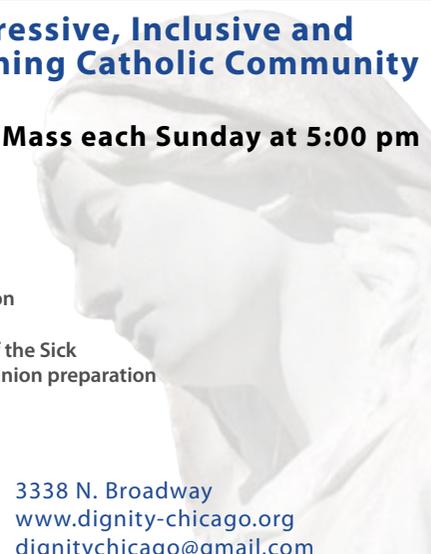
A Progressive, Inclusive and Welcoming Catholic Community

Mass each Sunday at 5:00 pm

- Baptism
- Reconciliation
- Holy Unions
- Anointing of the Sick
- First Communion preparation



3338 N. Broadway
www.dignity-chicago.org
dignitychicago@gmail.com



TWO WAYS TO WIN!

k.d. lang and the Siss Boom Bang
Fri., May 18
@ The Genesee Theatre

Grammy-award-winning artist k.d. lang, a rare performer who has matured before our eyes, exploring the realms of country, rock, and pop music throughout her nearly 30-year career, comes to Waukegan for one night only!

Tickets on sale now at genesee theatre.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 800-982-2787.

CLICK TO WIN!

ENTER TO WIN one pair of tickets by sending an email with "KDLANG" in the subject line to **click2win@hotmail.com** by Mon., Feb. 20 to be entered.

Winner will be selected at random from all entries and will be notified via email. One entry per person, please.

LIKE TO WIN!

TO WIN: Simply find us at **facebook.com/WindyCityMediaGroup** and "like" our page by Mon., Feb. 20.

Winner will be chosen at random from all page fans and will be notified via Facebook.

dave ouano photography
fashion | fitness | portraits

modelmayhem.com/daveouano daveouano@me.com
daveouanophotography.com 773.860.0162

Kat Fitzgerald Photographer

www.mysticimagesphotography.com

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
TIMES

nights
spots

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

Wed., Feb. 8

Sex, Chocolate and Your Pelvic Floor event- What You Want, What You Need, What You Need To Know is Chicago's unique, fun, educational ladies night out (women only - no men allowed!). This event gives women the opportunity to learn how to improve pelvic and sexual health while offering a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere where women can easily laugh and learn. Advance tickets only \$50! Tickets will be available at the door for \$75. 7pm-10pm, Beauty Bar, <http://www.totalcontrolprogram.com/assets/root/html/scpf>

Reading: My Desire for History, Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History John D'Emilio will discuss his recent collection of Allan Bérubé essays, and their connection to LGBTQ organizing taking place in Chicago today. He will be joined by Kim Hunt, Executive Director of Affinity Community Services and Tania Unzueta, Coordinator of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Project at the Association of Latino Men for Action, for a discussion of past and present LGBTQ activism, race, class and gender. A Crossroads Fund event. 6pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

The Theatre School Presents A Lie of the Mind Presented by The Theatre School at DePaul University, 7:30pm-11pm, 312.922.1999, Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E Balbo Dr., <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>

Whole Foods Community Support Day for Merit School Five metropolitan Chicago Whole Foods Market locations will donate 5 percent of all sales to Merit School of

POLITICAL PARTY Saturday, Feb. 11

There will be a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. (and U.S. Senate candidate) Tammy Baldwin at the home of Hal Shipman and Channing Greene. (Baldwin is slated to Skype into the event.)

Photo by Chuck Colbert



Music. 1101 S. Canal St.; 30 W. Huron St.; 1550 N. Kingsbury St.; 3300 N. Ashland Ave.; 3640 N. Halsted St. 8am-10pm; www.meritmusic.org

Thursday, Feb. 9

Bayard Rustin 100: Discovering a Forgotten Hero Known as the invisible man of the civil rights movement, he worked with Martin Luther King as an out gay man. Cocktails 5:30 pm, program 6:30pm; 5:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., <http://www.chicagohistory.org>

Macy's celebrates 100th birthday of Romare Bearden In honor of Black History Month, Macy's and The Romare Bearden Foundation celebrate the 100th birthday of the African-American artist, innovator, scholar, and visionary. RSVP by phone. 5:30pm, 800-329-8667, Macy's, 7th Flr Archives, 111 State St., Chicago, <http://www.macys.com/celebrate>

Wine tasting with Judge Celia Louise Gamrath Gamrath was one of the first judges to perform and dissolve civil

unions and is seeking election to the 8th Subcircuit, Chiola vacancy, the same she currently holds. RSVP to Stacey Smith at stacey@kjdstategies.com or by phone. 6pm-7:30pm, 888-713-7563, Kafka Wine Co., 3325 N. Halsted St.

Chicago Red Dress Party pre-party The Red Dress Party is a national event dedicated to creating awareness and visibility for the HIV/AIDS movement and raising funds for organizations that provide vital community services. Dress for the fight, end AIDS. I {HEART} RED: \$20/online and \$25/door. Open bar, small bites, "Red" raffle; 7pm, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, ste. 143, <http://chicagoredressparty.org/tickets>

Early To Bed Presents: How To Bed a Trans Man A workshop designed for folks who would like to educate themselves more about FTMs and trans male sexuality, particularly as it relates to their own dating life. 8pm, Early to Bed, 5232 N Sheridan. Tickets: <http://www.early2bed.com/2012/01/10/workshop-how-to-bed-a-trans-man/>

Friday, Feb. 10

Down With Love: A Cabaret Show from InnateVolution Theater. Featuring the songs of Motown. Directed by Toma & Raymond K. Cleveland. \$20 includes 1 drink ticket for well, house wine or Miller drinks. Seating at 7, show at 7:30. 7pm-10pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave., <http://www.facebook.com/thecallbar>

Love is... River North Dance Chicago Festive post-show Valentine party with the RNDC Dancers at the Harris Theater with delicious artisan dessert and drink pairings to make your heart and taste buds soar. Party tickets \$25. 8pm-10pm, 312-334-7777, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph St. Tickets: <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org>

Spin Shower Contest Join super cute Victor at Midnight for Spin's outrageous and infamous contest! Get there by 11:30pm to enter, and you could win First Prize of \$150 or Second Prize of \$50. 9pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago, <http://spin-nightclub.com>

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

GayCo: Are you there Judy? It's me, Cancer. Judy Fabjance presents an evening of Comedy, Cries and Choreography as she takes you on her journey through Breast Cancer. Learn about "the one" who truly

wasn't there for her and why she hates all holidays except one. And why cancer all she can think about is cancer so come cancer see this cancer show. \$13. Fridays through Feb. 24; 9pm, 312-337-3992, Donny's Skybox Theatre, 8 N. Wells St., Chicago, <http://www.secondcity.com>

Saturday, Feb. 11

Fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Rep. Tammy Baldwin Doubling as a "warm up" party to the annual gala downtown hosted by Dr. Timothy Loftus, Hal Shipman, and Channing Greene in conjunction with the Victory Fund. Rep. Baldwin will be Skyping in to greet the attendees and talk briefly about the campaign. Cocktails, beer, wine, with a few of the host's specialty drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Donation: \$50 per person, which can be paid by check at the event. More information and pre-payment online. (Enter "Chicago" in Comment section upon payment.) Location and information by phone 646-320-0212; 4pm-6pm, 646-320-0212, Home of Hal Shipman and Channing Greene, call for info, <http://www.victoryfund.org/tammy50>

Independent Catholic Church Alternate Evangelical Catholic Church is totally Catholic, valid orders and sacraments; without the guilt, bigotry, and hatefulness. All welcome, especially those disenfranchised by their church's lack of support. 4:30pm-5:30pm, 773-401-0506, 5749 Kenmore (Atonement Chapel), <http://evangelical-catholicchurch.org>

Equality Illinois 21st Annual Justice for All Benefit Gala Continuing its more than decade-long tradition as the largest LGBT black-tie gala in the Midwest Equality Illinois hosts its 2012 Justice for All Benefit Gala. 6pm-11:45pm, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave., <http://www.eqil.org>

The Color is Red Gala Chicago Windy City Black Pride presents. National Black HIV Awareness Day; 6pm-10pm, Macy's, 111 N. State St., <http://www.cwcbp.com>

'80s New Wave benefit for IL Gender Advocates Beer and wine. DJ Toast spinning the 80s New Wave. Suggested donation, \$5. 10pm, Tsubo Salon, 1821 W. Hubbard St., #201

Sunday, Feb. 12

Lorna Luft Celebrates Her Mother Judy Garland "Songs My Mother Taught Me" a celebration of the music & life of Judy Garland, and a theatrical extravaganza melding one of the world's most familiar songbooks with personal memories of a loving daughter. 4pm-6pm, 630-896-6666, Paramount Theatre, 23 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora, <http://www.paramount-aurora.com>

Urban Village Church: Andersonville service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Freedom to Marry Demo at Holy Name Cathedral Supporting Organizations: Rainbow Sash Movement, Dignity, Gay Liberation Network, Equality Illinois, 8th Day Justice Center; 10:30am-12pm, 312-266-0182, 730 N. Wabash Ave, <http://gayliberation.net/home.html>

Chicago Prime Timers Open Social Here's an opportunity to learn more about the Chicago Prime Timers. Come join us at our open social. 6pm social hour, 7pm dinner. \$20 members, \$25 non-members; 6pm-8:30pm, 773-844-1005, Ann Sather restaurant 909 W. Belmont Chicago, <http://chicagoprimetimers.org>

An Evening of Andrew Lloyd Webber Enjoy a rare behind the scenes glimpse at the inspiration for some of Broadway's greatest hits with Kevin Moore Presents Score-by-Score, The Best of Broadway Musicals:



"HERO" WORSHIP

Thursday, Feb. 9

"Bayard Rustin 100: Discovering a Forgotten Hero" will take place at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.

An Evening of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Doors open at 5:30. \$25 for general seating, \$25 for reserved seating can be purchased online or by phone. 7pm, 773-381-4551, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, <http://www.maynestage.com>

Monday, Feb. 13

Cocktail reception for Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis Host committee includes Cong. Mike Quigley, Jay Paul Deratany, Christopher Johnsen, Scott Clay, Lowell Jaffe, Robert Kohl, Jacob Meister, Anthony Martinez. \$100 individual ticket. RSVP or information from Sharon Weber sweber@kohnconsulting.com; 6pm-7:30pm, 312-527-3667, Kanela Café, 3231 N. Clark St., <http://www.theisforjustice.com/kanela>

Tuesday, Feb. 14

B2B Monthly Networking Event Fall in Love in 60 seconds, Marie Hale Ramos. Bring your note book and learn the secret formula for maximum impact in networking, the top 3 No No's in networking; how to pull an audience; 7am-9am, Chicago Area G&L Chamber of Commerce HQ, 3179 N. Clark St., <http://www.glchamber.org>

Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific Chicago debut of new production; 7:30pm, Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>

\$1 Drinks: College Night It doesn't matter if you have to go to class or work on Wednesdays, because Hydrate's tearing Tuesdays up with \$1 Drinks and \$4 Rebel Bombs! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

All You Need Is Love Enjoy chocolate martini, champagne and wine specials with your lovah. Late Bar, 3534 W. Belmont Ave. 10pm, <http://www.latebarchicago.com>

Wed., Feb. 15

Joffrey Ballet presents Winter Fire The Joffrey Ballet brings to Chicago the work of three world-renowned choreographers in "Winter Fire," a mixed repertory program featuring two premieres and an audience favorite. 7:30pm-9:30pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., <http://www.joffrey.org/winter>

Thursday, Feb. 16

P.Y.G.'s Kick-off Reception for Chicago Takes Off P.Y.G. (Professional Young Gays) Inc. and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) present a kick-off reception for Chicago Takes Off. The event is free, but please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 13, to events@p-y-g.org to secure your spot today as space is limited. 6pm-9pm, 1-312-675-2105, Shrine Haberdashers, 47 E. Oak St., <http://https://www.facebook.com/pygchicago>; Tickets: <http://shrinestyle.com/events/pygs-pre-cocktail-event/>



HAVE AN ICE DAY

Saturday, Feb. 11

Equality Illinois' "Justice for All" gala will take place at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"Almost 3 weeks since I've had dairy, red meat, wheat, gluten, sugar, alcohol, or caffeine. Lost 15 lbs & lost my mind."—Adam Shankman talks about his diet ... and newly-trim physique.

Normally I'm not a political person ... unless there's a punch line involved. This means, of course, I've watched all of the Republican debates with great interest. Obviously, they're a bunch of boobs, but is that any reason for people to glitter-bomb Mitt Romney? No, I'm not supporting him. That said, I cannot stress how anti-glitter-bombing I am. First, it's kinda silly. But more important, it's annoying. Do any of you like it when you're hot, sweaty, and shirtless on the dance floor, and suddenly little pieces of glitter come flying down from the heavens? I usually bolt the moment I see a flake. Why? Let's just say that I've had more than a few sleepless nights having various unnamed lads plucking glitter out of my nether regions. So, for the love of God, stop the madness.

A little birdie tells me that Regis' replacement on Live will be ... Howie Mandel. Although he's filled in for Reege and has great chemistry with



Jennifer Holliday does it again—Dreamgirls, that is. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Kelly, there was one stumbling block—moving to the Big Apple. I'm told that with America's Got Talent moving to NYC, everything is falling into place quite nicely. In fact, I hear Howie pushed for Howard Stern to be hired for that very reason! Stay tuned.

Brooke Shields made a shocking revelation—so shocking that it even shocked *moi!* Remember when she was dating George Michael? This was after she was dating Michael Jackson, but before she was dating John Travolta. Good God, her gaydar wasn't on the fritz; it was plotting against her.

Well, the Latisse spokesperson (be nice, it's all she has left) recently explained how she and the singer broke up. It was the end of a date, they were in the backseat of a limousine and George asked the chauffeur to drive around for a bit. When he raised the privacy divider, Brooke was sure she was gonna lose her virginity right then and there, in the back of a limo—like she was in some Duran Duran video! As she prepared for the inevitable, GM turned to her and said, "I think we need to take a break. I need to concentrate on my career." And then he dropped her off—and probably did it with the chauffeur. But that's not even the best part. The following year, George released "Careless Whisper." And Brooke was convinced—yes, convinced—that he had written the song about her! I still contend it's about Andrew Ridgeley.

Jennifer Holliday is like Halley's Comet. OK, now everybody... "How is Jennifer Holliday like Halley's Comet?" Because every five years, she

turns up playing Effie White in Dreamgirls! The last time was 2007 in Atlanta, which I rushed to see, figuring it would be my last chance. Well, the joke's on me because Holliday is returning to the teenage role this summer. The place will be The Muny in St. Louis and the dates will be July 16-22. But this time, Jennifer says it will probably be her last: "I don't want to turn into Norma Desmond. ... I have played Effie every five years or so, and I think I can just get away with it one more time." I'm not sure I believe her. When Jennifer Holliday says "I'm not going," I think she means it!

In other theater news, have ya heard who might be taking over the lead in the Broadway production of Sister Act? Raven-Symoné, that's who. Yes, little Olivia from The Cosby Show is rumored to have signed a six-month contract to become the next Deloris Van Cartier starting at the end of March.

Before we get to our question, I must bow to public pressure. Dozens of you e-mailed me bemoaning the fact that you missed Mario Lopez modeling his underwear line on Ellen. Fine. Pics and footage are on BillyMasters.com.

And now, our "Ask Billy" question comes from Keiran in New York: "My roommate was at a film festival in Boston and saw James Franco in The Broken Tower. He told me it has a lot of gay sex. Have you seen it?"

Franco wrote, directed, edited, produced and starred in a biopic about poet Hart Crane called The Broken Tower. If he had sung the love theme, it could have been his Yentl!

Before we get to the film, a bit of history. Crane lived at the beginning of the 20th century and was a devotee of T.S. Elliot. He was one of those tortured alcoholic poets who was destined to die young. Among his many notorious exploits, his last bears mentioning. He was returning to New York from Mexico on a steamer. After hitting on a sailor (his great love was a sailor named Emile, played in the flick by Michael Shannon), he was beaten up and later went overboard. While some thought it could have been a drunken accident, onlookers swear he knew what he was doing. Allegedly, he glanced over his shoulder and said, "Goodbye, everybody." He was 32.

Obviously this had the makings of a provocative film, right? Not in the hands of Mr. Franco. This is one of those indulgent black-and-white art flicks shot as a series of vignettes that gives you a headache. Franco's classic features are evocative of the era and, when he's not speaking, he's effectively brooding. But I know you don't care what's coming out of his mouth—you want to know what's going in. I am happy to report that there is indeed a penis going in and out ... repeatedly. While I don't think he'll give any of my readers a run for their money in the gag-reflex department, James is convincing (when he flips over and bottoms, he's far more realistic). Check it out on BillyMasters.com.

When we can deliver Franco going down and flipping over, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. Did you know that this could be the last year the Oscars are at the Kodak Theatre? With Kodak in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the organization is trying to get out of its 20-year naming contract with the theatre. This coincides with the Oscars considering a move to the twice-as-large and more camera-friendly Nokia Theatre. Just a little extra tidbit for ya.

And there's more where that came from. Just check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that can't keep its mouth shut. If you have a question, just send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Brooke makes some big revelation about her time with Calvin Klein! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

It's fun to play

The Newly Union Game

Saturday February 18th

Join us in GlassBar 3-8pm as we play to Benefit Affinity. Your \$10 donation includes a drink ticket & chances to win door prizes or play to win:

\$20 donation per couple (game prizes include bragging rights & a trip!)

Tickets & Sign up to play at www.affinity95.org

3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

special thanks to our friends at *Stoli*

SIDETRACK

FRIDAY FEB 3RD, 10TH, & 17TH
SEATING @ 7PM, SHOW @ 7:30
INNATEVOLUTION THEATER PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

DOWN WITH LOVE
A CABARET SHOW
FEATURING THE SONGS OF MOTOWN

\$20 (INCLUDES 1 DRINK TICKET FOR WELL, HOUSE WINE OR MILLER DRINKS)

DIRECTED BY TOMA & RAYMOND K CLEVELAND
Musical Direction By Charlotte Rivard-Hoster

CALLING ALL THE LOVERS
FRIDAY FEB 10, 2012

CLUB KYLIE
ALL KYLIE MINOGUE
ALL NIGHT WITH
DJ RILEY YORK

Pu Pu SEASON 4 VIEWING PARTY
MONDAYS @ 8PM WITH ASHLEY MORGAN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18
SEATING @ 8:30 SHOW @ 10PM
ASHLEY MORGAN & CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE PRESENT

STEP BACK IN TIME

A DRAG SHOW BENEFITING GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN IMPACTED BY HIV/AIDS—A PROGRAM OF FCAN

IT'S BRITNEY BITCH
FRIDAY FEB 24
A NIGHT DEDICATED TO THE POP LEGEND

ALL BRITNEY ALL NIGHT
DJ RILEY YORK

the **Call** 1547 W BRYN MAWR @ CLARK ST

Sky basketball launches tribute to Title IX

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Sky women's pro basketball association team launched a season-long, multi-level initiative to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Title IX and how its legislations have impacted women today.

The announcement was made Feb. 1, in conjunction with National Girl and Women in Sports Day, in front of about 50 students, as well as staff and media, at Young Women's Leadership Charter School in Chicago.

The Sky will have dedicated events, programs and exclusive ticket offers, highlighted by the Aug. 17 home game against the Atlanta Dream, which will be, "Women of Inspiration—Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Title IX" at the Allstate Arena.

Also, the Sky will select nine women for a Title IX Team and they will be honored throughout the season, culminating in an awards reception before the August game against Atlanta.

Fans are offered a season-long celebration ticket package for \$40, which includes two tickets to any regular season Sky game and two commemorative Sky Title IX t-shirts.

Plus, through the Sky foundation, Sky Cares, companies and individuals will have the opportunity to sponsor nine girls to attend a 2012 Sky game for \$81.

Sky chairman and minority owner Margaret Stender was among the speakers at the announcement. She shared personal stories of the

impact Title IX had during her basketball-playing days in college, including the night Stender and her teammates were given free team gym shoes, bought by the university, thanks to enforcement of Title IX.

The team chose matching red suede Converse shoes—some high-tops, some low-tops.

"The fact that I got a chance to play, help me find my leadership voice, help me work in a team, help me learn that I could make a difference, and that it was worth it to work hard and have the discipline and determination to put on those red, suede shoes and be a part of that team. That's the power of what Title IX has done," Stender said.

Passed on June 23, 1972 as part of the Education Amendments Act, Title IX requires gender equality for women and men in all educational institutions, public or private, receiving federal funding in 10 key areas, including employment, higher education and athletics.

Amy Skeen, president and CEO of Girls in the Game, spoke at the announcement too, along with former University of Illinois basketball player and Northern Illinois basketball coach Melissa Parker, who is programs director for Girls in the Game.

All discussed how Title IX has impacted their lives, personally and professionally, and the opportunities each was afforded thanks to the passing of Title IX.

The Sky will honor each member of the team individually, starting on June 1, at home games.



Margaret Stender at the announcement. Photo by Tracy Baim

"The Chicago Sky is excited to celebrate Women of Inspiration and the 40th Anniversary of Title IX this season," said Director of Operations and President of Sky Cares Erika Swilley. "Through our season-long initiative we plan to educate and celebrate this milestone with numerous programs and events and can't wait to get started."

Before Title IX, 2 percent of women participated in college sports. Since Title IX was passed in 1972, women's participation has increased 456 percent with over 200,000 women participating in college athletics and 1 in 3 girls playing sports at the high school level. Title IX has paved the way for some of the most influential women athletes of our time, such as Billie Jean King, who beat Bobby Riggs in the famous "battle of the sexes" tennis match and Ann Meyers, the first women to sign a four-year athletic

scholarship with UCLA and the first women to sign a NBA contract with the Indiana Pacers.

As the only all-girls public school in Chicago, the Young Women's Leadership Charter School gives urban girls the tools to excel academically, to graduate from high school, and to get into college. It was an appropriate location for the press conference, and Girls in the Game has started working to provide programming at the facility, on Chicago's Near South Side.

See http://www.ywlc.org/donors/special_events.php for information.

The Sky opens the 2012 season on Saturday night, May 19, against Washington. Chicago's home opener is Friday night, May 25, against Indiana.

See www.wnba.com/sky. More photos from the event are at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

ADVERTISEMENT



*When experience counts...
In service to the community for over 30 years.*

The Law Offices of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates

AVOIDING A WILL CONTEST; THE IRONCLAD WILL - PART III

Although I have advised that everyone, regardless of their age or net worth and even civil union status, should have a will, there are times when a will may not be enough. If one member of an LGBT couple has cancer or another serious illness, there is the possibility that their surviving lover could die within a short time of the first person's death. The end result could be that all the property of the couple would go to the family of the last lover who dies.

There are also times when someone, who as the result of their illness or disability, may need assistance with the management of their money and property during their lifetime. And it may be desirable to avoid probate altogether keeping hostile family members completely shut out.

The way to solve these problems is to include the use of a durable power of attorney and living trust (in addition to having a will) in your estate plan. Basically, durable powers of attorney give your lover or trusted friend the authority to make business and financial decisions, deposit and withdraw money from your bank accounts and sign deeds and other documents while you are alive.

A living trust is a legal arrangement where a person executes a written trust document naming themselves as the trustee of their own trust and while alive they transfer their property to their trust so that the trust can hold legal title to all their assets. The document creating the trust allows the person making the trust (maker) to at any time dissolve the trust or take assets from the trust, always retaining complete control of their property.

The trust document can provide for the appointment of a co-trustee (surviving lover) who would only act upon the death or disability of the maker of the trust. Naming a person as co-trustee allows the maker of the trust to supervise the co-trustee, train him or her in the management of the assets and learn if the co-trustee will be able to manage the trust's assets after the maker's death.

When a living trust is combined with a durable power of attorney as a supplement to a will, there would be nothing to probate as all assets would be owned by the trust and distributed according to the trust without the need for probate and the possibility of a will challenge.

- Bankruptcy
 - Wills, Trusts & Probate
 - Real Estate Closings
 - Civil Unions
- 19 S. LaSalle, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60603

312-263-8800

RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

CMSA holds women's social

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association's (CMSA's) second annual women's social took place Jan. 28 at Joe's on Weed. About 1,000 women attended.

Organizer Sam Hamilton worked closely with CMSA Hall of Fame inductee Marcia Hill to grab sponsors and promote this gathering of CMSA women and friends. CMSA President Shawn Allbritton presented trophies to last year's women's softball champions.

The Hot Mess Band played music while members of the women's football team the Chicago Force were on hand, along with folks from Human Rights Campaign, Equality Illinois, Center on Halsted, The L Stop and other organizations.

Visit www.Chicagomsa.org for more information regarding schedules, teams and opportunities to volunteer. Text by Kathy Guzman from The L Stop with photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more images from the event at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Scenes from the CMSA women's social. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Family Law

Donald B. Boyd, Jr.

- Divorce/Wills/Trusts
- Real Estate Closings
- Civil Unions • LGBT Issues
- Custody Violation • Child Support

Free Initial Consultation
708-848-1005
 232 S. Lathrop Ave. • Forest Park, IL 60130

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available
 Major Credit Cards Accepted



www.BoydDivorce.com

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
 rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com



CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

State Farm®
 Providing Insurance and Financial Services
 Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710




Linda Kuczka, Agent

954 W Webster
 Chicago, IL 60614
 Bus: 773-975-9111
 Fax: 773-975-1192
 linda@lindakuczka.com

P045151 4/04

The Law Offices of Alexander Weaver

312-588-5005
 email: violaw@rcn.com

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
 Suite 628, Chicago



EXCLUSIVE HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.

Chicago's Leading Home Improvement Remodelers
 Over 15 Years' Experience

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Room Additions
- New Construction
- Attics & Basements

(708)743-7792
 info@exclusivehomeimprovement.com
 www.exclusivehomeimprovement.com

Dr. Edward J. Fajardo

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

4633 N. Western Ave., Suite 203
 Chicago, IL 60625
 (312) 623-0502
 EJJFajardo@aol.com

Specializing in Gay-Affirmative Psychotherapy

PARKVIEW PET SUPPLIES

EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
 Chicago, IL 60640

773-561-0001

*Sensible Food
 Sensible Prices*

guaranteedRate®



Elena Peters
 Vice President of Mortgage Lending

P: 773.328.6622 F: 773.328.6561
 C: 312.848.9210
 elena.peters@guaranteedrate.com
 http://www.guaranteedrate.com/ElenaPeters





CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991
 All work done on premise.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

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

Alan Sanchez, CPA, P.C.

Accounting Services
 Tax Consultation/Preparation

3418 North Sheffield Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60657-8589

Telephone 773-871-1256
www.alansanchezcpa.com



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

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

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



773.262.7010
 1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660



SEPTEMBER 19 / UNITED CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY, 2/13 AT 10AM!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LIVENATION.COM, TICKETMASTER.COM,
THE UNITED CENTER BOX OFFICE OR CHARGE-BY-PHONE AT (800) 745-3000

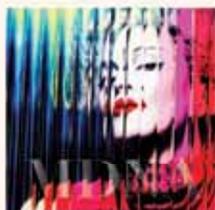
EVERY TICKET PURCHASED RECEIVES A COPY OF MADONNA'S NEW ALBUM MDNA. RULES & RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

FOR VIP PACKAGE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.VIPNATION.COM

FOR ALL NEWS, TOUR AND TICKET INFORMATION AND MORE VISIT:

WWW.MADONNA.COM & WWW.LIVENATION.COM

PRODUCED BY LIVE NATION



IN STORES MARCH 26

PRESALE FOR CITI® CARDMEMBERS
STARTING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH (10AM)

For tickets, visit citiprivatepass.com

Ticket limit per account varies by concert. See www.citiprivatepass.com for details.
Citi and Citi with Arc Design are registered service marks of Citigroup, Inc.

