

REMEMBERING
WHITNEY
HOUSTON

PAGE 23

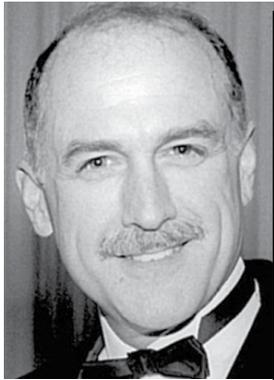


WINDY CITY TIMES

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

FEB. 15, 2012
VOL 27, NO. 19

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



AIDS:
PROFILING
RON SABLE
PAGE 14



MARRIAGE-
EQUALITY
MEASURE FILED
PAGE 8



CHICAGO
AUTO SHOW
PAGE 27



Equality Illinois marks 21 years at gala

Valerie Jarrett speaks at the
2012 Equality Illinois gala.
Photo by Kat Fitzgerald,
www.MysticImagesPhotography.com

BY KATE SOSIN

After a week of national LGBT victories and the introduction of a marriage equality bill in Illinois, Equality Illinois celebrated its 21st year at its "Justice for All" Gala Feb. 12.

More than a 1,300 people attended the sold-out event at the Hilton Chicago hotel, which drew in political and community leaders en masse.

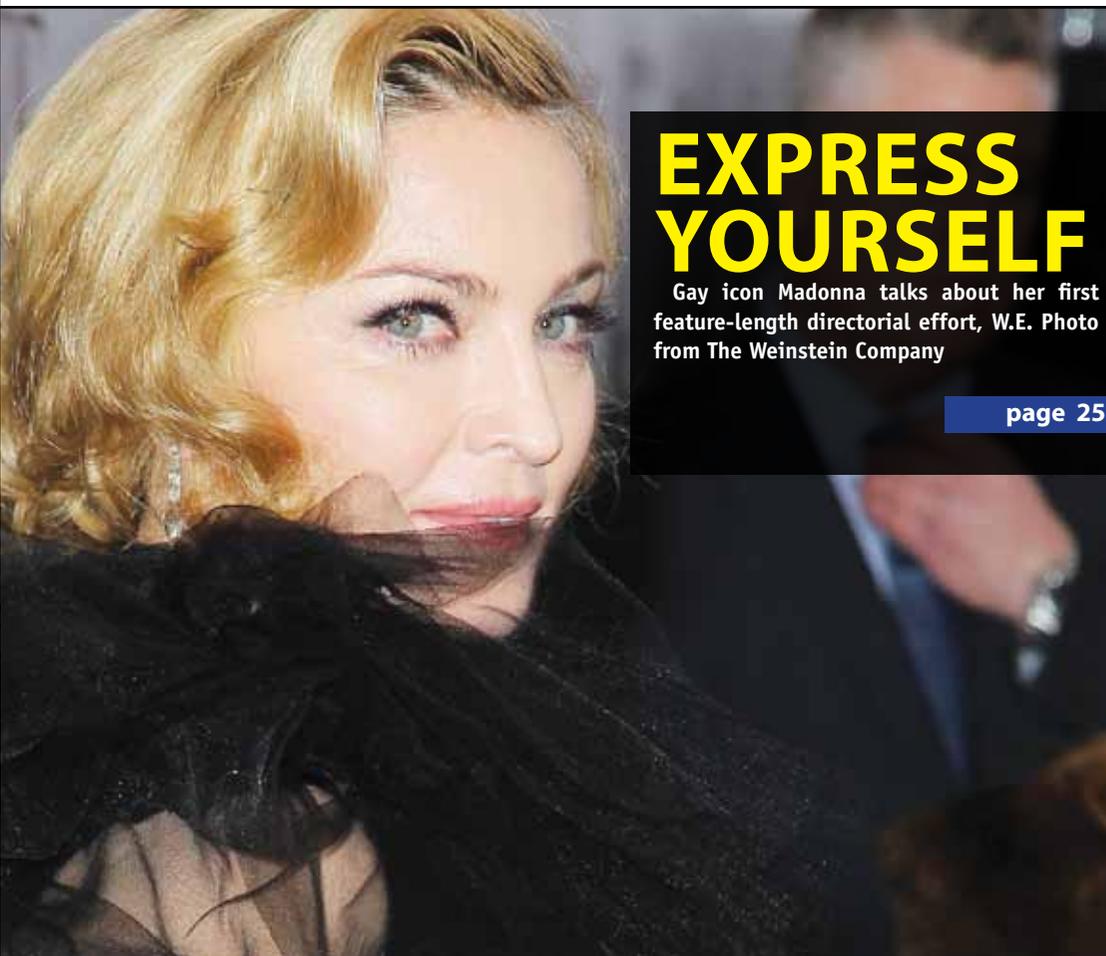
Among them was Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Barack Obama, who delivered the night's keynote address.

While the room buzzed with talk of marriage equality, Jarrett steered clear of the topic of same-sex marriage, which Obama has yet to say he supports. Instead, Jarrett focused on what the president has done to push forward LGBT rights.

"When it comes to the fight for equality ... our union is more perfect than it was three years ago," Jarrett said.

Jarrett listed hospital visitation rights for LGBTs, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the end of the HIV-travel ban, the introduction of the National AIDS Strategy

Turn to page 10

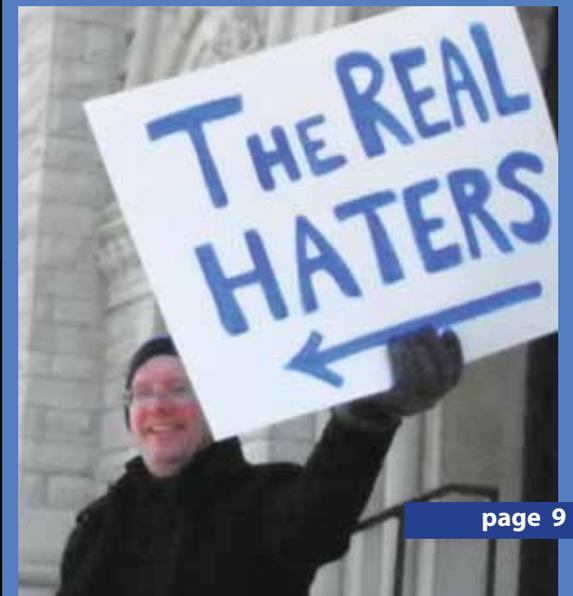


EXPRESS YOURSELF

Gay icon Madonna talks about her first feature-length directorial effort, W.E. Photo from The Weinstein Company

page 25

PROTEST AT HOLY NAME



page 9

At Holy Name Cathedral, LGBT activists held a protest in conjunction with National Freedom to Marry Day. However, anti-gay counterprotesters (such as Peter LaBarbera, above) were present as well. Read more on page 9. Photo by Tracy Baim

See Both
for Only
\$99!

Save \$16! Use Code: LTWCT1*

LILY TOMLIN

Sat, Feb 25 at 5pm & 8pm



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



Offering
OUR HEART PATIENTS
a wide range of the
LATEST TREATMENTS.

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Institute offers the latest heart treatment innovations, including cardiac catheterization and state-of-the-art electrophysiology procedures. And because Illinois Masonic is a community academic medical center, our patients have access to breakthrough treatment methods, medications and clinical trials. It's all about getting you back to your life sooner. **Our hearts beat as one.**

 **Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center**

Inspiring medicine. Changing lives.

Know your risk factors. To find an Advocate physician, call 1.855.ONE.HEART (1.855.663.4327) or visit InspiringMedicine.com/heart



this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Wash., N.J. advance marriage bills	4
Court: Prop 8 unconstitutional	5
Lesbian couple's Obama fundraiser	6
Settlement; Berube panel	7
Marriage bill filed; Rustin tribute	8
Protest at Holy Name Cathedral	9
Equality Illinois gala photos	10
Steinem; T in the Life	12
Gay in the Life	13
AIDS @ 30	14
Viewpoints: Jarrett; letters	16

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	17
High school's 'Laramie Project'	20
POW-WOW profile	21
KATM: Joffrey; Rampart	22
Whitney Houston's obit; reactions	23
Dish: Eduardo's Enoteca, 437 Rush	24
Madonna talks about W.E.	25
Chicago Auto Show pics	27
Billy Masters	29

OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	26
Calendar Q	28
Book on Eleo Sears	30

Photos on cover (left, from top): PR photo of Whitney Houston; late 1980s photo of Dr. Ron Sable by Lisa Howe-Ebright; photo of state Rep. Greg Harris; photo from the 2012 Chicago Auto Show by Andrew Davis



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



TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT

Financial guru Phil Sitar looks at retirement and IRA limits for 2012.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

Read a comprehensive interview with state rep candidate Will Guzzardi.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read about news involving Jesse Tyler Ferguson and the Phantom of the Opera. Also, read an interview with American Idol's Kelvin Moon Loh.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

'RED' RECKONING

See photos from Chicago Windy City Black Pride's "The Color Is Red" gala and DIFFA's fundraiser.

Photo of Jackie Anderson by Ed Negron



Bent Nights looks at concerts by Millie Jackson (above), Estelle and Robert Gordon.

Photo by Vern Hester



See photos from judicial candidate Celia Gamrath's reception at KAFKA Wine.

Photo by Andrew Davis

FEEL THE HEAT



Read about the LGBT-centric hotel known as Lords South Beach.

Photo from Jeff Guaracino

nightspots
Mardi gras and Oscars preview

Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

Victory Gardens' CHAY YEW
Show #456

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

WIN MADONNA TICKETS!

with

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP



WED., SEPT. 19 @ The United Center

See Madonna Sept. 19 at the United Center, touring in support of her new album MDNA. Tickets on sale Mon., Feb. 13 at 10 am. Every ticket purchased receives a copy of MDNA!

For tickets: www.livenation.com

TWO WAYS TO WIN!

CLICKTOWIN!

ENTER TO WIN one pair of tickets by sending an email with "MADONNA" in the subject line to

click2win@hotmail.com

by Mon., Mar. 12 to be entered.

Winner will be selected at random from all entries and will be notified via email. One entry per person, please.



LIKETOWIN!

TO WIN: Simply find us at

[facebook.com/WindyCityMediaGroup](https://www.facebook.com/WindyCityMediaGroup) and "like" our page by Mon., Mar. 12.

Winner will be chosen at random from all page fans and will be notified via Facebook.

Washington governor signs marriage law; N.J. Senate passes bill

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In a sometimes emotional ceremony Feb. 13, Washington state Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the newly passed marriage-equality bill, telling a crowd at the state House that it means same-sex couples "will no longer be separate but equal" in Washington but simply equal.

The ceremony took place just hours after the New Jersey Senate voted 24-16 to pass a marriage-equality law there. The New Jersey bill now goes to the Assembly, which is expected to pass it Feb. 16. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, has made it known he intends to veto the bill. The legislature is not expected to muster the 27 votes in the Senate and 54 in the Assembly to overcome that veto.

The Washington state bill also has its hurdles ahead, too. Opponents are expected to mount an effort to force the bill into a referendum, an action that, if successful, could either kill or delay implementation of the new law until December.

However, during the Feb. 13 signing ceremony, the mood was determined and upbeat.

Gregoire told the audience of a 16-year-old lesbian who wrote to her recently saying she had considered suicide but had been given renewed hope by passage of the marriage equality bill.

She said she had been overwhelmed with response to the bill, both from young people and couples who had been together for many years.

"I am so proud of our young people, including my two wonderful daughters," said Gregoire, her voice choking with emotion. Gregoire said her daughters, ages 27 and 32, told her that "this is the civil-rights issue of their time."

Washington became the ninth state to have approved marriage equality—either through the legislature (five states), the courts (two) or both (two). Two of those states (California and Maine) had their laws reversed by voters, so Washington—if it rejects the expected repeal effort—will become the seventh state, plus the District of Columbia, to provide marriage equality. (California's law was reversed after being in effect only six months. Enactment of Maine's law was delayed, pending the referendum vote.)

The marriage-equality bill passed the Washington House Feb. 8 55-43, overturning an existing law to ban same-sex marriage. It passed the Senate 28-21 Feb. 1.

According to the Washington secretary of state's office, the law is due to take effect June 7, but opponents of the law have until June 6 to turn in more than 120,000 signatures. If they do turn in signatures, the law will be suspended until either voters can weigh in on the measure in November or until the Secretary of State certifies that too few signatures passed the validation process. If the latter occurs, the law would take effect immediately (probably sometime in July).

State Rep. Jamie Pederson, sponsor of the bill in the House, thanked the governor for taking "a significant risk" to support the legislation and for being the governor to do "the most in U.S. history" to advance the cause of equal rights for LGBT people. Gregoire also signed a state law in 2006, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. She also signed a bill in 2007 establishing domestic partnerships and a bill in 2009 giving same-sex couples "everything but marriage."

State Sen. Ed Murray, who sponsored the marriage-equality bill in the Senate, welcomed the gathered audience to the "other side of



Washington state Gov. Chris Gregoire.

the rainbow." He thanked "courageous legislators, Democrat and Republican" who supported the bill despite the potential for backlash. And he, like Pederson, gave the lion's share of credit for the bill's passage to Gregoire, who received prolonged applause and the chanting of "Thank you," from the crowd.

A Washington pastor, Ken Hutcherson of the Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, has already vowed a referendum on the measure, as has the National Organization for Marriage.

National Organization for Marriage leader Brian Brown told CBN that "we're going to be able to get the signatures very quickly."

State law requires that more than 120,000 signatures be gathered to put an issue on the ballot. And while Brown and many others believe a referendum is likely this November, marriage equality supporters believe Washington voters will reject it.

However, proponents of the law expressed confidence that voters would sustain the measure, if it is put to a vote in November.

"The wide margins by which the marriage equality bill passed both the House and the Senate demonstrates the rapidly growing support in the State of Washington for ending state sanctioned discrimination in the issuance of marriage licenses," said Josh Friedes, marriage equality director for the statewide gay political group Equal Rights Washington (ERW). ERW is part of a large coalition of groups seeking marriage equality in the state that includes the Human Rights Campaign, the ACLU, Planned Parenthood Northwest, NARAL, the National Organization for Women, and numerous unions, Jewish and religious groups, and groups working for the rights of minorities.

Gregoire, a Democrat, began her second term as governor in 2009 and would be up for reelection this year. However, she announced last June that she would not seek office again. She survived breast cancer (diagnosed in 2003) and said her decision was a personal one, but she added that her retirement was motivated by a desire to focus her remaining months in office on addressing the state's recession.

The Washington bill, like marriage-equality bills in other states, includes generous excep-

tions for religious institutions to refuse to accommodate services to same-sex couples that marry.

The measure 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.

©2012 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS

—Lesbian couple Tyler/Olson divorcing

—Rachel Maddow (left) responds to Fox pundit's comments

—"Don't Say Gay" bill on tap this week

Family Equality Council honors AFER's Griffin

Family Equality Council—the national organization that connects, supports and represents LGBT parents—honored several advocates of family equality at the organization's annual awards dinner in Los Angeles Feb. 11.

The event honored children's book author Todd Parr; Chad Griffin, co-founder and board president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights (which is behind the legal case against Prop 8); and former Congressman Patrick Murphy. Director Rob Reiner and Eric Stonestreet (the other half of the Modern Family couple) were among the awards presenters.

The plaintiffs in the case—Kris and Sandy Stier, and Paul Katami and Jeff Zarillo—were special guests for the evening.

Family Equality Council Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler said the organization was pleased to honor Griffin just days after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

Griffin said, "May the 2 million children represented by the Family Equality Council be part of the generation to be raised in an America where everyone is guaranteed equal protection under our laws." Photos courtesy of Steve Majors



Chad Griffin at the AFER event. Photo courtesy of Steve Majors

Google's CPAC sponsorship stirs controversy

More than 25,000 people have joined a popular campaign on Change.org calling on Google to publicly reject the viewpoints of speakers at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), according to a press release.

Google was among the conference's top sponsors, having donated at least \$20,000 to the gathering.

Atlanta resident Aimee Castenell started the campaign. "Growing up in the South, I heard my parents' stories about life under Jim Crow laws that limited their opportunities," said Castenell. "They were terrorized by hate and racism. Even a simple trip to the grocery store could be filled with degradations from people who saw my family as second-class citizens."

Castenell's campaign pointed to a number of CPAC 2012 speakers with a history of white-supremacist or anti-gay activity.

Rights group: More attention needed on anti-gay bills

Human Rights First has condemned legislative efforts introduced recently in Uganda and Russia that aim to discriminate and persecute LGBTI individuals, according to a Feb. 8 press release. The group notes that from Kampala to Saint Petersburg, lawmakers around the world are trying to limit the rights of their own citizens who are gay.

"While gay rights are generally advancing globally, more efforts must be made to push back against new restrictions that represent a backlash from those on the side of bigotry and intolerance," said Human Rights First's Paul LeGendre. "Our partners on the ground are telling us that the Ugandan bill was re-introduced in Parliament yesterday, and just this morning, legislators in Saint Petersburg passed a widely supported 'Anti-Propaganda' Bill targeting the LGBTI community."

LGBT Narcotics Anon. meetings at Haymarket

Narcotics Anonymous meetings for LGBT individuals will take place Mondays 8-9 p.m. at Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon.

For more info, call Anthony Oltean at 312-208-4021.

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.

LGBT groups respond to Prop 8 ruling:

—Jon Davidson, legal director of Lambda Legal: "This ruling foreshadows the ultimate fate of other states in the Ninth Circuit like Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Hawaii that refuse to recognize the equal dignity of same-sex couples and their families by shunting them off into second-class statuses like domestic partnerships or civil unions. The tide is not turning; it has turned; and we are glad to see the Ninth Circuit join the right side of history."

—Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois: "In addition to the dignity and respect marriage equality grants loving and committed couples, it ensures security and critical safety net protections for all married couples and their families. While we support the implementation of civil unions in Illinois in 2011, it still falls short of achieving full marriage equality on the state level and does little to guarantee the federal rights and privileges that marriage provides

opposite-sex couples. With this ruling, political leaders who support full equality will have important arguments to share with state legislators who will inevitably be asked to vote on full marriage rights in the future."

—Kate Kendell, Esq., executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights: "It is a unique and honored position to be an eyewitness to history. The Ninth Circuit's ruling finding that Proposition 8 violates the Constitution of this nation marks the first time a federal appellate court has held that a law excluding same-sex couples from the right to marry runs counter to our highest ideals of equality and fairness. With today's ruling we are a giant step closer to the day when the promise of our Constitution squares with the lived reality of LGBT people."

—U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.: "This historic decision is a major step forward in the



Kate Kendell. Photo by Erica Demarest

march toward equality for all Americans. It's a great day for the millions of Californians who deserve the same rights and recognition as every other family in our state."

—Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council: "Today's decision heartens and gives hope to the 15,698 loving couples in California who are raising more than 30,000 children. They, like all Americans, understand that while love makes a family, there is no denying that marriage strengthens it. These parents have raised their children to love their country, support their friends and treat their neighbors with respect. Now they only ask for the fundamental American freedom to demonstrate their love and commitment to their family through marriage. We join them in looking forward to the day when we can win the freedom to marry for them and all Americans."

—Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda: "I am very pleased that the Ninth Circuit upheld Judge Walker's earlier ruling. We applaud the work of the American Foundation for Equal Rights and all of the other organizations and individuals who have worked so hard for this outcome. Although, this ruling does not affect our laws in Illinois, it is still very significant for Illinoisans, in that it will only aid our progress toward full and equal civil rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation. We at TCRA will continue to fight for marriage equality here in Illinois because that is full and equal treatment under the law."

Justice for All
2012 EQUALITY ILLINOIS GALA

Thank You

THE EQUALITY ILLINOIS BOARD AND STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GALA COMMITTEE,
CORPORATE SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS AND MOST OF ALL,
OUR GUESTS FOR BEING A PART OF THE
2012 EQUALITY ILLINOIS GALA: JUSTICE FOR ALL

GOLD SPONSORS
KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP, McDermott Will & Emery, OMNIBUS, SIDE TRACK

SILVER SPONSORS
Hilton Chicago, MillerCoors, SEYFARTH SHAW, SIDLEY, Walgreens

BRONZE SPONSORS
CLARK HILL, GreenbergTraurig, HINSHAW, JENNER & BLOCK, MCGUIRE WOODS

MEDIA SPONSORS
NEAL GERBER EISENBERG, nielsen, Quaker/Brady, SCHEFFHARDIN, sitercity.com, Skadden

BEVERAGE SPONSORS
Stolichnaya Vodka, Bacardi, Bailey's, Countreau, Don Julio, Hendrick's Gin, Jack Honey, Johnny Walker, LaMarca Prosecco, Remy Martin

Lesbian couple hosts D.C. event for Obama

Dr. Nan Schaffer and Karen Dixon, a married couple formerly of Chicago, hosted a \$35,800-per-person LGBT fundraiser for President Obama's reelection campaign Feb. 9 in their Washington, D.C. home.

Chicago Cubs owner Laura Ricketts, also a lesbian, introduced the president at the event, which raised about \$1.4 million from the estimated 40 people in attendance. Ricketts said the event was being held "to show the president that the LGBT community stands strongly behind his reelection," according to a White House reported filed by print pool reporter David Boyer. "I know the president stands with us," she said.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was also at the fundraiser.

Chicagoans Fred Eychaner, Wally Brewster and

be starker. As the President stated at the event, fairness is 'at the heart of the American Dream.' In the LGBT community—that is all we've ever sought."

Andrew Harmon of The Advocate reported that other event hosts were David Bohnett, former U.S. Ambassador James Hormel, Henry van Ameringen, Tim Gill and Scott Miller.

David Boyer, the pool reporter covering the event for print media, reported that an official said the money would go to Obama Victory Fund, a joint committee authorized by Obama for America and the Democratic National Committee.

Outlines is the newspaper that covered Obama in 1996 during his first run for office, when he expressed his full support of same-sex marriage. So it is ironic that Schaffer hosted Obama in her



Nan Schaffer (left) and Karen Dixon. Photo by Tracy Baim

his partner, Bob Satawake—who coordinated the dinner—all attended as well. Ricketts, Satawake and Brewster are LGBT co-chairs of the re-election campaign.

Schaffer is a veterinarian who specializes in rhino insemination techniques. She is a minority shareholder in Windy City Media Group. Schaffer co-founded Outlines newspaper in Chicago in 1987 (with this reporter), and Outlines purchased and merged with Windy City Times in 2000. Windy City Times is owned by Windy City Media Group.

Dixon is an attorney and serves on the national board of Lambda Legal, a legal organization working for the rights of LGBTs.

The couple are well-known in Chicago for their support of LGBT causes.

Schaffer and Dixon were legally wed in Vancouver in 2008, and held a "Celebration of Marriage" with hundreds of friends and family later that summer in Chicago.

"It was an honor and privilege to host President Obama and many of the esteemed leaders of the LGBT community in our home for this historic event," Schaffer and Dixon said. "The Obama presidency has marked a decisive positive change in the advancement and standing of the LGBT community, which is unprecedented in the history of this country. Every American that values fairness must utilize the resources at their disposal to ensure that President Obama serves a second term. Many of our basic human rights are at stake in this election and the contrast between Barack Obama's leadership and the Republican frontrunners' agenda could not

home some 16 years later, when he is "evolving" on his positions, perhaps closer to his original full support of same-sex marriage.

Schaffer was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2004. As reported on the Hall of Fame Website, Schaffer's LGBT philanthropy began when she moved to Chicago in 1981: "In the years since, she has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to causes, political candidates, and organizations such as IMPACT, Equality Illinois, Horizons Community Services, Center on Halsted, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Open Hand Chicago, Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Howard Brown Health Center, About Face Theatre, Gerber/Hart Library, and Windy City Media Group."

Horizons honored Schaffer with its Human First Award in 1995.

The Hall of Fame also noted: "As a veterinary doctor, Schaffer is internationally renowned as the foremost expert on rhinoceroses and reproduction. During more than two decades, she has published numerous articles in academic journals and has lectured around the world on dwindling rhinoceros and other mammalian populations and how to preserve them through reproductive management." She founded SOS Rhino to help protect the animals.

Schaffer told one interviewer: "One of the great tragedies of the 21st century will be humanity's homogeneity. Everywhere, everything will be the same. That which we could not tame or imitate will be gone. No matter how hard we try, we cannot 'build' nature. We can build an-

other bridge, paint another picture, but we cannot make another rhino. Look into a really wild animal's eyes. When the wild things have gone, we will lose our place, our way; for whose eyes will we look into to find our humility, our humanity?"

In part, Obama said, "The work that we've done with respect to the LGBT community, I think, is just profoundly American and is at the heart of who we are." The entire text of his speech is at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Former-Chicagoans-host-14-million-fundraiser-for-](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Former-Chicagoans-host-14-million-fundraiser-for-Obama-in-DC/36103.html)

[Obama-in-DC/36103.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Schaffer-and-Dixon-wedding/18860.html).

Photos of Schaffer and Dixon's 2008 wedding at Chicago's Drake Hotel are at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Schaffer-and-Dixon-wedding/18860.html. A video interview with the couple for the Chicago Gay History project is at www.chicagogayhistory.com/biography.html?id=625.

Also see: "Obama once backed full gay marriage, Windy City Times releases 1996 survey answers," www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=20229.

Report: Obama order would protect millions

A new study says that a federal executive order that requires contractors to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity would protect up to 16.5 million more workers than are already protected by state or private anti-discrimination policies, according to a press release.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law is publishing the study, entitled "The Impact of Extending Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Requirements to Federal Contractors."

"This study highlights both the powerful impact of a federal policy that prohibits LGBT discrimination, as well as the continued progress already made toward protecting LGBT workers through state law and voluntary corporate policies," said the study's author, M.V. Lee Badgett, Williams Institute Research director and professor of economics and director of the Center for Public Policy & Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Currently, state laws or private policies already protect 61 percent of federal contractor employees from sexual orientation discrimination and 41 percent from gender identity discrimination.

For more information on this study, visit www.williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Badgett-EOImpact-Feb-20121.pdf.

Dept. of State comments on anti-gay Russian law

At a Feb. 8 press briefing, the state department responded to an inquiry regarding an anti-gay law proposed in Russia.

The question was, "What is the State Department's response to reports stating the St. Petersburg city authorities have placed a ban on the reading, discussion or dissemination of anything relating to LGBT issues?"

The department responded, "We are concerned by proposed local legislation in Russia that would severely restrict freedoms of expression and assembly for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and indeed all Russians. As Secretary Clinton has said, gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.

"We have called on Russian officials to safeguard these freedoms, and to foster an environment which promotes respect for the rights of all citizens.

"We have also consulted with our EU partners on this issue. They share our concerns and are also engaging Russian officials on this.

"The United States places great importance on combating discrimination against the LGBT community and all minority groups."

SLDN responds to marriage-equality bill

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis re-

leased a statement regarding the introduction of new legislation that would ban same-sex marriage on military installations and require new regulations related to chaplains and other military personnel.

"Here they go again with another round of resistance tactics that have already been rejected by Congress and the American people," said Sarvis. "There is no need for the so-called 'protections' in this bill or the proposed regulations. No chaplain today is being required or pressured to marry anyone, straight or gay. Period. The bill's ban on use of military facilities and chaplains officiating at ceremonies for gay and lesbian service members is nothing more than plain, old-fashion discrimination. There is no place for that prejudice in our armed forces or in our country."

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., introduced the measure.

Boystown nightspot Cocktail reopens

BY KATE SOSIN

After months of being shuttered, Lakeview bar Cocktail celebrated its grand reopening Feb. 10.

The bar has been closed since late November due to overdue sales taxes. Owners John "Geno" Zaharakis and Dusty Hoffman had hoped to reopen the bar in early December and then January but finally set a date in February when their funding came through.

The bar's liquor license had been revoked in August over a failure to pay sales taxes but Cocktail reopened soon after, only to be closed again for overdue taxes.

The multiple closings prompted rumors that the bar would close, which Zaharakis repeatedly said was untrue.

The tax troubles came in the middle of a bitter legal battle between Cocktail, its landlord, the building's management company and two former employees. Cocktail alleges that landlord Robert Brumbaugh is conspiring with the former employees to destroy Cocktail and take it over to open their own business. Brumbaugh has declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Cocktail has been in Lakeview since 1996.

Jackhammer closed through Feb. 16

The gay nightspot Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., will be closed through Thursday, Feb. 16, to finalize plumbing repairs.

The bar is slated to reopen Friday, Feb. 17.

Reception for lesbian judicial candidate Feb. 19

A reception for lesbian judicial candidate Mary Trew will take place Sunday, Feb. 19, 2-4 p.m., at the William H. Copeland House, 400 Forest Ave., Oak Park.

The suggested donation is \$100.

RSVP by Feb. 16 to 400ForestCoffee@comcast.net.

City settles with Iraq War protesters

BY ERICA DEMAREST

After nearly nine years of litigation, the city of Chicago reached a \$6.2-million settlement Feb. 9 with more than 800 protesters who were wrongfully detained at a 2003 Iraq War protest.

"It's a victory, and hopefully it closes a chapter on this shameful episode in Chicago's history," said Joey Mogul, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers. "We're hopeful the ruling will be followed and will continue to protect people's rights to protest."

On March 20, 2003, more than 10,000 people gathered in downtown Chicago to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq, shutting down Lake Shore Drive in the process. Police allowed the protesters to convene without a permit, then proceeded to trap demonstrators at Chicago and Michigan, making more than 500 arrests and 350 detainments. Protesters were never told to disperse or allowed to leave.

Attorneys at the People's Law Office organized a class action lawsuit against the city of Chicago, seeking damages for what Mogul labeled as "severe" trauma.

"What was striking about [the incident] was that men, in their arrest reports, were charged with blocking vehicular and pedestrian traffic, while women had a completely different set of allegations," Mogul said. "Police accused all the women of blocking the emergency room entrance to Northwestern Hospital on Chicago Avenue, even though no such entrance even exists. It was a really interesting use of the gender binary that I've never seen before in any criminal cases."

Last year, the lawsuit got a boost when federal appellate Justice Richard Posner ruled that police did not have the right to detain peaceful protesters without issuing clear orders to disperse.

Under the Feb. 9 settlement, people who were arrested, charged and detained could receive payouts of up to \$15,000; those who were arrested and released without being charged are eligible for up to \$8,750; and those who were detained by police on the street would receive up to \$500.

The ruling comes as city officials gear up for impending G-8 and NATO summits, which are expected to draw tens of thousands of protesters.



Joey Mogul.

On Feb. 8, the City Council overwhelmingly approved Mayor Emanuel's new protest ordinances, which increase permit fees and fines. And Chicago Police Supt. Garry McCarthy told the Chicago Sun-Times police have learned from past mistakes.

"If you were paying attention to the way that the Chicago Police Dept. handled Occupy Chicago, there were very clear warnings given," McCarthy said. "They were [recorded] so that they're on tape, so that we can say, 'Yes, we have issued these warnings.' And then people received individual warnings. So we've certainly learned the lessons of the past as far as moving forward and what it is we need to do."

The city has already paid more than \$300,000 to plaintiffs who sued for police brutality on the night in question, Mogul said. Among those who settled was recently deceased LGBT and AIDS activist John Pennycuff, who received \$22,500 for physical injuries he sustained.

Mogul urges those who were arrested or detained to contact the People's Law Office at peopleslaw@aol.com or 773-235-0070.

Panel discusses gay historian Alan Berube at the Center

BY TYLER GILLESPIE

The Crossroads Fund hosted an installment of its Reading Change book series at the Center on Halsted Feb. 8.

At the event, a panel of speakers discussed the writings of gay activist and historian Alan Berube included in the anthology *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*, which John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman put together after Berube's death.

Berube is best-known for his work, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II*. He died in 2007.

"Berube started writing about gay history when very few people were talking or writing about gay history," said event moderator Jean Kracher, executive director of the Crossroads Fund.

The three celebrated activists on the panel—John D'Emilio, Kim Hunt and Tania Uzueta—talked about Berube's writing, which dealt with the intersection of race, class and sexuality.

"Besides the historical work," said panelist and anthology editor John D'Emilio, "the experience of meeting working class men that were like him kind of led [Berube] to understand contemporary politics in different ways."

Berube's essay "How Gay Stays White and What Kind of White it Stays" was the main piece the panel discussed. In the essay Berube wrote, "I want to know why I and other gay white men would want to challenge the racist structures of whiteness, what happens to us when we try, what makes me keep running away from the task, sometimes in silent despair, and what makes me want to go back to take up the task again."

The essay gave an analysis of oppression, including race, class and gender.

"Because of his examination of his whiteness, Berube is really an ally to LGBT people of color," said Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity, a social-justice organization.

"We have to recognize that we are not a monolithic community," said Hunt. "Berube examined his whiteness in the context of the community...[I]t's easy to not look at nuance. Berube helped me connect with that in a different way."

The next installment of the Crossroads Fund Reading Change book series will take place March 21 at Hyde Park Arts Center, 5020 S. Cornell Ave., 6-8 p.m.

The event will feature Red Missed Aches author Jennifer Tamayo and will be a night of poetry, spoken word and performance.

The Reading Change book series is being held to commemorate 30 years of work by the Crossroads Fund.

For more information on the Crossroads Fund reading series, visit www.crossroadsfund.org/readingchange.

LGBT section now on state tourism site

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has announced that the state's tourism website has a new section for LGBT travelers.

Pride Illinois: Your Guide to LGBT Travel (www.enjoyillinois.com) has sections such as "Play," "Eat," "Shop" and "Stay." The sections cover items in such regions of the state such as Great Rivers Country and Land of Lincoln in addition to Chicago.

The site also provides information about civil unions as well as pride parades/events.

There is also a list of LGBT resources that includes organizations such as Center on Halsted, The Civil Rights Agenda and Equality Illinois; offices such as the Illinois Department of Human Rights; the Chicago Pride Directory; and publications, including Windy City Times.



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.

Ameriprise
Financial

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.

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

Legislators file marriage-equality bill

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois state representatives have filed a much-anticipated marriage equality bill, HB5170, in the Illinois General Assembly, local LGBT groups announced Feb. 8.

Reps. Greg Harris, Deb Mell and Kelly Cassidy have introduced the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which would allow same-sex couples to marry in Illinois.

"We commend these leaders for taking yet another step towards full equality for lesbian and



State Rep. Greg Harris.

gay families in Illinois, and we are grateful to them for their leadership. This is just the beginning; the road to marriage equality is sure to be long, but it is one that we must travel together," said LGBT organization Equality Illinois in a statement.

However, Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov warned that the road to the bill's passage will be far from easy.

"I really do think we will have marriage equality within the near future," Cherkasov said, but added, "I don't think it's going to pass tomorrow."

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), expressed similar sentiments.

"Marriage has always been one of the principal goals for our organization and we are pleased to finally be able to move forward towards achieving that goal," he said in a statement.

Martinez said the timing is exciting, with the news coming just a day after California's anti-marriage equality amendment Proposition 8 being ruled unconstitutional. Still, Martinez told Windy City Times that the Illinois bill would not likely pass this time around.

"People need to understand that this is not a slam dunk," he said. "We have work to do."

Harris has introduced similar bills in years past, all of which failed. This year, may be no different, said activists.

However, Cherkasov added that marriage bills have often been introduced alongside civil union legislation, giving lawmakers the option to choose between the two. Civil unions were less controversial and easier to pass, he said. But the advent of civil unions has shown that "separate but equal" has failed, said Cherkasov.

"What we know now about civil unions is that they haven't worked to provide full equality," he said.

People in same-sex civil unions have reported many circumstances in which they were denied

recognition this year in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Revenue originally announced that civil union spouses could not file taxes jointly because Illinois filings are required to match federal filings. Due to the Defense of Marriage Act, same-sex couples cannot file jointly at the federal level. The Department of Revenue later reversed that decision after pressure from LGBT advocates.

A group of lawmakers that also included Ann Williams, Sara Feigenholtz and state Sen. Heather Steans began talks in January over the latest marriage legislation.

Gender-identity amendment filed in Illinois

BY KATE SOSIN

State Rep. Kelly Cassidy has introduced a bill in the general assembly that aims to add gender identity to pre-existing hate-crimes law.

HB4725 would amend the hate crimes criminal code to include gender identity in addition to military status and immigration status. The bill was filed Feb. 3 after months of talks with local LGBT activists. Also sponsoring the bill are Reps. Greg Harris, Deb Mell and Edward Acevedo.

"Trans individuals face extreme and pervasive discrimination in everyday life," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda. "This is an extremely important bill for the transgender community."

Current Illinois hate-crime laws already cover sexual orientation. The proposed amendment would add protections for those who are targeted for being perceived as transgender or gender-variant.

The bill may not win the support of the entire transgender community, as some local and national transgender-rights groups argue that hate-crimes legislation misplaces trust in the criminal legal system.

Windy City Times will update as details become available.

Performances honor Rustin at Center

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Brothers OUTLive celebrated the life and legacy of the late gay civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin at the Center on Halsted Feb. 9.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s right-hand man and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, Rustin is an often-overlooked leader of the civil-rights movement.

"We often don't talk about African-American sexuality. Everything is heterosexual and anything that [deviates] from that is kind of hush-hush and pushed under the table," said Precious Davis, emcee of the event and youth outreach coordinator at the Center on Halsted. "I think that's another reason that Bayard's work isn't talked about, because he was a homosexual man."

This year marks the centennial of Rustin's birth, and Brothers OUTLive honored him at its inaugural event with spoken-word and musical performances by Marshall Titus, Nhojj, Tim West, Keith Romell and Ra Perre' Shelton.

When West and Nhojj moved to Chicago, Titus suggested they form a collaborative performing arts project, which evolved into Brothers OUTLive.

"As a collective of three artists, we want to



Ra Perre' Shelton. Photo by Terrence Chappell

explore issues in an entertainment venue," said West, Brothers OUTLive organizer and youth outreach coordinator at the Center on Halsted. "If you put music to it, you can still a lot of consciousness raising."

While still in the beginning stages, Brothers OUTLive organizers hope to host similar events

PASSAGES

David 'Hamilton' Baime

BY KATE SOSIN

David "Hamilton" Baime, the man whose piano versions of the five U.S. Armed Service songs became the soundtrack for LGBT veterans in Chicago, died Feb. 10 at the age of 51.

Baime, a longtime figure in Chicago's gay community, was best known for his role behind a piano, where he spent many nights parodying gay anthems and donating his time to American Veterans for Equal Rights



David "Hamilton" Baime. Photo by Jim Darby

(AVER) events. Most knew Baime as "David Hamilton," a stage name he created using his mother's maiden name.

"I can only say good things about David Hamilton," said Jim Darby, president of AVER.

Baime grew up playing his mother's piano. He never took lessons or learned to read music well. Rather, he played piano almost entirely by ear.

"David said that from the time he was little, he couldn't get away from the piano," said Bruce Inman, a longtime close friend.

Professionally, Baime made his living as an electrical engineer in Elk Grove Village, a career he excelled in and at made good money doing. But his life's work was behind the keys of his piano.

Inman said he seldom turned down a gig, and he often donated his talents. He played at AVER dinners and other events for free, and he made a recording of the five service songs at Darby's request that is still used for AVER events.

throughout the year.

"The desire is to create something to the effect of Lollapalooza, where you're able to bring other Black, out performers or gay friendly performers that speak to the LGBT community to perform and create events that bring people together," said Titus. "There's not many things that bring people to one space for music, spoken word or art where there's a conversation, giving people a reason to interact with each other."

The event was also aimed at raising awareness around HIV infection rates in the Black men who have sex with men community by partnering with Our Voices Advocating for Health, a Center on Halsted program designed to address significant gaps in substance abuse and HIV prevention services in Chicago.

Youth in the center's outreach program watched Brother Outsider, a biographical film about Rustin's life, in conjunction with the celebration.

"There are not a lot of cultural events on the North Side of Chicago," said Davis. "We have to create the precedent, regarding LGBT culture specifically, by recording art."

He also performed regularly at bars like Dandy's, The Legacy 21 and Club 7301.

Friends remember Baime as a man of integrity and humor. He could make up songs on the spot and would sometimes craft vulgar parodies on popular songs for his audiences.

"There was a deep wit and charm about him," Inman remembered. "He was so alluring. When you got in his presence, you just didn't want to leave it."

Baime spent most of his life in Oak Park, not far from where he grew up.

In recent months, his health deteriorated, and he passed in the early morning hours on Feb. 10.

In addition to being a passionate musician, Baime felt strongly about animal rights. Donations on Baime's behalf may be made to the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago.

The Bagel owner remembered months after passing

BY KATE SOSIN

Michael Golenzer, a man who spent his life running a Boystown eatery that's considered an institution, passed away in July 2011 without much notice from Chicago's LGBT community. Golenzer, 72, he co-owned The Bagel, the Jewish deli and Lakeview fixture.

More than six months after his passing, friends and family remember Golenzer as a man deeply committed to traditional food and customer service before the idea meant forced conversation.

Golenzer was born in 1939. In 1950, while he was still just a boy, his family got into the deli businesses. Golenzer grew up in the family businesses and came to co-own it with his nephew, Danny Wolf. His family started the business at Kedzie and Lawrence, later expanding to Devon Ave. and Skokie. Today, the family retains the Skokie location and the one in Lakeview at 3107. N Broadway.

Golenzer's life work was in carrying on family Jewish traditions at the deli, said Wolf. He loved the work.

"It was a big part of his life," Wolf said, noting that Golenzer loved socializing with customers.

Golenzer's name still appears on the bagel website on a note about the deli's history.

Golenzer is survived by his wife of 46 years, Haya; his two children, Ellie Alexakos and Marty Golenzer; and six grandchildren.

LGBTs protest outside Holy Name Cathedral

BY KATE SOSIN

Despite a blistering cold morning, more than 20 LGBT activists protested outside Holy Name Cathedral Feb. 12, a demonstration held in conjunction with National Freedom to Marry Day.

The protest, held every year outside the church around Valentine's Day, carried special weight this year after, last December, Catholic Cardinal Francis George compared the annual Pride Parade to a Ku Klux Klan gathering.

The pro-gay protesters were greeted by a counterprotest of approximately 10 people on the steps of the cathedral who came bearing signs that read "one man, one woman."

Protesters marched outside the church for more than an hour, chanting "Equal rights for everybody" and "Stop politicizing love."

"This is not an anti-Catholic demonstration," said Andy Thayer of Gay Liberation Network, one of the groups that organized the protest. "This is a demonstration against the Catholic leadership."



Anti-gay counterprotester Peter LaBarbera at Holy Name. Photo by Kate Sosin

While some chanted that George was a "bigot" and "archbigot," others expressed discomfort with the intensity of that message or simply greeted parishioners exiting church rather than chanting.

Blane Roberts of Dignity/Chicago, which also sponsored the protest, wished parishioners a good morning and shook hands with those exiting the church.

"We believe that we're all God's children," Roberts said, adding that Dignity had come to recognize George's apology for his KKK remarks but also challenge him on gay issues.

Activists from Rainbow Sash Movement (RSM) also sponsored the event. Executive Director Joe Murray said that RSM had come to show support for marriage equality and women's healthcare issues.

"We're witnessing the politicizing of theology," Murray said.

The protest fell on the same day that a statement from George opposing President Obama's birth-control insurance policy was read in Catholic churches throughout the city.

But largely, the demonstration focused on marriage equality, with activists noting that just days before, Illinois lawmakers had submitted a marriage-equality bill to the General Assembly. Activists have acknowledged that passing such a bill this year might be a long shot, but many expressed hope that 2012 could be the year for marriage equality in Illinois.

"I look forward to marrying the love of my life in the next year," said Kia Walker, a native Chicagoan who wants to eventually marry in her home state. "I shouldn't have to cross the border."

Among the anti-gay protesters this year was Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality. LaBarbera came bearing a sign with an arrow pointing to protesters that read "Gay K-K" on one side, and "The Real Haters" on the other side.

Protesters verbally sparred with counter-protesters, but a handful of police kept the two groups apart.

The demonstration drew fewer activists than in past years. Many believed the cold prevented a stronger turnout. While the morning temperatures peaked at 25 degrees, the wind chill lingered at approximately 15 degrees.

The 8th Day Center for Justice and Equality Illinois sponsored the protest.

See more photos at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Pro-LGBT protesters at Holy Name. Photo by Kate Sosin

CHM celebrates Rustin at 100

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Chicago History Museum hosted a presentation on Bayard Rustin, the late African-American and gay activist who organized the famed 1963 March on Washington D.C. The event, "Bayard Rustin at 100," was part of the museum's "Out at CHM" series.

The presenters were Bennett Singer, co-director and co-producer of *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, and Walter Naegle, life partner of Rustin until his death in 1987. Roderick Hawkins, vice president of communications at the Chicago Urban League, was the facilitator who combined humor with reflections and observations about Rustin's life and the film.

The evening consisted of various clips from the film, interspersed with brief discussions. As Hawkins said in his introduction, Rustin is sometimes referred to as an outsider, and sometimes as a "lost prophet" (the title of Chicago historian's John D'Emilio's biography). Each term evokes his place as an out gay African American who was often made vulnerable because of his race and sexual orientation.

Through various clips, the presentations traced Rustin's life in a family that, according to Naegle, gave him enormous love and security. According to Naegle, this was why Rustin was as comfortable at a White House event as

he was visiting a refugee camp in Thailand. So comfortable was he in his own skin that he came out to his grandmother as a teenager.

Rustin's openly expressed sexuality was no secret to anyone. However, this also meant that he was often the target of political rivals who would threaten to expose him as a "homosexual."

This was, in large part, the reason why Rustin never attained the stature of civil-rights heroes like Martin Luther King Jr., who once dismissed him from his circle upon the threat of a scandal. (The two reconciled later.)

In another clip from the film, Congresswoman Eleanor Norton surmised that Rustin's relative place in the background was because he preferred to be an organizer as well as because "he recognized in a world where homosexuality was widely condemned, he would not be allowed" to gain the stature befitting his talents. Despite this, Rustin did gain recognition, appearing on the cover of *Life* magazine in 1963.

The clips and discussion followed Rustin through his later years, where he became well-known as a spokesperson for various causes and more often associated with the gay rights movement. Questions from the audience included queries about Rustin's relationship to other radical political movements of the time.

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>

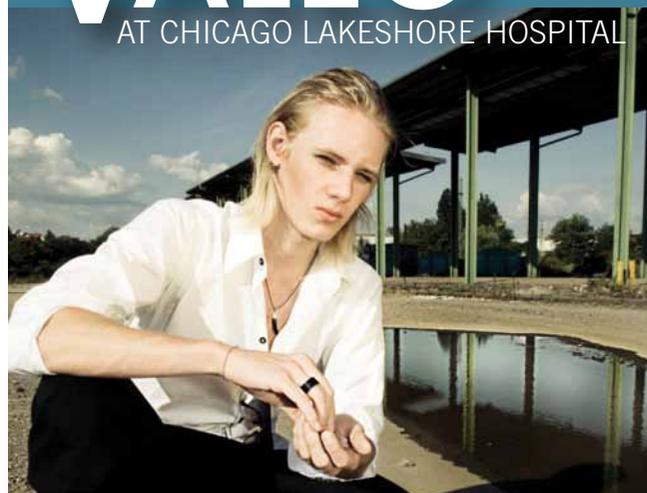
VALEO

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





EQUALITY from cover

and the mandate to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act among Obama's greatest victories for LGBT equality.

"We love this country, and we have changed it," Jarrett said. "We also know that we changing laws is not enough. We must change our culture."

Jarrett said that the president would work towards and inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. She also warned of efforts to undo strides made by LGBT people.

"Let's promise tonight that we're going to fight harder than ever," Jarrett said. "They will never outwork us, I promise you."

More locally, Illinois LGBT rights activists celebrated the start of civil unions in June 2011 and looked toward the possibility of marriage ahead.

"In following civil unions in the last year, we know that civil unions are not the same as marriage," said Equality Illinois Board President Dalila Fridi.

Equality Illinois listed its achievements this year as working with businesses on LGBT workplace protections, work on its faith project, connecting political leaders and advocating for students, among others.

The organization honored the law firm McDermott Will & Emery LLP with its 2012 Business Leadership Award. This year's

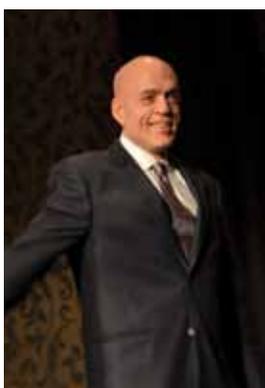
Freedom Award was given to the late State Rep. Mark Beaubien, whose wife Dee Beaubien accepted the honor on his behalf.

Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov called this year's gala "the most successful gala in recent history" for the organization.

According to Cherkasov, the night drew in a record number of political leaders. Cherkasov estimated that 100 elected officials turned out for the fundraiser.

Among them were Congressman Mike Quigley, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Secretary of State Jesse White, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Debra Shore, former judge Tom Chiola (the first openly gay person elected to office in Illinois) and Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Human Relations Mona Noriega. State Reps. Greg Harris, Kelly Cassidy, Deb Mell, Ann Williams and Sara Feigenholtz also attended.

Openly gay Ald. Tom Tunney and James Cappleman were present, along with Springfield's openly gay alderman, Cory Jobe. Michael McRaith, who heads the Federal Insurance Office, was also at the event. There were also dozens of candidates for office in the March Illinois primary.



All photos on both pages by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com





COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

Alexis A. Martinez

Identifies as

Transwoman, lesbian, socialist and Evangelical Christian

Neighborhood

Andersonville

When did you start questioning gender?

"At age four, I was aware that I was a girl. As briefly as I can express it, it was the beginning of a double life. I would try to live the masculine role that would gain approval and in secret hold on to my identity as a girl and later as a woman."

What is your coming out story?

"I came out totally at the age of 21 ... only to retreat back into hiding at 30. Social and family pressure led to guilt, shame, drugs, etc. I am now living openly as a transwoman and am very much at peace with myself. That 'peace' is probably the best thing about being trans."

Whom do you admire most?

"The person I admire the most is my mother, Jesusita Meza. She raised five children after my dad deserted us. She is MY idea of a working-class feminist. She worked in some terrible sweat shop factories. On weekends, she would sing in taverns for tips. I believe that I survived and prospered because I learned from my mom. It took her a few years to accept

me as her daughter, but I remember the day she showed one of her friends a picture of her 'other' daughter."

Do you consider yourself an activist?

"Yes, I consider myself an activist. I am a core organizer of Dyke March Chicago."

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

"I am also a Christian. I am a believer in Jesus Christ. I don't debate or fight with people ... either pro or con about my religion. The biggest mistake that Christians make is they are always spouting off about God's will."

What do you think are the most important issues facing the trans/ gender-variant community?

"I believe that there are serious issues that are unique to the trans community. Among those issues are things like public accommodations, access to public restrooms, fitting rooms, driver's licenses, passports and visas... healthcare, especially trans-related treatments and employment discrimination. In a larger context, I believe that the LGBT community is a microcosm of the American experience. We face the same economic challenges, religious battles, racial divisiveness... that are common to all. We also share desires for affordable healthcare, employment, housing, education etc."



Gloria Steinem talks social justice at Columbia College

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Addressing a packed house of about 250 people, Gloria Steinem spoke about social justice and citizen involvement at Columbia College Chicago's Conversation in the Arts lecture series Feb. 7.

Steinem is a feminist activist, award-winning writer, editor, organizer and lecturer on issues of equality and was a co-founder of Ms. Magazine in 1972.

She continues to serve as the magazine's consulting editor and is currently working with her alma mater, Smith College, to create a school for organizers.

ABC-7 Chicago news anchor Kathy Brock introduced Steinem by highlighting her career and accomplishments and noted that everyone in the room has benefited from Steinem's actions in some way.

Speaking about the women's movement, Steinem said people asked her about where the women's movement has been and where it's going before her talk that evening. She said discussing that was like asking to describe the universe and giving two examples.

Of the current state of the women's movement Steinem said, "If it took more than 100 years for the abolitionist and suffragist movement's to gain for women of all races and Black men a legal and social identity as human beings ... it shouldn't surprise us that it will take another century for legal and social equality. I figure that we are 50-60 years into it right now so it will take another 40-50 years for equality to be absorbed into the culture."

"The reason you may know me and Shirley Chisholm and Bella Abzug as individuals is there were so few of us. We were like 12 crazy women," said Steinem. "There are so many now in every field and that is one of the reasons that people



Gloria Steinem at Columbia College. Photo by Brian Kinyon

think inequality has disappeared but that is not the case.

"We've proven to most of the country that women can do what men can do but now we need to prove that men can do what women can do. The solution is everywhere. Some are systemic, like the need for a national childcare system, and some of them are up to us. We have raised our daughters to be more like our sons but we also need to raise our sons to be more like our daughters."

Steinem noted that we've taken a step forward with African-American studies, women's studies, LGBTQ studies and Native American studies,

however these studies haven't really been integrated into general history courses to a large extent.

"In culture it's OK now that we can name racism, sexism and other forms of bias including homophobia and so on," said Steinem. "But it's still the case that the dominant group gets the noun and everybody else requires an adjective so there are doctors and there are African-American doctors; there are Hispanic leaders but not Anglo leaders; there are LGBTQ cultures but not heterosexual cultures; [and] there are women novelists but not men novelists, which perpetuates bias throughout our culture."

Steinem said that linkage is important because we still think in silos and labels are the enemy of connections between people so it's important to take the next step and see where our connections are. Each rights movement is linked to each of the others and should not be thought of as separate entities, Steinem stressed.

Baim speaking Feb. 19 at Ethical Humanist Society

Tracy Baim, co-founder and publisher of Windy City Times, will speak Sunday, Feb. 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago in Skokie.

Her topic is "Windy City Times: Impact on Chicago and Its LGBT Community." Baim will discuss the role of media in the LGBT Chicago community. Windy City Times was founded in 1985, just as Chicago's LGBT community started to show its full force through culture, sports, activism (especially in response to AIDS and civil rights), politics, media and business. She will give an overview on how LGBT media both participated in and covered the community.

There will be a coffee hour after the program. The Sunday programs are free and open to the public, and a children's program runs concurrently. For more information about this or any of our other programs, please visit ethicalhuman.org.

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.

"Each of us is contributing to changing from a pyramid paradigm where we are today to a circle paradigm which is where we need to be [so no one group dominates the other]," said Steinem.

To close the evening, Steinem took questions from the audience, with Brock serving as the moderator. During the Q&A, Steinem was asked why some women like Maggie Gallagher fight against LGBTQ equality when they themselves have been discriminated against. Steinem said that biology isn't a factor when women discriminate against others and used Margaret Thatcher as an example of someone who didn't advocate for women's rights while she was prime minister of the United Kingdom.

For more information about the Conversation in the Arts lecture series, visit www.colum.edu/conversations. To find out more about Steinem, visit www.gloriasteinem.com.

The Ethical Humanist Society is located at 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Email office@ethicalhuman.org or call 847-677-3334. Also, see www.ethicalhuman.org/speaker/baim.html.

PYG holding Feb. 16 event for Chicago Takes Off

Professional Young Gays (PYG) will hold a kick-off celebration for Test Positive Aware Network's (TPAN's) annual Chicago Takes Off burlesque revue Thursday, Feb. 16.

Also, tickets are now on sale for PYG's official pre-cocktail party for Chicago Takes Off, which takes place Saturday, March 3.

The event will take place at Shrine, 47 E. Oak St., 6-9 p.m.

RSVP to events@p-y-g.org by Monday, Feb. 13. Tickets to the Feb. 16 event are \$50 each; see <http://shrinestyle.com/events/pygs-pre-cocktail-event>.

GAY in the **LIFE**
Jason Tompkins
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
31

Lives in
Uptown

Hometown
St. Louis; has lived in Chicago since July 2008

Relationship status
Single and queer, as he prefers to identify

Job title
Shift manager, Catalyst Ranch

Hobbies
Cinema, reading memoirs, history

Favorite TV show
Damages

Favorite local bar
Big Chicks

Favorite local restaurant
Tweet

Jason Tompkins takes the bus to work at the Catalyst Ranch on West Randolph Street, arriving daily at about 6 a.m.

His morning tasks including preparing the continental breakfast spread and preparing for meetings that might be held on site, often starting at about 8 a.m.

Then he might say a quick hello to James Brown—or at least the Brown doll that sings his fabled song “I Feel Good.” It dances, too.

Tompkins smiles just mentioning the doll, perhaps his favorite on-site tchochke.

After all, the Catalyst Ranch is a one-of-a-kind, 15,000 square-foot facility, filled with years-past relics, certain to entertain. The Catalyst Ranch is home to countless annual offsite meetings for area businesses, including Fortune 500 companies, ideal for training seminars, strategic planning meetings, trade conferences, association meetings, workshops, consumer market research/focus groups, staff retreats, board meetings, sales meetings, brainstorming sessions and more—in a vintage, time warp-like setting.



giving six couples the mega-event of their lives.

“It’s just a fun place to work, a fun idea,” Tompkins said.

As the Catalyst Ranch boasts on its website, it is the perfect spot to “Refresh your team. Energize them. Teach them how to infuse their daily lives with innovation. Put a spring in their step—no pogo stick necessary.”

Tompkins is one of 10 full-time employees, and one of two who are openly gay, he said.

“Everyone who works here is really creative,” he said, “and it is very gay-friendly. There’s a very laid-back atmosphere, and [employees] can really express their own style.”

Tompkins also is very active with Gender JUST which, according to its website, “is a member-led, multi-generational and multi-racial grassroots organization of LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & allied) young people, people of color, and grassroots folks developing leadership and building power through organizing.”

“I guess I’m just a homo geek; I read a lot and love being at home. I get enough excitement for me at work [on a daily basis],” said Tompkins, who lives with three drag queens and is a member of a new, radical queer book club.



You're Invited . . .

Sunday, February 19th 10:30 a.m.

TRACY BAIM,
co-founder and publisher
of *Windy City Times*
presents:

“Windy City Times:
Impact on Chicago and Its
LGBT Community”

All our Sunday morning programs
are free and open to the public.

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF CHICAGO



7574 Lincoln Ave Skokie
847-677-3334
office@ethicalhuman.org

. . . recognizing the worth and
dignity of every person.

Visit us on the web at ethicalhuman.org

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

Tuesday, Feb. 28
7:30 p.m.
Margot Livesey
The Flight of
Gemma Hardy



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

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

dave
ouano photography
 fashion | fitness | portraits

modelmayhem.com/daveouano daveouano@me.com
 daveouanophotography.com 773.860.0162



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



Left: Ferd Eggan, Dr. Mathilda Krim of the American Foundation for AIDS Research and Dr. Renslow Sherer, during a late 1980s visit by Krim to Chicago. Eggan died in 2007. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright. Right: William Kelley and Dr. Ron Sable (right) at the 1992 gala for IMPACT, a gay and lesbian political action committee. Photo by Tracy Baim

Sable and Sherer: Two doctors that changed AIDS in Chicago

BY JOHN J. ACCROCCO

When the first reported cases of AIDS were identified on the East and West coasts of the U.S. in 1981, it was inevitable that the disease would find its way to Chicago. Life often imitates drama and with the theatrical onslaught of the AIDS crisis, heroes of the medical field were in high demand.

"I saw my first AIDS patient in 1982 at Cook County Hospital during my second month as a general physician," Dr. Renslow Sherer remembers. "He was a young, gay, African American man who could no longer do his daily six-mile run. At first we weren't exactly sure that it was AIDS, but then he had the *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) and the rest of his symptoms seemed to fit.

"Around the same time, another physician, Dr. Ron Sable, diagnosed a second patient and it was then that we decided to open the AIDS

clinic at the Cook County Hospital. Of course we couldn't call it an AIDS clinic because of the stigma surrounding AIDS at the time."

Dr. Sherer and Dr. Sable (not only co-founded Chicago's first AIDS clinic, the Sable/Sherer Clinic, but they were also among the founders of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago to raise critical, private funding for their facility. They made a good team: Sable (who died at age 48 in December 1993) was openly gay, and Sherer is heterosexual.

Sherer is a leading authority on infectious diseases and one of Chicago's foremost AIDS doctors. Sherer attended medical school at Rush Medical College and did his residency at the Cook County Hospital. After his residency, Sherer became an internist at Cook County Hospital shortly before the appearance of AIDS in the U.S.

"It's hard to remember a career before HIV," said Sherer. "When I was in college it didn't exist

yet, that we knew of. In those early days as an internist, we certainly saw diabetes and tuberculosis and many other infectious diseases but over all, Cook County was a very happy place to work. Dr. Sable really saw what had started on the West Coast and we tried to prepare ourselves for what was coming."

In their first year together, Sherer and Sable worked with 141 patients.

"Dr. Sable was very well respected within the LGBT community," Sherer recalled. "I suppose I was in the right place at the right time, or rather, the wrong place at the wrong time. The death and sickness were enough but having the media, the hype and the phobia gave a sort of drama to the issue, especially when you had [President] Reagan who would not openly talk about how HIV/AIDS. Though, nobody wants to go back to those early days, I will say that we had the most intimacy with our patients then."

Dr. Sable was an important person for LGBT-

Chicago both politically and in the treatment of AIDS. Sable began as a Vietnam medic and became Cook County Hospital's first openly gay physician. His early AIDS activism helped secure crucial funding for people living with the virus.

Sable ran for Chicago City Council in 1987 as an openly gay candidate in the 44th Ward, against incumbent Ald. Bernie Hansen. He lost by a small percentage of votes. But Sable's campaign helped inspire a new generation of activists. Some of them helped organize Chicago's participation in the 1987 March on Washington, and some helped create of IMPACT, an LGBT political action committee. In 1988, Sable was selected to be an alternate delegate at the Democratic National Convention. Sable was also a strong believer in national healthcare and was a frequent volunteer physician at the Howard Brown Health Center. He ran a second time for alderman, in 1991, and again lost.

Sable came out as HIV positive in 1993, and a large public event was held at the South Shore Cultural Center, to celebrate his life while he was still living. He was weak, but was able to attend and hear the many stories about his importance. He died later that year, soon after he was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

"I miss him every day," Sherer said. "He was a fabulous person and if I wanted to go out on a limb, I'd say he was one of the best advocates for LGBT rights that this city has ever seen. He ran a strong campaign for alderman while setting up the AIDS clinic. He spent half his time treating AIDS patients and the other half standing up for their rights, he was very respectable. Working close with him was a pleasure because he drew in such a good group to work with, gay nurses and clinicians came out to help and that just gave us such an advantage and made us an even more credible resource. He was able to see clearly into political and controversial issues surrounding HIV. He was a tremendous doctor and friend."

As the 1980s drew to a close, major advancements were made in the study and treatment of AIDS. The Sable/Sherer clinic saw its cases expand from 141 in 1983 to nearly 3,000 by the early '90s. A third of all Chicagoans living with AIDS were patients of the Sable-Sherer clinic.

"Initially we were able to increase the lives of our patients from six months to a year, then

Cook County Hospital's Sable/Sherer Clinic offers treatment, support for AIDS patients

By TRACY BAIM

An AIDS clinic has been operating out of Cook County Hospital for more than a year. And because Cook County is a public hospital, no one is turned away—an important consideration for people with AIDS, who often lose social and economic support after contracting the disease.

Doctors Ron Sable and Renslow Sherer have been operating their clinic and educating hospital staff about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome since May 1983, with a present patient list of about 150 people. They recently added Jim Lovette, R.N., to their staff in an effort to centralize the functions of Sable/Sherer Clinic.

The clinic manages about six patients weekly, including both first admissions and followups, during the scheduled Thursday morning hours. As part of the General Medicine Division, where Sherer and Sable each see about 200 patients per day, the clinic is located on the second floor of the Fantus Health Center, 1835 W. Harrison.

Even before the clinic opened, both Sable and Sherer had treated AIDS cases. The first AIDS case at Cook County Hospital was handled by Sherer in spring of 1982, about a year after Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome began to be recognized. The two doctors soon decided they needed a more systematic approach and formed their clinic, which has come to consume about 20% of their professional time. Lovette was hired in mid-July.



Dr. Renslow Sherer (left), Jim Lovette, R.N., and Dr. Ron Sable staff the Sable/Sherer Clinic.

AIDS clinic at the hospital. (Lovette, too, is openly gay; Sherer is heterosexual.)

Sable said patients have reacted positively to the Sable/Sherer Clinic. "Feedback from patients who have been in other hospitals [for AIDS treatment] has been good. They feel they have been treated well here. There is no social isolation."

Anthony Elliott, senior operations analyst with the Chicago Department of Health, said his department has received no complaints from Sable/Sherer patients. He said the clinic is "doing an admirable job of arranging

'AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic' airs on Channel 11 Sept. 1

By ALBERT WILLIAMS

Dr. Renslow Sherer of Cook County Hospital's Sable/Sherer Clinic is one of several medical personnel featured on *AIDS: Portrait of an Epidemic*, a television documentary airing Saturday, Sept. 1, at 1 p.m. on Channel 11 (WTTW).

The show, produced by WNET in New York with funding from Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the National Cancer Institute, is called "the first television documentary to provide a comprehensive examination of the medical, historical, personal and societal facets" of AIDS. Produced by Harvey Marks and Harry Chanoy, Jr., *AIDS: Portrait of an Epidemic* seeks to examine the history of AIDS, the current state of medical knowledge about the disease, and the way five individuals (one representing each major risk group) are coping with illness, uncertainty, and stigma.

The five AIDS patients on the show are a gay man in Los Angeles, a hemophiliac in rural Kentucky, an intravenous drug abuser in Chicago at the Sable/Sherer Clinic, a Haitian in New York, and a 6-year-old New York boy who inherited AIDS from his drug-shooting mother. In between segments on these people are interviews with doctors

relaxing viewers' fears about catching the disease through casual contact and by showing them a gay man at one of several human beings coping with the problem. Another thing that is stressed is that precautionary measures can and should be taken against catching AIDS—mainly reducing the number of sexual partners and refraining from exchanging bodily fluids. (Anal sex, in which tissues are ripped and fluids can enter the bloodstream directly, is particularly risky.)

AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic, all in all, a solid, sober, educational, somewhat stiff assessment of its topic, best suited for a general audience in its effort to alleviate paranoia and prejudice concerning the disease. Unfortunately, that mainstream audience is hardly likely to catch the show when it airs in Chicago, the Saturday before Labor Day. Other Public Broadcasting System stations are airing it Wednesday night, Aug. 29, when it has a good chance of reaching the less-informed viewers it's aimed at, and are following it up with a live report highlighting local AIDS clinics. But in Chicago at that time—despite erroneous advertising in WTTW's *Dial* program guide—viewers are getting Shirley Verrett singing opera. Music triumphs over medicine—and ratings over public service. Ironically,

Reps push for extension of AIDS lottery program

A legislative action press conference observing National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Feb. 7 gave visibility to Senate Bill 2971 to extend the "Red Ribbon Cash" lottery game for the Quality of Life HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention Fund.

The event was at the Illinois State Capitol building in Springfield. Leaders from the Illinois HIV/AIDS community attended.

SB 2971 proposes an extension of the "Sunset" date for the Quality of Life HIV/AIDS fund, commonly referred to as the "Red Ribbon Cash" lottery ticket. The Quality of Life Fund is the only self-generating revenue funding enhancer of its kind in the U.S. The program is set to expire Dec. 31, 2012 and the proposal is to push that date back to Dec. 31, 2017.

The Red Ribbon Cash scratch-off game has generated \$1.4 million for HIV/AIDS prevention

and care for Illinoisans. This year, the lottery ticket will fund 14 community-based organizations across the state.

SB 2971 is sponsored by State Sen. Jackie Collins, who stated: "Funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs is vitally important given the increasing prevalence and devastating nature of this disease in our communities."

Illinois State Rep. Karen Yarbrough is sponsoring the legislation in the House of Representatives. Other legislators present included Rep. Greg Harris and Rep. Ken Dunkin.

The original co-authors of the Quality of Life HIV/AIDS legislation, Ben Montgomery and Michael O'Connor, organized the press conference with the support of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.



Legislators, service providers and advocates at the AIDS lottery press conference.

Good news for ADAP recipients in Illinois

It will soon be easier for 4,200 people in the state to get their HIV medications through the Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

Thanks to a series of rule changes advocated by AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and AIDS Foundation of Chicago (and approved recently by the Illinois Department of Public Health), fewer people with HIV will run the risk of losing their access to medicines because of cumbersome application and paperwork requirements. This comes as especially good news to the many who had reported difficulties navigating the on-line application process and having to repeatedly submit documentation to qualify for help.

ADAP provides life-saving HIV medications to low-income people with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured. Although the program has been stressed in recent years due to falling state revenues and an influx of people turning to ADAP for help, preserving regular access to medications is considered key to suppressing the virus in people with HIV and reducing the likelihood of further transmission to uninfected partners. Among the new rules to be adopted, ADAP will

no longer require existing recipients to fill out an entirely new application every six months, opting for a much less burdensome process of "recertification" instead.

Erie Family Health Center hosts Eriedescence

Erie Family Health Center hosts its annual winter event, Eriedescence, an illuminating evening featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and music from DJ Rock City. This year's event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 23, 6-9 p.m. at Lumen, 839 W. Fulton Market St. in Chicago.

Erie Family Health Center is a 55-year old health center that provides healthcare to 35,000 low-income Chicagoans each year at eleven sites across Chicago's West and Northwest neighborhoods. Proceeds from the event directly support uninsured and underinsured patients in Erie's HIV/AIDS program, Lending Hands for Life (LHL).

Tickets are available and donations can be made by calling (312) 432-7378 or visiting www.eriefamilyhealth.org/eriedescence.

DOCTORS from page 14

AZT became available and added about another year to the lives of people with AIDS. I can't sugar-coat it though, those first clinicians saw harrowing days," said Sherer.

The Sable/Sherer clinic is now housed in the state-of-the-art Ruth Rothstein CORE Center. Dr. Sherer led the team of clinicians to design this nationally competitive ambulatory facility for HIV-related medicine. CORE Center opened in 1998 and offers a wide array of services from mental health to dentistry, drug rehabilitation, and pharmaceuticals.

"Anything to do with HIV is in this facility," boasts Sherer. "The Ryan White Care Act really helped us with resources."

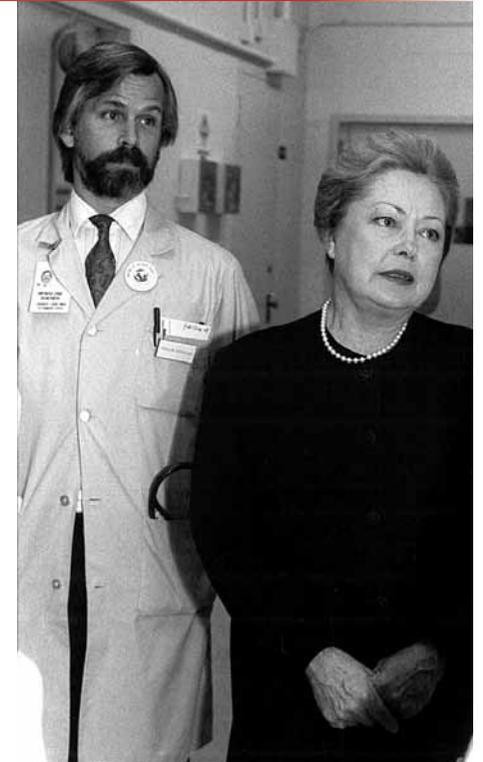
After 25 years at the Cook County Hospital, Sherer left in 2003 to pursue AIDS research at an international level. In addition to being the Clinical Associate and the Program Chair of the section of Infectious Disease at the University of Chicago's hospital, he is the chairman of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Initiative on HIV/AIDS. Sherer is also a member of the Health and Human Services Guideline Panel on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents. Sherer has published many articles related to HIV/AIDS and remains an authority on the virus.

"Though the AIDS epidemic has crested and we are seeing the virus beginning to go into recession, the sad truth is that where new HIV contraction is increasing is within the 15-25 age group," Sherer said. "Thanks to better anti-retrovirals people with HIV are living longer but that also means more people are living with HIV than ever. Hopefully healthcare reforms will improve not only the Ryan White Act but also ADAP for the poor [to get access to drugs]."

"AIDS has been like no other disease and we cannot forget that. The sensationalism that still surrounds it is rooted in the stigmas of those effected by it: sexworkers, homosexuals and even the fear of contracting it through a transfusion. There's been so much discrimination about this disease because even still it disproportionately effects the gay community."

In Sherer's unique career he's had the advantage of watching a major American city respond and manage an ongoing epidemic. "I have to salute Cook County and the city of Chicago because they got their act together and got the funding," Sherer said. "We did a terrific job in those early days and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago brought in a lot of private funding. We have a good record for private and public funding and that's what makes Chicago a competitive city for HIV/AIDS care."

Each year The Crossroads Fund gives out an award in Dr. Ron Sable's memory. The award goes to individuals and organizations that best exemplify Sable's dedication to helping progressive change.



Dr. Renslow Sherer and Dr. Mathilda Krim. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright



Art Johnston with Dr. Ron Sable in late 1980s. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright



Luis Gutierrez (then an alderman, now a U.S. Rep.), Joanne Trapani and Dr. Ron Sable, circa 1990 at IMPACT. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright



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. 19, Feb. 15, 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 Pergrin, 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.



VALERIE JARRETT

Commemorating National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day took place Feb. 7. Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama, released an article that day.

On this, the 12th annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, I remember my sister-in-law's fight with the disease. Tragically, she did not win that fight—she left behind a devastated husband and five-year old daughter. But it is in her memory, and the memory of all the friends

and loved ones we have lost, that we vow to keep working toward the day when HIV/AIDS is history.

This past December, on World AIDS Day, President Obama spoke about the United States' commitment to ending HIV/AIDS. In a speech at George Washington University, he told the audience, "Make no mistake, we are going to win this fight. But the fight is not over ... not by a long shot."

Sadly, this is especially true in the African-American community. Black Americans represent 12 percent of the U.S. population, but they account for 44 percent of new HIV infections. Among young Black gay men alone, infections have increased by nearly 50 percent in just three years, and Black women account for the largest share of HIV infections among women. We each must do our part by getting tested regularly, and by educating those in our community about what they can do to help end the epidemic.

President Obama is committed to doing his part as well. In 2010, he released the nation's first comprehensive HIV/AIDS plan. Together with Secretary Clinton, he has helped assemble a coalition of governments, healthcare profes-

sionals and service providers. They have set a goal that would have been unthinkable just a few decades ago: an AIDS-free generation, in which virtually all children are born HIV-free, and prevention tools help them stay HIV-free throughout their lives.

We will not achieve this goal overnight. But we know that we must keep making progress, each and every day. For our communities and our families, the stakes are simply too high for us to be satisfied with anything less.

So today, we do more than commemorate those we have lost. We rededicate ourselves to the work ahead. Because even when it comes to an epidemic as devastating as HIV/AIDS, we have the chance to write our own destiny. As President Obama said in December, "We can end this pandemic. We can beat this disease. We can win this fight."

For more information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and this Administration's efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the Black community, visit www.aids.gov.

Valerie Jarrett is senior advisor to the president. The photo is courtesy of the White House communications department.

LETTERS

Defending Gerber/Hart

To the Editor:

I am surprised by the portrayal of Karen Sendziak ("Gerber/Hart refuses to reveal group info") in your Feb. 8 issue. I served with Karen on the board of Gerber/Hart in the '90s and think she's a decent and honorable person. She was more passionate about Gerber/Hart staying open than anyone else.

Late filing of government paperwork is likely the result of not enough volunteers and/or money—not the result of anything underhanded. From a board of probably 20 in the 1990s, interest in Gerber/Hart seems to have waned, or the library did not do a good enough job of developing new leaders. However, this is not the result of anything deceitful.

It is surprising to hear of the great concern in the LGBT community about the library and archive's future. Are these concerned folks willing to serve on the board, volunteer, become paying members and donate to the library's fundraisers? It was certainly difficult to find many when I was involved with Gerber/Hart.

You end the article with this: "...a community whose archives are in a dark locked (sic) room on Granville Avenue." I designed the rebuilding of the space and can tell you that archives must be protected from light, especially sunlight. What is supposed to an ominous ending is, in reality, a testament to the great care that Gerber/Hart Library and Archives has always shown toward its fragile and irreplaceable treasures.

I hope the community can really support Gerber/Hart instead of, once again, eating one of its own.

Barry Aldridge
 Chicago

Questions

An open letter to the Gerber/Hart Library:

The recent reports of the likely move of the Gerber/Hart Library and its problems with answering legitimate Windy City Times (WCT) questions about the move and the library's operations indicate to me that more questions need to be asked. Most librarians are willing to respond to

questions and be helpful. Hiding or delaying the release of information, a form of censorship, seems against the librarian creed.

The questions that come to my mind, in addition to those already asked by the Windy City Times, include:

1) Is the planned move to a larger or smaller building?

2) The recent statement from the library, reported in the Feb. 8 issue of WCT, indicates to me that parts of the collection may have been damaged or about to be threatened with damage from the building itself, such as damage by water, bugs, or mice. Is that the real reason for the move? Can the library assure the community that this is not the case?

3) According to WCT, the landlord planned to donate the minor increase in the rent to the library during the first year of a multi-year lease so rent would remain the same as it has been. If the landlord is lying about this, then the Gerber/Hart Library has an opportunity to refute the landlord. What amounts to a one-year rent freeze—on top the the last couple of years with no rent increase—should sound like a very good deal to any non-profit organization. With no immediate financial need to move. What is behind the urgent need to move now?

4) Has part of the collection been damaged, vandalized, or stolen by patrons or employees? Most libraries have this problem, and the Gerber/Hart Library is not likely immune from such threats to its collection. Is the move to a more secure building? Is the library's insurance company requiring the library to move for security reasons?

5) When was the last physical inventory of the collection been done? Is it time for another physical inventory? This would help determine what is missing, damaged, or improperly filed/shelved/stored.

6) It is my understanding that Illinois law requires nonprofit corporations to have a minimum of three board members in order to still be considered a non-profit and in order to have the tax privileges to both the library and those who contribute to it. Does the library have a minimum of three board members or is it in violation of Illinois law? Are contributions to the library no longer tax-deductible?

7) Is a problem with lack of board members the reason the library is late in filing its most recent non-profit corporation tax form? If not, what is the reason for their delay: Lack of staff?

Poor bookkeeping? Missing records? In addition to the WCT question of who is the law firm or lawyer for the library, who/what is its accountant, CPA or accounting firm?

8) According to the Feb. 8 issue of WCT, the library has not contacted members for renewals.

Is this caused by a lack of staff or lack of funds for a mailing (why not email the form to members?), or has the membership list been stolen, lost or otherwise compromised? It seems very odd to me that a non-profit organization would forget or delay in doing this most basic annual function.

9) Other than the regular book/media sales for the library, have other parts of the collection been sold off to finance operations—with or without the approval of the original donors?

10) Is the delay in providing WCT with a list of the board of directors something that should not require the approval of an out-of-town lawyer, due to some of the board members wishing to remain private?

11) Which positions on the library's board are open, if any?

12) Is the library having a financial crisis that being open and honest to the gay community might help resolve, as happened last year with the rescue of the Howard Brown Health Center? If there is a crisis, what is the cause and extent of the it? How can the community help? What is the deadline for resolving the crisis, if any?

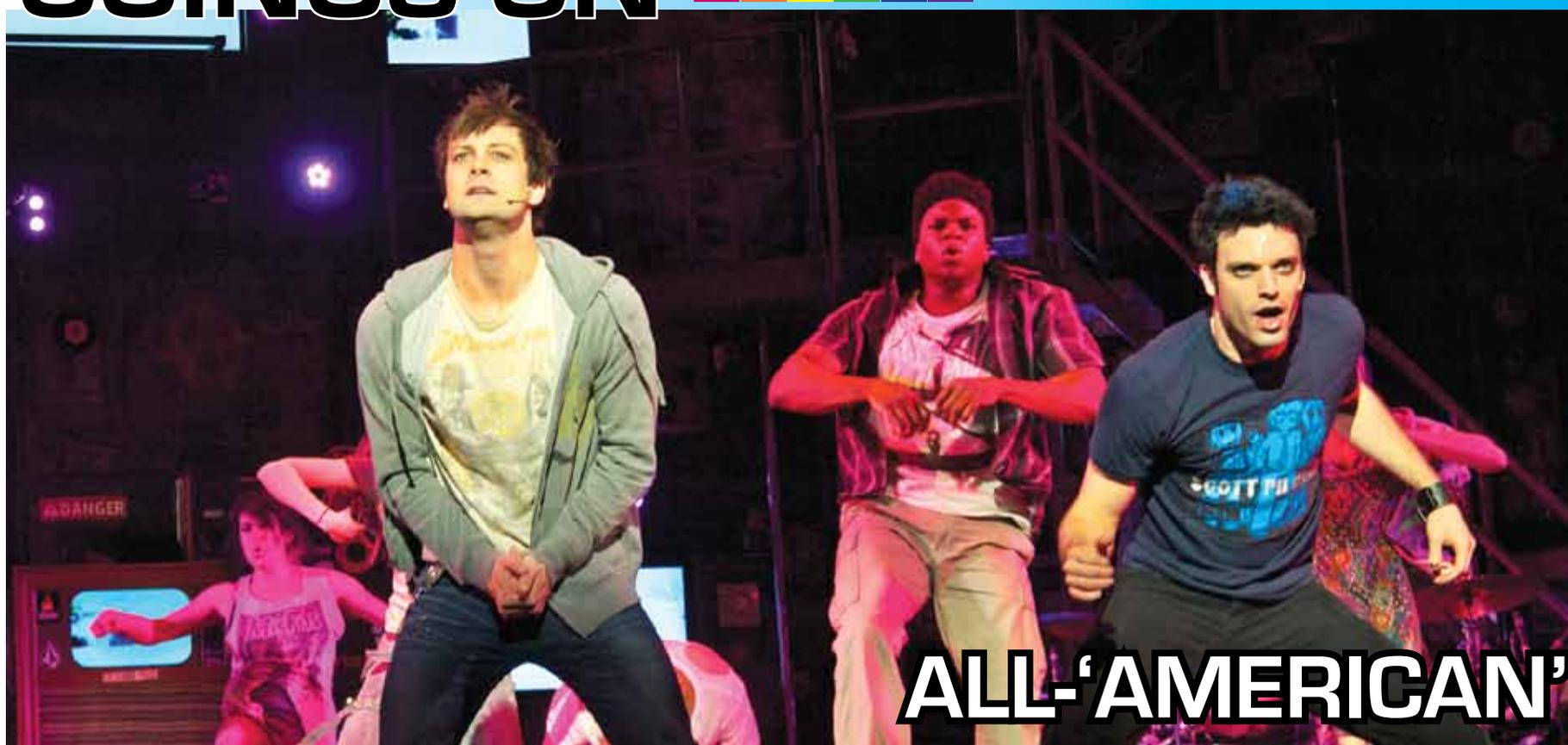
Sincerely,
 Robert Rohdenburg
 Chicago

Windy City Times will continue to investigate the Gerber/Hart story.

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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Doug
Hamilton

ALL-'AMERICAN'

Windy City Times reviews the production American Idiot. See page 18.

DISH

Rush hour.
Page 24.

PR photo of Phil Stefani's 437 Rush



PERFORMANCE

The WOW factor.
Page 21.Photo of C.C. Carter
by Jamie Anne Royce

SPORTS

Book it.
Page 30.

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Francesca Zambello helms Lyric's new Show Boat

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Midway through my telephone interview with out and award-winning opera and theater director Francesca Zambello, she steered the discussion away from my admittedly arcane questions about which songs made it in and which ones didn't in her new Lyric Opera of Chicago staging of the 1927 Broadway musical Show Boat.

"These questions you're asking me sound like a musicologist," Zambello said. "I don't think your readers could care less whether ["Mis'ry's Comin' Aroun"] was in or out. I hope they're interested to see it for the content of the whole—you know, the story, the characters."

Zambello's frank redirection of our discussion to the big-picture entertainment value of a major 21st-century take on this landmark U.S. musical can be reflective of Zambello's own long career as both a director and arts administrator. (By the way, "Mis'ry's Comin' Aroun" did make the cut).

She once had a reputation for an overly analytical and symbolic approach to her directing work that sometimes baffled audiences. (Her 1992 Metropolitan Opera debut directing Lucia di Lammermoor, set in a "half-seen realm of the unconscious," was a critical flop.) However, Zambello admitted in interviews that she later came around to creating accessible productions that emphasized clear and entertaining storytelling first and foremost, before her intellectual and creative flights of fancy.

Zambello's directing projects have run the gamut. Zambello has staged massive operatic epics, like Berlioz's Les Troyens in 2003 for the Metropolitan Opera and Wagner's four-part Ring Cycle for San Francisco Opera in 2011. However,

she's not loathe to doing commercial fare like The Little Mermaid on Broadway in 2008 and a wildly popular Disneyland theme-park staging of Aladdin.

She is also a highly regarded arts administrator. She was the artistic director of Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theater from 1984 to 1991, and Zambello is currently the artistic advisor to Washington National Opera in Washington, D.C., and the artistic and general director of the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Zambello has little patience from opera elitists who express reservations about opera companies producing Broadway musicals. In fact, Zambello dropped the "Opera" name from Glimmerglass' title when she assumed leadership of the company in 2011, since her summer festival programming now features at least one classic Broadway musical performed without amplification and with the show's original orchestrations.

"People forget that Puccini and Verdi were originally populist entertainment and that everyone knew their music," Zambello said. "There's a connection to that with American musicals and American audiences."

And as anyone who has been schooled in musical theater history should know, Show Boat is considered to be Broadway's first true masterpiece. Based upon Edna Ferber's 1926 novel of the same name, Show Boat features a hit score by composer Jerome Kern ("Ol' Man River," "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man") and a libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II that challenged what could be dramatically explored in a Broadway musical.

"For me, the piece was a revolution for its time, and still is today in many ways," Zambello said, noting how Show Boat broke ground as a musical drama with a racially integrated cast

Francesca
Zambello.

tackling difficult subjects like miscegenation, racism, infidelity and more across many decades of U.S. history from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Zambello came to this Show Boat production as a sort of follow-up to her wildly successful 2008 Lyric staging of Porgy and Bess (her other Lyric work includes Tristan and Isolde from the 1999-2000 season and a Salome in 2006). Zambello drew both from the operatic and theater worlds for her cast, notably with opera stars Nathan Gunn as Ravenal, Alison Cambridge as Julie and Morris Robinson as Joe appearing alongside Mary Poppins Broadway star Ashley Brown as Magnolia. There's also a plethora of Chicago-area talent for the dancing and expanded choral ensembles, plus many local theater regulars like Ross Lehman, Bernie Yvon and Cindy Gold in featured roles.

"The rehearsal process has been very fertile for everyone," Zambello said about opera singers and theater actors inspiring each other to do good work. "It's been a very happy rehearsal period with everybody being like the people on the Show Boat who are joining together different styles."

Zambello has directed Show Boat twice before, notably in a massive in-the-round staging in London's Royal Albert Hall in 2006 and a concert staging at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2008. But Zambello was more than willing to tackle Show Boat again, this time within a traditional proscenium opera stage setting.

"It's a historic, magisterial work that combines so much of American history, amazing music and phenomenal characters," Zambello said. "It's a work you want to do because it's so rich."

Show Boat continues in repertory with Rinaldo and Aida through March 17 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 17, 18, 22, 25 and 28 as well as March 9 and 17 with 2 p.m. matinees March 1, 2 and 7.

Tickets are \$34-\$254; call 312-332-2244, ext. 5600 or visit www.lyricopera.org. To find out more about Glimmerglass Festival's 2012 season consisting of Aida, Armide, Lost in the Stars and The Music Man, visit www.glimmerglass.org.

THEATER REVIEW

Zastrozzi,
the Master
of Discipline

Playwright: George F. Walker
At: The Division at the Viaduct,
3111 N. Western Ave.
Phone: 773-296-6024 or
www.ticketweb.com; \$20
Runs through: Feb. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In 1810, 18-year-old English poet Percy Shelley wrote the novel he titled *Zastrozzi: A Romance*, the tale of an Italian nobleman seeking revenge on his illegitimate half-brother, his relentless quest occasionally pausing for philosophical discussions. In 1977, 30-year-old Canadian playwright George F. Walker forged the play he called *Zastrozzi, The Master of Discipline*, a loose adaptation of its predecessor, rife with the physical and sexual spectacle then in fashion—material nowadays usually played as camp parody by young actors inclined to squirm at its extravagant emotions and lengthy ruminations.

The Division company stoutly rejects Walker's invitation to self-conscious cheap-and-cute for their inaugural production, however. Yes, the scenic design includes an anachronistic slogan graffitied to a wall, and the innocent Julia, played by Anne Leone, speaks in OMG-cadences, but what's most impressive about the cast assembled by director Jodi Kingsley is its, well, disciplined grasp of Shelley/Walker's easily caricatured roles—tightly focused concentration allowing the actors to retain control of their florid language and neo-gothic personalities even as the passions (and corpses) escalate.

Anchoring the gravitas is Jason Kingsley's riveting portrayal of the nihilistic Zastrozzi, who emerges as a paragon of icy Aryan evil—a rapier-thin *basso profundo* who would rather corrupt Julia's virgin mind with carnal words than indulge the sensual appetites of the willing Matilda, and who dispatches his victims with the cold-blooded indifference of divine wrath. Indeed, theology figures in much of the intellectual discussion, with the pursued Verrezzi (made up to look like Shelley, himself, and played with annoying ingenuousness by Nick Bonges) atoning for his past crimes by withdrawing into an ecstasy of absolution, his hubristic piety contrasting with Zastrozzi's unflinching atheism.

Joanna Iwanicka's scenography reconfigures the smaller of the Viaduct black-box rooms into a labyrinth of elevated ramps, which the actors



Zastrozzi, the Master of Discipline. Photo courtesy of Division Theater Company

navigate with dazzling agility for the brief two hours of a show commonly running much longer. Flanking the aforementioned Kingsley are Martin Monahan as the brutal Bernardo, Danni Smith as the fiery Matilda and Jeff Brown as the avuncular Victor, delivering well-crafted and carefully grounded performances. The irony of their artistry is that, in undermining Walker's misguided aesthetic, it should make for such swashbuckling quasi-Jacobean thrills. How often do we see a play rendered smarter than its creator intended?

THEATER REVIEW

American Idiot

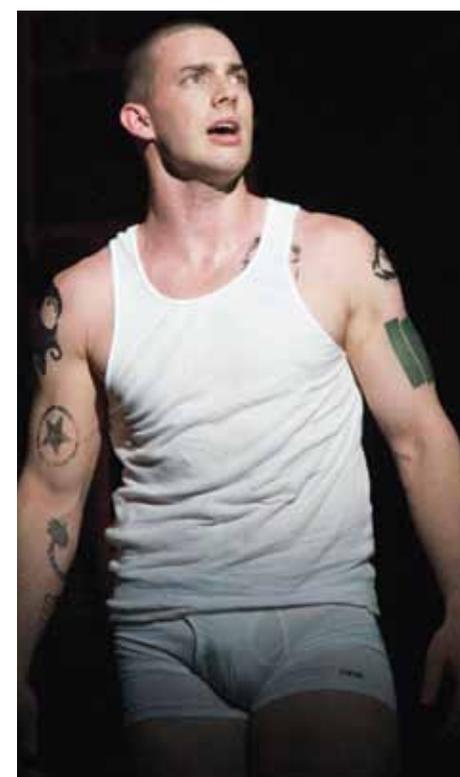
Playwright: Green Day,
Billie Joe Armstrong, Michael Mayer
At: Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
www.BroadwayInChicago.com; \$27-\$95
Runs through: Feb. 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

A needless war far away, an unpopular president and disaffected youth using sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll as rebellion—been there, done that. *American Idiot* is the 21st-century *Hair* against the background of Iraq and George Bush instead of Vietnam, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. The war may change but rebellion remains the same, remodeled by each generation as it should be. The difference is that then "Make love, not war" and drug culture were part of an emerging political force and social philosophy, while *American Idiot* makes today's disaffection seem merely nihilistic.

The cliché storyline is dismissible but it's a workable backdrop for the strong music of Green Day and band leader Billie Joe Armstrong's lyrics in this jukebox-musical variation. Just as in *Hair*, youth flock to the city. In this case, three 20-ish male friends (the show is heavily male-centric) flee the suburbs, although their behavior is far more hicksville than suburbia. Actually, Will (Jake Epstein) stays behind with his pregnant girlfriend (Leslie McDonel), but Tunny (Scott J. Campbell) and musician-wannabe Johnny (Van Hughes, looking like Billie Joe Armstrong) hit the city. Within six weeks Tunny joins the Army and Johnny meets the girl of his dreams (Gabrielle McClinton) and becomes a junkie, thanks to drug dealer St. Jimmy (Joshua Kobak). The events of two or three years improbably are squeezed into 10 months, narrated by Johnny. Some story angles come directly from Green Day music videos, which doesn't make it better.

So, once you're passed the show's extremely modest literary qualities, you're left with an absolutely dazzling cast, some excellent rock music and a loose-limbed, almost chaotic physical production with complex movement and choreography (by Steven Hoggett) inspired by the mosh pit. And while Green Day was (is? are they still?) a leading alternative rock band, the cos-



Scott J. Campbell in *American Idiot*. Photo by Doug Hamilton

tumes (by Andrea Lauer) are far more goth- and grunge-inspired.

For me, the show's greatest musical strengths are its ballads and softer numbers (my ancient *Hair*-generation ears can understand the lyrics better), among them "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" (with its perhaps unintended echoes of earlier popular songs), "When It's Time" and the extremely effective "Wake Me Up When September Ends," although several high-energy rockers such as "I Don't Care" are effective in making their points. Green Day fans will find the 95-minute show is a nearly nonstop playback of the band's best stuff.

As for the dazzling cast: imagine 20 or so of your favorite handsome, beautiful, sexy, muscular porn performers, and they all sing like rock stars made in heaven, men and women alike. Their faces are beautiful, their bodies ripple and director/co-author Michael Mayer finds ways to strip several down to their undies. Hooray!

THEATER REVIEW

Ameriville

Playwright: The Universes
At: Victory Gardens Theater
at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Phone: 773-871-3000 or
www.victorygardens.org; \$20-\$40
Runs through: Feb. 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Victory Gardens subscribers might be forgiven thinking that they stumbled into the Lincoln Park Poetry Slam by mistake. No reason for confusion, though—the venerable theater company is still in the business of doing plays. Indeed, a yuppies-on-the-couch comedy was all set to open in the early spring slot, but when its author declared a no-show, Chay Yew, VG's newly-inaugurated artistic director, looked to his former colleagues for a ready-made import to fill out the season.

The program presented by the four-member Universes ensemble adheres to the Slam's spoken-word performance framework in that the bulk of their text is composed of imagery-infused talking-at-ya monologues, bridged by interludes of orchestrated speech, a *cappella* song-medleys and percussion-based instrumentals. The theme upon which these are grouped begins with Hurricane Katrina, expands to encompass New Orleans before and after the devastation of 2005, then addresses

the upheaval infecting all of America.

Among the mostly first-person observations are the recollections of a boy whose father perished in his attempt to rescue others (accompanied by a mournful mash-up of "Papa was a Rolling Stone" and "Rolling On The River"); the ruminations of a Jackson Square vendor selling spurious relics to ghoulish tourists eager to buy a fragment of the tragedy; and the spectral lament of legendary Voodoo priestess Marie Laveau, hearing her drowning supplicants cry out to her in vain. In the aftermath, military veterans return home to search the ruins of their lost families, a stand-up comedian riffs on inhumane urban renewal and obstructive health care, and Latinos anticipate a shift of power following the diaspora of displaced refugees, as vocalist Mildred Ruiz delivers a searing flamenco-based *cante jondo*.

When you try to be about everything, however, you risk being about nothing. There is no denying the Universes' skilled artistry (and impressive stamina), but the show's 90-minute running time takes its toll on both performers and audience, making for a drop in momentum during the last 15 minutes before the quartet rallies for a rousing hand-clapping finale whose exhortative refrain, "Everybody row!" sweeps us—all of us, jaded theaTAHgoers and teenagers too young to get into the Green Mill alike—in a flood, not of festering destruction this time, but of the ecstatic vitality that heralds healing and resurrection.

SPOTLIGHT



Don't fret if you missed the acclaimed tour of the 2008 Lincoln Center Theater revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* when it played a brief run at the Rosemont Theatre back in 2009. The Pulitzer Prize-winning 1949 musical is back in the Chicago area for a longer stay in the Loop, so go now and revel in its glorious score and marvel at its serious message questioning institutionalized racism. (*South Pacific* was so controversial that the musical was often banned in the Deep South.) Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* continues through Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays (also 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19), 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays (also 2 p.m. Feb. 22). Tickets are \$18-\$85; call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. Photo of Marcelo Guzzo and Katie Reid in *South Pacific* by Joan Marcus





Six Characters in Search of an Author.

THEATER REVIEW

Six Characters in Search of an Author

Playwright: Steve Moulds
after Luigi Pirandello

At: The Hypocrites at Chopin Theatre,

1543 W. Division St.

Phone: 773-989-7352; \$28-\$36

Web: www.the-hypocrites.com

Runs through: March 11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

"Pirandellian" isn't officially an adjective to describe a strange blending of fact and fiction, but good drama students should get the reference if they've ever studied Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello's massively influential 1920s drama *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

And if any of those drama students failed to grasp exactly what Pirandello's suspenseful and disturbing play meant on the page, then they (and any other open-minded theatergoer) should rush to see *The Hypocrites'* wonderful new world-premiere adaptation by Steve Moulds.

Six Characters... is famous as a mind-bending play within a play to challenge an audience's perception of what is real and re-enacted and how dreamed-up characters can become frighteningly real and achieve a sense of immortality. What's wonderful with Mould's adaptation is how he brings it so cleverly up to date and customizes his script to fit the demands and character of *The Hypocrites* as a scrappy and critically-admired Chicago theater troupe.

Set amid leftover elements from *The Hypocrites'* acclaimed revival of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Six Characters...* ostensibly begins as a "put-in rehearsal" demonstration to show invited supporters (you, the audience) how the company goes about its artistic business. Actors like John Taflan and Laura McKenzie are late or not fully memorized, while the authority of replacement director Brennan Buhl and his stage manager Ryan Walter frequently get tested. (These four play great comic versions of themselves.)

Into this disorganized demonstration arrive six ghostly characters from a blended family (Ted Evans, Stevi Baston, Michael Molito, Samantha Gleisten, Ada Grey and Larry Garner) with some demanding help from an author to dramatize their conflicting stories of woe. Once you get past their lengthy exposition, the six bickering and unsettlingly quiet family members offer riveting accounts of what brought so much shame and ruin to their unhappy family.

Hypocrites artistic director Halena Kays han-

dles the comic and dramatic shifts in tone marvelously in an environmental staging cleverly designed by Lizzie Bracken around the remnants of Tom Burch's zany *Pirates of Penzance* set of partial wooden piers, round picnic tables and a plastic swimming pool.

Adding immeasurably to the creepiness of the piece is Maggie Fullilove-Nugent's initially harsh and then ghostly lighting design mixed with Kevin O'Donnell's sound design that turns up the tension. Costumer Alison Heryer also has fun with the hip young actors before going nearly black and white for the distressed family.

With Mould's *Six Characters...*, *The Hypocrites* has once again taken a theater classic and re-interpreted it to make it dramatically fresh and insightfully new. *Six Characters...* will make you laugh up-front, but later haunt you into thinking about the thin barriers of facts and re-created fiction.

CRITICS' PICKS

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

Gypsy, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through April 1. Klea Blackhurst gives a human and powerhouse vocal performance as Madame Rose, usually just written off as "the stage mother from hell." This glorious rendition of the hit musical based upon the memoirs of burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee shouldn't be missed. SCM

Race, Goodman Theatre, through Feb. 19. The mad-Mamet is back in fighting form, scoring punch after punch with this tight little conference-room drama of attorney-client ambivalence, while Chuck Smith's sly direction keeps our attention focused just where it ought to be. MSB

Unnecessary Farce, First Folio Theatre at Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook, through March 4. Chicago actor Paul Slade Smith's 2006 police farce finally receives a standout local debut that constantly leaves you in stitches thanks to a fine-tuned comic cast who wring multiple laughs out of the silly script. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

'Enron' at Timeline through April 15

TimeLine Theatre Company—recently named one of the nation's top 10 emerging professional theatres by the American Theatre Wing, the founder of the Tony Awards—presents the Chicago premiere of *Enron* by Lucy Prebble through April 15.

Enron marks the TimeLine debut of director Rachel Rockwell, who received the 2010 Equity Jeff Award for Outstanding Director (Musical) for her triumphant production of *Ragtime* at Drury Lane Oakbrook and was named Best Director of 2010 by Chicago Magazine.

The cast of *Enron* features Sean Fortunato as Andrew Fastow, Bret Tuomi as Jeff Skilling, TimeLine Associate Artist Terry Hamilton as Ken Lay and Amy Matheny as Claudia Rowe, with Christopher Allen, Jonathan Butler-Duplessis, Elizabeth Dowling, Sean Patrick Fawcett, Mark D. Hines, Matt Holzfeind, Barbara Roeder Harris, Benjamin Sprunger and Demetria Thomas playing multiple ensemble roles.

TimeLine is at 615 W. Wellington Ave. Tickets are \$32 (Wed.-Friday) or \$42 (Saturday & Sunday). To purchase tickets or for more information, call 773-281-8463, ext. 6, or visit www.timelinetheatre.com.

Paradise's 'Bell Book and Candle' through Feb. 26

Paradise Playhouse will run *Bell Book and Candle*—which originally inspired the '60s TV comedy *Bewitched*—through Feb. 26 at Open Door Theatre's brand-new residence at 902 S. Ridgeland, Oak Park.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8

p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Single tickets are \$22 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors. For tickets, call 708-829-5050 or visit www.paradiseplayhouse.net.

'DreamGirls' LGBT night March 3

DreamGirls Chicago will hold its LGBT audience night Saturday, March 3, at the Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m.

Based on the six-time Tony Award-winning musical, *DreamGirls* Chicago tells the story of an up-and-coming 1960s girl group, and the triumphs and tribulations that come with fame and fortune.

The show runs March 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25 and 30-31.

Tickets are \$30 each for the March 3 show, and comes with a concession card that allows the purchaser one of three options: two drinks, a tapas plate or a commemorative photo. Call 773-779-2399 or 773-459-7043.

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.

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
on navy pier theater

312.595.5600
chicagoshakes.com

INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTION SPONSORS: Raymond and Judy McCaskey MAJOR SUPPORTERS: AA Official Airline Marketing Partner BOEING Season Sponsor ComEd Lighting Design Sponsor HYALT Upholsters Theater Sponsor Land of Frost Subscription Series Partner MacArthur Foundation Season Sponsor ROBERT B. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION Shakespeare Trust

Local high school students take risk with 'Laramie'

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

They were supposed to do *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—something light, something fun to perform. It would also be a production elementary school kids could come see, and a show that would make the school a bit of money.

However, Lisa Ehrlich-Menard, drama director at Curie Metro High School, 4959 S. Archer Ave., had had enough of the status quo. She usually confined the study of social issues theatre to the classroom, but decided it was time to challenge her Drama III students, and to make them look at real issues from the outside and then channel them into performance. So she chose *The Laramie Project*.

"I think I'm just getting tired," said Ehrlich-Menard, who has taught at Curie for six years. "I'm getting tired of not giving these teenagers power, letting them understand the power that they should feel they have and that their voice does matter, they can make a difference and they can do it through the arts when everybody is telling them that the arts don't necessarily matter and the arts are not going to get you anywhere."

Ehrlich-Menard wasn't worried about getting fired for choosing a play centered on gay issues and hate; that's not a problem at Curie. The dif-

ficulty is the administration's attitude toward the arts, which she described as "indifferent."

"They'll tell us, 'It's great that you're doing that,' but they never find out what we're doing," she said.

Instead, it was the reaction of the students coming to see the designated school performance that Ehrlich-Menard feared the most. She wrote letters to teachers, who could choose whether to bring their students, and warned them that some kids might laugh at inappropriate moments or say obnoxious, disruptive things. She also gave them study guides so that the students would be prepared for what they were seeing.

Whether it was the advance notice or the power of the production itself, it worked.

"[The students in the audience] were amazing," Ehrlich-Menard said. "The audience was silent, which we never get—ever."

Since it debuted in 2000, *The Laramie Project*, by Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theatre Project, has become a paragon of social justice theatre and a staple of high school drama repertoire. However, for the students of Curie, the dramatic recounting of the brutal 1998 beating and eventual death of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo. was a discovery, and a powerful one at that.



Deanna Aguilera (center, standing) and cast of Curie Metro High School's *Laramie Project*. Photo courtesy of Lisa Ehrlich-Menard

A magnet school in Archer Heights with a student population that includes large percentages of Latino and Black students, Curie's racial lines are apparent every day, but issues of sexual orientation and gender identity are discussed with more rarity. As such, many of the students in the play realized the importance of their production.

Curie senior Jocelyn Diaz said that, before working on this play, she did not realize how big the scope of LGBT issues was.

"I think that this play was really hard to put on because I don't think a lot of people can grasp the idea of homosexuality," Diaz said. "I think we all need to work really hard to show people that it's there and they need to acknowledge it. That's the way our society is."

A group of the students, all of whom are seniors, came to the regular post-show hangout restaurant after the Feb. 2 performance, but the usual camaraderie of high school theatre kids was distinctly absent, the play's somberness following them across the street. Putting on *The Laramie Project* clearly takes every ounce of their strength, and it becomes all too easy to get emotional. For many of the students, it's also personal, and that can really bring on the tears.

A number of them woefully admitted to having used phrases like "that's so gay" or "you're so gay," and now understand how those words can hurt—and it bothers them.

"When [my brother] came out I didn't realize how much [saying those phrases] would hurt him until one day we were downtown and some guy called him a faggot," said student Nileen Cancel. "For somebody to say that to my own brother ... I didn't like it. I love him so much and I think about what they did to Matthew... if something were to happen to my brother because he was gay, I couldn't handle it."

Eric Ayala discovered firsthand how his words could hurt when he learned that his cousin had told everyone else in his family that he was gay except for him.

"[My cousin] said that he hears the way I was talking to other people and he didn't like that and he didn't want me judging him," Ayala said. "So that made me think: he's right, I shouldn't be judging people—I'm no one to judge anybody. Saying stuff like that is not going to do anything; it's not going to make them change. It's just going to hurt them."

Deanna Aguilera, an out lesbian student, has two older siblings who are also openly gay. She has long been involved in LGBT activism, including her school's gay-straight alliance, and being in the play reminded her of the difference she can make.

"The fact that I got to be in something like this and show an audience that this is going on and it should be changed felt amazing," Aguilera said.

After all the students shared their initial reflections on the production, Ehrlich-Menard took the opportunity to remind the teens of exactly how much of a difference they already made. She said a number of teachers have thanked her personally and for her bravery in putting on "*Laramie*."

"Some of you didn't realize how big of a deal [this play] would end up being," she told them. "And I just hope this makes you realize the transformative power that theatre can have, which is what I've been trying to do for the last three years. It can be fun, but you can use it."

Ehrlich-Menard has seen tremendous growth in her students since beginning work on *The Laramie Project*. They go on Facebook and share videos related to "*Laramie*" and other LGBT fronts.

"[They've learned] that hey aren't just passive consumers, that they also have ability to affect people and make difference and say something," she said. "They did not feel that before. Most high school kids don't feel that way. They are now so much more vocal about things."

Some of that growth has been intensely personal. Ehrlich-Menard said she's extremely proud of one student in particular who felt strongly against homosexuality before the play, but has since become more tolerant, now at least seeing it as a choice that should be accepted.

The play has also caught the attention of the Curie administration. Two, including the principal, attended part of the final performance on Feb. 4.

Now Ehrlich-Menard faces the challenge of making sure this big step is just the beginning for her students.

"I don't want them to forget that how they are on a daily basis speaks volumes as well as putting on a big piece once," she said. "I don't want this to be over because the play is over."

The class hopes to attend Redtwist Theatre's production of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, which opens in March. Judy Shepard will be in town for the March 10 performance benefiting the Matthew Shepard Foundation, and Ehrlich-Menard said she hopes Shepard might be available to talk with the students. She felt it would be a meaningful way to cap off a socially significant production and, more importantly, what has been an unforgettable experience for her students.

CULTURE CLUB

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

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

WT
WRITERS' THEATRE

lifeline
THEATRE
Big Stories, Up Close

A world premiere adaptation of the novel by Elise Blackwell
HUNGER

Thursday-Sunday through March 25, 2012
Call 773-761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com

PERFORMANCE

POW-WOW provides space for women poets

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

C.C. Carter, an award-winning slam poet, traveled the country, performing mostly in commercial, straight or male-dominated venues.

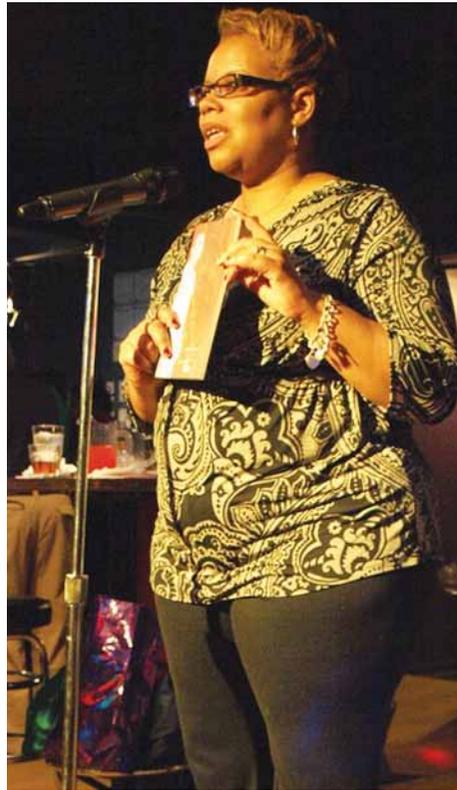
"When I was on tour, what I found was a lot of the women would do their watered-down work that was more appealing to the audience at hand, and I felt there was so much work that was deeper to these women. There was no space for that," said Carter.

In response, Carter started POW-WOW, a safe space performing arts community for women. Every Tuesday for nine years, women have gathered at a bar for an open mic night, kicked off by a featured performer.

Carter boasts that top acts stop in Chicago to perform at POW-WOW for free. Most recently, the group hosted Virginia Grise—a director, performer, poet and author—who was in town for an artist's residency at DePaul University.

"Spaces like these are part of how I began writing, because there was open space to work. So I think it is important to keep these spaces alive. And I really love how queer-centered, how woman-centered POW-WOW is. It's a very loving space," said Grise, who read selections from *Blu*, a play about a Chicana lesbian couple and their children.

While POW-WOW focuses on providing a performance space for women, the organization also serves the broader LGBT community with its *She Speaks* mentoring program in the juvenile



C.C. Carter. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

detention center.

"We found that over 70 percent of the women incarcerated were LGBTQ," said Carter. "Most of

them had their parents throw them out once they found out their [child's] identity, and then committed survival crimes. Whether it's prostitution, robbery, burglary or whatever, they ended up having to commit crimes to sustain their livelihood as a homeless teen."

The organization also strives to engage seniors in the LGBT community and include men as allies.

"Gay men really don't have to be advocates for women. Even gay men can be sexist ... So, we

really worked hard to start a gay men's alliance at POW-WOW," said Carter.

However, Carter credits the attendees with the uplifting, benevolent spirit of POW-WOW.

"Many of the women here are survivors, in the many different aspects of what you call a survivor, whether it is a survivor of discrimination, a survivor of sexual assault, a survivor of domestic abuse," said Carter.

POW-WOW gathers at Jeffrey Pub, 7104 S. Jeffrey Blvd., every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.

Dan Savage's 'It Gets Better' special Feb. 21

MTV and Logo announced that Dan Savage—syndicated columnist, author, co-creator of the *It Gets Better* Project and star of MTV's upcoming series *Savage U*—will anchor a 60-minute "It Gets Better" special, according to a press release. The show will air on MTV and Logo Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 11 p.m. ET/PT.

It Gets Better will focus on three young people at crossroads in their lives, and will include video messages from numerous celebrities, including Jake Shears, Maroon 5's Adam Levine, Zachary Quinto, Chaz Bono, Margaret Cho, and Savage and partner Terry Miller.

"The lives of these three young people will resonate with millions of teens—gay and straight—who are being bullied for simply being themselves," said Savage.

"It's so important they know that things get better and that living openly and honestly and being who you are makes it better. They have so many great moments ahead of them and they will do things they never thought possible—so long as they keep fighting, stay positive and stay with us."

'Pariah' at ICE Chatham thru Feb. 16

Pariah—the critically acclaimed coming-of-age film about an African-American lesbian—will run at the ICE Chatham 14 movie theater, 210 W. 87th St., through Thursday, Feb. 16.

Adepero Oduye portrays Alike, a 17-year-old African American dealing with her sexual identity and a conservative family.

See a review at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/knight-at-the-movies-pariah-angels-crest-film-notes/35487.html.

WCT movie critic part of Feb. 20 event

"Press Pass: LIVE Academy Awards Preview in 4D" will take place at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

The Chicago Tribune's Michael Phillips will host. Other film experts at the event will include Windy City Times' Richard Knight Jr., Tasha Robinson of The Onion's AV Club and Adam Kempenaar of FilmSpotting.

Tickets are \$15 each; purchase at www.eventbrite.com/event/2875473619.

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

INFRA PRODUCTION SPONSOR

ORLI AND BILL STALEY

2011 - 2012 SEASON SPONSORS




WILLIAM FORSYTHE'S
IN THE MIDDLE, SOMEWHAT ELEVATED
PRODUCTION SPONSOR

ELIZABETH F. CHENEY FOUNDATION

JOFFREY DANCER: RICARDO SANTOS | PHOTO BY: SANDRO

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Joffrey; Rampart; film note

Late last year Chicago-based documentary filmmaker Bob Hercules co-directed Bill T. Jones: A Good Man, a sensational portrait of the modern dance maven. Now, in **Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance**, Hercules relates the story of Robert Joffrey, another innovator in the field who, along with partner Gerald Arpino, meshed the worlds of classical ballet and modern dance within their own company. Informative rather than inspirational, the film nevertheless imparts a story that reminds us of the tremendous impact these two gay men have had on the world of the arts and, perhaps more importantly, mainstream culture.

Robert Joffrey was just 16 when he met the 22-year-old Gerald Arpino in 1945. However, already the *wunderkind* had mapped out his future and soon he and his lover headed for New York, where the two worked to become recognized in the field of dance. In 1954 they co-founded the Joffrey Ballet, with Joffrey as its artistic head and Arpino as its principal choreographer/dancer. Two years later the tiny group began to make a name for itself outside of New York. Joffrey had hit upon the idea of bringing dance to the masses and, from humble beginnings (via a station-wagon tour of high schools and community



Robert Joffrey (top) and Gerald Arpino in **Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance**.

centers with six dancers in 1956), this is what they did. The strategy proved very successful in helping the company make a name for itself with the general public; however, Joffrey's egalitarian attitude toward dancers was considered very controversial within the rigid world of dance.

Joffrey's strategy and a series of financial and creative ups and downs are detailed in the film via narration by Mandy Patinkin and archival footage, along with memories and insights from former company dancers, biographers and dance journalists (including Hedy Weiss of the Sun-Times). With the help of financial backing by a wealthy patron, the company had achieved worldwide recognition; however, by 1965 Joffrey and Arpino, after parting ways with the patron, had had to start over. Although no longer lovers, they continued to live and work together until Joffrey's untimely death at 57 from AIDS in 1988. Arpino then became the company's artistic director and, in 1995, permanently moved the company to Chicago. He died in 2008, just a

month after the dedication of the Joffrey Tower in the Loop.

"The American Dance" in the title of Hercules' movie underscores his theme that Joffrey and Arpino's company—by combining classical and modern as well as populist works and including dancers of varying heights and ethnicities—was truly the country's first democratic dance corps. Also, it's clear from the archival footage that this democratic approach included a frankness about male sexuality and the male form that were clearly revolutionary.

The travails and triumphs of the Joffrey's long history naturally lend the film (which is less a movie and more an installment of American Masters on PBS, where it will probably end up) an episodic quality that doesn't allow Hercules screen time to delve deeply into a lot of personal sidebars that the movie could have used. Most disconcertingly, the long history of the company precludes anything much more than 30-second glimpses of the Joffrey repertoire. The emphasis

is on talking about dance rather than showing it and there is nothing here that mirrors the sensual splendor of Pina, Wim Wenders stunningly evocative tribute to the German modern-dance choreographer Pina Bausch. Hercules is also robbed of a living subject—like the fiery, eloquent Bill T. Jones—upon which to anchor the movie. But given that and the fact that this is the first full-length portrait of Joffrey and Arpino and their company, it makes Hercules' approach both understandable and laudatory.

The film plays exclusively at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, and Wed., Feb. 20. Each of the screenings will be followed by a discussion that will include Hercules and panelists made up of local dance journalists, Joffrey dancers and associates of the company. www.siskelfilmcenter.org

Why haven't audiences warmed to Woody Harrelson in his serious roles as they have when he plays comic flakes, stoners and wackos? Is it because he brings such a scary, single-minded intensity to his characters? Or because the common link between all these complex performances is that they are antiheroes? Whatever it is, Harrelson's fearlessness and willingness to plumb the depths of these emotionally scarred, morally reprehensible characters is once again on display in **Rampart**. The movie reteams Harrelson with Oren Moverman, who directed the actor in the criminally overlooked *The Messenger*.

Harrelson plays Dave Brown, a career cop who doesn't suffer fools gladly; lives with his two ex-wives (sisters, played by Cynthia Nixon and Anne Heche) and his two daughters; and nightly picks up another woman (two of them being Audra McDonald and Robin Wright). It's Los Angeles in 1999 and the police department is in the midst of dealing with the fallout from the Rampart scandal (caused when widespread corruption with the department's anti-gang division was revealed). Brown is a dirty cop, long used to having his way on the streets and in his personal life. However, Brown's career begins to implode after he's set up by one of his enemies and is caught on tape beating a suspect nearly to death. Nothing he seems to do after that point in either his career or personal life seems to stop his downward spiral.

Moverman, co-scripting with James Ellroy—the crime-writing expert upon whose story the material is based—has a knack for giving his tremendous cast scant moments to make their presence felt (sometimes, literally, in slivers of screen time) and Harrelson's talent for these bad apples, as noted, is wondrous. But all that good acting is in service to yet another story about a rogue cop and if I never see another movie focused on a cop drinkin', smokin', womanizin' and behaving with violent disregard of the law, it won't be too soon. Enough with the soulless, corrupt cops Hollywood—familiarity has bred contempt.

Film note:

Oscar talk: Here's your chance to pit your Oscar predictions against the pros and support your local queer film critic. On Monday, Feb. 20, Chicago Tribune film critic Michael Phillips will host an Academy Awards preview (complete with clips of the nominated films and more) at Victory Gardens Theater (former home of the historic Biograph) at 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. at 7 p.m. Phillips will be joined by fellow critics Adam Kempenaar of the popular WBEZ podcast "Filmspotting," Tasha Robinson of the Onion's AV Club and yours truly, representing the group that views the Oscars as the gay men's national holiday. Avid movie fans of all persuasions are invited to attend. Tickets and further info are at www.chicagotribune.com/news/tribnation/events.

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



The Joffrey performs Gerald Arpino's "Light Rain," as seen in **Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance**.



Whitney Houston. PR photo

Whitney Houston: An icon passes on

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Grammy-winning singer Whitney Houston died Feb. 11 at the age of 48.

Houston died during the afternoon at the Beverly Hilton hotel. No sign of foul play has been reported.

Houston won two Emmy Awards, six Grammy Awards, 30 Billboard Music Awards and 22 American Music Awards during her career. Her album, *Whitney*, was the first album from a female to ever debut at number one on the Billboard charts. She has sold close to 200 million albums worldwide.

Just a few of her hits include "So Emotional," "I'm Your Baby Tonight," "My Love Is Your Love" and "Saving All My Love For You."

She also appeared in several movies, including *The Bodyguard* (which featured her record-setting remake of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You"), *Waiting to Exhale* and *Cinderella* (with Brandy). She's also in the movie *Sparkle*, slated to arrive in theaters Aug. 10, according to People.com.

However, later in her career, she was known for her dealing with drug usage. She admitted to abusing several drugs, including marijuana, cocaine or pills. The drugs altered her voice to the point where she couldn't hit the high notes she once did.

Celebrities immediately reacted to the news. According to CNN.com, singer Gloria Estefan tweeted, "Shocked we've lost the immensely talented Whitney Houston! Sending prayers of peace & solace 2 her family, friends & fans! Such a loss!" Ryan Seacrest posted, "At Grammys rehearsal hearing Whitney Houston has passed away at 48. Everyone here is absolutely stunned." Joan Rivers tweeted, "What a sad tragedy—the end of the life of an incredible talent. RIP to an amazing singer and legend."

Barbra Streisand said in a statement, "She had everything—beauty, a magnificent voice. How sad her gifts could not bring her the same happiness they brought us." Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg posted, "R.I.P. Whitney Houston. Thank you for the amazing music you brought into the world."

She had one child, Bobbi Kristina Brown, with husband Bobby Brown. Houston and Brown were

married 1992-2007—years that were seen as a particularly volatile time in Houston's life.

Houston's sexuality was the subject of speculation, particularly regarding close friend Robyn Crawford. However, Houston and Crawford always denied rumors they were having a lesbian affair. In 1987, Houston addressed the rumors in *Time* magazine by saying, "People see Robyn with me, and they draw their own conclusions. Anyway, whose business is it if you're gay or like dogs? What others do shouldn't matter. Let people talk. It doesn't bother me because I know I'm not gay. I don't care."

(Crawford reminisced about Houston in an *Esquire.com* article. In part, she stated, "Now I can't believe that I'm never going to hug her or hear her laughter again. I loved her laughter, and that's what I miss most—that's what I miss already.")

Houston is also survived by her mother, Cissy Houston. Singer Dionne Warwick is her cousin and Aretha Franklin is her godmother.

Bobbi Kristina, 18, was taken to the hospital Feb. 12 after being taken from the same hotel where her mother passed away. She was released after being treated for anxiety, according to ABC News.

Many shows devoted whole segments or entire episodes to Houston on Feb. 12 and 13. On *The Wendy Williams Show*, the host tearfully broke down as she recalled her own past as an addict—and then made the rare move of saying she'd no longer talk about Houston's death.

The *New York Post* reported Feb. 13 that Houston is set to be buried in her hometown of Newark, N.J. later this week.

Local reactions

Several members of the local LGBT community emailed *Windy City Times* about Houston's passing.

Hip-hop artist Tim'm T. West stated, "Whitney Houston's clarity of voice enabled my own clarity of acceptance. She was one of the first artists I'd listen to as a teen and not change the pronouns. To that extent, her music has been so integral to my self-acceptance ... and a reminder that if we don't honor the instruments we are given, we can surely lose them."

Robert Garofalo wrote, "She was simply an

icon with the most beautiful voice. When she sang "and above all I wish you love" in her 1993 rendition of Dolly Parton's classic ["I Will Always Love You"], it was simply inspiring and uplifting. Her struggles against the many 'demons' in her life made her oddly human, and were issues almost everyone can relate to. But above all, her voice will live forever."

Angelique Munro commented that the passing was "very sad. Whitney just couldn't recover from her demons and restart her career."

William Hall said, "What a great loss. If only she had internalized the words of 'The Greatest Love of All,' which she sang with such heartfelt sincerity. His 12-year-old son, Camran Tindell-Hall, added, "Whitney Houston was a great singer and will be dearly missed."

Couple TJ and Brad Williams-Hauger wrote, "As part of Black History Month she was an amazing, encouraging and spiritual presence for so many in the African-American community and

we celebrate her legacy. With that, we say, 'Take your flight, Miss Whitney. Hasten to his throne; we—the world and your family—may have loved you, but it is God who loved you more.'"

Amy Matheny, an actress and the voice behind *Windy City Queercast*, said, "I distinctly remember the first time I heard her cover of 'I Will Always Love You.' I was a HUGE Dolly Parton fan, being from eastern Tennessee. I was living in Memphis, driving down Union Ave. I literally pulled over my car to listen to it. I had heard Dolly sing that song at the close of each evening of her Dolly variety show on TV. But Whitney took the song to a transcendent place, as she did with each song she sung."

"Whitney Houston was also the only concert I ever went to with my brother Hank. [That was] also in Memphis, and in the early '90s. We stood on our chairs the whole time in the 10th row. It was one of the greatest concerts I ever saw. R.I.P. Whitney, and thanks for the memories."

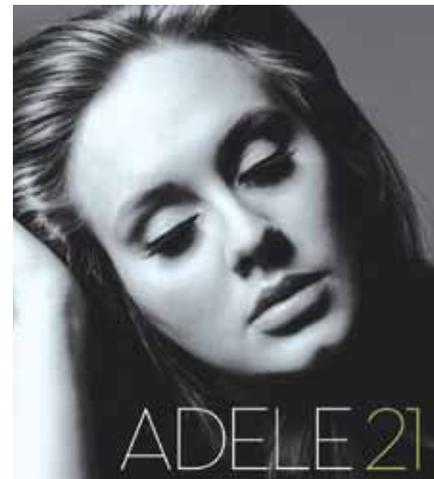
Adele, Whitney at center of Grammys

This year's 54th Annual Grammy Awards, held Feb. 12, will be remembered as the year of the woman—for two distinctly different reasons.

Adele tied a record for women by winning all six of the awards she was nominated for, including album, record and song of the year. The British singer also made a highly anticipated return to the stage after dealing with a hemorrhaged vocal cord, ripping through her hit "Rolling in the Deep." By the time she won her last award, the Armani-clad chanteuse was in tears.

However, another woman was in the spotlight for a much more tragic reason: Whitney Houston. The superstar passed away the previous night of unspecified causes.

Jennifer Hudson paid tribute to Houston by singing the latter's signature song, "I Will Always



ways Love You," concluding, "Whitney, we will always love you." Event host LL Cool J started the show by saying, "We've had a death in our family, and so at least for me—for me—the only thing that feels right is to begin with a prayer for a woman we loved, for our fallen sister, Whitney Houston." He then led a short prayer and played a bit of her video for the song "I Will Always Love You."

Rapper Nicki Minaj caused a stir by entering the ceremony with a man dressed as a pope and then putting on an exorcism-themed performance reportedly involving her alter ego, Roman Zolanski. Chris Brown—three years removed from assaulting then-girlfriend Rihanna—won a Grammy for best R&B album for *F.A.M.E.*

Other award winners included Bon Iver (Best New Artist and Best Alternative Music Album), Tony Bennett and Amy Winehouse (Best Pop Duo/Group Performance), Foo Fighters (Best Rock Performance and Best Rock Song) and Kanye West (Best Rap Album, among other awards).

Skrillex won for best dance recording for

"Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites" over such artists as David Guetta and DJ duo Duck Sauce—who had a song entitled "Barbra Streisand" in the category.

Matt Bomer comes out

Matt Bomer—the star of the USA series *White Collar*—officially came out of the closet, *US Magazine* reported.

Bomer, 34, did so at the Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards Feb. 11, where he was honored with the New Generation Arts and Activism Award for his work in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"I'd really especially like to thank my beautiful family: Simon, Kit, Walker, Henry," Bomer told the crowd. "Thank you for teaching me what unconditional love is. You will always be my proudest accomplishment." Bomer's partner is publicist Simon Halls, who also represents *Glee* co-creator Ryan Murphy and actor Neil Patrick Harris.

On the big screen, Bomer will next appear in the male-stripper movie *Magic Mike* with Matthew McConaughey and Channing Tatum.

Kate Clinton in Madison Feb. 17

Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton will perform at the Barrymore Theatre in Madison, Wis., Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Michael Feldman, the host of NPR's "Whad'Ya Know," will open the evening.

The proceeds of the event are going to support *The Progressive* magazine, now in its 103rd year of publication in Madison. Both Clinton and Feldman write for *The Progressive*.

Tickets are \$30 each; see www.barrymore-live.com. Those interested in meeting Clinton before at a pre-event dinner should call 608-257-4626 or email mattr@progressive.org.

Center's Oscar party at Park West Feb. 26

Center on Halsted's 2012 "On the Red Carpet" Oscar party will move venues, taking place at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m.

There will be a silent auction and raffle prizes; cocktails and buffet dinner; a predict-the-winner contest; champagne service; and, of course, the live Academy Awards telecast.

Tickets are \$30-\$125 each. See www.centeronhalsted.org/oscars.html.



WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

PROFILE BY ANDREW DAVIS

Eduardo's Enoteca: An intimate space

Forget about getting those calzones and deep-dish pizzas at 1212 N. Dearborn St.—Eduardo's Natural Pizzas has been reborn as Eduardo's Enoteca.

Last year, the eatery closed for renovations—and, boy, has it changed. The bright, family-friendly atmosphere now has a more intimate one. There is a more sophisticated setting, complete with features such as drop ceilings.

In addition, the menu now has antipasti such as zucchini carpaccio, salads like spinach pancetta and black ink linguini among its pasta dishes. There is still pizza, but these rustic items are varieties such as potato gorgonzola and prosciutto arugula. (However, all of the items are moderately priced, with just about all the items costing \$15 or less.)

When asked what led to the overhaul, proprietor/Executive Chef Noah Himmel said, "This is a family business. ... Eduardo's has been around for about 30 years, and we hadn't done much to change the concept. I wanted to do something that stuck with an Italian theme, but I wanted to freshen it up and

make items that are much lighter."

Himmel wants to make the restaurant an alternative to the frat-boy nightlife on nearby Division Street. "We don't have baseline liquors. We make our own juices and our own syrups for our cocktails. It's an intimate space that's great for a first date," he said. [Note: I have to disagree with this statement. Coffeehouses are great for first dates nowadays. People would have to earn their privilege to eat here.] "We don't want people coming in here drunk at 2 a.m."

Speaking of eating, the food and extensive wine list are definitely above the cut. My dining partner and I really liked the wild mushroom crostini. What's more impressive is that my friend was totally converted by the Brussels sprouts (which may not be at the restaurant now, as it's out of season)—she absolutely hated them before trying them at Eduardo's. The aforementioned prosciutto arugula pizza is heavenly, by the way. Also, you can't leave without trying dessert; in the case of the ricotta cheesecake, the restaurant definitely saved the best for last. (However, you might have to arrive early for the flourless chocolate cake, as the eatery was out of it at 7:45 p.m.)

Oh, by the way, when you're there, say hello to manager Jonathan Self—one of the friendliest guys you'll ever meet (actually hugging me on my way out). On the night I went there, he was actually helping to shovel snow off the sidewalk.

See www.eduardosenoteca.com.



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

Phil Stefani's 437 Rush

REVIEW BY JOE FRANCO

When it comes to Italian restaurants, I know what you're thinking: bad murals of Rome painted on rustic-looking plaster walls, checkered tablecloths, cheap bottles of Chianti strewn about and endless recordings of Dean Martin or Pavarotti singing about either pizza or the joys of the martini. However, Phil Stefani's 437 Rush is not cliché, not in any way.

If I had to describe the restaurant in one word, I would say "delightful." The bar area is a blend of classic Italy and River North, with its carrera marble bar top and modern background murals, you instantly are aware that this is not the Olive Garden, or Macaroni Grille or whatever terrible place has convinced you that you are, in fact, eating Italian food. Oh sure, you'll see



437 Rush's executive chef Federico Comacchio. Press photo

the assortment of black-and-white photographs of men and women who had something to do with Italian food, Italian music or the founding of 437 Rush, but nary a Leaning Tower of Pisa is to be seen.

Perhaps I am used to hearing "That's Amore" played while I slurp down overcooked spaghetti carbonara (which, thanks to Rachael Ray, is a step above Hamburger Helper these days). However, the music at 437 Rush is a unique assortment of French jazz, house music and even electronica that at least gives the illusion that you might actually be in Europe. I must say, even if it served food worse than Portillo's, this alone is reason enough to dine here.

Executive Chef Federico Comacchio is a master of meat. The restaurant is known for a number of dishes but none so much as the endless supply of great-quality surf and turf. Once

Turn to page 26

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

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.

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.

Jane's Restaurant
1653-55 W. Cortland Ave.
773-862-5263
janesrestaurant.com
An everyday, upscale eatery

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

MEDITERRANEAN
Socca
3301 N. Clark St., Chicago
773-248-1155
soccachicago.com
Featured on Food Network. Italian/French cuisine. Dinner daily and weekend brunch. Outdoor patio.

MEXICAN
Mundial Cocina Mestiza
1640 W. 18th St., Chicago
312-491-9908
mundialcocinamestiza.com
Creative Mexican cuisine in the Pilsen neighborhood. Hand-shaken margaritas and affordable wines.

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.

To get your business listed in The Dish, contact advertising@windycitymediagroup.com

Madonna expresses herself

Gay icon relates herself to 'strong women' in new film, talks being an outsider and the latest era of her career



Madonna. Photo from The Weinstein Company

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

With all of Madonna's metamorphoses throughout her balls-out career, slipping in and out of cultural zeitgeists (and accents), the queen chameleon is still the master of reinvention. Just don't tell her that.

"Please don't throw those tired, old clichés at me," Madonna playfully insisted, nodding her head at me in half-kidding agitation. (Hey, at least it wasn't hydrangeas.)

Her annoyance was marked with cheekiness—and a smile—that only the First Lady of Pop could pull off, and has, for three decades. This is a new chapter in the indelible diva's run, as she drops her hyped 12th album, MDNA, in March via a three-disc deal with Interscope; plans to launch an extensive world tour; performed, perhaps, the gayest Super Bowl halftime ever; and releases her feature-length directorial debut, W.E., a pet project that recently won her a Golden Globe for Best Original Song.

And she—sexpot, spiritualist, Material Girl—really only had one word to define herself at the moment: "Busy." Always unpredictable, she's not interested in breaking down the details of what's to come. All she cared to talk about is the film, a semi-biopic on Wallis Simpson (played by Andrea Riseborough) and King Edward VIII dovetailed with a modern-day love story centered on fictionalized damsel-in-distress Wally Winthrop (Abbie Cornish).

Seated with Madonna at a Waldorf-Astoria suite in New York City, one writer told her he had a question to kick off the interview. "I'm sure you do," she quipped all-knowingly, as if to acknowledge the fact that she's aware how much gay men go gaga over her. This was, after all, the room reserved for a small group of gay press, her first stop after a tardy arrival—"It's all too much. That's why I'm late! I'm late for

everything now."—and the one her longtime publicist, Liz Rosenberg, insisted will put her in a good mood for the rest of the day. Madonna agreed, sighing: "Let's start with levity."

Madonna was in her groove around us. She knew we get her even when she's wielding snarky cracks. Ask her if she knew how to do the twist like the characters in her film and she responded: "Yes." Hard pause. "Pretty simple." Reminisce on when you last interviewed Madonna and she won't care. "All right, let's get down to business," she insisted, done with small talk.

And so we do. Looking stunningly flawless, not at all her 53 years, in a deep blue dress with her now-infamous black gloves and a bracelet of four crosses to represent each one of her children, she gives us exactly what we want: Madonna. No pretense. No filter. No warm-and-fuzzy. In the interview, she talks about the challenges of being a strong woman in a man's world, teaching her children to be unique and how outsiders can relate to her new film.

Windy City Times: What similarities do you see between Wallis and Evita?

Madonna: What they have in common is what many people have in common who are public figures, who become iconic and who have some kind of historical impact, especially women—strong women. People have a tendency to feel intimidated by the strength of these women, and in order to accept—actually, the word "accept" is wrong, because I don't think they're actually accepted.

I think in order to deal with them, a lot of people who write history books—and humanity in general—have a tendency to diminish women or undermine their accomplishments or try to portray them as heretical or as someone with an evil possession of some kind of sorcery, or undermine their strength or intelligence, so I think they have those things in common. Now I'm not saying that Eva Peron is without flaws or that Wallis Simpson was this perfect holy human being, but I do think they were both dealt with in a very unfair way in the history books.

WCT: Have you felt that way?

Madonna: [Laughs, expecting the question] Well, yeah, sure. Yes, of course. I mean, I don't think it's just me. It's strong women in general.

WCT: Why?

Madonna: Why? Because... [Hesitates]

WCT: You're a threat?

Madonna: No. It's just the nature of the universe. It's the nature of the world that we live in. We live in a patriarchal society and strong women have to...

WCT: Challenge that?

Madonna: No. They're held under a microscope and judged and measured in a different way. That's just the law of the universe right now.

WCT: The film is driven by a contemporary woman's view of this historical figure. Do you see anything in your story that may, or that you hope one day may, do the same for someone else?

Madonna: The Duchess is really Wally's spiritual guide, so to speak, and even though [the Duchess] came from a different era where women didn't have the same kind of choices and opportunities, we as women still are all raised on this fairytale idea that no matter how many opportunities we have education-wise or job-wise, your knight in shining armor is going to arrive on his beautiful white stallion and sweep you off your feet and take you off into the twilight, and you're going to live happily ever after.

This is something that we all have to deal with when we grow up. But one person isn't going to be all of those things to us; ultimately, we have to make our own happiness, and when we can own that and take responsibility for our

own happiness, then we can find a mate for ourselves, or companion or significant other or whatever you want to call it. That's certainly what the Duchess imparts to Wally, and I hope that I can inspire other women to think that way with my own life and behavior.

WCT: What's the thing that surprised you most about Wallis Simpson while doing your research?

Madonna: The discoveries that Wally makes in her journey and her investigations were essentially mine. When I heard about the story—what a magnanimous, generous romantic gesture Edward VIII made toward Wallis Simpson—I thought the same thing that Wally says when she's looking in the mirror trying on the necklace: "What must it feel to be loved that much?"

As I started to unravel the story and read the letters and go on the journey that I went on to write the script, I realized that, in fact, it wasn't this fairytale romance as I had imagined it would be. I found that Wallis Simpson tried to avoid the actual marriage from taking place and how she saw the writing on the wall and how she tried her best to get Edward to see the writing on the wall. She was very astute in her observations, but obviously she couldn't talk him into her point of view. He was just cunt-struck, as they say in England. [Laughs at her choice of words] Sorry!

WCT: Did you ever think of making the movie without the contrasting modern-day story of someone reflecting on a historical figure?

Madonna: No. I wasn't interested in making a straightforward biopic. I don't think it's possible to tell the story of one person from beginning to end in two hours. I think that's actually an un-



Madonna on the set of W.E. Photo from The Weinstein Company

fair challenge to give oneself. And also, truth is so subjective and each of us could read the same five books about the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and we would walk away with a different interpretation. It would impact us in a different way, and so it was important for me to establish that. As much research as I did, and as close as I tried to stay to the truth and as authentic as I wanted to be, it was important that I be clear that it is a point of view. I never intended to just tell the story of Wallis Simpson.

WCT: What's the importance of telling this story from your point of view?

Madonna: Most of the perspective on the story is, "Look what he gave up for her," and it's told from the male point of view. I think that when Wally starts to make all these discoveries about the Duchess, she appeals to Mohamed Al Fayed (keeper of the Duke and Duchess' letters) as an outsider, because he lives as a foreigner and as an outsider in England, not really accepted by society.

Really, in my movie, each character is an outsider. Wally is living in alienation in the Upper East Side, where she doesn't fit in; [Wally's love interest] Evgeni is a Ukrainian immigrant working as a security guard, but he's really an intellectual and an artist and he doesn't fit in; the Duchess doesn't really fit into this aristocratic world that she's found herself in, and Edward doesn't really fit into the Victorian world that he was raised in. So it's how all these people who feel like outsiders try to come to terms and find their way in the world.

WCT: Is that something you draw from your own experience?

Madonna: Yeah, but I think a lot of people can relate to it. A lot of us feel like we don't fit into the conventional norm or what society expects from us. More and more, people are redefining what makes a family, what makes a couple, what makes love, what romance is, what a union is, what soul mates are—all of these things we're reinventing, because family is what you make it.

It's funny how things turn out that way. Sometimes your parents aren't really the people who nurture you. You have other role models in your life that become your mother and your father. It's unusual when the family you're born into is actually the people that feel like your family.

WCT: Growing up, you rebelled against your upbringing and invention, becoming a major trailblazer. How is it different being a mother with kids who will not have to fight the same battles that you fought?

Madonna: Not that this has anything to do with my film, but it's an interesting question. I don't think that I'm a conventional parent. I realize that, to a certain extent, my children are raised with privilege; they have housekeepers, [and] I didn't. There are a lot of differences. On the other hand, my parents raised me in a very conventional way and I rebelled against it, and now my children come to me and they often want to do things because everybody else does them, and I say to them, "That's just the worst reason I've ever heard for doing something."

I encourage them to question things. Question their behavior, take responsibility for their behavior, think outside the box. And they will have a different set of challenges. They will be

compared to me. I will be some kind of a benchmark that they have to live with and deal with, and they are going to have to find their way in the world. We are all born with, and into, our challenges, so I don't think for a second that life is going to be so simple and easy for them.

WCT: Do you feel like all your years of research on Wallis Simpson is over with, or are you still invested in her?

Madonna: I'm done with my deep research, but I still feel a strong connection to her. She's always going to be a part of me. I am still uncovering little gems about her. People come to me and say, "Oh, look at this little note that we found in this handbag that was auctioned off 20 years ago." People are still bringing me bits and bobs and memorabilia, so I'm still discovering things about her—and I'm sure I will for the rest of my life.

I was actually going through my papers in my files the other day and found an astrological reading that someone had done for me 30 years ago. I was reading it, and the woman was talking about some aspect of my personality and she quoted Wallis Simpson: "All for love and the world well lost." I thought, "How weird—she was already a part of my life." That was a little foreshadowing. That happened 30 years ago, so who knows what's going to happen 30 years from now.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISE HERE

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

ANTIQUES

ZURKO ANTIQUE EVENTS

ANTIQU * 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

ARTISTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 51st ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 14th & 15th, 2012. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. apply now. **For applications or information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. www.skokieartguild.org (6/27/12)**

BUSINESS FOR SALE

LIVE/WORK/PLAY OPPORTUNITY IN DOWNTOWN LAKE GENEVA, WI. Turnkey B&B ready for new owner/s. Est. 12 years ago, this wonderful brick Federal Victorian, fully updated and furnished can be yours for the upcoming season. Act now/limited financing possible. **Call 262-249-0632. www.mariasbandb.com (3/7/12-4)**

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 (5/9/12-13)**

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)**

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@tsamilaw.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)**

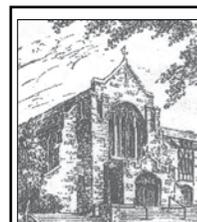
PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

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 - TWO FLAT

EVANSTON, 19th CENTURY VICTORIAN TWO FLAT. Each unit has two bedrooms. Finished basement. Perfect for someone who works from home. Walking distance to shopping, restaurants, and Lake Michigan as well as Metra and CTA. \$450,000.00. **Baird and Warner. 847.905.5222 (2/22/12-2)**

FOR SALE - LOCAL BEACH PROPERTY

BEVERLY SHORES BEACH. 3 bedrooms/3 full bathrooms; open concept - upgraded kitchen, living-room w/fireplace, dining room, and wonderful enclosed screened-in porch. Relax outdoors on one of two balconies, or back deck, ready to entertain with a hot tub and sound system. Easy access to major shopping and travel into Chicago by way of Beverly Shores' South Shore station. **View listing here: <http://mccolly.com/mgilbertsen> - My Listings - 1 W Marne. mgilbertsen@mccolly.com (2/22/12-2)**

FOR SALE - CONDO

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)**

ROSCOE VILLAGE DEAL Newly renovated 2 bedroom apartment in Roscoe Village, 3513 N. Western Avenue. New kitchen with maple cabinets, new stainless appliances. New CT bathroom. Hardwood floors throughout. Central a/c and ceiling fans. New windows - new mechanicals. Old world charm - with modern conveniences. And at an affordable \$1,100 per mo. A one yr lease, security deposit and first mos' rent required. No pets please. **Call Pete at (773)988-0507 or email PAPAPTS@AOL.COM Thanks for looking! (2/15/12-1)**

DISH from page 24

mooring, baaing or making whatever noise it is octopi make, Comacchio has turned that cacophony into a meat-lover's delight. If you see lamb chops anywhere on the menu, I highly recommend them. Lamb is one of those finicky meats that, if prepared poorly may cause a psychotic breakdown; however, when prepared properly, it will cause spontaneous renditions of long-forgotten arias. In other words, the lamb is awesome.

Comacchio is also quite adept at his handling of seafood. His "carpaccio di barbe, capensante, tartufo e zucca" (roasted scallops, red beet carpaccio, pumpkin vinaigrette and black truffle) is a creative fusion of Italian and Midwestern flavors. I have but two caveats for the seafood diners here. First, 437 Rush uses the biggest shrimp I have ever seen. Now, any cook knows that large shrimp are troublesome little buggers to prepare. One second too long on the barbie and "POOF!"—overcooked shrimp.

Second, I was told that 437 Rush is known the world over for its lobster bisque. Normally, words from the hipster lexicon do not make it to my precocious lips, but in this case, after trying the lobster bisque I was "underwhelmed." The bisque was a bit thin for my liking and the



437 Rush's antipasto. Press photo

lobster flavor was a mere sigh from the mouth of the lobster. I want my lobster screaming.

Phil Stefani's 437 Rush is the quality food, flavor and ambience of Italy but without the overpronunciation of "ricotta" that makes me want to smack Giada de Laurentiis in the face with a cuttlefish. If you like extremely good Italian food, I doubt you'll be disappointed at 437 Rush.

Kat Fitzgerald
Photographer

www.mysticimagesphotography.com



Chicago Auto Show: More than just looks

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The 104th edition of the Chicago Auto Show is currently running through Feb. 19 at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr.

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 cars. In total, nearly 1,000 different vehicles are on display.

Viewers can see vehicles that encompass the past, present and future. Classic Cars of America has a tantalizing array of cars on display, and there's even an area called "60 Years of Corvette," complete with a model from the '50s. The concept cars—some with more unusual designs than others—are there as well.

Speaking of looks, one of the most intriguing displays involved the work of Pontiac, Ill., airbrush artist Tang Dongbai, whose works on a vehicle were inspired by the history of the city.

Also, the luxury cars once again have a place at the table, as makes such as Maserati, Porsche and Aston Martin are there, tempting attendees.

However, looks are only part of the story at this year's event, as manufacturers stressed advancements in safety, eco-conscience and/or technology.

This year's vehicle display scads of safety fea-

tures, ranging from advanced airbag system to lane-drift technology to LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).

Chrysler was front and center with its BraunAbility feature, which allows wheelchair-bound individuals in its larger vehicles to comfortably enter, exit and drive. Among its sundry features is Uconnect, a voice-activated, hands-free system. It's pretty much a hub for the user's Internet, satellite radio and personal devices like MP3 players.

Another example is the remarkably roomy smart car, which features (among other things) electronic stability program and hill start assist. In addition, the car—which is 85-percent recyclable—has eight airbags and a design that allows you to use body panels of various colors and designs.

Acura unveiled its completely redesigned 2013 Acura RDX crossover sport utility vehicle and the all-new 2013 Acura ILX luxury compact sedan. The ILX will feature three advanced, sporty and efficient powertrain choices, including Acura's first-ever gas-electric hybrid.

On another show-related note, the Feb. 9 black-tie event known as First Look for Charity raised more than \$2 million for 18 organizations. Events scheduled to take place Feb. 15-19 include test drives as well as non-auto-related items such as a meet-and-greet Chicago Bears football player Earl Bennett, Kia Karaoke and even manicures.

See www.ChicagoAutoShow.com for more info. Photos by Andrew Davis



calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
TIMES

nights

spots

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

Wed., Feb. 15

Legal Seminar: Civil Unions to Dissolution The mechanics of the the civil union, legal meaning, recognition a dissolution. RSVP to LEGAL@CENTERONHALSTED.ORG stating specific event. With Ray Koenig and Celia Gamrath. 6:30pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

The Joffrey Ballet presents 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. There will be 10 performances only at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, through Feb. 26. 7:30pm-9:30pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy, www.joffrey.org; Tickets: www.ticketmaster.com/joffrey-ballet-tickets/artist/714791

Whitney Houston Tribute at Hydrag Join Tajma Hall as she hosts a celebration of an icon. With DiDa Ritz, Sorraya Dash and Mercedes Andrews; all will be sharing some of their Whitney favorites with you. Show starts at 11 pm sharp, followed by DJ Laura B, who will be playing Whitney throughout the night as a celebration of life. \$4 Skyy Vodka cocktails, Drag bombs, or Corona and budlight bottles. No cover. 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Weekly Wednesday Lunch Networking Group. All attendees are \$10 cash at door. 11:30pm, Chicago Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, 3179 N. Clark St., www.glchamber.org

TREW LOVE Sunday, Feb. 19

There will be a fundraiser for judicial candidate Mary Trew at the Frank Lloyd Wright House, 400 Forest Ave., Oak Park

Photo by Chuck Colbert



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. Space is limited and RSVPs were requested by Monday, Feb. 13. 6pm-9pm, 1-312-675-2105, Shrine Haberdashers, 47 E. Oak St., <https://www.facebook.com/pygchicago>; Tickets: shrinestyle.com/events/pygs-pre-cocktail-event/

Renters' Rights Seminar Presentations will cover an explanation of the Chicago Landlord Tenants Ordinance; how to work with a landlord; and bedbug prevention and treatment. Contact Senator Steans' constituent office at 773-769-1717 or Rep. Cassidy's constituent service office. 6pm, 773-784-2002, Loyola University's Coffey Hall, Sheridan Road.

God vs. Gay? The Center on Halsted, Nehirim, Or Chadash, Equality Illinois, the Forward, Zeek, and Beacon Press are proud

to host Jay Michaelson for an evening of learning and conversation on how LGBT Jews and allies enrich the Jewish people with their differences, and how we can have productive conversations with those still struggling with issues of religion and sexuality. 7pm-8:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.; www.centeronhalsted.org

T and GQ Out Mic T Out Mic is pairing with GenderQueer Chicago to host an all-together awesome open mic and spoken-word event open to all. Each performer gets five minutes to do their thing and there may be time for encores. 7:30pm-10pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Newtown Writers Elevating GLBT literature. February general workshop. 7:30pm, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., www.gerberhart.org

Dollhouse Drag Revue Join The Princess, Phi Phi O'Hara and different guest stars each week for a fresh, creative and exciting drag show unlike any other that you've seen before! Featuring up-and-coming talent with lots of energy! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

Friday, Feb. 17

Staged reading of The Laramie Project Staged readings beginning today will allow the public to see the original play by Moisés Kaufman, providing background and context for The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later, which begins March 4. Tickets to the readings, \$15. 7:30pm, 773-728-7529, Redtwist Theater, 1044 W Bryn Mawr Ave., www.redtwist.org

Queens of Mardi Gras The biggest names from Club Krave, Manuevers and the North Side are back on one stage at a venue that holds more than 3,000 people. Lindsey Devereaux, Serina DeVine, Angelique Munro, Sassy Trade, Phoenix Envy, Tina Roberts, Billy Miller, Theresa Dawn, Coyote Harlem, Bella LaMore, Jazzelle Boyette, Chris Ruhu, Myke, Katie, Dennis, Rhonda, Kristian, Victor, Syreeta, Catt, Dawn and Lori. Hosted by the "mouth of the south" Brandi Wyne. 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th St, Merriette Park, IL; 8pm, 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th St, Merriette Park

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-10pm, Donny's Skybox Theatre, 8 N. Wells St., Chicago, www.secondcity.com

Whitney Houston Tribute Showcase with DJ Riley York Remember the icon with an all-Whitney showcase with DJ Riley York. All Whitney's classic moments, hits, remixes and more. Followed by the other divas after. 9:30pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave., www.facebook.com/thecallbar

Saturday, Feb. 18

When Identities Collide: Sexuality and Black Feminism Featuring author Kimberly Springer and Jennifer Brier, co-curator of the exhibit Out in Chicago. The program, co-sponsored by the Chicago History Museum and Gender and Women's Studies Program at University of Illinois at Chicago, will explore the history of lesbians in the Black feminist movement and the future of queer, feminist, women of color organizing. 1pm-4pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark, Chicago, www.chicagohistory.org; Tickets: www.prairie.org

Newly Union Game Twenty couples will compete in a live game show very similar to the Newlywed game. \$10 gets you a drink ticket, chance to win door prizes, and a grand time all hosted by Cyon Flare! \$20 gets couples the chance to compete for bragging rights and a trip (you don't have to be legally unioned to play) First 20 couples to RSVP to development@affinity95.org will play. Pay at the door. Real prizes, including a second honeymoon. 3pm-8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, Chicago, www.affinity95.org

Sappho's Midwinter Dance Party & Mixer with Kathie Bergquist and Riva Lehrer; 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

9 to 12 Bowling League Longest running GLBT bowling league in suburban Chicago 191 South River Road (just north of Rand Road) in Des Plaines; 9pm

Mr. Chicago Escort of the Year 2012 Hosted by Ruby Dee and Jason Adonis. Meet pornstars Shane Frost, Heath Jordan, Chad Brock, and Chicago's hottest men-for-hire. The hottest rentboys in Chicago compete for the title. The winner receives a paid trip to New York City for the 6th annual International Escort Awards. 10:30pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, Chicago, www.hydratechicago.com/allevants

Sharon Needles and Phi Phi O'Hara RuPaul's Drag Race 4 stars give you two performances at midnight and 1 am. VJ Dominic, DJ Riley York and drag diva Jade. \$5 advance; \$10 at the door; \$20 VIP. 11pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

Sunday, Feb. 19

Windy City Times: Impact on Chicago and Its LGBT Community Tracy Baim, co-founder and publisher of Windy City Times, speaks at the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago in Skokie on the role of media in the LGBT Chicago community. Windy City Times was founded in 1985, just as Chicago's LGBT community started to show its full force through culture, sports, activism (especially in response to AIDS and civil rights), politics, media and business. Coffee Hour after the program. Sunday programs are free and open to the public, and a children's program runs concurrently. Questions to office@ethicalhuman.org; 10:30am, 847-677-3334, Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, www.ethicalhuman.org/speaker/baim.html

Meet candidate Judge Trew RSVP by Feb. 16 to 400ForestCoffee@comcast.net; 2pm-4pm, Frank Lloyd Wright House, 400 Forest Ave., Oak Park

Urban Village Church: Andersonville service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village



SO EMOTIONAL

Week of Feb. 13

There will be various tributes at bars throughout the city to honor Whitney Houston.

Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

Robyn showcase DJ Greg Haus brings you this polar music party with music and video by Robyn and electronic superstars of Scandanavia, including Lykke Li, The Sounds, Oh Land, Röyksopp, The Knife and more. No cover. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

Monday, Feb. 20

Oscars panel Tribune presents critics from inside and outside the paper to an Academy Awards preview, \$15. On the panel are Windy City Times film critic Richard Knight Jr., Filmspotting's Adam Kempenaar and The Onion's Tasha Robinson. 7pm, Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave., www.chicagotribune.com

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night in the front bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Voter registration deadline Register to vote in the upcoming election; 4pm, 44th Ward Service Office, 1057 W. Belmont Ave., www.chicagoelections.com/voterinfo.php

Mardi Gras Bingo Party Get all kinds of Lucky with your bingo hostesses with the mostesses Mercedes & Debbie Fox. Then dance the night away with DJ Bryan Smith, \$4 you-call-it cocktails and \$5 Malibu hurricanes. 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

Wed., Feb. 22

11th Annual Freedom to Marry Reception The annual reception is one of many ways to engage the LGBT community, allies, and our families and friends to discuss the importance of marriage equality. RSVP ryadira@lambdalegal.org; 6:30pm-9:30pm, National Museum of Mexican Art

Legal Seminar: Consumer Backruptcy Primer Everything you were afraid to ask, brought to you by the offices of Wheeler & Patel, LLP and Center on Halsted. Preregistration required, free event. RSVP to LEGAL@CENTERONHALSTED.ORG stating specific event. 6:30pm-8pm, 773.472.6469ext.436., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Mini University Chicago's hottest new college night, loaded with THE hottest bartenders, barbacks, and boys! 9pm, Minibar, 3341 N. Halsted St., www.minibarchicago.com



WED-LETTER DAY

Wed., Feb. 22

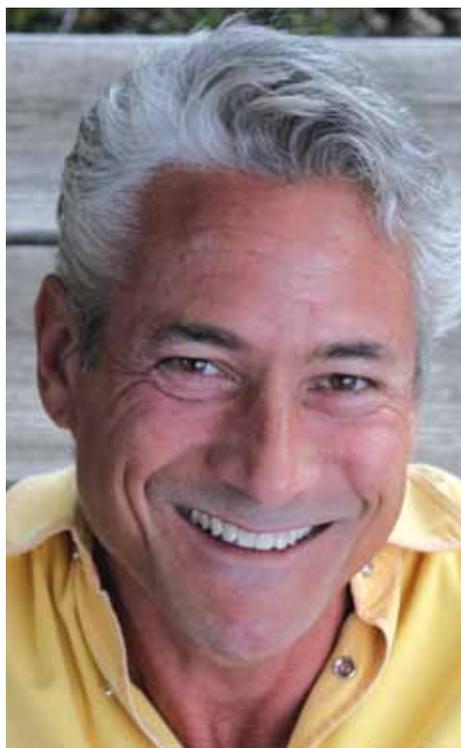
The 11th Annual Freedom to Marry Reception will take place at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.

Photo from 2011 by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"This year I have a talent crush on Ryan Gosling. I think he's fantastic and ... ahem ... you know he'd be nice afterwards. He seems smart. If I was gay, I would go for a smart man."—Daniel Radcliffe discusses who he'd want to be with if he were gay. Glad to know he's only interested in Gosling for his brains. As for me, Ryan could be dumb as a stump.

Just as we were on deadline came the tragic news: Whitney Houston—DEAD. At the time of this writing, details are sketchy ... an appropriate word if ever there was one. The singer's battle with drugs is well-documented and most people don't appear to be shocked that her life ended so soon ... although it is still tragic. Reportedly, Houston was at the Beverly Hilton, where she was staying in anticipation of mentor Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammy party. Just a few hours before the soirée, a member of her entourage found her unresponsive. (Some reports say she was in the tub.) Paramedics were called while hotel employees tried to resuscitate her. She was pronounced dead a half-hour later—which likely means she had died some time ear-



Greg Louganis wants to go from the pool to the dance floor.

lier. Whitney had been romantically linked with Ray J—Brandy's brother. She recently finished filming a remake of Sparkle with Jordin Sparks that was scheduled to be released Aug. 10—but I'd bet that date will be moved up quickly. While I know we'll be bombarded by news and revelations in the coming days, let me just take a moment to say rest in peace, Nippy.

Ray J's most famous sex partner, Kim Kardashian, has donated \$50,000 to the Trevor Project, the folks who run the nationwide 24/7 suicide hotline for GLBTQ youths. Here's a word Kim rarely hears—"Bravo!"

Budget cuts have affected the alleged non-profit organization GLAAD. Of the full-time 45 employees, 11 have been fired. That's about one-quarter of their staff or, as I like to call it, a step in the right direction.

The guessing game for potential contestants on the upcoming season of Dancing with the Stars has started. While not officially under consideration, our own Greg Louganis is once again making a bid to be cast and has taken his campaign to Facebook. Of all the athletes who could be featured on the show, I can't think of anyone who would have more name recogni-

tion—or more controversy (and you know I love a bit of controversy). We hear that Dolly Parton was wooed, but politely declined. Someone who could fill her slot would be Paula Deen—plus a little exercise and good publicity would be fortuitously timed. Speaking of good publicity, I hear that Herman Cain's people have suggested him as a candidate—especially since he's no longer a candidate for anything else. There's been interest from Stevie Wonder's people. Wouldn't that be interesting? Would he lead? And, unlikely as it seems, an offer went out to my buddy Regis Philbin. Who the hell would his partner be? Gellman? Now, THAT I'd love to see! The new cast will be unveiled on Good Morning America Feb. 28.

You can say a lot of things about former DWTS contestant and reality whore Jake Pavelka. He may have no discernible talent. He may be losing his hair. He may be a lying sack of crap—but he's hot. So when it was announced that he'd be the new MC of the Chippendales revue at the Rio All-Suites Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, it made sense to me. He starts Feb. 23. I predict a Top Gun number will be added to the show.

You know what I've just noticed? That most of the people in this particular column have appeared on Dancing with the Stars. So who am I to fight a theme unfolding before my very eyes? Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is coming out to defend his heterosexuality, and let me say on behalf of gay men everywhere ... THANK YOU! If ever I was happy to know that someone is NOT gay, it's "The Situation!" It all started when Snooki and J-Woww (two names I never expected to type) openly mused about Sitch's sexuality and that he could be gay. Sorrentino's publicist said this rumor is "the most ridiculous statement I've ever heard." You want ridiculous? Snooki also made a sexual revelation: "I would consider myself bi. I've done stuff with girls before. I would never 'be' with a girl because I like penis. But I've experimented." See? Now THAT'S ridiculous.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Bruce in Chicago: "Is it me or are the hottest men on TV in Shameless? Who was the long-haired hunk last week with the big penis?"

Finally, something I'm qualified to talk about—big penises! That would belong to Zach McGowan, who also possesses a particularly perfect physique. Lemme set the scene—Zach is cooking breakfast in the nude. By the time the eggs are done, two characters are hiding under the kitchen table. He walks over to the table and from their vantage point, they're faced with a swinging penis—and, boy, does it swing! The moment this nude scene aired, one of my proofers texted me. He replayed it so many times, I believe he broke his TiVo. Thank God for BillyMasters.com!

When a big penis trumps a celebrity death, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. I should mention that from Feb. 29 through March 5, I'll be in South Beach at the Winter Party Festival, which benefits the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (details at www.WinterParty.com). I will interrupt my seaside frolicking and zip cross-country to Las Vegas for 12 hours so I can attend the March 3 gala grand opening of Share Nightclub (www.ShareNightclub.com). Something tells me I'll not only be exhausted, but I'll have all sorts of gossip and photos when the weekend's done. So be sure to keep up with www.BillyMasters.com for the latest dish. If you have a situation you'd like me to look into, just write to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Snooki takes up dancing! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

It's finally here...let's heat up the place...

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

MARDI GRAS

2012

Made in Brazil, Venice, Sydney, New Orleans & Chicago

SIDETRACK

3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

BACARDI
SOUTHERN COMFORT
Heineken
LEBLON
EFFEN VODKA

NO COVER Thank you.

f t SidetrackBar

TWO WAYS TO WIN!

k.d. lang and the Siss Boom Bang
Fri., May 18
@ The Genesee Theatre

CLICKTOWIN!

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.

LIKETOWIN!

TO WIN: Simply find us at [facebook.com/WindyCityMediaGroup](https://www.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.

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.

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

Lesbian athlete Eleonora 'Eleo' Sears profiled in new book

BY ROSS FORMAN

Eleonora "Eleo" Sears was ahead of her time, way ahead.

She died in 1968, before most lesbian athletes within the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) were even born. Still, Sears' sporting impact certainly can be seen on sporting fields around Chicago, and worldwide; that's how big of a superstar she was.

Sears was, quite simply, one of history's greatest athletes, male or female—and also one of the least known megastars.

She was a pioneer who never did things the "proper way." Instead, she just excelled, opening doors for athletes, particularly female athletes, for generations to come. Her sporting resume is almost inconceivable. Just consider:

- She was a national tennis champion.
- She was the first women's squash champion.
- She was an accomplished horseback rider and golfer.

Sears excelled in sports at a time when that just didn't happen for most women.

She also was one of the first women to drive a car, to fight a speeding ticket and one of the first women to ride in an airplane.

Sears also was a lesbian, according to author Peggy Miller Franck, whose new book, *Prides Crossing: The Unbridled Life and Impatient Times of Eleonora Sears*, details the life and times of a sporting hero born well before the world was ready for her.

"Her sexual orientation certainly formed her

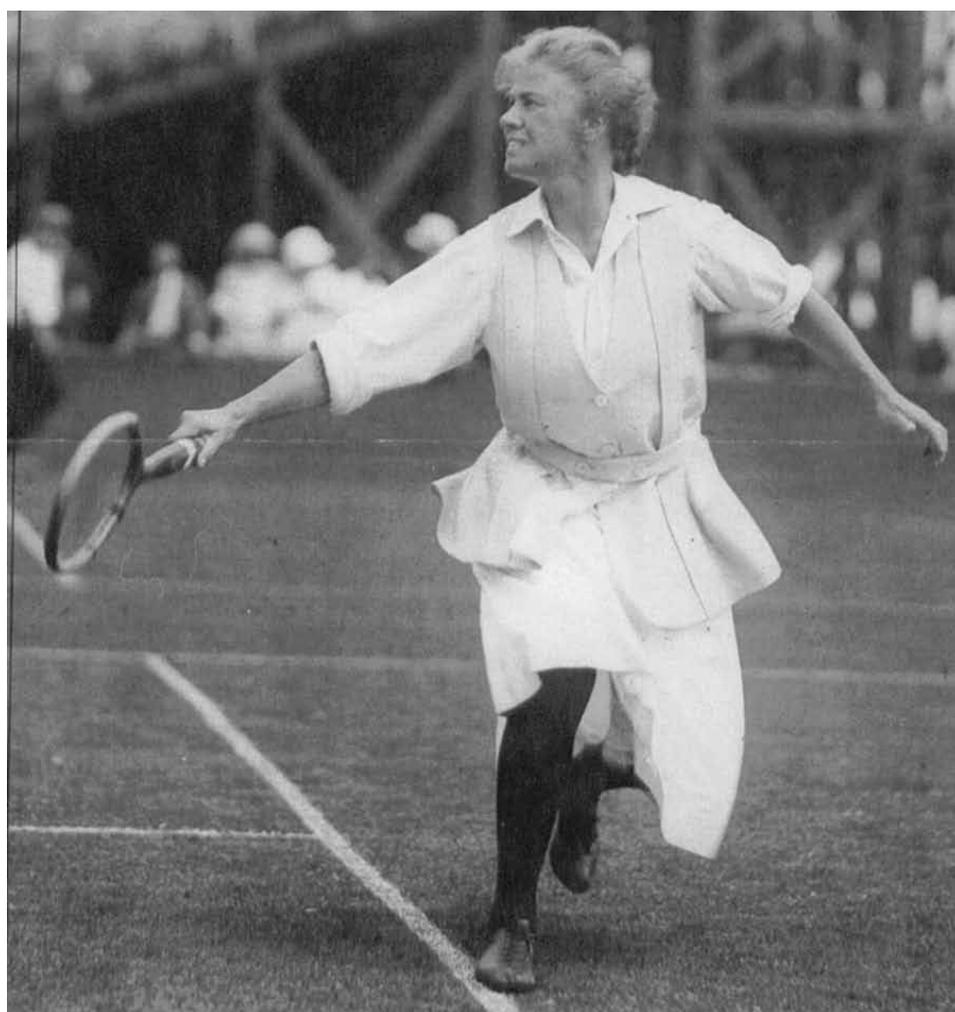
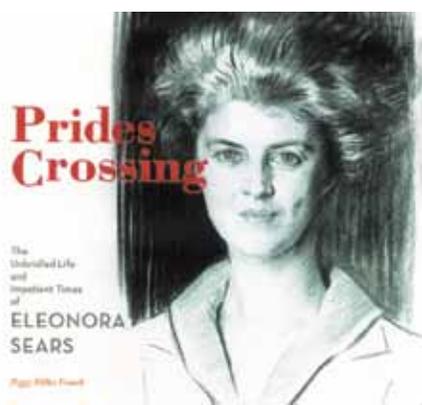
character, and gave her the drive," Franck said in a phone interview. "She was tremendously courageous in the way that she was willing to challenge, in a very public way, the very narrow role that woman had.

"People of her class, her generation would never acknowledge [that they were gay,] but it was very widely known [that she was gay]."

Franck interviewed senior citizens for her book, including many in their 80s and 90s. Most asked Franck if she knew that Sears was a lesbian.

"Eleo was someone who didn't want to be labeled as anything, such as, a woman, or a lesbian, if that [title] would impede her freedom of action to do as she pleased," Franck said. "Very few people did not know," that she was a lesbian.

Sears reportedly had multiple lesbian relationships, though none was officially announced or



Eleonora "Eleo" Sears.

confirmed, including one with Isabel Pell in the 1930s.

"I think it was inescapable that everyone knew [they were together,]" Franck said.

Born in 1881, Sears was a four-time U.S. women's national tennis champion, including three consecutive years (1915-17), and is a member of the Tennis Hall of Fame.

She also was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame for her skills riding horses. She is also in the Horseman's Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, the United States Squash Hall of Fame, and the National Horse Show Foundation Hall of Fame.

"Before Eleo, sure, women were involved with sports, but the emphasis at that time never was on success," Franck said. "Instead, it was just about being outside. It was frowned upon, if you tried to win. Sports were never seen as a proving ground for women, but Eleo made it a proving ground."

Sears, the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson, was a social and society superstar too, so to speak. "She accomplished more than any other woman in sports at that time. Her legend still stands today," Franck said.

She knew anyone and everyone who was worth knowing at the time, from the rich and famous worldwide, including presidents and the Hollywood elite.

Franck's dad, William Miller, was her financial advisory and later became vice president of her racing stable.

"She wore her heart on her sleeve," Franck said. "There was nothing that she wouldn't do for you; she'd move heaven and earth, if you had a problem. Conversely, when a relationship turned rocky, there was nobody who could ... drop you as quickly [as Sears], and she could be quite harsh in her judgments."

Franck said Sears' sporting accomplishments would rank at least alongside Billie Jean King, if she was competing in a different era.

"There was limited information about lesbians at the time," Franck said. "Plus, at the time, young women were encouraged in school and in life in general to form close friendships with other women. An intensely close relationship was possible, and not frowned upon."

Sears was one of the first women to wear trousers in public, and she was the first woman to



Author Peggy Miller Franck.

play polo on a man's team, Franck said. Sermons were preached against her around 1909, based on the way she dressed.

Still, Franck said, "she was a role-model for many, just not for all."

Sears also was known for marathon walks, including the 47-mile trip from Boston to Providence, R.I., that she did in 1925—in 9 hours and 53 minutes. She also once walked the 73 miles from Newport, Mass., to Boston in 17 hours.

"She had a very dominant personality, yet some parts of her personality, some objected to," Franck said. "Some thought less of her accomplishments because she came from a wealthy family, though I don't understand that."

The 40th anniversary of Title IX will be marked in June—and Sears certainly was a pioneer in women's sports long before then.

"I heard from various men who I interviewed [for the book] that she always was trying to prove that she was as good as a man," Franck said. "She was just insisting on her right to be as good as she could be, which is very much what Title IX is all about."

More photos at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Athlete-Eleonora-Elo-Sears-a-lesbian-profiled-in-new-book/35978.html

ADVERTISEMENT



*When experience counts...
In service to the community for over 30 years.*

The Law Offices of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates

THE AIDS TRANSMISSION LAW - IS IT A CRIME TO HAVE SEX?

Q. I was tested for the HIV virus and the results were positive. Since then I have had sex with people and have not told them that I had tested positive. Should I tell my future sexual partners that I test positive for HIV? Does it make any difference if we used condoms during sex? Am I guilty of a criminal offense?

A. The Illinois Supreme Court has unanimously upheld Illinois' HIV Criminal Transmission of HIV Act. The case before the Illinois Supreme Court concerned two individuals (Caretha Russell and Timothy Lunsford - his alleged conduct was vaginal intercourse) who were charged with violation of the Criminal Code of Illinois, section 12-16.2(a)(1) which provides that a person commits Criminal Transmission of HIV, a class 2 felony, if he or she, "knowing that he or she is infected with HIV: (1) engages in intimate contact with another."

Subsection (b) defines "intimate contact with another" as "exposure of the body of one person to the bodily fluid of another person in a manner that could result in the transmission of HIV."

The law does create an affirmative defense if the person exposed knew or should have known that they were at risk of being infected and consented to having sex with that knowledge. This means that anyone who is positive and has sex should disclose their HIV status to their partner. The law does not include other defenses which should be considered in a criminal prosecution such as safe-sex precautions with the use of a condom.

The law also does not require the sexual partners to have actually been infected. Furthermore, the prosecution would not have to show that the accused had the criminal intent to infect someone else with the HIV virus. Merely having sex ("intimate contact") would be sufficient.

Because the language of the law focuses only on a person's knowledge that he or she is HIV positive the law will discourage testing. The result may be that individuals might be putting themselves at risk to avoid any actual knowledge and resulting criminal prosecution.

There have been very few Illinois prosecutions under this law other than actions involving prisoners who spit on guards. If you are HIV positive, however, there is always the possibility of criminal prosecution if you engage in sex.

- 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.

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



T H E A U T O B A R N S U B A R U O F C O U N T R Y S I D E

THE NEW 2012 IMPREZA MODELS ARE IN STOCK!

STOP IN FOR A TEST DRIVE TODAY



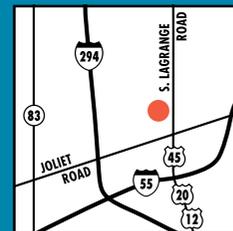
36
MPG**

0.9% APR FOR 36 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS*

MAKE US YOUR CHICAGO AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH REDEMPTION DEALER!



6070 S LAGRANGE RD
COUNTRYSIDE, ILLINOIS
877.307.1189



A CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED SUBARU DEALER • WE SPEAK POLISH, BOSNIAN, BULGARIAN AND SPANISH!

VIEW OUR WEEKLY INTERNET SPECIALS AT

AUTOBARNSUBARUOFCOUNTRYSIDE.COM

*0.9% APR for up to 36 months on select 2012 and 2011 models in lieu of rebates with approved credit. **EPA-estimated fuel economy for Impreza 2.0i CVT models. Actual mileage may vary. Subaru, Forester, Outback, Tribeca, Legacy, Impreza, WRX, STI and SUBARU BOXER are registered trademarks.