



**BLACK GROUPS DEBATE MARRIAGE EQUALITY**  
PAGE 4

# T's owner wears wire, gets new audits

BY KATE SOSIN

The auditor asked him to lunch. That was the first sign that something was off.

The year was 2007, and Colm Treacy, owner of popular LGBT hangout T's Restaurant, was closing out his second successful year with his newer business, Sofo Bar (Treacy has since sold Sofo and is not affiliated with The Sofo Tap, at that same location, in any way.)

Sofo had been randomly selected for a state audit but instead of telling him how much he owed, the auditor promised that if he slipped cash into an envelope and tossed it into an open car window across the street, he would never have another problem again.

Months later, Treacy would participate in an FBI anti-

bribery sting on the auditor.

Today, Treacy is facing his third Illinois Department of Revenue audit in five years (this one of T's Restaurant), more than \$100,000 in fines and the threat of closure by Oct. 16, according to Treacy.

### The story according to Treacy

Treacy said he first met the auditor in spring 2007. Rather than talking at Sofo, the man suggested they get lunch in the neighborhood. Over lunch, the auditor broke the news to Treacy that it appeared he could owe a lot of money, but he declined to say how much. The auditor talked at length about other businesses, small ones like Treacy's that had been ruined by fines owed after audits.

"He was wishy-washy and wouldn't give me a specific number," said Treacy.

What he did give Treacy was an out.

Treacy could slip a few thousand dollars into an envelope. (Treacy said the sum was either \$3,000 or \$5,000, but he cannot recall which.)

"He was very schmoozy," said Treacy. "He was like, 'Either way, pal, we're not going to have a problem.' ... He made it seem like he had all the power."

Treacy could walk across the street to the lot where the auditor's car had been backed in against a wall and toss the envelope into the back seat of the car.

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**GENE ROBINSON APPEARANCES**  
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## Terrence McNally talks marriage, N.Y. theater

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The celebrated playwright Terrence McNally, who is openly gay, has won four Tony Awards, including one in 1995 for his gay-themed *Love! Valour! Compassion!* Now 73, his brilliant career has spanned five decades. And yet for all the success in New York theater and beyond, he said recently during a visit in Boston, his marriage to Tom Kirshy is what matters most.

"It is the most profound thing in my life," said McNally speaking recently at the TAJ Hotel in the city's Back Bay neighborhood. "I can't think of anything bigger or more important to me. Marriage informs everything I do. It gets better every day since we went to Vermont."

The couple was civilly united first in Vermont (2003) and then married seven years later in Washington, D.C.

"We were both surprised how much it changed things," McNally explained. "I believed him so completely when [Tom] said those things to me," McNally said, referring to their exchange vows, "for better or worse, sickness and health" in Vermont, which he said the couple considers to be their marital benchmark.

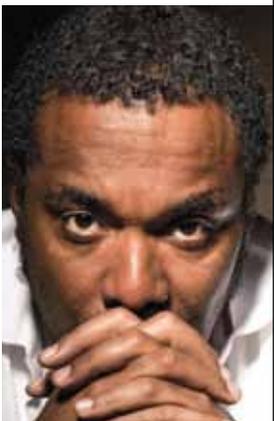
McNally is a cancer survivor, so the vow of sickness and health packs special meaning. "I feel very safe and protected. Nothing too bad can happen if you have [love

Turn to page 16

## WALK OF FAME

A huge event will take place Thursday, Oct. 11, as the Legacy Walk dedication takes place in the Boystown area of Halsted Street. There will be VIPs, musical guests such as singer Matt Alber, and hundreds of attendees who will witness the induction of LGBT icons such as Jane Addams (right).

Find out more about the ceremony on page 28. Photo courtesy of Victor Salvo



**LEE DANIELS INTERVIEW**  
PAGE 24



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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Chicago Fire cast from NBC; photo of Sharon Lettman-Hicks from the National Black Justice Coalition; photo of Bishop Gene Robinson by Kate Sosin; Lee Daniels publicity photo



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### HISTORY LESSON

Read an LGBT History Month Series profile of trans activist Barbra Siperstein.

Photo by Erica Demarest



In the area of dining, find out the latest goings-on and see a profile of the South Loop bar Square One.

Photo of Square One's Billy Taylor by Andrew Davis



See photos from a red-carpet event with the cast of TV's 'Chicago Fire.'

Photo by Jerry Nunn

### SPELLBOUND

With Bewitched coming to Logo, read an analysis of the classic TV series.

### GOSSIP FOLKS

Read Vern Hester's latest Bent Nights column: reviews of shows by Gossip and bloc party.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Tom Ford, Donna Summer and Anderson Cooper.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

### SCHOOL DAZE



Read about this past weekend's LGBT college fair at the Center on Halsted.

Photo of UIC booth by Andrew Davis

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# Nat'l Urban League, NAACP differ on approach to same-sex marriage

BY MASON HARRISON

The National Urban League (NUL) is joining the growing list of Black organizations grappling with what stance to take on the issue of marriage equality. As same-sex unions continue to be a hot-button political item, other Black groups come down on either side of the debate, with President Obama issuing a history-making endorsement of same-sex marriage.

NUL members gathered in New Orleans in July for the organization's annual conference and the group's president, Marc Morial, said the century-old civil-rights organization would begin mulling what position to take on same-sex marriage at that time. "This is an issue that we'll be considering internally," Morial said in a telephone interview.

Nolan Rollins, the president of NUL's New Orleans chapter, was more candid about the group's approach to same-sex marriage and indicated the organization would examine the issue on a "case-by-case basis." Rollins noted that supporting same-sex unions would be dependent on how an endorsement "would affect the movement" in different parts of the country, allowing some chapters to back marriage equality and others to oppose the issue or take no position at all.

NUL's decentralized approach to marriage rights for gays and lesbians is indicative of how sensitive and politically volatile the issue has become for Black organizations and their leadership, as calls from a group of Black pastors grow for African-American voters to withhold support from Obama because of his marriage views. A board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) left the group because of its support for same-sex unions.

However, failing to enter the political fray over who has the right to get married by adopting a national policy that affirms, rejects or remains neutral on the subject may only buy the group some time, and not spare it the ire of other groups and individuals seeking to push Black constituents and their representatives toward a more progressive position on the issue.

"The president and the NAACP sent the message that it is okay to 'evolve' [on the issue of marriage equality] and it is okay to have a conversation about orientation and gender identity in the Black community," Sharon Lettman-Hicks, head of the National Black Justice Coalition, a Black LGBT-rights organization, said in response to the NUL policy.

Lettman-Hicks said there is much work to do to advance equal marriage rights throughout the United States and protect the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples where it already exists. That work, she said, includes working with "organizations like the National Urban League that have yet to take a public stance on the freedom to marry" and for same-sex marriage proponents to interact with those closest to them to do the "work of personal outreach, education and understanding with all communities, especially among African Americans who have not 'evolved.'"

However, allowing each chapter to decide the issue for itself may be as far the decidedly more conservative NUL is willing to go on same-sex marriage. Unlike its more rabble-rousing and better-known counterpart, the NAACP, the NUL has traditionally been a more buttoned-down advocate for civil rights as Blacks fought to secure equal voting, housing and employment



Sharon Lettman-Hicks, head of the National Black Justice Coalition. Photo courtesy of the coalition

measures during the 1960s and in the years since the end of the modern civil-rights era.

The NAACP, headquartered in Baltimore, has been out front on the issue of marriage equality since the national body backed the issue earlier this year. Its local chapters have joined the fight for same-sex unions in Maryland and Maine, two of the four states with marriage amendments on the ballot this fall where voters could hand victories to LGBT activists for the first time.

Maryland has the highest percentage of African-American residents than any state outside of the Deep South. Same-sex marriage supporters are concentrating their get-out-the-vote efforts in Baltimore, the state's largest city, and in Prince George's County near Washington, D.C., also a stronghold for potential Black supporters. NAACP chapters in both areas have joined the political coalition seeking to keep Maryland's same-sex marriage law.

Maine has one of the smallest percentages of Blacks in the country—slightly more than 1 percent—but the state's sole NAACP chapter has joined more than 80 other political, civic and religious organizations in the state to win back marriage rights for same-sex couples after voters jettisoned a law in 2009 that granted gay and lesbian individuals the right to marry.

But while the NAACP has jumped feet first into the national marriage debate, melding its activist roots with the fight for marriage equality, the NUL is cautiously keeping one foot rooted in the organization's civil rights history and the other planted in an ambivalent stance that has allowed the organization to neither condemn nor condone equal marriage laws.

"We recognize that this is a very important issue," Scott Gray, president of the Minneapolis chapter of the NUL, said, referring to same-sex marriage. "But we will continue to focus on jobs and the economy, which are the things that are very pressing for the people that we serve."

Minnesota faces a ballot initiative this fall

that would place a ban on same-sex marriage in the state's constitution. Same-sex marriage is not recognized in Minnesota, but GOP lawmakers want to make the practice harder to achieve through the courts. A constitutional ban on same-sex nuptials would make it impossible for state judges to overturn the state's existing legislative ban.

When asked if the NUL believes the issue of same-sex marriage rights fell under the group's purview, Gray reiterated his previous response to whether his chapter would endorse the campaign to defeat the ballot amendment. "We will continue to focus on jobs and the economy," he said.

Other NUL chapters have adopted similar posturing. In Chicago, Roderick Hawkins, a spokesperson for the city's NUL affiliate, said the group "has taken no position on same-sex marriage," but pointed out the organization's involvement with the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and support for activities at the Center on Halsted as evidence of its support for LGBT rights. "We have been very involved in the LGBT community," Hawkins said.

Rollins, the New Orleans chapter president who first revealed the NUL's internal approach to same-sex marriage, did not respond to questions about whether his local organization would endorse same-sex weddings, but the New Orleans NUL has been critical of legislation that could allow private religious schools in Louisiana to discriminate against LGBT students.

Officials with the NUL in Seattle—where, in November, voters in Washington state will choose to keep or discard a new law allowing same-sex marriage—and Maryland did not return calls seeking comment for this story at press time. Maine has no NUL affiliate.

No resolution addressing same-sex marriage was issued during the NUL conference in New Orleans this summer; however, Morial said such an action is always unlikely. "We don't usually issue resolutions at our conference the way the NAACP does," Morial noted without shedding light on just how the organization carried out its deliberations on same-sex marriage.

## CDC LGBT report shows high number of smokers

A CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) analysis of data from the 2009-2010 National Adult Tobacco Survey showed that with the exception of pipes, tobacco use was significantly higher among LGBT respondents when compared to the general population, according to a press release from Fenway Health.

The survey found that 32.8 percent of LGBT people nationally smoke cigarettes; 12.2 percent smoke cigars/cigarillos/small cigars; and 38.5 percent report using any tobacco. Among non-LGBT respondents, those rates fell to 19.5 percent for cigarettes; 6.6 percent for cigars/cigarillos/small cigars; and 25.2 percent for any tobacco use.

## Lesbian soldier killed in Afghanistan

The Department of Defense announced Oct. 3, that three soldiers—including Sgt. Donna R. Johnson—were killed "supporting Opera-

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NATIONAL NEWS



—Gay GOP Colo. Carr (left) files First Amendment claim

—Male model on trial for murder of lover

—Clementis won't sue anyone

Morial, a former state legislator in Louisiana and mayor of New Orleans, was a progressive advocate for LGBT causes as an elected official. Morial—encouraged by local LGBT activists—helped to enact the city's domestic-partnership registry in the late 1990s and issued an executive order providing health benefits to partners of the city's gay and lesbian employees.

However, the former mayor has not taken that same political courage with him to the NUL, an organization headquartered in New York, the largest state to date to enact same-sex marriage at the behest of progressive politicians and aided by Republican lawmakers.

"I support the president's position," Morial said, referring to Obama's support for same-sex marriage. "During my career as an elected official, I was an advocate for LGBT rights and my personal view is that this is the right position to take." Morial was quick to note, however, that his personal feelings about gay marriage are his own and that he is "not speaking for the NUL."

Paul Guequierre, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, which has been involved in numerous state marriage campaigns, said his organization "is happy to have the support of the NAACP" and "we look forward to working with the NUL on this issue."

Further inquiries about the NUL's position on same-sex marriage and attempts to clarify its federated approach to endorsing marriage equality were rebuffed by the group's national spokesperson in an emailed response to questions. "I'm sorry," wrote Teresa Candori, the group's director of media relations, "but the NUL has no comment on the matter at this time."

tion Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan, according to FrontiersLA.com.

However, it was not until The American Military Partner Association posted a notice on their Facebook page that Sgt. Johnson was identified as a lesbian. The notice read, in part, "In memory of Army Staff Sgt. Donna R. Johnson who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our nation in a suicide bomber attack while on patrol in Afghanistan, on Monday, Oct. 1, 2012. Staff Sgt Johnson is survived by her wife Tracy Dice."

Johnson's body received a dignified transfer at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Oct. 2.

According to the Army Times (via the Associated Press), the attack was from a Taliban suicide bomber.

A guest book is at [www.legacy.com/guestbooks/guestbook.aspx?n=donna-r-johnson&pid=160262552](http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/guestbook.aspx?n=donna-r-johnson&pid=160262552).

## Corrections

The correct website to donate to 6-year-old Oliver Bean Thome's Team to End AIDS fundraising is <http://afc.aidschicago.org/netcommunity/thome>.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

## LGBT HISTORY MONTH SERIES

# Kay Lahusen: The woman behind the lens

BY JEN COLLETTA

Kay Lahusen has seen a lot in her 82 years of life—much of it through the lens of a camera.

Lahusen, hailed as the first out LGBT photojournalist, spent decades capturing some of the most seminal moments in the LGBT-rights movement, crafting a stockpile of photographs that can be used to trace the pitfalls and progress of the community.

While her photos documented a wealth of historic moments in U.S. LGBT activism, the pursuit of those pictures was, in itself, a bold act.

"I wanted to show our great diversity and to give viewers someone they could identify with, some positive role models. After all, role models were badly needed in the 1960s when most gay people were afraid to be photographed," Lahusen said.

Lahusen, born in 1930 in Cincinnati, developed her interest in photography at a young age.

She began coming to terms with her orientation while in college and said she long held a "deep conviction that prejudice and discrimination against GLBT people is morally wrong."

That ideal led her to join Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the nation's first lesbian-rights organization. At a DOB picnic in 1961, Lahusen was introduced to Barbara Gittings, a meeting that sparked a decades-long pairing—prompting Lahusen's move to Philadelphia and influencing her photojournalism career.

"[Barbara] was always a joiner and was inclined to join social-change groups, wanting to, as she said, 'fix things,'" Lahusen said. "We were reformers and basically good ACLU supporters."

Gittings took the helm of DOB's magazine, *The Ladder*—the first national lesbian publication—1963-66, and Lahusen served as photographer. The magazine previously used drawings or cartoons on the cover, but Lahusen was committed to photographing real women.

"It wasn't easy for me to find many subjects back then," she said. "I wanted to change that, to bring those willing out into the sunlight and especially to show gay couples and gay love."

Although Lahusen and Gittings subtitled the publication "A Lesbian Review," Lahusen said they sought to appeal to the wider LGBT community by presenting "intellectually stimulating discussions of the major issues holding back the struggle for gay equality. Especially hard on us was the allegation by most psychiatrists that homosexuality was a form of mental illness."

Lahusen said that the "male chauvinism" that still permeated the community at the time kept most men "from taking *The Ladder* seriously and from even reading the issues we worked so hard to produce."

Outside of her work on *The Ladder*, for which she also served as a reporter, Lahusen was the unofficial photographer of many of the earliest gay-rights actions.

She was on hand with her camera at what came to be known as the Annual Reminders at Independence Hall in the mid-1960s, which called for the acceptance of gays and lesbians in mainstream society.

While she documented the occasions, Lahusen was also a part of the action.

"Some participants were fearful, some were proud, others were simply marching in the belief that they had to come out if things were going to change," she said of the atmosphere at the pickets. "It's been said that all social-change movements find they ultimately have to take to the streets. Think of the early suffragettes, for example. Of course, when you're marching, you have no crystal ball to tell if you're helping

make changes but you hope so, even believe so. I certainly believed we were doing something historically significant, something to help lift GLBT people as a class in our society."

Lahusen said one of her favorite photos she ever took was from the second Annual Reminder in 1966. It depicts Gittings marching with a sign that read, "Homosexuals should be judged as individuals."

"The word 'gay' was not popular in our cause until about 1970," Lahusen noted.

At the Philadelphia actions, held until 1969, and at other demonstrations staged in Washington, D.C. that urged the lifting of the ban on open gays and lesbians in federal employment, marchers were kept to a strict, conservative dress code.

Lahusen said the code was necessary for the cause, but she embraced its eventual lifting.

"Our thought was, if you want to be employed, look employable, and conventional dress was the order of the day in that era," she said. "Fortunately, times changed and by our 1970s demonstrations, the dress code was abandoned in the midst of the turmoil over anti-war protests and the hippie and free-love movements. I know I certainly was glad when the dress code was abandoned. It was appropriate for us to move with the times."

Lahusen was not present for a protest that came to be regarded as one of the most pivotal turning points in the LGBT-rights movement: the Stonewall Riots of 1969.

Lahusen and Gittings were on vacation at the time but Lahusen said that, when word spread that the LGBT community had rebelled against police discrimination in New York, she was thrilled.

"I don't like violence but I was pretty elated to hear that GLBT people were standing up and fighting back in the midst of a police riot on a seedy, mafia-run gay bar," she said. "Gay people were largely outwitting the police. News of their bravery galvanized gay people in New York and across the country really. The riots were a flashpoint, Barbara used to say, in the gay-rights movement and inspired gay people to get further organized and step up their efforts to improve the lives of their minority."

She noted that the late Frank Kameny, a contemporary of Lahusen's and Gittings' who helped organize the Annual Reminders, always pointed out that their actions predated Stonewall and were undoubtedly influential in encouraging that action.

"Early picketers inspired gay people to go a step further and fight back at Stonewall," she said.

Lahusen was also involved with the efforts to remove homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's (APA's) list of mental illnesses, led by Gittings and Kameny. She lobbied the APA to include a gay panelist in its 1972 forum on psychiatry and homosexuality, and captured shots of that historic discussion that many credit with moving forward the APA's evolution on homosexuality.

Lahusen also supported Gittings' efforts with the American Library Association to introduce gay and lesbian materials into libraries.

In their activism work, Lahusen said she and Gittings always came to agreement on the right approach, sometimes "after long hours of discussion."

And they worked as a complementary team, she said, with Gittings possessing the "higher profile" and Lahusen working in a "support role."

"We brought different talents," Lahusen said. "Barbara was a terrific public speaker, she could always rally the troops. I especially loved pho-



Barbara Gittings (left) and Kay Lahusen. Photo by John Cunningham

tography, making exhibits and doing what you might call promotion work. Barbara was a terrific editor, and I was a pretty good reporter. The ideas we advanced were generally the same and summed up in our friend Frank Kameny's simple, but inspired, motto, 'Gay is good.'"

The principles of the early activists were illustrated in Lahusen's book "The Gay Crusaders," published by Paperback Library in 1972.

The work, which contains in-depth biographical sketches of 15 early activists, was published under Lahusen's pen name, Kay Tobin.

While Lahusen was lead author for the book, Randy Wicker was brought on as a co-author, as the publisher believed that having a male name on the book would help its sales, she said.

Lahusen sees the book, her reports for "The Ladder" and her vast collection of photos, as her greatest contributions to the LGBT-rights movement.

"It's been said that I'm the first gay photojournalist, since I kept at it sporadically over decades. There was no way I could be at every event, every time, but I believed it was a way of

preserving gay history."

Her photo collection and she and Gittings' papers are now housed in the Archives Division of New York Public Library, which has published many of the photos online.

Gittings died in 2007 of breast cancer.

"Together, we had a wonderful life," Lahusen said.

The evolution society has undergone since Lahusen began her activism work more than a half-century ago gives her hope for the future.

"I believe most Americans have come to accept the fact that 'black is beautiful' and most are coming to accept the fact that 'gay is good.' I believe our movement is on the right side of history. Meanwhile, let's keep on marching for gay equality."

## Gittings honored in Philadelphia, Chicago

By the end of this month Lahusen's longtime partner, Barbara Gittings, will have been part of two very important celebrations.

In Philadelphia, A dedication ceremony for the Barbara Gittings Way was held Oct. 1 at the intersection of Locust and 13th Streets, according to a press release from [LGBTHistoryMonth.com](http://LGBTHistoryMonth.com). Known as the "Mother of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement," Gittings (July 31, 1932-Feb. 18, 2007) lived in Philadelphia.

Also, on Oct. 11, Gittings will be one of the individuals who will be inducted as part of the Legacy Walk in the Boystown section of Chicago. The Legacy Walk—an international, multi-cultural installation—will consist of a series of 18" x 24" cast bronze plaques affixed to the celebrated rainbow pylons along Halsted Street.

Gittings was instrumental in the early fight for lesbian rights, founding the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, which was started in San Francisco in 1956 by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, according to [LGBTQ Nation](http://LGBTQ Nation). She was also the editor of the first lesbian publication, *The Ladder*.

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# Presidential debate: Score for Romney

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

No questions concerning LGBT issues were posed during the first presidential debate Oct. 3, but President Obama made a direct reference to one.

Near the end of the 90-minute debate, responding to a charge from Republican challenger Mitt Romney that he has not worked well with Republicans, Obama pointed to a number of examples where his administration did work with Republicans with success. One example he cited was repeal of the ban on gays in the military.

Immediate reaction from many commentators—mainstream and LGBT—were that Romney dominated the debate and that Obama failed to take some political shots he had at his disposal.

Many observers remarked that Obama seemed tired and low-key, and that Romney was comfortable and energetic. But Jerame Davis, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, faulted Romney for delivering “one well-practiced sound bite after another” but “failed to deliver a knock out punch against President Obama.”

“The president offered specific proposals and a clear vision for the next four years while Mitt Romney played attack dog and dodged any questions about the details of his own plans,” said Davis. “Romney went for style, the President went for substance; it speaks to the character of each man.”

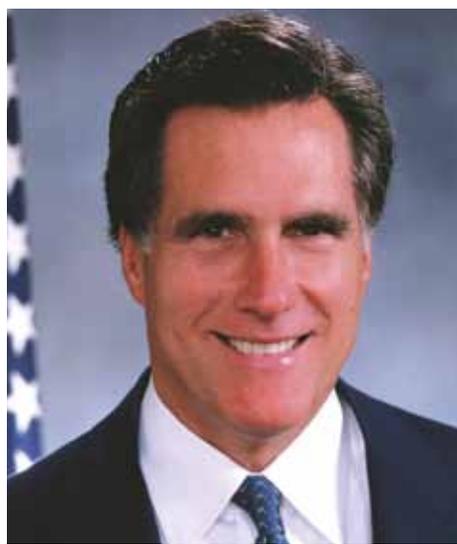
But R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of national Log Cabin Republicans, had a different view:

“One thing came through loud and clear tonight, and we hope our fellow Republicans take note: in a domestic debate without divisive and distracting social issues, conservative ideas resonate, moderates and independents listen and the Republican wins.”

When PBS debate moderator Jim Lehrer asked the candidates to share their view of the role of government, Romney said, “The role of government is to promote and protect the principles” of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

“First, life and liberty. We have a responsibility to protect the lives and liberties of our people, and that means a military second to none. I do not believe in cutting our military. I believe in maintaining the strength of America’s military,” said Romney.

“Second, in that line that says we are endowed by our creator with our rights, I believe we must maintain our commitment to religious tolerance and freedom in this country. That statement also says that we are endowed by our creator with the right to pursue happiness as we choose. I



Mitt Romney.

interpret that as, one, making sure that those people who are less fortunate and can’t care for themselves are cared by—by one another.”

“We’re a nation that believes that we’re all children of the same god and we care for those that have difficulties, those that are elderly and have problems and challenges, those that are disabled. We care for them. And we—we look for discovery and innovation, all these things desired out of the American heart to provide the pursuit of happiness for our citizens.

“But we also believe in maintaining for individuals the right to pursue their dreams and not to have the government substitute itself for the rights of free individuals.”

When Romney tried to portray Obama as failing to work with both parties on important legislation, Obama gave examples of his work with Republicans.

“I will take ideas from anybody, Democrat or Republican, as long as they’re advancing the cause of making middle-class families stronger and giving ladders of opportunity to the middle class,” the president said. “That’s how we cut taxes for middle-class families and small businesses. That’s how we cut a trillion dollars of spending that wasn’t advancing that cause. That’s how we signed three trade deals into law that are helping us to double our exports and sell more American products around the world. That’s how we repealed ‘Don’t Ask/Don’t Tell.’ That’s how we ended the war in Iraq, as I promised, and that’s how we’re going to wind down the war in Afghanistan. That’s how we went after Al-Qaida and [Osama] bin Laden.”

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## Schneider criticizes DADT, foe’s LGBT record

BY STEPHEN SONNEVELD

A year to the day after the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT),” Brad Schneider, the Democratic candidate vying for Illinois’ 10th District congressional seat against incumbent Bob Dold, hosted a conference call to discuss the impact of that legislation as well as his LGBT platform.

Schneider began by saying those who fought for the repeal “stood up and called this policy exactly what it was—unacceptable. In my mind, it’s unconscionable.” The Deerfield resident criticized DADT and other policies that “force people to mask their own identities.”

Schneider called repeal “the right thing to do,” adding, “There was no impact on unit cohesion, on recruitment or morale, and I think this was key.”

Schneider cited DADT as the issue most asked about when addressing high schoolers. “Universally, these young people are saying we are all the same, we all should have the same opportunities and they’re celebrating it,” he said. “I haven’t felt any push back whatsoever, young or old, in my district on the repeal.”

When asked how he has defended LGBT rights in his own career and personal life, the business owner commented it was simply “the right thing to do” and that he did not practice any discrimination in the workplace.

Asked if he would have signed a bill such as the National Defense Authorization Act, which had anti-LGBT amendments tacked on, Schneider said, “We shouldn’t use these bills as excuses for extreme ideologies.”

As with his recent campaign commercials, Schneider employed the forum to chastise his opponent’s LGBT record, labeling Dold “on the wrong side of history” with regard to DADT because he “voted to delay the repeal.”

On the matter of marriage equality, Schneider said, “Mr. Dold favors keeping a two-tiered system, where there is a second class of civil unions. I believe two people who want to make a life together, build a future together, should be able to do just that, and it should be marriage, plain and simple.”

Windy City Times contacted Dold via email to address his LGBT record. While Dold did not answer specific questions, he offered, “I am proud of my record of reaching out to the LGBT community and working together where we have common ground.” Dold stated he works “to advance LGBT inclusion in legislation.”

Dold said, “I support civil unions” and

views same-sex marriage as a states-rights issue to “take effect without federal intervention.” At one point, it was published on his campaign website, “I believe marriage is between a woman and a man,” but recognized the right for same-sex couples “to enter into contractual relationships.” That language has since been removed and replaced with wording similar to his email response.

Dold also said he is “one of the few Republican cosponsors of a taxpayer parity bill for LGBT domestic partners,” and does not support the reinstatement of DADT.

Asked about Dold being against DADT reinstatement, Schneider countered that the congressman voted to extend the policy, which was in step with the military’s wishes at that time.

## Former Chicagoan honored in Arizona

Wingspan, the LGBT community center of Southern Arizona, honored lesbian activist Joyce Bolinger with its 2012 Godat Award Sept. 29.

Bolinger, a longtime Chicago activist, has been a key volunteer with Wingspan, based in Tucson.

Wingspan stated, “The Godat Award was inaugurated in 1998 to recognize extraordinary long-term contributions by an individual to Southern Arizona’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Ken Godat, after whom this award was named, was the first recipient. Since its inception, the Godat Award has celebrated the personal commitment and public advocacy of ... community leaders.”

Bolinger retired as deputy commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs before moving to Tucson. She has played a role in the Lesbian Looks film series, is a past board member of Wingspan, and spearheaded distribution of the group’s newsletter, among her many volunteer efforts.



Joyce Bolinger. Photo from Wingspan

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# Bachmann's visit to synagogue stirs controversy

BY KATE SOSIN

A Lakeview synagogue's tradition of honoring elected officials has been called into question after it honored Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann on the eve of Yom Kippur and some congregants walked out.

Anshe Emet Synagogue, 3751 N. Broadway, has a tradition of honoring elected officials who attend services. But some took issue with the honoring of Bachmann on one of Judaism's most holy nights as her anti-gay beliefs may be out of step the practices of the congregation.



U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann.

A handful of congregants walked out of the Sept. 25 services.

Among them was Gary Sircus, who has worshipped at Anshe for more than 25 years.

In an email circulated following the service, Sircus wrote that Bachmann's presence destroyed the spirituality of the evening.

"Congresswoman Bachmann actively campaigns against virtually every principle on which my faith is grounded, including tolerance, compassion, and respect for the individual," he wrote. "She gives voice to the narrowest and most evil strain of the Far Right, calling not just for condemnation of homosexuals and the denial of their basic rights, but uses federal money to run a shadowy clinic that claims to 'pray away the gay.'"

Sircus goes on to condemn Bachmann's statements about Muslims and other beliefs. He called on friends to donate to Jim Graves, Bachmann's Democratic opponent for congress and encouraged Graves to "take away this evil woman's soapbox."

Sircus said he respects the political beliefs of everyone in his congregation, including conservatives, but he wanted Siegel to contextualize her visit by explaining that Anshe Emet is a welcoming synagogue.

"He had an obligation to say that she was sitting with a congregation that values and celebrates tolerance, compassion, knowledge, and respect for individual rights..." Siegel wrote in a message to media outlets.

Siegel said the issue was "very painful" for the congregation.

According to Siegel, the synagogue has a strong policy of LGBT inclusivity, performing

commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples and working closely with LGBT Jewish organization Keshet.

"When we [honor an official], we are honoring their position, not the person or their policies," said Siegel, adding that the synagogue does not take political stances.

It is not the first time that honoring an official has caused strife at Anshe, he noted. But in light of the recent controversy, the synagogue may be reconsidering the practice.

Siegel said he received word prior to services that Bachmann had requested to attend services but not to speak.

"In my opinion, it would have been inappropriate to challenge her or chastise her from the pulpit, as some have suggested," he said.

## Personal PAC luncheon to feature Gloria Allred

Personal PAC—a bipartisan group aimed at electing pro-choice candidates to state and local offices in Illinois—is featuring famed attorney Gloria Allred at its 19th Annual Awards Luncheon.

Allred, an active feminist, founded and is currently serving as president of the Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund.

In addition, Personal PAC will honor Marjorie Craig Benton, who co-founded the Chicago Foundation for Women, the Women's Issues Network and The Peace Museum. Jon O'Brien—the president of Catholics for Choice, a pro-choice organization advocating for sexual and reproductive rights from a standpoint of culture, faith, justice and morality—will also be honored.

The event will take place at 12 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Ticket prices start at \$150; call 312-422-0005 or visit [www.PersonalPac.org](http://www.PersonalPac.org).

## 'Money, Media and Your Vote' Oct. 12

The Lake Shore campus of Loyola University Chicago is hosting "Money, Media and Your Vote" Friday, Oct. 12, 4-6 p.m.

The moderator will be Beth Konrad, senior professional in residence at the university's School of Communication. Panelists will include Newton N. Minow, senior counsel at the law firm of Sidley Austin LLP; Susan S. Sher, executive vice president for corporate strategy and public affairs at the University of Chicago Medical Center; and Patricia Widder, who worked at the Chicago Tribune as a reporter and editor for 36 years before retiring last year.

Chicago Network, Gannon Center for Women and Leadership and Loyola Homecoming Weekend are sponsoring the event. For further information, contact Nick Patricca at 773-338-9416 or [nicholas.patricca@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.patricca@gmail.com); also, visit [www.chicagonetworkjp.org](http://www.chicagonetworkjp.org).

## Kenneth Cole at Nov. 2 Chicago House event

Designer and social activist Kenneth Cole will be the featured speaker at Chicago House's 4th Annual Speaker Series Luncheon. The event will take place Friday, Nov. 2, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Tickets are \$150-\$500 each; see [www.ChicagoHouse.org](http://www.ChicagoHouse.org).

## Gay youth killed by Metra train

BY KATE SOSIN

Jermaine Murray, a popular young gay man, was killed Oct. 2 when struck by an outbound Metra train, according to Youth Pride Services (YPS). He was 20 years old.

"Jermaine was an extremely popular and well known member of the black LGBT youth community, and his death comes as a tragic loss to a number of youth across this city," said Frank Walker, president of YPS, in a statement. "I'm stunned."

Walker remembered Murray being greeted like a celebrity when he arrived at one event. "The main thing I remember from that day was how many youth flocked to him when he arrived," said Walker.

Murray was a member of the Kardashians, a chosen gay family of 44 people.

Alex Ashley, a close friend of Murray's, said his friend "was a sweetheart. I can't think of any bad experiences."

Ashley described Murray as an upbeat and stylish person who attracted many friends.

"He was genuine and that's so hard to find," said Ashley. "He was just such a positive and uplifting person."

According to Ashley, Murray grew up in Chicago and attended South Shore High School. He went on to study at Harold Washington College. He came out as gay in 2008 or 2009 and found a large community through the Kardashians.

According to Metra spokesperson Michael Gillis, Murray was struck just before 6 p.m. on Tuesday by an outbound train travelling from Millennium Park to Blue Island. The incident occurred at 53rd Street in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Gillis could not say why Murray was on the tracks.

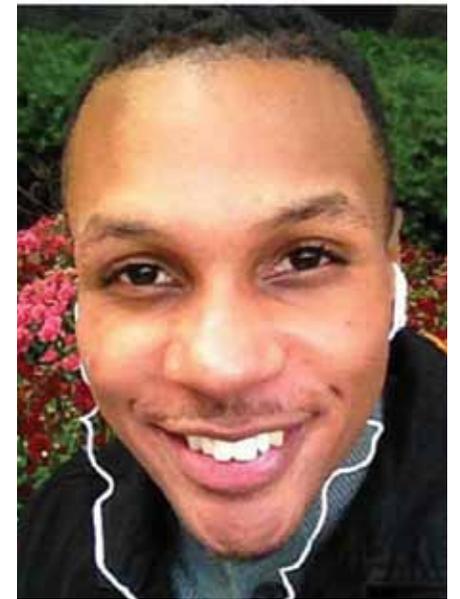
"Our engineer of the train said that he saw him and sounded the horn, and [Murray] didn't seem to react to the horn," said Gillis.

The engineer reported that he tried to stop the train but was unable to do so in time.

Ashley said that Murray had been talking on the phone with a friend moments before he died. He told the friend he had boarded the wrong train and needed to switch. The call dropped shortly before Murray died, said Ashley.

Ashley said the news of Murray's death "spread like wildfire."

"Jermaine was just such a warm and kind spirit," he said. "He was a well-known and well-loved person."



Jermaine Murray. Photo courtesy of Alex Ashley

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## FBI from cover

"I happened to have [the money] in the safe at the bar," said Treacy.

He did as he had been told.

As he went to walk away, it occurred to him that he should note the auditor's license plate number, but then he saw that the front plate was missing.

An entire summer went by before Treacy heard again from the auditor, he said. The man wanted to meet to sign off on the audit papers. Fearing that the man would ask for money and that he was digging himself into a bad situation, Treacy contacted the Illinois Attorney General's office, who contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI asked Treacy to participate in a sting, Treacy said. His goal would be to get the auditor to acknowledge taking bribes while Treacy was wearing a wire.

A few days before the meeting with auditor, agents came to Sofo to scope out the bar for places to install cameras and they met with Treacy give him an idea of how it would go.

The day of the meeting, agents wired Treacy and gave him a coat that Treacy believes contained a second audio recorder and camera. A group of agents listened from Treacy's house nearby, and two undercover officers waited outside Sofo.

"I was told to open the door, make sure he walked in first and pretend to lock the door, just in case something went wrong," Treacy said.

In the event that Treacy felt his safety was in danger, he could say the code phrase, "It's my birthday," and agents would come into the building.

Treacy was told to do exactly the same things he had done at the first meeting.

When the auditor arrived at Sofo, Treacy pretended to lock the door behind them. The two sat down.

"He told me to take off my coat, and that made me nervous because I thought he was onto me straight away," Treacy said.

"My job was to get him to admit to, did I give him cash? That was my job," Treacy said. "I was left with the impression that there was certainly going to be no backlash from this, that everything was going to be okay. Certainly, my money wasn't going to be returned. I knew that."

The auditor began to talk about money Treacy owed.

"I started to say, 'but you told me when I gave money.' And he goes, 'What money? I know nothing of any money.'"

A few minutes later, the man asked for some paperwork. Treacy went downstairs to his office to get it. When he looked up from his desk drawer a few moments later, he saw the auditor standing right over him.

"It scared me at that point," Treacy recalled. He almost said, "It's my birthday," but hesitated.

The man suggested they take a drive in his car.

In the auditor's car, Treacy was not sure if FBI agents could hear them talking over the wire anymore. The further they got from Sofo, the more nervous Treacy became. The auditor drove them to lunch at the restaurant they had been

to before and Treacy ordered the same thing he had the first time.

Toward the end of the meal, the auditor commented to Treacy that he didn't shake down large companies, just smaller ones without attorneys. It was the statement the FBI needed, said Treacy.

Finally, the auditor drove them back to Sofo where Treacy signed paperwork. The auditor left.

"They assured me this was just going to be a piece of cake," Treacy said. "Well since then, it hasn't been a piece of cake."

A few months later, someone from the FBI called Treacy and told him they had used the recording in proceedings against the auditor and that the auditor had recognized his voice. It was not difficult. Treacy grew up in Ireland and has an accent. The person added that if he ever saw the auditor again, to immediately call 911.

"Shortly after that, I received in the mail an audit for T's," Treacy said.

T's Restaurant was Treacy's other business, the popular Andersonville gay bar/eatery just steps away from Sofo. While Treacy has expanded in the years since he opened T's in 2001, T's has always been his home base.

Treacy was suspicious of the audit. FBI agents had told him that his story would not be shared within the Illinois Department of Revenue, but an audit of T's so soon after the sting set him on edge.

A few months after the audit notice, Treacy went to the Department of Revenue to renew his liquor license for T's.

"The person was extremely rude to me," Treacy said. "He said you're the one that had the issue with Sofo ... I was told to my face that I was a troublemaker."

Treacy called his contact at the FBI. The contact assured Treacy that his story had not been shared and that the Department of Revenue confirmed the audit on T's was random.

After a yearlong audit process, in 2009, Treacy received notice that he owed more than \$100,000 in taxes and fines. His accountant was boggled, Treacy said.

Treacy wrote a check for \$78,000 a few days later.

Displeased with his accounting firm, Treacy hired a new accountant and asked him to look into the balance he still owed from the audit. The accountant reported back that he could not find any record of the money owed. Treacy went himself to the department and was told he owed no money. No record of the original taxes and fines appeared to exist, he said.

Over the next few years, odd things happened at T's and Sofo. Treacy's tires were slashed and the windows of both bars were broken several times. T's had two break-ins. From 2010-2011, the phone at T's often rang ceaselessly late at night, with no one responding on the other line when Treacy picked up. Treacy said the incidents could have been coincidental.

On July 25 of this year, Treacy received a bill from the Department of Revenue for overdue taxes owed since 2009 plus fines that had accrued in that time. The bill appeared to be the same one that vanished three years prior, the one that Treacy alleges he had already paid \$78,000 on. Now, the charges totaled \$113,743.



Colm Treacy. Photo by Ross Forman

Treacy called the Department of Revenue.

"I tell this lady pretty much my story because I'm in a panic," he said. "She was just really rude."

If he didn't pay a third of the bill, she told him, his liquor license would be revoked by Oct. 16.

"Within a few days, I get certified mail that I'm being re-audited," Treacy said. "Now I feel like I'm being really harassed."

Treacy cannot immediately pay the amount he needs to keep his liquor license, he said.

When he got word of his latest audit, he contacted the Illinois Attorney General's office and spoke with someone familiar with his story. But he said no one from that office has followed up with him.

Consequently, T's could be facing closure Oct. 16, according to Treacy.

Out of options, he said, he reluctantly decided to go public with his story.

### Beyond Treacy's story

Treacy's version of events is hard to confirm. He does not have documentation from the first two audits, which were never fully settled, nor does he have record of the FBI sting.

Treacy did provide Windy City Times with documentation of his most recent audit and a copy of his bill with fines dating back to the 2008-2009 audit.

Natalie Bauer, a spokesperson for the Illinois attorney general's office, said she cannot comment on individual investigations, including whether her office worked with Treacy on the bribery allegations.

Further confusing matters is Treacy's inability to recall the name of the auditor in question. A search of local media outlets did not yield information about charges filed against a Department of Revenue auditor from 2007-2009. The Cook County state's attorney's office is unable to search for the case without the auditor's name, a spokesperson said.

Joan Hyde, a spokesperson for the FBI, said she is also unable to comment on investigations but said that—unlike Treacy's assertion that the FBI promised to keep his identity secret—the

FBI rarely makes promises to conceal identity.

"It's rare that we maintain someone's confidentiality forever," Hyde said, adding that in instances where someone's safety is a threat the FBI does try to protect identity.

Asked about Treacy's allegations, Greg Rivara, a spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Revenue, said that the department cannot comment on Treacy's situation due to confidentiality rules.

"However, the department is aware of Mr. Treacy's concerns and has called him multiple times to discuss," he said. "Mr. Treacy has not responded to messages left for him."

Treacy said he has been in touch with the department regarding the audits and that his attorney, Sean Mulrone, is also following up.

Mulrone said he is considering legal options for stalling proceedings against T's Restaurant and Treacy.

He questions why, if Treacy has owed more than \$100,000 in back taxes and fines from 2009, he has been able to renew his liquor license the past three years without having to go on a payment plan.

"It's an attempt to put a guy out of business," said Mulrone.

### PASSAGES

## Gilbert R. Dominguez

Gilbert R. Dominguez died peacefully Aug. 7. He was 77.

A longtime employee of Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, Gilbert enjoyed people and entertaining and passionately supported the arts, especially theater, opera, and ballet.

For 45 years Gilbert was partner-in-life to well-known Chicago classical musician Donald J. Kingston, who predeceased him. Surviving Gilbert are dear friends Jon-Michael Hansen, Jimmy Irwin, Lenny Kheyo and Demi Poskonka as well as his beloved pet parrot, Ruby.



# Bishop Robinson talks Bible, homosexuality in Chicago....

BY KATE SOSIN

According to Bishop Gene Robinson, the Bible is a lot like baseball. You can read its rules all you want, but unless you understand the context of the game, some things will be lost on you. The phrase "out in left field," is an example, Robinson said. The cliché would have little meaning if we knew nothing of baseball and even less if we didn't understand it was a metaphor.

Such is the case for people who have interpreted the Bible as condemning homosexuality, said Robinson, who discussed his book *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage* Oct. 3 in Chicago.

Robinson is the out gay Episcopal bishop in the Diocese of New Hampshire who made history in 2003 when he became the first openly gay Anglican bishop. His book, just released by Knopf, is a primer on homosexuality and scripture.

Approximately 75 people attended Robinson's talk and book-signing event that Women & Children First bookstore hosted at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Lincoln Park.

Robinson argued that today's literal interpretations of the Bible fail to take into account the time in which they were written.

"I believe that the Bible is the Word of God," Robinson explained. "I don't believe that the Bible is the words of God."

Some things have been lost in translation, Robinson argued. And some newer Bible text translations have inserted the word "homosexuality" where it never was.

"So if you're one of those people reading that Bible, and you pick up your Bible, it condemns homosexuals," he said.

But Robinson believes that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality and that scripture only goes so far in discussing current realities. Robinson's interpretation of Bible is that God supports love.

He said that religion-based efforts that discriminate against LGBT people are often more based in politics than they are in faith. Further, he believes that many who believe homosexuality to be a sin have not read the Bible but been told by their church leaders.

The Episcopal Church in the United States takes a difference stance. In July, the U.S. Episcopal Church became the largest church in the country to bless same-sex unions. The church also voted to ordain transgender people at that time.

Robinson believes that other religious people and institutions are also at that turning point,

pulled between an interpretation of the Bible that condemns homosexuality and their own positive experiences with LGBT people.

It is for those wishing to reconcile their faith with their support for LGBT people that Robinson wrote the book, he said. But the book also functions as a "script for activists," who want to challenge religious discrimination, he added.

Lastly, Robinson is trying to combat the anti-gay discrimination propagated in the name of God.

"It's literally in the air we breathe," he said. And we religious people have put it there. And we religious people are going to be the ones that have to undo it."

## ...and carries message to Elmhurst as well

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Openly gay Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson addressed a crowd of about 300 people on the topic "Justice and Compassion in an Age of Discrimination" at Elmhurst College's Hammer-Schmidt Memorial Chapel Oct. 4, his second stop in Chicagoland in two days..

In 2003, Robinson became the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican/Episcopal communion and is the ninth bishop of the diocese of New Hampshire.

S. Alan Ray, president of Elmhurst College, noted that in the year since Elmhurst College became the first institution of high learning to add the LGBT question to its student application that more colleges and universities have followed suit.

The Rev. H. Scott Matheny, the college's chaplain, talked about the special relationship that the college has had with the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Elmhurst; however, Elmhurst College is affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC), not the Episcopal church.

Then the Rev. Stephen Martz, rector at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Elmhurst, made note of the ways in which the Episcopal church is moving to become more open and affirming of the LGBT community.

Robinson said, "We are in the middle of one of the great civil-rights movements in history." Taking the audience through the history of the LGBT-rights movement, Robinson remarked that 20 years ago most people couldn't identify anyone that they know who was LGBT. "Now 20 years later is there anybody left who doesn't know someone who is an LGBT person?" said Robinson.

Mentioning Harvey Milk's statement that coming out is the most political thing you can do, Robinson said the LGBT movement will never go backwards since more and more people are coming out. Also, Robinson noted that LGBT issues are an organic part of our national conversation and "the church is struggling to catch up to the culture."

Making note of how people interpret the bible, Robinson explained what the Bible really says and doesn't say about LGBT people. Robinson remarked that the Bible makes no mention of lesbians or lesbian relationships and anti-LGBT clergy have used their own interpretation of the Bible to disseminate inaccurate information about LGBT people. "The Bible is the word of God, not the words of God," said Robinson, echoing what he said the previous night at an



Bishop Gene Robinson. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

event in Chicago.

Robinson went on to say that most of what was written in the Bible needs to be looked at in an historical context. People's understanding of the world, including LGBT issues, has evolved over the years, Robinson noted.

With the culture moving forward, Robinson said that the LGBT community shouldn't accept tolerance and should demand acceptance. He noted that similar to people who espouse racism and sexism and use that to deny people of color and women equality throughout United States history, the proper word that should be used for people who want to deny LGBT people full equality is heterosexism not homophobia.

The question that Robinson posed is "How do

we change things?" He also remarked that there is a lot of debate about LGBT issues and not a lot of dialogue and no one has all the answers.

Laughter and applause dotted Robinson's remarks throughout the evening and he received a standing ovation at the end of his talk and the Q & A session. Then Ashley Schmit, president of EQUAL (Elmhurst Queers and Allies) presented Robinson with a gift from the college.

Lastly, Robinson signed copies of his book, *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage*.

See [public.elmhurst.edu/about/lgbt](http://public.elmhurst.edu/about/lgbt) for more information.



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### 'Parent & Family Connection for LGBTQ Children' in Skokie Oct. 16

"Parent & Family Connection for LGBTQ Children"—for parents, family members or friends of LGBTQ Jews—will be held 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Response, 9304 Skokie Blvd., in Skokie.

Attendees will learn more about sexual orientation and gender identity issues, and talk with other families with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning children—all in a supportive, Jewish environment.

RSVP by Oct. 12 to 224-625-2906.

# LGBT needs assessment presented in Pilsen

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

A bilingual presentation and discussion forum of the Chicago LGBT Community Needs Assessment was brought to the public at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen Oct. 2.

The LGBT Community Fund at the Chicago Community Trust, in partnership with Morten Group and Southwest Youth Collaborative, conducted the event, which marks the second within a series of several data presentations throughout various Chicagoland neighborhoods, but the first done bilingually.

Initially released to the public at Howard Brown Health Center June 27, the purpose, as explained in the slides, behind the assessment is "to gather data about the assets, needs and challenges of the LGBT community in Chicagoland" and "to inform future funding decisions made by the Steering Committee of the LGBT Community Fund."

LGBT Community Fund co-chair Prudence R. Beidler moderated the evening, while Alicia T. Vega, the Southwest Youth Collaborative executive director, made opening remarks. Principal Investigator Dr. Keisha Farmer-Smith and Morten Group President Mary F. Morten then led the presentation of the data, followed by a question-and-answer period.

"The idea of the assessment was to explore both the strengths, but also focus on needs and concerns and ideas that all members of the LGBT community wanted to share," said Farmer-Smith, the current director of programs and quality assurance for Family Focus, Inc. "So that's why we worked really hard to make sure many of the community areas were represented. I would love to know more about strategies. What strategies

are members of the community using to build resources, to get information, to navigate when they encounter a barrier? I would love to know more about that."

Farmer-Smith and Morten said that in order to gather information from the community, they approached people at various locations from parking lots to libraries to film festivals to Department of Human Services centers, saying there was a significant level of support from LGBT services and programs that support LGBT needs.

According to an accompanying press release, the project was conducted in two phases one including a comprehensive online survey of which 1500 community member completed. Phase two consisted of telephone interviews with more than 50 leaders in the LGBT community along with 15 focus groups throughout Chicago. Data collection for the LGBT Community Needs Assessment spanned Oct. 7, 2011-Dec. 22, 2011. The group's project team analyzed the results from January to April of this year.

Annalena Klein, an event attendee, grew up in the Boystown area and went to Chicago Public Schools growing up. She said that by being raised LGBTQA-aware, she came to the event wanting to know more.

"I love that they divided it by community," she said. "I've lived in a bunch of communities in Chicago and seeing the difference ... when she made that comment about Humboldt Park it was really interesting seeing that our neighborhood, someone recognizing it's so different. Having someone take recognition that there are people in this community that need help, that's a huge thing. I'm hoping we can get more communities active."

Farmer-Smith hopes the presentations will continue to be well-received and attract an audience that wants to share views and ideas.

"People share ideas for moving forward and give the trust some support and some ideas for direction that they would like to see," she said. "How the data can be used, but also ideas for how the fund can be used—I think that would

be awesome. It was a lot of data to analyze and I think that some of the best ways that you can learn and you can grow is to present the data to the community and then have the community give feed back on what should happen next."

The full report is available on Morten Group's website, [www.mortengroup.com](http://www.mortengroup.com).



Jeff Berry (left) receiving award from Bill Farrand.

## TPAN celebrates 25 years at '25th Hour' gala

BY KATE SOSIN

With live music, local food and a nod to its history of service, Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) marked its 25th year Oct. 5.

More than 300 attended the anniversary gala, held downtown at the Chicago Cultural Center.

The three-hour event honored those lost to AIDS over the course of the organization's history as well as those who continue fight against HIV.

"It is hard for me to use the word 'celebration' talking about the fact that TPAN is still around when I think about those we have lost and those who still suffer," TPAN Executive Director Bill Farrand said. "But for the first time in history, an AIDS-free generation is emerging as a very viable possibility."

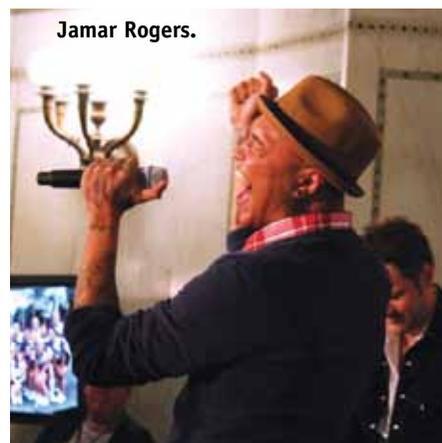
TPAN began in June 1987 as a peer-led support space for people with HIV/AIDS. Today, the organization employs 45 staff members.

The evening honored Jeff Berry, TPAN's editor and director of publications, who received the Charles E. Clifton Leadership Award.

Berry began going to TPAN in 1989 as a client and then became a volunteer. Berry said he never imagined he would live long enough to stand on stage to accept the award.

"TPAN literally saved my life and somewhere it became my life's work," said Berry.

Guests were treated to a sampling of food from local restaurateurs as well a live performance by Jamar Rogers, a former contestant on NBC's The Voice who came out as HIV-positive on the show. Photos by Kate Sosin; more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



Jamar Rogers.



## Michael Leppen's 60th Birthday Celebration

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All proceeds will benefit the Bishop Anderson House to support the ministry that Michael Leppen created ten years ago and is still active today in the inner city hospitals.

### OPERATION BEAR HUG

Started by Michael Leppen in 2002, Operation Bear Hug is an outreach ministry of Bishop Anderson House that provides age appropriate bears to mainly pediatric patients, but sometimes adult patients at the John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County and Rush University Medical Center.

For more information, please visit [www.bishopandersonhouse.org/operationbearhug](http://www.bishopandersonhouse.org/operationbearhug).



A BENEFIT FOR:

Bishop Anderson House

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Zach Kropp**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
 PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED



**Age**  
25

**Neighborhood**  
Andersonville

**Background**  
Originally from South Bend, Ind., Kropp graduated from the University of Oklahoma.

**Hobbies**  
Yoga, piano, movies and bicycling

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Favorite Chicago restaurant**  
El Mariachi in Boystown

**Favorite cocktail**  
Rum runner

From Wrigley Field to Riff Raff, with a side of sweet potato fries: Welcome to the world of Zach Kropp, an aspiring singer/performer who, in August, sang "God Bless America" and the national anthem at Wrigley Field.

Kropp sang on the last Sunday of August before the Chicago Cubs' game against Colorado in conjunction with the Out At Wrigley event.

"It was a lot of fun; I had a blast," said Kropp, who is classically trained since age 16 to be an operatic tenor and went to college for musical theatre.

Kropp has been singing since he was 16, mostly in drama school productions. He also has been playing the piano since age 4—and even has one in his north side apartment. Plus, he started playing the clarinet in fourth-grade.

"Since I earned my degree in musical theatre, I've totally gone in an opposite direction," career-wise, said Kropp. "I really have not done much singing and/or performing [since graduating.]"

Kropp will join the Chicago Cabaret Project for its three performances of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at Mary's Attic in Andersonville. The shows will be Oct. 11, 18 and 25, and Kropp will play the role of Riff Raff.

"It's a wicked-high vocal part," Kropp said. "It will be a crotch-grabbing, panty-melting good time. It will be entertaining, to say the least."

Kropp has worked as a server at T's Bar for more than a year, where he often is carrying Miller Lite and a burger to patrons. His biggest tip ever at T's, in terms of percentage, was from a doctor who wanted to encourage Kropp to consider going into the medical field. He gave Kropp \$50 on a \$100 tab.

Kropp serves T's treats on Tuesdays and throughout the weekend.

Kropp was a contestant last spring in Windy City Gay Idol, singing Somebody To Love (Queen). "I thought I did pretty well; it sounded exactly how I wanted it to sound and I had a lot of fun with it; I was just trying to be a rock star." He plans to participate in the 2013 Gay Idol search as well.

"Despite the fact I'm now not using much of the training that I received, [the] ensemble skills really gave me a personality, brought me out of my shell, gave me a lot of confidence," said Kropp, who has been a server for about five years.



Above: Zach Kropp sings the national anthem at this year's Out at Wrigley. Photo courtesy of Kropp

Below: Kropp competes in this year's Windy City Gay Idol. Photo by Kirk Williamson



**Thursday, Oct. 11**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Margaret Hermes**  
*Relative Strangers*

**Wed., Oct. 17**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Sylvia Ewing**  
**Comfort & Joy:**  
*Stories of Hope, Meditations for Happiness*



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**T** *in the* **LIFE**  
 COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN



Photo courtesy of Ricahrds  
 To nominate a person for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin  
[sosin@windycitytimes.com](mailto:sosin@windycitytimes.com)

**Jen Richards**

**Identifies as**  
 "I am a trans woman."

**Neighborhood**  
 Andersonville

**Zodiac**  
 "I'm a triple Aquarius."

**Life's work**  
 "Being me. Creating spaces that help others to do the same for themselves."

**Website**  
[www.wehappytrans.com](http://www.wehappytrans.com)

**What is the best thing about being gender-variant?**  
 "Anyone who visibly deviates from imagined norms of a given community, in a way that is still conceivable in the terms of that context, ends up expanding the sense of what is possible for others. To live, work, love, and laugh as a trans person, whether I intend it or not, serves as an invitation to others to not only critically encounter their own gender, but to engage in a dialogue with their own sense of authenticity. As I'm granted the unusual privilege of being able to do so safely, I regard this opportunity as a sacred gift. Plus, I get to wear way more purple, and I can't overstate what a joy that is."

**Whom do you admire most?**  
 "Within the trans community, Kate Bornstein has been a huge influence,

as has been my friend ellie june navidson. Intellectually, William Irwin Thompson remains my primary touchstone. Morally, the professors at Shimer College evinced an integrity that I asymptotically aspire to. Generally, anyone who is both kind and able to laugh at this delightfully absurd life. I also appreciate people who find my use of words like "asymptotically" cute rather than unbearably pretentious, though I suspect most people feel it's the latter."

**Job**  
 "I am the Managing Director of eighth blackbird, a Chicago based, multiple Grammy Award-winning contemporary classical music ensemble, the president of New Music Chicago, the creator of the community websites We Happy Trans, Trans Love Stories, WTF Trans Dating, and the leader of #transchat (on Twitter)."

**In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the trans/gender-variant community?**  
 "Practically: work. The moral health of any community can be gauged by how the most vulnerable members are treated, and those most at risk within the LGBTQ family are trans people, particularly trans women, specifically young trans women of color. These women are often at risk because sex work is the only income available to them. We need to find a way to provide more options for those who want them. This will entail changing the entire system of how trans people are treated on the job, providing resources to employers, promoting trans friendly workplaces, sharing success stories, and creating professional networks among trans people. We Happy Trans is about to launch a collaborative project intended to address each of these points."

## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

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PUBLISHER &amp; EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky  
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**SENIOR WRITERS** Kate Sosin, Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Pergrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest  
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
 e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

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"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.



TRACY  
BAIM

## LGBT 101: History matters

Imagine going through grammar and high school not learning one thing about the history of your people. Not learning about the scientists, artists, astronauts, politicians, sports legends and so many others who were just like you.

That happens even in 2012, even in places as progressive as Chicago. For the LGBT community, history is a hit-or-miss educational adventure. Sure, we see gay culture splashed across the small screen on a daily basis now. What used to be freak shows on the talk shows has turned into a Modern Family smorgasbord of LGBT lives. While not very diverse (usually they are very white and middle-class), they still represent a major step forward from the recent dark ages of public culture.

But because most LGBT individuals grow up in families that are not like us, we don't get the Gay 101 basics we need to more fully understand where we come from, and what our place in the world can be. Television provides the window dressing, but without historical context, one could get the impression we were all cut from the same cloth—reality show bimbos, talk-show hosts, and gays jumping to enter the suburban-married-two-parent ideal for some Americans.

We are so much more. The LGBT community is about as diverse as you could imagine. And because we are not learning about the accomplishments of LGBTs in the classroom, at least on any significant scale, the self-esteem of our youth is

left damaged.

Thankfully, California has made a big step forward on this topic, adding LGBT issues into the curriculum. Because they are such a large public school system, they can help influence the educational process across the country. But it is going to take a major 50-state effort to make sure no child is left behind when it comes to inclusion of the vast diversity of our lives.

Teaching about these issues has been controversial ever since people started to come out in large numbers in the United States. Teachers have been targeted for witch hunts and still many of them fear for their jobs if they even talk about their own relationships—in the same way a heterosexual teacher might mention a spouse. Even more difficult is their ability to integrate LGBT issues naturally into their coursework—for fear of parents protesting.

Teaching about this history is important for youth who often have very little support at home. But it would actually be presenting a more accurate history. Right now, by not talking about the full lives of our historical figures, they are actually participating in a lie.

In Chicago Oct. 11, The Legacy Project (TLP) is taking one giant step forward to help educate all people, including LGBT youth, about the pioneers who came before them. Some were out in life, some were only discussed as LGBT posthumously. TLP has created The Legacy Walk, a public display of plaques on the North Halsted Street rainbow pylons. In its first dedication, they are presenting 18 plaques honoring a diverse array of national and international people who should be found in any history books. And the fact is, most of them are in the history books—but not as their complete selves.

The brainchild and passion of gay activist Victor Salvo, his Legacy Project dream has taken years to fulfill. He has met with hundreds of academics, historians, politicians, business groups and others to create a project that will be the first of its kind in the world. Chicago is used to

firsts on LGBT issues: Henry Gerber started the first known U.S. gay organization in 1920s Chicago—and was promptly fired from his job.

The plaques dedicated on Oct. 11 will be just a start. There are many more people TLP expects to honor over the years. But here are just a few you can see unveiled next week:

—James Baldwin: An award-winning gay author

—Harvey Milk: Among the first openly gay elected officials in the United States

—Jane Addams: Lesbian Nobel Prize-winning social justice pioneer

—Barbara Jordan: Lesbian, first African-American woman elected to Congress from a Southern state

—Christine Jorgensen: First widely known transgender person

—Barbara Gittings: Lesbian activist who spearheaded the drive to overturn the classification of homosexuality as a mental illness in the 1970s

—Bayard Rustin: Civil-rights pioneer who was Dr. Martin Luther King's mentor and architect of the 1963 March on Washington

—Dr. Margaret Chung: Lesbian, first U.S.-born Chinese woman to become a physician

Others include: Artist Frida Kahlo, Dr. Alfred Kinsey, Alan Turing, Alvin Ailey, Keith Haring, Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, Reinaldo Arenas and Dr. Antonia Pantoja.

There are, of course, thousands of other pioneers who could be so honored, and plaques are just one way to make sure our histories are not forgotten. But this is one important step forward to recognizing the complete personhood of these historical figures.

Details: The Legacy Walk Inaugural Dedication is Thursday, Oct. 11—National Coming Out Day. There is a VIP reception at 2 p.m. at Sidetrack bar, followed by a tented outdoor ceremony 3-4:15 p.m., the dedication reveal at 4 p.m. and a reception at 4:30 p.m. See [www.legacyprojectchicago.org](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org).

## LETTERS

### Helping youth

Letter to the Editor:

I found the Windy City Times article on "Parade leader speaks on future of Pride" (in the Sept. 19 issue) both eye-opening and surprising. I recognize the sizeable contributions Richard Pfeiffer; his partner, Tim Frye; and Gene Janowski have made to the LGBT Pride Parade over the years. However, it concerns me that the future of Chicago's Pride Parade will be dependent on a little handwritten book, and that proper financial accountability seems to take a back seat when it comes to funds raised by the committee and their itemized distribution.

Chicago is a world-class city and perhaps it is time for the Pride Parade to reflect that in both organization and accountability. If it is called an LGBT parade, I don't think it unreasonable to ask why the leadership of Pride Parade is not reflective of that community's mixture. Diversity in our community is a daily reality for many of us. More importantly, the wealth of financial and organizational talents available in our various community organizations could be a gold mine of opportunity for the current three parade organizers.

Perhaps it is time for the committee to grow in diversity and financial accountability. Not having financial policies and procedures in place could open the Pride Committee to accusations of misleading or incomplete financial information. Such problematic fiscal matters could open

the door to claims of abuse and accusations of wrongdoing.

One of the unanswered questions for me is what part 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney and 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman play in the makeup of the Pride Parade leadership. Do they have any say in the distribution of funds accumulated or the placement of politicians in the parade?

No mention was made of this, nor was the question asked in the article concerning the meeting with the pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Who made the decision at that meeting to change the kick-off time for the parade? Was it a joint decision, or did Tunney have the final say since he was a parishioner at the church?

I find it deeply troubling that aldermen would be involved in this matter. My question to both politicians is, "Why would you support such an organization with such questionable best-business practices when it comes to its fiscal matters?"

Another troubling aspect of the article was in reference to the organization's nonprofit status. Are corporations made aware of the committees for-profit status in terms of how they claim that deductible in their taxes? Since the Pride Committee is a for-profit organization, are taxes being paid on the funds being raised to state, county and federal governments? Finally, who is claiming that income on their taxes?

Accountability, diversity, organization and best-business practices are not unreasonable expectations when we are dealing with a major parade in Chicago that draws 750,000-850,000 people.

The article is certainly a good starting place for a community dialogue to begin. I want to thank both Windy City Times and Kate Sosin for giving us such an in-depth look at the matrix of accountability that appears to be challenging the current "Pride Parade leadership." Perhaps it is time for a community meeting. I fear this article has only raised more questions than it has answered.

Joe Murray  
Chicago

Send letters  
and viewpoints  
to [Andrew@  
WindyCity  
MediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Items may be  
edited for  
length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Liz Lauren

## COME HAUL OR HIGH WATER

Actors pool their talents in the classic Lookingglass production *Metamorphoses*. Read the review on page 15.

## DISH

Wood-n't you know it?  
Page 29.

Photo of Wood's Franco Gianni and Gary Zickel by Ross Forman



## THEATER

Cat and mouse.  
Page 14.

Photo from Ruby Wilder courtesy of Kim Schechter



## TV

On 'Fire.'  
Page 27.

Photo of Taylor Kinney courtesy of NBC



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## It's 'Clear' for Paul Oakley Stovall

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's all "go" for Paul Oakley Stovall, an out playwright/actor/director whose planning day job with the official title of advance associate—first for Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008 and later for the Obama Administration—has taken him to cities and towns across the nation and around the world working.

Yet, at the same time, Stovall's artistic work has been flourishing.

Earlier this summer, Stovall's comic drama *Immediate Family* (a reworking of his earlier play *As Much As You Can*) enjoyed a critically acclaimed commercial co-production by lead producers Ruth and Steve Hendel with About Face Theatre at the Goodman Theatre's Owen Theatre space.

And this upcoming weekend, Stovall returns to Chicago to appear in three days worth of workshop performances of *Clear: A New Musical Experience* co-produced by About Face Theatre and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events' residency program *In the Works*.

*Clear* is a developing new musical featuring a script and score by Stovall, plus additional music by Stew, the Tony Award-winning co-author of the Broadway musical *Passing Strange*.

Stovall admitted that *Clear* is definitely a reflection of the expression to "write what you know," since it is a musicalized first-hand account of one man's experience working on a presidential campaign, something he's currently involved with once again.

It's in Reno, Nev., where I reached Stovall for a brief telephone interview while he and his col-

leagues were doing the advance work for an appearance by First Lady Michelle Obama at the University of Nevada. Stovall was full of praise for the first lady, and for the amazing opportunities he's had these past four years as an advance associate.

"It provided me opportunities to write because I spend a lot of time in hotel rooms in different cities with a little bit of down time," Stovall said. "So that quiet writing time I was always looking for was being handed right to me. At the same time I was having this incredible adventure learning new things and getting into the political world."

As the title of Stovall's developing musical suggests, it's about a man whose assumptions about life are altered via his job when he encounters all sorts of new people, ideas and opposing opinions. And since Stovall and his colleagues travel and live out of suitcases from hotel to hotel, it made sense to make *Clear* into what is billed as an eclectic and "neo-soul" musical and depict the characters like people in a touring rock band.

"The format of *Clear*, when you come in and see the set, it's like a rock band that's set up," Stovall said, likening the advance planning he and his colleagues do to the people putting on a rock concert. "It's a high-pressure situation. You have a certain amount of time to set up, plan, make sure the sound is working, the crowd comes, you do the big show and then you pack up and hit the next city."

When asked if his employers and colleagues found it odd that he was writing about his advance associate work experiences (or potentially

Brad Simmons (left) and Paul Oakley Stovall in a previous workshop of *Clear*. Photo by Jonathan McPhail

worried about airing any dirty laundry about the Obamas), Stovall just laughed and offered an explanation.

"As the show has developed, it has gone further and further away from being remotely or even metaphorically about the Obamas or anyone specific," Stovall said. "It's really about the people I see day to day in this environment, so it's more universal as a 'fish out of water' story where someone finds himself among a group of people and in circumstances that are completely foreign to him."

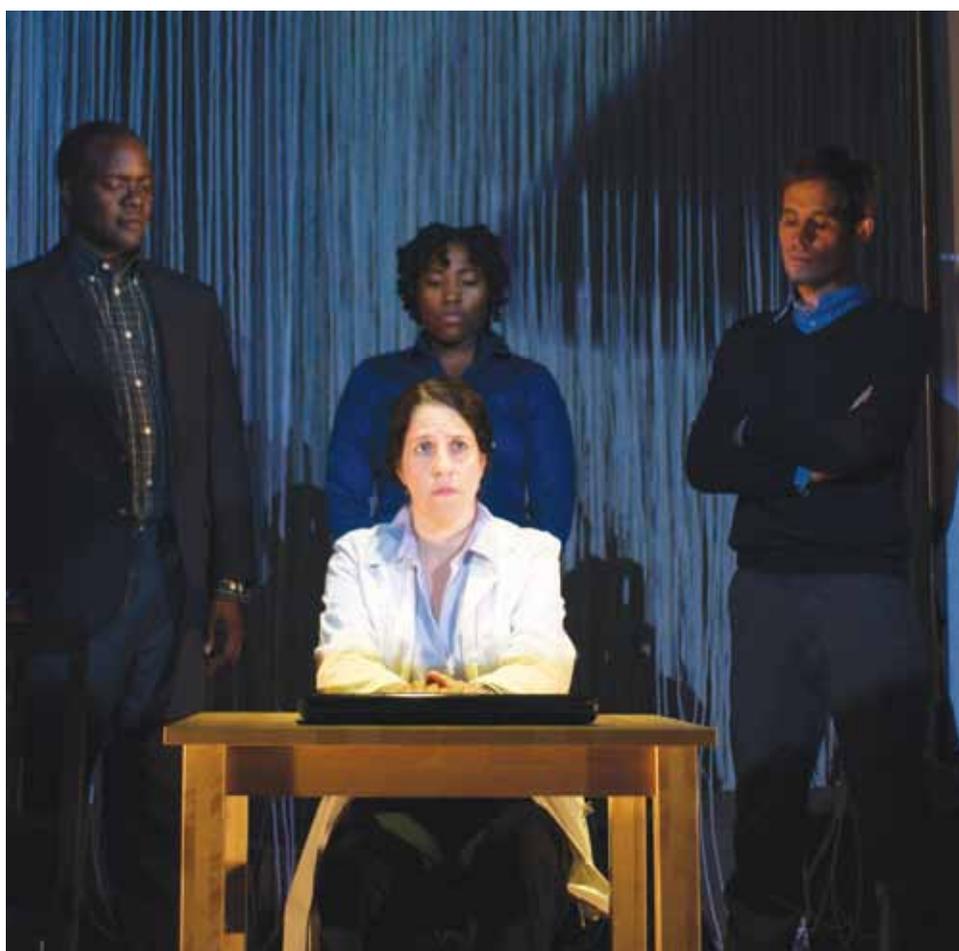
Stovall has high hopes for *Clear*, which has previously been seen in workshops at the 2010 Tony Award-winning Eugene O'Neill National Music Theatre Conference, at Joe's Pub and at Dixon Place in New York and at About Face's XYZ Festival in Chicago. He hopes one day that *Clear* and *Immediate Family* might be picked up for a full-blown commercial New York production with Broadway as the ultimate destination.

But for now, Stovall has his hands full with still fleshing out *Clear*, and his day job which is

now in overdrive to make sure his employers stay in the White House. Yet at this hectic time, Stovall was grateful for the opportunities being an advance associate has afforded him and how they have truly opened his eyes.

"I think that we discover most about who we are is when our mettle is tested. When you're around what you know, it's very easy to be comfortable and not challenge yourself," Stovall said. "I've found while doing this job that every other week I'm in a different city dealing with a different set of circumstances, dealing with people of different religions and backgrounds and finding out that there are many commonalities we all share."

About Face Theatre's workshop performances of *Clear: A New Musical Experience* are presented as part of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events' residency program *In the Works* Oct. 11-13 on the stage of Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion, near 205 E. Randolph St. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Visit [www.aboutfacetheatre.com](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com) or call 773-784-8565, ext. 111, for more information.



Freshly Fallen Snow. Photo by Jeff Pines

## THEATER REVIEW

### Freshly Fallen Snow

Playwright: David Lindsay-Abaire

Playwright: M.E.H. Lewis

At: Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave.

Tickets: 312-633-0630;

www.chicagodramatists.org; \$32

Runs through: Oct. 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's an injection, you see, and it will dissolve the tiny part of your brain where the painfully debilitating memories lie, leaving only the pleasant ones—not as ham-handed as a lobotomy, perhaps, but if you don't see the flaw in such a scheme by the time you finish reading this sentence, then you obviously aren't a nerdy scientist so besotted with her new toy that she can't comprehend why the people for whom she invented this procedure stubbornly resist its implementation.

Forget the theological ramifications, the question of who decides what constitutes a "destructive" memory and the potential for abuse. What makes M.E.H. Lewis' play smarter than its premise is her assertion that ignorance, whether genuine or artificially induced, can *never* be bliss—and isn't revelation the cornerstone of all Western literature?

The argument is initiated after we meet two potential recipients of Dr. Jane's miracle cure: her mother, Clothilde, who cannot shake off melancholy first-hand recollections of World War II allies (that's us, by the way) bombing her Dresden home, and an Iraq-war soldier called AJ, haunted by the events leading to her injuries in the field. Gradually, we come to recognize the alleged victims' complicity in their respective tragedies. Far from being innocent bystanders to the horror that neurotechnology would erase, they are perpetrators—inadvertent, to be sure, but enablers nevertheless. To forget that fact would be, for *Frau* Clothilde, to shirk the respect owed the dead and, for Sergeant AJ, to withdraw forever into a far-from-secure retreat.

Audiences expecting a science-fiction thriller with mad doctors and big needles will be disappointed to learn that Lewis' argument is not one of medical ethics, but of personal responsibility. Many details of the set-up need further clarification—the circumstances dictating an active-duty military subject's participation in the ex-

perimental program, for example—but once Ann Whitney's flinty Clothilde and Kelly O'Sullivan's scrappy AJ dig in their heels to reject the white-washing of history, regardless of its scope, we eagerly anticipate answers to the mystery of the burdens they have adopted and their willingness to shoulder them. We get them—but not until we have been led through a labyrinth of discoveries (and a few red herrings, too, so stay alert even after you think you've guessed the secret) that keep our loyalties shifting right up to the final moments.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Dreamgirls**, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, through Oct. 28. If you only know *Dreamgirls* from its 2006 movie adaptation, now's your chance to see the show in its original 1981 Broadway musical form in a stunningly sung and super-slick in-the-round staging by director/choreographer Marc Robin. SCM

**Equivocation**, Victory Gardens Theater at the Biograph, through Oct. 14. Bill Cain's brainy scramble of history, current events and classical theater zips by at an aerobic pace, but fast just makes for more fun when Shakespeare's company finds itself embroiled in a royal cover-up. MSB

**Jitney**, Court Theatre, through Oct. 14. Wonderful actors and splendid ensemble acting make for a vivid staging—alternately funny and tense—of August Wilson's 1970s drama of Pittsburgh jitney taxi drivers facing urban renewal and their life choices. Ron OJ Parsons directed. JA

**The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart**, National Theatre of Scotland at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Oct. 28. The upstairs room at Chicago Shakes has been transformed into a pub—with beer and whiskey in abundance—for this robust and romantic ballad of The Bluestocking Who Broke The Devil's Heart. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### Making Noise Quietly

Playwright: Robert Holman

At: Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave.

Tickets: 866-811-4111 or

www.steeptheatre.com; \$20-\$22

Runs through: Nov. 10

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Many Chicago storefront theaters have championed the work of British playwright Simon Stephens. Steep Theatre, in particular, has produced acclaimed productions of his plays *Harper Regan* and *Pornography*, so it's only natural that the company would turn its attentions to the playwright that Stephens credits as one of his biggest influences: the Yorkshire-based Robert Holman.

To open its 2012-13 season, Steep Theatre has revived Holman's 1986 play *Making Noise Quietly* (which was also revived at London's Donmar Warehouse earlier this year). The play certainly highlights Steep Theatre's intimate space and acting talent, though audiences might scratch their heads pondering exactly what they're supposed to take away from the show's three short vignettes that appear unrelated to each other in terms of settings and subject matter.

"Being Friends" focuses on two young men in rural Kent in 1944. Oliver (Nick Goodman) is a Quaker northerner who is sent to work at a dairy farm due to his status as a conscientious objector, while Eric is an artsy illustrator and writer

who has been deferred from military service due to an injury. The two eye and chat each other up as they ponder a nude swim in what could end up being a happy fling or a dangerous game of mistaken assumptions.

"Lost" jumps ahead to the aftermath of the Falklands War of 1982 when Seaman Geoffrey Church (Peter Moore) must informer May Appleton (Patricia Donegan) that her estranged grown son, Ian, was killed in battle.

The play concludes with the title piece set in 1986 in the Black Forest, which presents the successful German businesswoman Helene Ensslin (Lorraine Freund) dealing with the foul-mouthed British soldier Alan Tadd (Craig Cunningham) and his near feral child, Sam (Théo Toungé), who communicates only by grunting and writing words on his arm. Through the course of this vignette, Helene and Alan reveal secrets about who they are and ponder the choices they have to make in the future.

I guess if you must try to connect the three vignettes, they all deal in one way or another with war and those who have been affected by it directly or on the peripheries. Otherwise, it might be best to take each piece on its own terms instead of straining to find thematic conjoining links.

Of the three, the acting (and especially the dialects) is the most consistent in the title piece, offering a much more involving story under the fine oversight of director Erica Weiss. Steep's *Making Noise Quietly* does offer an insight into one of Holman's pieces, which seems to favor presenting characters reflecting and talking through their dilemmas as a way to cope or ponder their next move.



Making Noise Quietly. Photo by Lee Miller

## THEATER REVIEW

### Ruby Wilder

Playwright: Brooke Allen

At: Tympanic Theatre Company at

Luna Central (fka Live Bait),

3914 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-819-5862;

www.tympanictheater.org; \$15

Runs through: Oct. 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

First, the facts: Ruby Wilder; her boyfriend, Harper; and her little sister, Junebug went to a bar one night, where Junebug, despite Ruby's protective eye, met a sexy stranger who turned out to be a serial killer. Since creepy Ozzie only offs his victims one at a time, Ruby survived her captivity but Junebug disappeared, never to be seen again. Four years later, Ruby encounters Ozzie in another bar, once again becoming his prisoner—but this time their date will finish very differently.

Brooke Allen could have recounted her lurid yarn in a linear progression, allowing us to wallow in its pulp-noir sensationalism. Instead, she structures her narrative mosaically, beginning with Ruby bound and blindfolded in Ozzie's lair, then taking us through a succession of flashbacks/flashforwards depicting events which may have actually occurred, or might be figments of our heroine's traumatized unconsciousness. She also introduces an omniscient narrator, whose instructions the play's personnel obey—sometimes.

By the time the evening (and maybe the story) reaches its conclusion, we have two people dead, one wounded and another who may have been murdered or may have committed suicide. Ruby is still alive, but her complicity in engineering this outcome is now in doubt—is she still a victim or has she become, herself, a cold-blooded assassin? Is everything we have witnessed the delusional fabrication of a *real* psychopath, and is the first-to-be-gunned-down narrator a prison shrink? Do we care?

Allen's legal training in estate planning may have influenced this post-mortem approach to her scenario, or perhaps her intent was to heighten our empathy by taking us into the mind of her protagonist. Whatever the inspiration, our focus is rendered so diffuse thereby—did I mention the Barbie dolls dangling from Ozzie's ceiling and the characters crawling from under plastic sheets like cadavers in a morgue?—as to dilute any sort of emotional bond we might forge with these self-involved archetypes.

Director James D. Palmer and three of the five actors making up the cast for this Tympanic Theatre production are affiliated with Red Tape Theatre, and thus prepared to revel in this ambiguity. Ultimately, although Allen's fragmented mode of disclosure cannot help but obstruct whatever its purpose may have been—rather like a jigsaw puzzle where the point is only to admire the shape of the individual pieces, rather than look for a big picture.



Sunday in the Park with George. Photo by Liz Lauren

DOUBLE REVIEW

Metamorphoses

Playwright: Mary Zimmerman, after Ovid

At: Lookingglass Theatre, Water Tower Pumping Stations

Tickets: 1-312-337-0665;

www.lookingglasstheater.org; \$36-\$70

Runs through: Nov. 18

Sunday in the Park with George

Playwright: Stephen Sondheim, James Lapine

At: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier

Tickets: 1-312-595-5600;

www.chicagoshakes.com; \$48-\$78

Runs through: Nov. 4

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Doug Hara is better-hung now than he was 10 years ago, but that's what a decade will do. The enemy isn't time but gravity: eventually, everything sags. The wonder is that so many now-middle-aged members of the Lookingglass Ensemble still look good enough to disrobe at all, or at least wear soaking-wet clothes that cling to their curves, but that's the truth of this 10th-anniversary revival of Metamorphoses in which the cast is made up mostly of veterans of the original production, among them Hara as love god Eros—clad only in gossamer wings.

With their flair for both comedy and seriousness—watch Raymond Fox as Midas switch from one to the other on a dime—the company is as nimble and charming as ever and so is the material, inspired by the work of Roman poet Ovid, who drew, in turn, from earlier Greek sources.

Adapter/director Mary Zimmerman uses only a small portion of Ovid's epic work but more than enough to illustrate the theme of transformations (which is what "metamorphoses" means) inspired by love, and often assisted by the gods. Love comes in many forms, of course, and Zimmerman covers sexual love, enduring love, the love of money and incest, among other things, with some tales told in classical style and some with a modern spin. Some end with gratification and others with remorse, some are erotic and others not—and so Metamorphoses maintains variety, even though the structure of most of the tales follows a pattern.

This is the Lookingglass show famously performed in and around a swimming pool—thus all the bare skin and wet clothes—with the audience on three sides. It's novel and entertaining and just 90 minutes long, and they give people in the first two rows a rain blanket.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater also is presenting a show it's done before, the iconic Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine musical Sunday in the Park with George, directed (again) by Gary Griffin. The first time, however, Griffin staged it in Chicago Shakes' smaller theater, and now it's on the big courtyard stage. It's smart, it's intelligent, it has a superb 11-piece orchestra with wonderful musical direction by Brad Haak, and it has outstanding lead performances by Jason Danieley as the two Georges and Carmen Cusack as Dot/Marie. It's also a solemn show in which

Griffin eschews comedy except for the handful of unavoidable built-in laughs, performed on Kevin Depinet's large-scale but austere setting. It's a cool interpretation of the work, which looks at the obsessions of French pointillist painter Georges Seurat (1859-1891) and his fictional 20th-century American great-grandson, also an artist struggling to fulfill himself.

In Act I, Griffin and Danieley create a Seurat who is unkind, ungenerous and unsympathetic even though you understand his compulsions. In Act II, they offer—as they must—a modern George who is kinder and far more confused than driven. Of course, the Seurat of Act I also has very specific goals and theories while the George of Act II is rather aimless even as he becomes inspiringly hopeful. Ultimately, Act I is about the isolation of the artist and Act II is about an artist reconnecting with his humanity. Perhaps it takes both perspectives to finish the picture.

The spare scenic design is filled out by the expectedly brilliant projections of Mike Tutaj (replacing pointillism with pixels, as someone said at intermission) and the Seurat-inspired costumes of Mara Blumenfeld (also the costume designer for Metamorphoses), whose Act II white-on-white patterned dress for Dot is a stunner.

SPOTLIGHT



Chicago Shakespeare Theater's international World's Stage series is not only hosting The National Theatre of Scotland's current hit of The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart, it once again presenting the company's most famous worldwide hit to date: Gregory Burke's drama **Black Watch**. The wide-ranging show examining the history, honor and men who served in Scotland's most elite military unit played the Windy City in 2011, and now it's back again for another brief stint. **Black Watch** runs Oct. 10-21 at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with 3 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$38-\$52; call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo by Colin Mearns

★★★★★

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Photo: Bill Buntingham; Georges Seurat, French, 1859-1891, A Sunday on La Grande Jatte—1884, Oil on canvas, 81 3/4 x 121 1/4 in. (207.5 x 308.1 cm), Heilbrunn Timeline Collection, 1926.224, The Art Institute of Chicago. Photography © The Art Institute of Chicago

## MCNALLY from cover

and marriage] in your life. So a bad review from a critic is pretty small potatoes compared to that."

Both McNally and Kirdahy were in Boston a few weeks ago on the occasion of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts' awarding McNally its Beacon of Liberty Award. The ACLU honored his artistic contributions as they inform social justice issues and celebrate freedom of expression. The award was presented during a gala cocktail reception Sept. 15 at the TAJ, just two weeks shy of the opening of the musical Ragtime.

McNally won the 1998 Tony Award for Best Book (musical) for Ragtime. The local revival of the Broadway musical is a collaborative effort between the ACLU and Fiddlehead Theatre Company. Ragtime ran through Oct. 7 in the historic Strand Theatre, located in the city's Dorchester neighborhood.

"Ragtime is the perfect ACLU play," said Carol Rose, the legal advocacy group's executive director, "not only because it is about issues of freedom, equality, and human striving for equality, but also because it takes place at an incredible time in our country, with union organizing, immigrant rights organizing, social justice and women's rights"—and at the time "the ACLU was founded in someone's living room in Boston."

"This is a play that speaks directly to issues of equality, for people of different races and gender," said Rose, adding, "Of course, for LGBT people, the theme—that deep human emotion,

which goes to the desire for equality—is applied to a whole new group, a whole new generation."

Just as Ragtime speaks to social justice and compassion for those in need, so McNally's play Corpus Christi gives voice to the intrinsic goodness of gay men and lesbians, made in the image and likeness of God.

Written in 1997 and staged in New York the following year, Corpus Christi is a passion play, a retelling of the story of Jesus and the apostles through a gay lens, with Jesus and his disciples as gay men living in Corpus Christi, Texas. Judas betrays Jesus over sexual jealousy. In one scene the Jesus character, named Joshua, marries a gay male couple.

An international tour—a revival of the play along a film documentary Corpus Christi: Playing with Redemption—has been ongoing now for six years by the California-based 108 Productions.

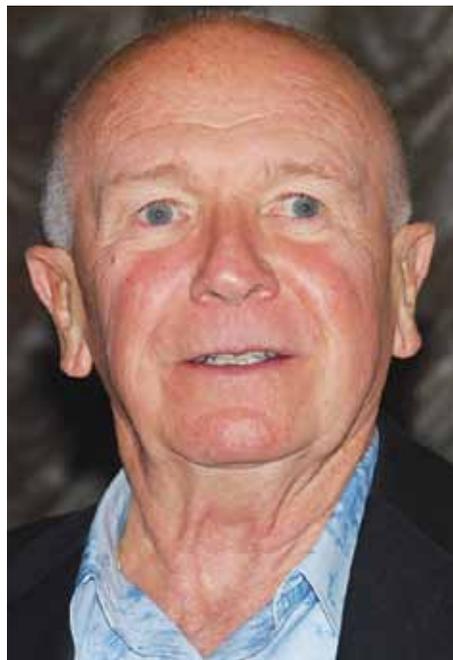
Recently, the tour visited Chicago.

The documentary examines the effects Christian anti-gay attitudes have on the cast, audiences, even protestors in the many places Corpus Christi has played.

McNally spoke to all of that and a lot more while in Boston.

"It's so funny," said McNally. "The play is so conflated with anti-Catholicism and as an attack on the Catholic Church, which I never envisioned when I wrote it. If I wanted to write a play attacking the Catholic Church, I would certainly know how to write it. I think a lot of people have already done it."

Early on, Bill Donahue of the New York City-based Catholic for Religious and Civil Rights led



Terrence McNally. Photo by Chuck Colbert

the charge against Corpus Christi, going so far as to say it was blasphemous.

The attacks got nastier and personal. An UK-based Islamic group, the Shari'ah Court, issued a death fatwa against McNally in 1999 when the play opened in London.

Closer to home, when his mother went to Mass during [the New York run of] Corpus Christi, she found an envelope at her seat from the Catholic League, asking to send money to stop "this play in New York."

"My mother saw my picture on the envelope," he added. Upset by that, "she never went back to a Catholic Church," said McNally.

Ultimately, "the message of the play," he went on to say, "is one of profound love and humility and deepest respect for Jesus Christ."

Still, the outcry, McNally said, "revealed the amount of homophobia that still exists in the religious hierarchy of [Christian] churches. They have a lot to answer for."

McNally did not have a typical Catholic upbringing. "As a Catholic, I never thought sexuality was a sin," he explained. "I did not go through the tormented adolescence," of thinking "I'm going to hell. I just thought something that frankly was so much fun, couldn't be a sin. My view is that God is pretty fun-loving and happy-go-lucky."

Receiving an award from an advocacy organi-

zation like the ACLU is not a first for McNally. Five years ago, Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates honored the playwright with its Spirit of Justice award.

And while recognition from New York theater critics and advocacy groups is appreciated and welcomed, McNally said "When people say my work has changed them, particularly in the gay area, that makes me very happy. That's as a good an award you can get."

The play Love! Valour! Compassion!, and especially Andre's Mother, a film about a woman's coming to terms with the death of her son from AIDS, "affected a lot of people," McNally said. The PBS movie, he said parents have told him, "helped them come to accept their gay children."

McNally arrived in New York right out of high school to attend college at Columbia University. "The minute I got out of high school I went to New York" because "I knew I would not be the only gay person in the world," he said.

Initially, McNally thought he would become a journalist. "Your work should be a manifestation of the best of yourself, the most thoughtful of yourself," he said, adding, "I cannot imagine being an artist with a disconnect [between] who I am and [what] I truly feel and think."

"I am more of a writer who writes from his feelings than from a political agenda," he said. And yet being out as a gay person is "incredibly important politically."

"It seems like such fundamental part of who you are, your sexuality," McNally explained, readily acknowledging "Being gay in theater was not very challenging. The only ones not out are our critics."

Over the years, McNally has seen a lot of change since arriving in the Big Apple at age of 17. "We used to dart down little, dark allies, deserted streets to a cellar bar and now we are married," he said. But now the of change "seems to go at warp speed compared to little increments of progress."

"The two places I look to for the future of where the country is progressing are Massachusetts and San Francisco," both "a little bit ahead of New York," said McNally.

And, "I love your new Senate candidate," he said matter-of-factly, referring to Elizabeth Warren, the Democratic challenger to incumbent Republican Scott Brown. The match-up is one of the most closely watched U.S. Senate races in the country. Recent polls show Warren with a slight edge.

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## CULTURE CLUB

### 'Dreamgirls' at Marriott through Oct. 28

Dreamgirls, the Broadway musical-turned-movie, runs through Oct. 28 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire.

With music by Academy Award nominee Henry Krieger and lyrics and book by Tony- and Grammy-winning Tom Eyen, Dreamgirls features the songs "(And I Am Telling You) I'm Not Going," "One Night Only" and "I Am Changing."

Tickets are \$41-\$49 each, plus tax and handling fees, call the Marriott Theatre box office at 847-634-0200 or [www.TicketMaster.com](http://www.TicketMaster.com). Visit [www.MarriottTheater.com](http://www.MarriottTheater.com) for more information.

### 'Rocky Horror' at Mayne Stage in Oct.

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., is hosting productions of Richard O'Brien's musical The Rocky Horror Show, which the Awkward Pause Theatre is presenting.

The musical tells the story of a newly engaged couple getting caught in a storm and

coming to the home of a mad scientist unveiling his new creation, a muscle man named Rocky Horror.

The productions will take place Friday, Oct. 12, Saturday, Oct. 20, Friday, Oct. 26 and Wed. Oct. 31, at midnight; and Sunday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com) or call 773-381-4551.

### Trust awards \$1.3M in cultural diversity

The Chicago area's largest regional grant maker, The Chicago Community Trust, announced \$1,330,000 in grants that will enhance cultural vibrancy, access and diversity.

Just some of the organizations receiving grants are the Auditorium Theatre (\$75,000), Chicago Theatre Group/Goodman Theatre (\$25,000), Black Ensemble Theatre (\$75,000), the DuSable Museum of African American History (\$40,000), Gillourey Institute/Silk Road Rising (\$30,000), Little City Foundation (\$30,000) and the South Shore Opera Company (\$25,000).

Last year, the trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$100 million to non-profit organizations.

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Argo; film notes

For a while there, it looked like Ben Affleck's career was going to fritter away. After a series of missteps, topped by the wretched *Gigli* in which he co-starred with then-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez (remember their nauseating dual moniker, "Bennifer?") it seemed as if the talented actor, who had won an early career screenplay Oscar (with Matt Damon) for *Good Will Hunting*, was down for the count.

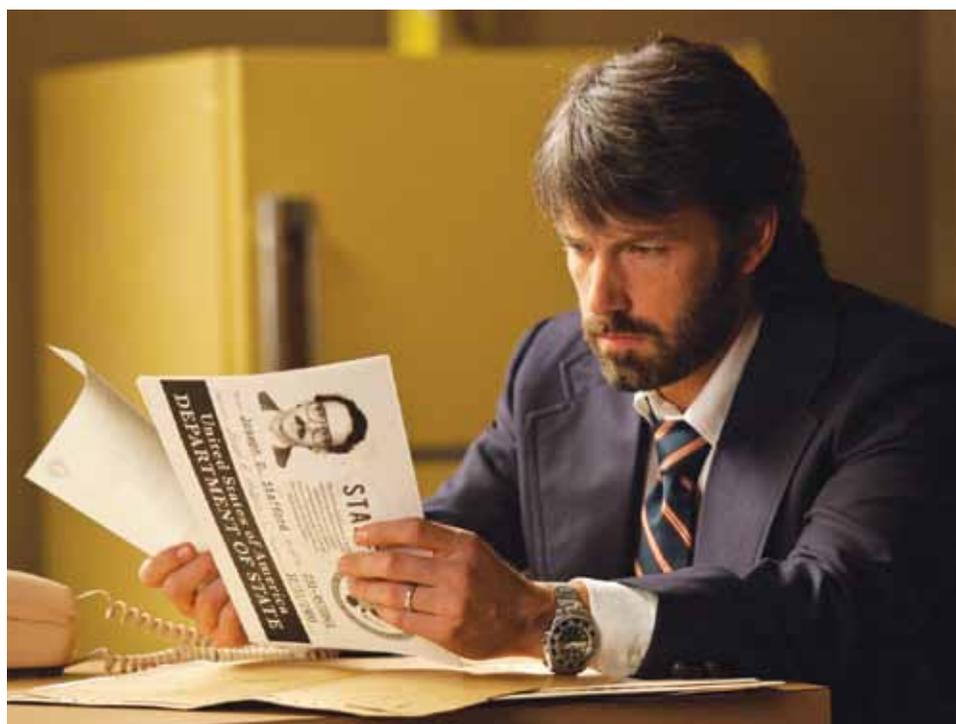
A critically acclaimed performance in 2006's *Hollywoodland* as the murdered actor George Reeves began Affleck's renewal. And charming, subsequent acting performances led to a creative comeback. Then with his assured directorial debut in 2007 with *Gone Baby Gone*, followed in 2010 with the expert bank heist film *The Town*, there was no doubt that Affleck was not just back in top form as an actor but as a director as well. Now, with the intensely suspenseful *Argo*, Affleck continues his hot streak and the early Oscar predictions for the movie are merited.

When the American embassy in Teheran was overtaken during the fall of Iran in 1979, six Americans managed to escape detection, hiding within the nearby Canadian ambassador's private residence. *Argo* is based on the improbable but true story of Tony Mendez, a CIA consultant (played with deft assurance by Affleck) charged with ferretting out the group during the ensuing hostage crisis by his beleaguered boss Bryan Cranston and getting them safely home.

Affleck begins with the absolutely riveting—and terrifying—takedown of the embassy. As the angry mob outside pushes against the gates of the embassy, inside officials are frantically working to shred classified documents and figure out an exit strategy. Affleck cuts back and forth as the outrage outside and the panic inside both escalate, both finally reaching the breaking point. At the last possible second, seemingly, the six Americans slip out the backdoor and into the street, adrift in a country filled with anti-American sentiment.

Miraculously, the group finds itself the not-particularly-welcome guests of the Canadian ambassador (played with typical finesse by actor Victor Garber) and his demure wife. The Iranians, who are holding 52 other Americans hostages, do not know—yet—about the six escapees. But sooner or later, as CIA and Canadian government officials realize, they will. Before they can be found and no doubt publicly executed, Mendez is brought in to figure out a way to get them home.

The plan he arrives at (using the making of a Canadian movie to be shot in Iran as a cover story) seems crazy to the CIA officials—as crazy as it does in hindsight. However, knowing the power and lure of the movies, it also makes a perfect kind of sense. The six hostages will be identified as the film's director, production designer, writer, etc.—all in Teheran for the purposes of scouting locations and with luck, the group will fly out of the country after their brief, phony scouting expedition in the city.



Ben Affleck in *Argo*.

Mendez enlists the help of two old-time Hollywood producers (played with cranky expertise by Alan Arkin and John Goodman) in putting over the scheme, and a dreadfully cheesy sci-fi flick named *Argo* is chosen as the vehicle. Sketches for sets are drawn, a press conference is staged and all the trappings are put in order to convince Iranian officials that the film is legit. Meanwhile, the tension builds to almost the breaking point as Mendez arrives in the country where is met with mistrust from members of the group, convinced that his wild plan will get them killed.

The ticking of the clock is almost palpable as the film draws to its nail biting conclusion and in the grand manner of Hitchcock it all comes down to suspenseful, tiny details—will a ringing telephone be answered in time? Will a housekeeper keep her mouth shut, ensuring the safety of the group? Will certain members of the group be able to keep details of their invented covers

straight as they go through checkpoints? And on and on.

Affleck ably juggles these elements and is aided by his terrific cast and Chris Terrio's densely woven script (based on Mendez's memoir and a *Wired* magazine article). The re-creation of the late-'70s period is spot-on and recalls movie thrillers from the period (especially *Dog Day Afternoon*). *Argo* is an enthralling and deliciously entertaining movie—and a deserved triumph for its star and director.

### Film notes:

—Pride Films & Plays presents **Gay Film Weekend 2012** Thursday, Oct. 18-Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Center on Halsted in the Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted St. This third annual edition of the event includes readings of the five screenplay finalists from the group's Great Gay Screenplay Contest, panels focused on LGBT cinema with local filmmakers (I'll be part of a

panel on Saturday, Oct. 20), as well as a queer shorts film program curated by Indie Boots Film Festival. Complete details and advance tickets available at [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com)

—The Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., is hosting the **Music Box of Horrors**, a 24-hour Halloween horror marathon kicking off at noon on Saturday, Oct. 13, with the silent classic *The Golem* and continuing with an eclectic program of 13 other fright flicks. These range from queer director James Whale's 1933 movie *The Invisible Man* to *Phantasm*, *The Burning*, *Evil Dead 2* (a personal fave) and many others.

Sybil Danning, star of *Howling II: Your Sister Is a Werewolf*, will be at the theater in person, as will Jeff Lieberman, director of the deadly earthworm ickfest *Squirm*. Lieberman's latest, *Satan's Little Helper*, will also have its Chicago debut during the marathon. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Vital Bridges. Complete line-up and advance tickets available at [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

—Out director-choreographer Adam Shankman's film version of the Broadway jukebox musical **Rock of Ages**, with songs culled from a variety of 1980s big-hair bands, is on Blu-ray and DVD. Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand (the latter two as gay lovers), Mary J. Blige, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Paul Giamatti support Julianne Hough and newcomer/hottie Diego Boneta as the young lovers with dreams of hard-rock stardom.

**Funky Town**—a Canadian mixture of 54 and *Boogie Nights* from director Daniel Roby, complete with throbbing disco soundtrack (albeit with redone versions)—is another recent release worth checking out. Based on the Montreal disco scene circa 1976, the film weaves together several storylines, including that of a gay disco impresario (think Alan Carr or Steve Rubell) and his up-and-down affair with a closeted Italian stallion. Good acting and a nice re-creation of the period help alleviate the predictability of the various plot strands.

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

## LGBT highlights at Chicago film festival

These are LGBT highlights from the Chicago International Film Festival running Oct. 11-25.

—**Any Day Now** (Oct. 15, 17 and 18; 97 min.): In the late 1970s, when a mentally handicapped teenager is abandoned, a gay couple—a drag performer (Alan Cumming) and a closeted attorney (Garret Dillahunt)—takes him in and becomes the family he's never had. But, once the unconventional living arrangement is discovered by authorities, the men must fight a biased legal system to adopt the child they have come to care for as their own in this gripping testament to love and family.

—**The Bella Vista** (Oct. 16 and 21; 73 min.): *The Bella Vista* tells the story of a one-time soccer team's clubhouse in Uruguay. Left abandoned for years, the house is revived as a brothel for the town's transvestite prostitutes, raising the ire of residents who seek to reclaim the building for a Catholic chapel. In capturing the opposing sides of this conflict over a rather small, mundane building, director Alicia Cano creates a lyrical, intimate portrait of a provincial city. Spanish with subtitles.

—**Everybody's Got Somebody ... Not Me** (Oct. 21-23; 100 min.): Alejandra and Maria make an unlikely couple, to say the least. Alejandra is a painfully shy middle-aged intellectual, while Maria is a loud, outgoing teenager attending a private high school. This stylish film explores the joys, complexities, and limitations of love between two very different people. Spanish with subtitles



Keep the Lights On.

—**Keep the Lights On** (Oct. 12-13; 102 min.): A one-night stand between Erik and Paul quickly grows into something more. However, the two men's drastically different attitudes towards work, life, and intimacy, along with Paul's struggles with addiction, soon chip away at their chances of happiness. This sensitive, subtle account (Ireland/UK) of an intense, nine-year on-off relationship tenderly reminds us that love is not always enough.

—**Kern** (Oct. 12 and 21; 98 min.): Outra-

geous, funny, contentious, and talented, prolific Austrian actor and filmmaker Peter Kern is a sheer force of personality. Though Franz and Fiala set out to create a straightforward portrait of the aging artist, the mercurial Kern betrays the filmmakers (and anyone else within earshot) every step of the way, and can't help but assert his own sensibilities onto a film in which he is ostensibly the subject. German with subtitles

—**Out in the Dark** (Oct. 13, 14 and 21; 96 min.): Nimer, a Palestinian student, dreams of a better life abroad. One fateful night he meets Roy, an Israeli lawyer. As their relationship deepens into love, Nimer is confronted with the harsh realities of a Palestinian society that refuses to accept him for his sexual identity, and an Israeli society that rejects him for his nationality. Nimer soon must choose between love and the life he thought he wanted. Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles

—**Westerland** (Oct. 13, 14 and 20; 90 min.): In the midst of a freezing winter on the island of Sylt, Cem comes across Jesús, who is on the verge of committing suicide. The two young men become fast friends, with their friendship unexpectedly threatening to develop into something more. Cem and Jesús—laconic, alienated loners—find their previously uneventful lives starting to spin out of control now that each has someone who means something to him. German with subtitles

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

## MOVIES

# Lee Daniels of 'The Paperboy' on trust, Efron's undies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Film producer and director Lee Daniels—who describes himself as “part homo, part Euro, and part ghetto”—is back in theaters with *The Paperboy*, a Southern gothic, melodramatic (to say the least) follow-up to his 2009 Oscar nominated directorial sensation *Precious*.

Daniels' new film is based on Pete Dexter's film noir-flavored tale of two brothers (Matthew McConaughey and Zac Efron) trying to find evidence to free a death-row prisoner (John Cusack) with the aid of his, to say the least, sex-starved pen pal (Nicole Kidman). Set in the Florida bayou during the turbulent 1960s, the film, drenched in sweat and raw sexuality, is ostensibly a murder mystery. However, it is more notable for its wildly uninhibited performances (especially those of Kidman and McConaughey), outrageous set pieces and copious amounts of queer subtext.

Although *The Paperboy* has divided critics, there's no denying the power of Daniels' assured vision and fearless approach—which add to the movie's palpable vibrancy.

**Windy City Times:** When we spoke about *Precious* three years ago, you talked about the bravery of Mo'Nique and getting to that vulnerable place on the set—which we agreed is helped by the unique ability of gay men and straight women to do that.

**Now, in *The Paperboy*, that has happened again with Nicole Kidman's performance. Was there a similar process to get her to that place? I mean, come on—she really brought it!**

Lee Daniels: Thank you! Richard, I think that sometimes the great part about working with Nicole is that she doesn't edit herself; she gives her opinion but she trusts me unequivocally [and] she trusts her director unequivocally. If she chooses to work with you, she succumbs to whatever it is that director wants, and that's what she did for me. That's what Mo'Nique did for me, and there you have it. It was a magical, wonderful experience, and I'm looking forward to working with her over and over again.

**WCT: She sure did. To me, this movie looks like it's to be seen at the drive-in in 1966, so kudos—**

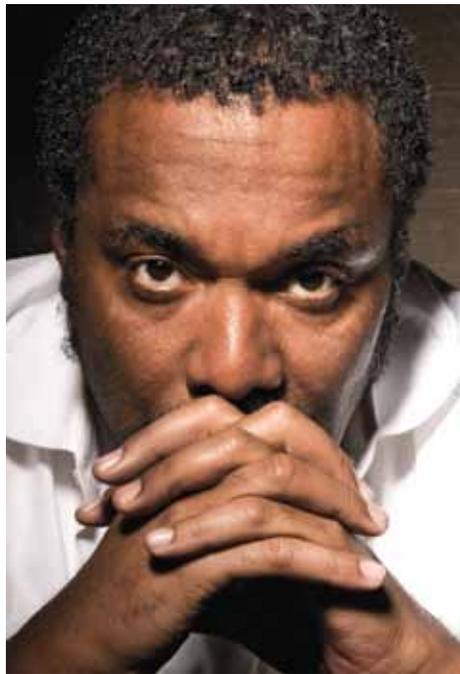
LD: Yeah! [Delighted] I've been telling people that all day long. At my press conference at the New York Film Festival last night I said, “What I want to achieve in this film cinematically is that I want to make sure you feel that this movie was made in 1967, circa 1970.”

**WCT: You really got that. I also got a heavy hint of Altman in the dinner table scenes with Scott Glenn as the father of Matthew McConaughey and Zac Efron, and Macy Gray as the maid—that overlapping dialogue and that improvisational feel to things. It felt like you were saying, “Let's just see where this goes.”**

LD: I have a weird way of working sometimes. We go and do the lines and then I go, “Okay, this isn't working, what do you think you should say?” and then we take it from there. There's no rehearsal, as I've told you before.

**WCT: Which is amazing. I guess part of that has to be a trust issue and stuff like background research for the actors on their characters done in advance. I mean it had to have been so fun to figure out Nicole's look—with that bleached blonde wig and the make-up and all that stuff.**

LD: Are you kidding me? [Laughs] I said, “You



Lee Daniels. Publicity photo

got to do your own make-up and you gotta figure out your own look” and she said, “What do you mean, ‘Figure out your own make-up?’” I said, “Because I can't afford a make-up artist to do you right and also, it's good for you for your character.” She looked at me like I had four eyes. I thought she was going to leave the movie at that point but then she just ran for it; she did it.

**WCT: With that white eyeliner—man she got that trashy look. Speaking of “white”—did you get to go shopping for Zac's tighty whities?**

LD: Tighty whities, tighty whities. Oh, I'm sick of that tighty-whitie thing. Okay, here's the thing—let's set the record straight. I got so angry because I got so sick of hearing the question at Cannes and I said to a reporter, “Well, why wouldn't I have him in tighty whities? I'm gay”—and that wasn't really true. Maybe a little bit.

But everybody that's on the screen are people that I know or is myself and with Zac's character, in particular. First of all, Zac wasn't my first choice to do the role, and the person that I had wouldn't look so great in the tighty whities. As a kid, my mother would always scream at me and hit me up the side of the [head], “Why are you always walking around in your underwear? Go put some clothes on.” So it was really a throwback to my youth. Of course, I didn't look nearly as good as Zac does in his tighty whities.

**WCT: Well, it doesn't hurt to have a nice little bonus like that in the film.**

LD: Yeah and in the back of my mind I sorta thought, “Wow, he's sorta hot” but I tried to make him not look hot throughout the film which is so hard because he's so beautiful.

**WCT: You failed there miserably, sorry. [Laughs] Speaking of bravery, we should also talk about Matthew McConaughey's bravery—his character is involved in a (SPOILER ALERT) rough-trade scene with two Black men in a motel room that I've never seen in a “mainstream film.” Can you talk about how parts of your background came into play there?**

LD: Look: These people—Nicole's character and also Matthew's character—they are both, I think, on death missions. They have death

wishes and I think that in the '70s—I think, I know, there were men ... I have to relate to things; they have to come to me personally. And in that time I dated white men that were from the South that were just dealing with coming out of the closet—forget about the fact that they had a taste for African-American men. So it was like a double whammy.

So this is pre-AIDS and, man, it was hardcore and I remember that there was a white man I dated that actually killed himself because he could not deal with the fact ... he was already ostracized from the gay community because he was dating a Black man at that time. All I can say is that it was very personal and I married my world into *The Paperboy* world with Matthew McConaughey's character in that scene.

**WCT: Is it true that you offered Oprah Winfrey the part of the maid (eventually played by Macy Gray)?**

LD: Yes, and I can't imagine her now playing it—masturbating on the floor opening my movie.

**WCT: [Laughs] Can you talk about the phone call when you talked about it?**

LD: She said, “Are you nuts?!” She produced me for *Precious* and we had been looking for something—and now we have something; we just wrapped on *The Butler*. But I said, “Okay, here it is, Oprah—you're playing the maid” and she said, “You Are Out Of Your Mind, Lee Daniels!”—in capital letters—and I said, “Yes, I am out of my mind and you're going to play it” and we fought back and forth, and she won. Then I called my girlfriend Macy Gray, who was in *Shallowboxer* for me.

**WCT: That's right. It sounds pejorative to use the word “oddball”—that you're the king of oddball casting; I should use the word “cool” instead. Putting together these interesting people together and you did it again**

**here. This reminds me—off topic—are you aware of this spat between your girl Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj?**

LD: Yes. Keith Urban was at the screening last night and he sat by me. But, listen, it's too incestuous; I care not to comment. My allegiance is to my girlfriend Mariah, needless to say, and I think she's a lady and I think it'll be some ... interesting TV.

**WCT: No doubt. Okay, let's go on to the forthcoming *The Butler* for a minute. There's a lot of anticipation now that this still of Jane Fonda as Nancy Reagan has been released. You've got Oprah and Denzel Washington and Mariah in the film, for starters, and you've just finished shooting. Can you talk a little bit about what to expect?**

LD: I don't know. I hope it's a good movie; I think it's going to be good. I hope so. I think we all gave it our best as I do all the time. And I think the actors really brought their A game—now it's left to me to try and make a good movie out of it. It's very exciting.

**WCT: A very good friend of mine, Victor Salvo, has created *The Legacy Project*, the first walk of fame in the country for LGBT iconic figures, and a freestanding gay and lesbian museum is coming next. Two of the first to be honored are Bayard Rustin and James Baldwin and I'm wondering, as an African-American gay filmmaker, if a biopic of either of those gentlemen is in the works?**

LD: I think Rustin is beyond; he's a tour de force. I was actually going to do a film about him. I talked at length with Denzel to do something with him about it and it just sort of disappeared. It's genius, what [Rustin] did.

**WCT: Is there a chance that that might circle back at some point?**

LD: I don't know. I love that story; it's fantastic, so maybe.



Steve Abrams and Fran Lebowitz. Photo by Richard Knight Jr.

## Lebowitz at the Harris

Acclaimed writer/raconteur Fran Lebowitz was the featured performer Oct. 2 at the Harris Theater. Here, she poses with Harris Theater Executive Vice President and General Manager Steve Abrams.

Lebowitz answered questions about a wide range of topics, from her own literary accomplishments to her love of reading. She also had brilliant and humorous insights into the world of politics, and is a strong supporter of President Obama.

## Bishop Robinson film to run Oct. 29 on PBS

The Sundance Award-winning documentary *Love Free or Die* will premiere on the new season of *Independent Lens*, which returns to PBS this fall on Mondays.

*Love Free or Die* follows Gene Robinson, the

first openly gay person to be elected bishop in the high church traditions of Christianity. The film will premiere on *Independent Lens*, hosted by Stanley Tucci, on Monday, Oct. 29, on PBS. (Check local listings.)

## Chicago-based gay film on DVD, at Siskel

Wolfe Video has acquired Stephen Cone's coming-of-age gay-themed indie *The Wise Kids*—based in Chicago and shot in Charleston, S.C.—for DVD/VOD release.

The film, which opened Chicago's 30th Reeling Film Festival last year, will appear on Digital and OnDemand outlets Nov. 27.

Prior to its release, film will run at Chicago's Gene Siskel Film Center Oct. 26-Nov. 1. Tickets go on sale in September.

Cone recently shot his latest feature, *Black Box*, starring Josephine Decker and Austin Pendleton as well as various Chicago actors, in Chicago and Normal, Ill. It is currently in post-production.

MOVIES

# Lorde's life, work honored at festival

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 50 people attended the Audre Lorde Legacy Cultural Festival honoring the late African-American lesbian poet, author, librarian and activist at the Block Cinema on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston Oct. 3.

The festival—which has traveled to other parts of the United States—featured a book reading, film screenings and Q&A sessions with author Ika Hugel-Marshall and filmmaker and lesbian activist Dagmar Schultz.

Anna Parkinson, assistant professor in the German department at Northwestern, served as the evening's moderator and Michelle Wright, associate professor in the department of African-American studies at Northwestern, introduced both films: *Hope in My Heart: the May Ayim Story* and *Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years, 1984 to 1992*.

As Hugel-Marshall read from her autobiography, *Invisible Woman: Growing up Black in Germany*, Schultz translated the text into English for the audience. A Q&A with the audience took

place after both the reading and the film screenings.

Both Hugel-Marshall and Schultz—who became friends with Lorde during her years living in Germany working on the Afro-German women's movement—remarked that they had a wonderful time sharing Lorde's legacy with students, faculty and community people in Chicago. They noted that many people who attended the festival knew of Lorde's work while others were learning about Lorde for the first time—especially Lorde's influence in Germany. Hugel-Marshall and Schultz also said that they both were struck by the fact that most of the attendee's didn't know much about Lorde's personal life nor that she had a wicked sense of humor.

Schultz said, "At the Northwestern screening, I was delighted when a Columbia College student—where I taught during the 1969-1970 school year—identified himself. To my surprise, when I mentioned that I had taught courses like 'Sexism in the Media' and 'Race and Class' at Columbia, a woman walked up to me after the screening and said that she had been a stu-

dent in my class on 'Sexism in the Media.' What a small world!"

"Chicago has always held a very special meaning to me," said Hugel-Marshall. "I found my father here at the age of 46 and with him a large family. Audre would have been so happy if she could have shared this with me. One of my brothers and a brother-in-law came to my reading and to the screening of the film at UIC."

The festival continued at Northwestern the following evening, Oct. 4, with a screening of two other films: *A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde* and *The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde*.

The festival also stopped at the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC's) African-American Cultural Center Oct. 2. The UIC event also featured a screening of *Audre Lorde- the Berlin Years, 1984 to 1992* and a discussion with Hugel-Marshall and Schultz.

See [www.audrelorde-theberlyears.com/index.html](http://www.audrelorde-theberlyears.com/index.html), [www.dagmarschultz.com](http://www.dagmarschultz.com), and [www.ika-huegel-marshall.de](http://www.ika-huegel-marshall.de) for more information.



From left: Anna Parkinson, Michelle Wright, Dagmar Schultz and Ika Hugel-Marshall at the Northwestern event. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

## Martha Stewart at Home Depot Oct. 11

Home Depot, 1232 W. North Ave., is hosting a special workshop event featuring Martha Stewart.

The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 11. Tent opens and registration begins at 5 p.m., with the workshop starting at 6:30 p.m.

Through an interactive workshop, attendees will learn how to easily and affordably transform rooms in their homes to reflect their personal style preferences. Stewart will share décor tips on how to help achieve the perfect look for any room.

Call 773-486-9200 for more information.

## Prime Timers to host author Keehnen Oct. 17

The group Chicago Prime Timers will host Chicago author Owen Keehnen Wed., Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. at its gay book club/discussion group.

The book for discussion that evening is Keehnen's newest book, *The Sand Bar*, published in May.

The group meets monthly at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., the third Wednesday of each month to discuss relevant books on gay subjects or of general interest to the gay community.

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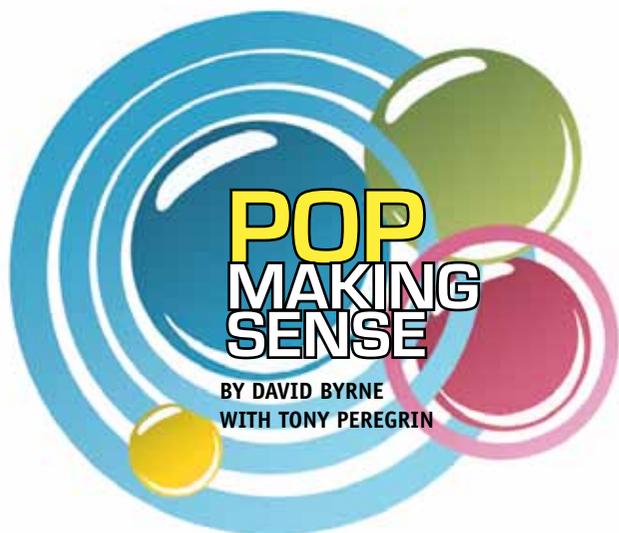
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I appreciate P!nk's feisty nature. Don't fret; motherhood has not dimmed the flame on this firecracker. The Truth About Love continues her theme of love-to-hate-you hits like "So What." "How Come You're Not Here" stands out with its



Pink. Photo by Andrew Macpherson

rock vibe and the distorted vocals on the verses. Nate Ruess duets on "Just Give Me a Reason," which offers the first break in the set's pace. Other highlights here are the retro-flavored title cut as well as the strings on the ballad "The Great Escape."

And yes, P!nk was the sole highlight of this year's dreadful MTV Video Music Awards, where she performed the lead single, "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)," with bits of "Get the Party Started" in the mix. P!nk's concert at The United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., on Saturday, March 9, quickly sold out. Let's hope more Chicago dates will be added.

All newcomers who think they can rock should step aside and hail Heart. The respected sister act from Seattle returns with Fanatic. Ann Wilson reminds us what a vocal powerhouse she is, especially on the standout "Mashallah." The set opens with the title track and "Dear Old America," which have the same gusto as old-school favorites "Barracuda" and "Crazy on You." "Skin and Bones" has a drum beat and guitar licks that revisit the classic rock era perfectly. The band is not stuck in the good ol' days; "Million Miles" has a modernized punch to it. Sarah McLachlan guests on the mid-tempo, string-heavy "Walkin' Good." "Rock Deep (Vancouver)" might be the best offering to radio, as its rhythm and groove will get nestle in the listener's head. Fanatic is out now through Sony Legacy.

On top of being nominated again for induc-

tion into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Heart penned its memoir, Kicking and Dreaming: A Story of Heart, Soul and Rock and Roll, with rock biographer Charles R. Cross. Need more Heart? Look up the blazing "Black on Black II" from 1993's Desire Walks On.

Out artist Mika returns to The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., on Thursday, Oct. 18. His latest, Origin of Love, boasts pairings with dance-music impresarios like Benny Benassi and Pharrell Williams. Mika continues to show off his vocal range, further drawing comparisons to Freddie Mercury. The double-clap on "Lola" and the beats on "Stardust" will liken the "Grace Kelly" crooner to Scissor Sisters. "Popular Song" borrows its melody from the similarly-titled number from the smash musical Wicked. The title cut's must-see storyline video follows a couple that cannot bear to be separated. Origin of Love is due out Tuesday, Oct. 16, stateside.

Kristine W's New and Number Ones follows the same formula as 2010's Straight up with a Twist, by combining new material with reworked classics from her catalog and covers. But this time, the "Fly Again" diva is not favoring jazz or lounge music. She is center stage during the peak hours of the night with this dance floor-ready collection. Because I am so fond of the original, I still am trying to digest the new, overpowering versions of "Love Come Home."

The statuesque siren belted out the chorus on the original when it was released by Our Tribe featuring Franke Pharaoh nearly 20 years ago. Surely, her transformation of Chaka Khan's power ballad, "Through the Fire," will bring her to the top of the club charts again. "One More Try," "Land of the Living," "Lovin' You" and the hook from "Don't Wanna Think" get a facelift here, too. The often-reissued "Feel What You Want" now has elements of her gem "Sweet Mercy Me" mixed into it. The album has remixes by clubland staples like Bimbo Jones, Subgroover and Soul Seekerz. New and Number Ones is the ideal companion for the treadmill.

French electronic act Justice is coming to Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Wed., Oct. 24. The infectious title track from Audio, Video, Disco has elements recalling the hook from ABBA's "S.O.S." The recent video "Bad Lands" looks like it could be the best remake of the futuristic film Rollerball yet.

Adam Ant is touring the United States with a stop on Saturday, Oct. 13, at Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. His sound stood out because his rhythm section had an extra kick with two drummers. Best known on this side of the Atlantic for his hit "Goody Two Shoes," Ant made comebacks with "Room at the Top" in 1990 and "Wonderful" from his last album of new material in 1995. "Strip" remains one of my favorites from the New Wave era. Stand & Deliver: The Autobiography came out in 2006.

In case you missed her recent show at City Winery Chicago, Amy Cook's latest, Summer Skin, is currently available. The out singer-songwriter has a loveable, expressive voice that won me over with 2006's The Sky Observer's Guide. On Summer Skin, Cook shines brightest surfing at the crescent of a melody's wave, as heard on "Changing" and "Break Your Fall." She certainly can handle the more uptempo numbers "Waiting 4 the World 2 End" and "Sun Setting Backwards," yet beam on the beautifully stripped-down title track. It is easy to fall under Cook's spell on the heartwarming "Hello, Bunny" that superbly blends folk with country, rock and pop. Patty Griffin and Robert Plant guest on "Airplane Driver" and Meshell Ndegeocello plays bass throughout Summer Skin.

## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Kimbra takes 'Vows' seriously



BY JERRY NUNN

Much like Madonna and Cher, Kimbra Lee Johnson is now known by her singular first name. This New Zealand singer has taken over the airwaves with the multi-platinum single "Somebody That I Used to Know" by Gotye.

While she has toured with him and Foster the People as an opening act, she is now breaking out as a headliner playing her debut album, Vows, live.

Windy City Times caught up to her on the road before she arrived in concert at the Metro.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Kimbra. Where in the world are you calling in from?**

Kimbra: I am in Germany and tomorrow night I play Cologne.

**WCT: I saw you open for Foster the People at the Congress Theater in Chicago. I liked that colorful hoodie you wore.**

Kimbra: Oh, you liked that? Thank you.

**WCT: I heard you went shopping at Beatnix on Halsted when you were in town opening for Gotye one time.**

Kimbra: Really? I don't normally do that.

**WCT: It is in Boystown—our gayborhood.**

Kimbra: I remember it now. There were lots of good thrifty items there.

**WCT: Your first album is called Vows. You added bonus tracks for the U.S. release, I noticed.**

Kimbra: Yes, that's right. We had about five or six new tracks. We had a lot of material to add in. I wanted to add stuff for the American audience because I wanted to keep it fresh. I was in a different place than when I first started making that record.

**WCT: Did you think the song "Somebody I Used To Know" was going to be a huge monster hit?**

Kimbra: I didn't see it coming to be honest. It defies so many pop formulas, structurally and sonically. It doesn't seem like what is on the charts at the moment so to see it creeping up with Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber was crazy to me! I knew it was a song that would connect with people with the intensity of it. I have been a fan of Gotye for such a long time. I don't think it was his intent for it to become that big so it was a surprise for both of us.

**WCT: How did you connect with him to make the song?**

Kimbra: I worked with a producer that he also worked with named Francois Tetaz. Francois introduced us. I was telling him that I loved his work. It was a few years later that I was asked to sing on the song.

**WCT: Let's talk about some of songs. "Settle Down" seems like a stripped-down opening track.**

Kimbra: It is a simple song with a lot of layers to it. I was only 16 at the time when I wrote it. I wanted something I could play live and get the landscape going. I was very inspired at the

time and it was even simpler when I first wrote it. It was later produced with more guitars and even some hip-hop influence in it. We definitely added some glitter and drama to it.

**WCT: My new favorite song is "Cameo Lover," and I have been watching the video.**

Kimbra: Cool, thank you.

**WCT: It sounds very retro.**

Kimbra: Yeah, I wanted to go back to the '60s era. There are a lot of layers to it and it is fresh sounding.

**WCT: Who influences you with your style and clothing?**

Kimbra: I am just getting into fashion now. I have always been a thrifty kind of girl, which is why I was shopping in Chicago. I am always trying to find a funky outfit that I can wear onstage. I enjoy the challenge of having ten dollars and trying to create something or re-imagine an outfit.

Recently, I have been collaborating with designers. I love Jamie Lee from Australia. There are some labels from America that I like. Fashion is something I am just learning about like Jean Paul Gaultier, who I think is just amazing. It is about self-expression. I have never been caught up with super-high-end clothing. I like street



Kimbra. Photo by Thom Kerr

styles from Japan and looking at all of the fashion blogs. I get inspired by the clash of patterns and splash of colors that you see on the streets of Tokyo. That is something that I enjoy.

**WCT: When I saw you I thought, "That is somebody I want to know!" Who are artists in your iPod?**

Kimbra: I have been listening to a lot indie music lately. I like that it is entirely something different to listen to.

I love St. Vincent's new collaboration with David Byrne called "Who" and I think there is a whole album coming out. I think Janelle Monae is an exciting new artist. I dig the new Frank Ocean record.

At 15 and 16 years old, I was listening to Japanese bands and experimental punk rock because it was very exciting to me with the percussion and interesting time signatures. I wanted to them to incorporate it into the pop music that I enjoyed. I try to have as much music variation as possible so I can create my own stuff.

**Visit [www.kimbramusic.com](http://www.kimbramusic.com) for up-to-date information and try [www.metrochicago.com](http://www.metrochicago.com) for tickets for her show at 3730 N. Clark S. on Wed., Oct. 17.**

## TELEVISION

# Feel the burn: Hot Taylor Kinney and Jesse Spencer of 'Chicago Fire'

BY JERRY NUNN

Chicago will be seeing red this fall with Chicago Fire on NBC. This new television show follows the lives of firefighters working at the Chicago Fire Department. The show stars Jesse Spencer (House) and Taylor Kinney (The Vampire Diaries). Even our very own Mayor Rahm Emanuel makes an appearance on the pilot episode.

Windy City Times spoke with the two stars before an opening-night red-carpet event at the Chicago History Museum.

## Windy City Times: Hi, guys. How was filming in Chicago?

Jesse Spencer: I don't think we could have asked for a better reception. This is my first time living here, but I love this city. I think it's the perfect setting for our show. It feels like the people in the city are really supportive of the show.

We're shooting in more dangerous sort of hood areas and we're shooting in upper-class areas. We're shooting downtown. I think throughout the season we're going to give a really good taste of tons of different areas and a good feel for what Chicago is like.

With the history of Chicago and fire as well, it really plays into the show as well. I think it's the perfect backdrop for us, absolutely.

Taylor Kinney: The city has been really receptive—the people, the firefighters have been really open and helpful about advising us and doing simulation fire stunts at the academy. It's been really welcoming.

## WCT: Did you add anything to your character that wasn't originally in the script?

TK: We started with a single script and the pilot. We did ride-alongs with firefighters and some of the actresses got to ride with the paramedics. So it enabled us to evolve with the character. You come in with set ideas I think in any job and it evolves as you move.

JS: Yeah, I think since we did the pilot I feel like the writers have really started writing for us and helped our characters to evolve in the way that suits us and suits the characters both.

## WCT: Has either of you learned something about being a fireman that shocked you?

TK: Jesse, I'm sure you could attest to this: At the training facility at the fire academy we put on all of our bunker gear, our air mask, helmet, gloves and have a tool, a halogen bar or maybe an axe, and we go through the motions of clearing a room in the event of a fire and whether it's a floor below or above.

They say we're going to walk into a smoke-filled room to simulate a structure fire. And so you go through these motions in a parking lot [about] how to clear a room; you block it out and you say, "You know, fair enough. I think I can handle this."

It's maybe 65 pounds of gear. They throw you into a room and it's filled with smoke, and you can't see anything. So it was a shock to the senses. I couldn't believe it. I think that was the most surprising thing that these guys will walk into a situation like that and still have the wherewithal to remove a victim or check underneath a bed when you can't see anything. It's really tough to breathe, and you only have a matter of maybe between 10 and 15 minutes.

JS: Yeah. It puts it in perspective. You just realize how it's not just a physical job, but mentally you have to really be able to control your fear and your emotions.



Taylor Kinney (above) and Jesse Spencer of Chicago Fire. Photo courtesy of NBC



## A site to behold

BY ANDREW DAVIS

—Address: 340 W. Superior St., PH2, in the River North neighborhood

—Market price: \$1.4 million

—Details: This 2,698-square-foot unit (with two bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms) has everything a penthouse condo in this neighborhood should have: highly upgraded finishes, floor-to-ceiling windows, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, electronic closets, two-sided gas fireplace with black granite surround and mosaic tile, and a refrigerated built-in wine rack.

However, there are some items that have to be seen to be believed at this River North condo (which can come furnished if that's what the buyer wants). For example, while the unit is 2,700 square feet, the terrace is another 1,200 square feet and runs the length of the condo, providing an amazing 180-degree view of the city. In addition, part of the terrace is heated, meaning that the owner can entertain in the dead of winter.

One unique item is the Maya Romanoff glass-bead wall covering in one of the bedrooms. (Even the multiple photos I took don't do it justice.) Another, interestingly enough, are the toilets, which, in the words of real-estate agent Millie Rosenbloom, "do everything

but wipe you." They wash the user from the front and behind, and the person can choose between "oscillate" and "pulsate." Sometimes, it's just the little (but still expensive) things.

The terrace "is the wow factor," according to Rosenbloom. "This is the main selling point of this place."

Rosenbloom added that unit "covers a pretty broad demographic. It's for the person who wants to be in the downtown area—maybe [someone] who works downtown and wants to stay here, and not necessarily drive home to home [in the suburbs]. There's also the person who works in the financial district—the younger person who wants to entertain a lot; this couldn't be a more perfect place to entertain. Guests could easily access this area from the suburbs or the South Loop.

"Also, there's the couple who lives in the city and wants to be in the heart of it all."

In addition, the building features a 24-hour doorman, a grocery store and two parking spaces are included. Also, there's a well-equipped fitness room that offers a panoramic view of Chicago. There are only four units on the penthouse level.

Interested persons should contact Baird & Warner's Millie Rosenbloom at 312-980-1517 and millie.rosenbloom@bairdwarner.com.



The unit at 340 W. Superior St. Photo courtesy of Millie Rosenbloom

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## RICHARD O'BRIEN'S

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Turn to page 31

# Our community's legacy

## Special coverage of *The Legacy Walk* dedication

The following is the text of the official dedication statement of the Legacy Walk, to be read as part of the dedication ceremony, Thu., Oct. 11. See the bottom of the page for a full schedule of the day's events.

The Legacy Project's board of directors would like to express its thanks for the overwhelming support of our efforts to create the Legacy Walk. Though it is easy to find information on those who are known—it is only by way of people reaching out to us that we have been able to learn the names and contributions of so many others whom we did not know even existed. People from all over the world have written to suggest names for nomination—underscoring our belief that there is a great hunger for the type of public recognition the Legacy Walk will offer—and an international team of 24 Ph.D. historians, academics, researchers, biographers, archivists and librarians has helped ensure the integrity of our development.

The 180 people nominated for the Legacy Project to date hail from more than 30 counties, represent over 20 fields of contribution, span 4000 years of history, and have traveled every walk of life. There are writers and scientists, entertainers and military heroes, artists and politicians, business leaders and social workers; people who devoted their lives to being "activists" and those who would not have viewed themselves that way; those who were "out," those who had compelling reasons to remain closeted, and those who probably never thought of themselves as "in."

There are many who self-identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered but also those for whom such terms would have been meaningless because of the era in which they lived and/or because of the political constructs we have come to apply to those terms. There are poor people; wealthy people; working people; influential people and those whose feelings of powerlessness did not stop them from trying to change the world; people whose names you will recognize, many you will not and more than a few that may surprise you.

Cutting across lines of gender, class, race, orientation, identification and nationality, the Legacy Project is about us—all of us—in whatever form we may exist. It is about rescuing our heroes from obscurity, and reuniting others—whose non-heteronormative sexuality has been edited away—with the truth about their lives. It is about correcting the oversights of our high school textbooks which continue to allow the general population to think that everything fine and good and important that has ever happened in this world was accomplished by heterosexuals alone. It is about educating LGBT youth to see themselves as part of a great lineage of gifted people who—in spite of incredible odds and adversity, and often at great risk—have accomplished truly remarkable things.

Our only regret is that there will never be enough room in any one place to acknowledge all of those who are so deserving of consideration; for no one exhibit could ever make up for the countless centuries of oversight that have forced our people to remain in the shadows. That is why we sincerely hope the Legacy Walk will be only the first of many tributes to those who came before us—and an inspiration to those whose legacies are still being written.

Please join us in thanking the courageous sponsors of our plaques without whose faith generosity none of this would have been possible; and the hundreds and hundreds of people whose donations, ticket purchases, volunteer efforts, and invaluable advice have made the Legacy Walk—the only installation of its kind in the world—a reality.

We dedicate the Legacy Walk to all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth...

Here is our past—the future is up to you.

## The Legacy Walk dedication schedule, Thu., Oct. 11, 2012

**VIP PRE-CEREMONY RECEPTION | 2–2:45 pm**  
Sidetrack (in the Cherry Bar), 3349 N. Halsted St.

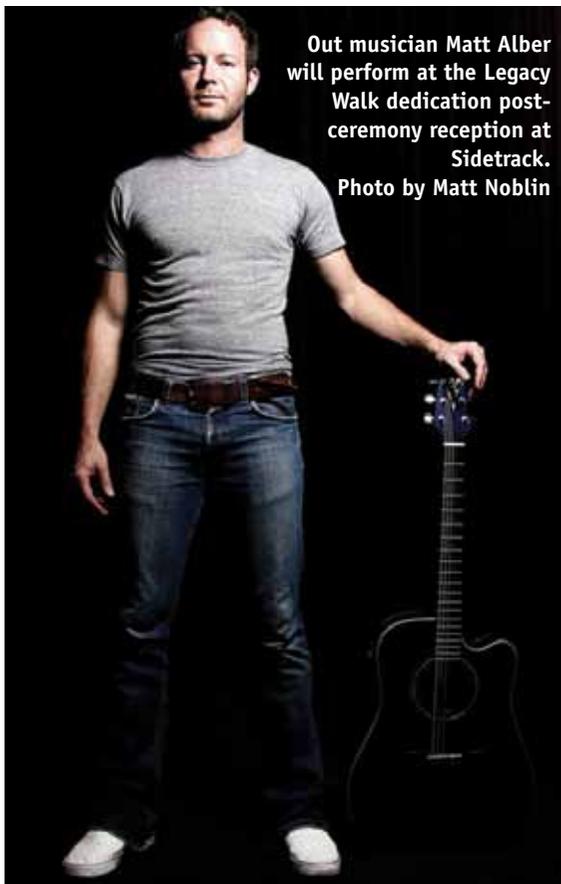
**2012 DEDICATION CEREMONY | 3–4:15 pm**  
Tent, Roscoe and Halsted

- Gay Chorus, "America the Beautiful"  
by Katherine Lee Bates (2013 Legacy Walk Nominee)
- Invocation
- Greetings, Acknowledgments and Introductions  
Ralph Kennedy, Legacy Project Board Chair
- **SPEAKERS**  
Hon. Pat Quinn  
Governor, State of Illinois  
  
Hon. Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor, City of Chicago  
  
Alderman Tom Tunney  
44th Ward, City of Chicago
- Video Presentation, "History Come to Halsted"  
Produced and Directed by Jhonmar Castillo, Gay Chicago TV  
Written by Victor Salvo
- Keynote Address, "Where the Future Meets the Past"  
Victor Salvo, Legacy Walk Creator and Executive Director

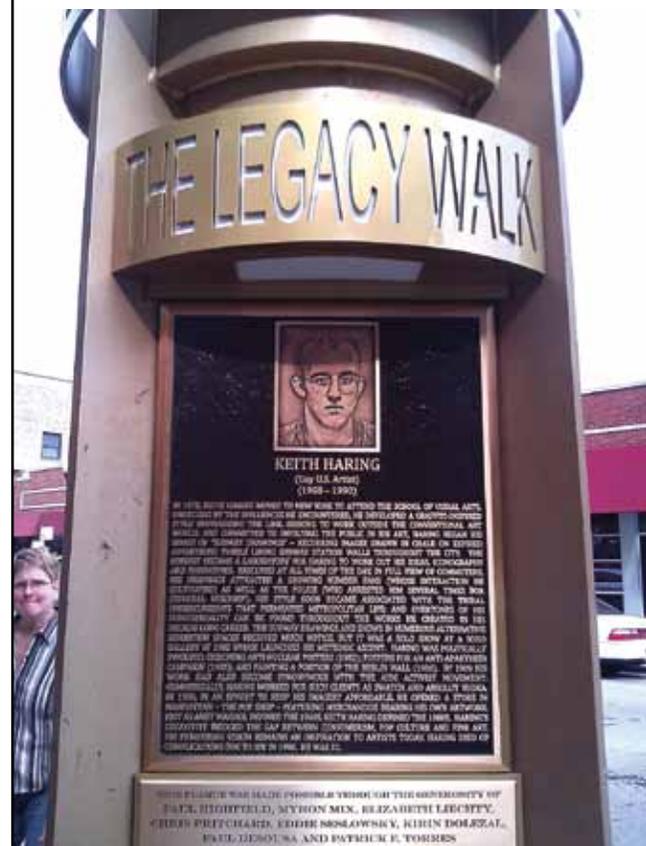
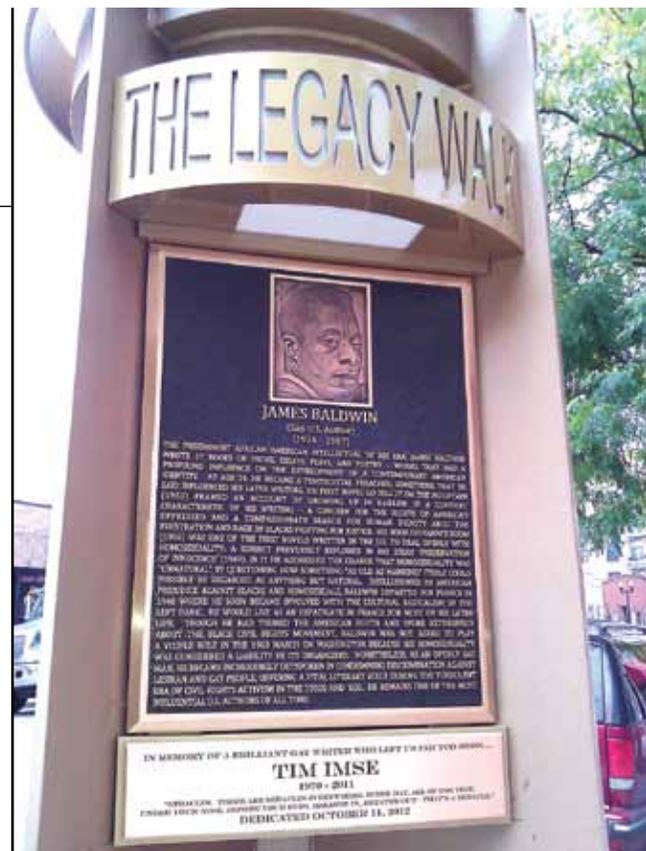
**LIVE DEDICATION REVEAL**  
2012 Inductee Ceremony  
Featuring Sgt. Leonard Matlovich Memorial Dedication  
Color Guard: American Veterans for Equal Rights  
TAPS: Melissa Terrell, Lakeside Pride Band

- Closing Remarks  
Laura Angelucci, Legacy Project Board Vice-Chair  
Dedication Event Chair

**POST-CEREMONY RECEPTION | 4:30–7 pm**  
Sidetrack (in the Glass Bar), 3349 N. Halsted St.  
Special Guest: Matt Alber



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (pictured at the 2009 Pride Parade) will speak during the ceremony. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald, www.mysticimagesphotography.com



# the **DISH** WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

## Wood

BY ROSS FORMAN

When Firefly closed along Halsted Street in the heart of Boystown and the "For rent" sign was posted, Franco Gianni and partner Gary Zickel jumped at the prime location.

They wanted to open a new restaurant—one they hoped would offer the classy, high-dollar taste and feel of a downtown restaurant, but with a neighborhood approach.

They delivered. It's called Wood, 3335 N. Halsted St., open daily until 11 p.m., where small-plate delicacies mesh with sweet cocktails and an array of beers that are none-too-common in the neighborhood.

"The reason we opened in this neighborhood is, because we live in this neighborhood. We have dined at just about every restaurant in this neighborhood, and we just felt we were lacking more of a quality [dining] experience as opposed to your local bar and grill," said Gianni, 47, a Chicago native who is Wood's general manager. He also owns Tank Sushi in Lincoln Square and has worked in the restaurant industry for about 20 years.

Zickel, 47, is a part-owner of Wood, along with Dean Hervochon and Theodora Koutsougeras. Hervochon is openly gay, too, while Koutsougeras also owns the Melrose Restaurant, 3233 N. Broadway. Zickel, who also sells real estate, opened multiple small-chain restaurants in his native Michigan.

"There are some great restaurants in this area, but we offer something different," Gianni said.

"We want to be able to walk to dinner—not have to go to West Loop or Logan Square—for this type of dining experience," Zickel added. "We are a neighborhood restaurant, but want to cater to the whole city and visitors from out of state, too."

Wood opened Pride weekend in June and quickly became a hit, especially with the 30-and-over crowd. Wood has seemingly turned into a special date night for those in their 20s, Gianni said.

That, perhaps, is price-driven. Dinner for two, with small plates and two cocktails each, will cost about \$30-40.

"We are a neighborhood restaurant, and we want the neighborhood to appreciate and embrace this place, to want to come here weekly," Gianni said. "We want to be Lakeview's answer to Randolph Street or the West Loop or the Southport corridor."

Both Gianni and Zickel said the gay communi-



Left: Wood owners Franco Gianni (left) and Gary Zickel (right). Right: Tagliatelle. Photos by Ross Forman



ty is very important to the restaurant's survival, and they have seen flocks of LGBT customers since late June—and plenty of straight couples, too.

"I don't think it matters [to gay customers] that this is a gay-owned business. It really doesn't matter who owns the restaurant as long as you're giving them the quality that they want and expect. Being a gay-owned is a bonus," Gianni said.

Wood, named for its wood-burning ovens, has a wood décor throughout, along with a touch of bronze and mirrored walls behind the bar. Even the lengthy bar top is made of wood.

Wood is a lounge-like dining experience—with indoor seating for 32, another 25 at the bar and, weather permitting, 35 outside.

Wood has 27 full-time employees, anchored around chef Ashlee Aubin, who created Wood after stops at Alinea and Zealous, among other restaurants.

"The chef came from a five-star restaurant, so he's able to offer five-star quality food at more of a mid-range price-point," Gianni said. "Our chef is a big part of the restaurant, obviously. We give him free reign to create a menu that represents him."

Wood features a large percent of locally grown ingredients, mostly from Midwest farmers, with many seasonal items. "What's available at the market is what goes on our menu."

Some of the most popular small-plate offerings, as of late September, were heirloom tomatoes, crispy pork croquette, roasted pork belly and a house-made tagliatelle.

"This neighborhood is very health-conscious, but this neighborhood is eating products that one wouldn't consider to be all that healthy,

such as, pork belly or foie gras. The customers are really embracing the quality of the food," Gianni said. "That's why, ultimately, I'd like to be a Michelin-rated restaurant; that's our goal."

The three styles of flatbreads (\$12 each) have been among the top sellers, including the summer vegetables version.

"We're finding that people are making a meal out of the flatbreads because it's a nice portion," Zickel said.

Wood, when Savor visited, offered only three large plates: shortribs (\$24), roasted half chicken (\$22) and lobster (\$29).

Soft-shell crab and squash blossoms were on the menu when Wood opened, but not anymore. Each ran its course on the seasonal slate.

The only dish adapted, per customer feedback, was the large-plate fish. Instead, Wood offers a tasty poached lobster.

For the late-night munchies, look to the Backwoods, offering double-fried Belgian frites with multiple dipping sauces sold from a window along the side of the building.

"In Chicago, we don't have a Belgian frite business, whereas they have them in New York and Los Angeles. We wanted to offer that, so bargoers can get something in their belly after leaving the bars," Gianni said. "The Backwoods is quickly becoming what we thought it would be, though it took a little while to get off the ground."

Zickel said there are no plans to expand the Backwoods menu, although it might stay open a bit later.

The full-service bar offers Miller Lite; however, that beer, though popular elsewhere along Halsted, is rarely ordered at Wood. Instead, Wood customers have jumped at the craft beers and

small-batch liquors. Many locally made liquors are offered, too.

The summer cocktail menu was changed in October.

Wood also is changing internally, as acoustic panels have been added to the ceiling to help eliminate some of the noise. The change should reduce the noise level by about 35 percent, Zickel said.



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**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 11:00 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #08062/**3501 W. Touhy Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712-2730** 847-674-5302. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 1038 - SILVERSTEIN, IRA; 1041 - RABINDRAN, TRACI; 1138 - Griffith, Ruthann; 3020 - Morales, Carlos; 3084 - Slack, Norman; 3137 - Dominguez, Melissa. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 12:30 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #22335/**2101 W. Howard Street, Chicago, IL 60645-2191**. (773) 262-0902. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 0065 - Hardaway, Reginald; 0090 - Griffin, Brittny; 0096 - FLETCHER, ROBERT; 0125 - Dacres, Darell; 0183 - Maranda, Dean; 1005 - Anderson, Dena; 1012 - Stewart, Gregory; 1088 - STEELE, SILVERIA; 1101 - Williams, Marilyn; 2057 - Tillman, Elizabeth; 2079 - GOODLOW, TOBY; 2080 - Gray, Dina; 2099 - Wheeler, Roy; 2106 - Hightower, Alexis; 3072 - Jarvis, Erika; 3097 - Mills, Ann; 3143 - Jackson, Earl; 3164 - POWELL, PAMELA; 4079 - EFFINGER, REBECCA; 4096 - Davis, Sharon; 4102 - Taggart, Ava; B32 - Davis, Alisa; B4 - Spencer, Donnice; B41 - fadipe, abidemi. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 10:00am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #22339/5838 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60646-6008. (773) 539-9549. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. A006 - Guerue, Carla; A077 - moore, tonya; A101 - Continental Exchange Solutions; A120 - arnoud, amneh; A122 - Hunt, Francis; A132 - Gold, Reina; A150 - Thompson, Leatha; A163 - chan, Rolando; A224 - Dethloff, Erich; A240 - Sellountos, Nephelie; A256 - Kantor, Tiffany; A259 - Dethloff, Erich; B010 - cadet, angelica; B016 - Nedley, Jessica; B017 - De Leon, Diana; B052 - hernandez, estafan; D114 - Trier, Violet; D120 - Juskaitis, Saul. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 3:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #23404/5643 N. Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60660-4415. (773) 784-8410. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0011 - Sadler, Denise; 1081 - Jillson, Kimberly; 1084 - MINDELL, ROBERT; 1093 - MIYASAKI/shimbo, JAMES; 1123 - YANEZ, JOSE; 2159 - Lasisi, Mufutau; 2189 - Tingley, Kent 2211 - BURNS, CHARLES; 2227 - Asinyanbi, Phyllis; 2231 - Jeffries, Michael; 2271 - Wilson, Mark; 2287 - BOWLING, WALLACE; 3338 - Riddle, Latasha; 3415 - RUSSELL, ROMELL; 3417 - FISHER, ROYAL; 3431 - Parks, Diamond; 3437 - Wilson, Mark; 3442 - Eaglebarger, Mark; 3478 - Besley, Bruce; 3482 - Dumas, Janet; A046 - ROMERO, ELEVINO; A049 - OHara, Patricia; A051 - Lasisi, Mufutau; A074 - Heard, Matthew; A077 - Marshall, Penny; B164 - Tanala, Virginia; B202 - Bowie, Shani; B215 - Wiley, Germaine; B234 - WALDEN, WILLIE; B256 - LIBUNAO, JOSE; B283 - Delcampo, Kristopher; C298 - Davis, Mary; C330 - Guerrero, Lorenzo; C425 - Inawat, Ronyard; C434 - Barry, Fatoumata; C450 - Brown, Tyrone. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 12:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #23609/2050 Green Bay Road Evanston, IL 60201-3536. (847) 864-4304. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0106 - Kerr, Colin; 0107 - Sherer, David; 1008 - James, Merrily; 1141 - Grosh, Ronald; 1165 -Grosh, Ronald; 1195 - Lemond, Paula; 4025 - Otwell, Douglas; 4031 - Jones, Vaughan; 4039 - Seef, Mark; 4163 - Olson, Joy; 4173 - Grosh, Ronald. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 11:30 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #24524/8050 McCormick Blvd. Skokie, IL 60076-2919. (847) 675-4604. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. A037 - Mora, Julio; A049 - Pope, Dawnel; A088 - Cooper, Renita; A105 - Kiryakoz, Aneta; C010 - Monroe, Dino; C048 - Junie, Guebediang; D003 - Oliver, Landers; D068 - Nelson, Ricky; D091 - Young, Tracy; D116 - KRETCHMAR, S. RANDOLPH; D124 - Nottoli, Francis; D130 - Sticlaru, Mihai; D134 - INGRAHAM, HEATHER; E004 - Cunny, Kenneth; F009 - Harris, Carol Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 10:30 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #25518/6460 N. Lincoln Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712-4038. (847) 677-5975. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 1007 - dawood, khoshaba; 1051 - Dorfman, Priva; 1056 - Pryor, Yvette; 1057 - garcia, pedro; 1080 - Herbert, Anne; 17 - Norman, Ellen; 2032 - Gray, Deanna; 2096 - Woods, Cecilia; 2137 - Padilla, Emily; 3017 - morales, Roberto; 3024 - SCHIFF, JASON; 3037 - Schultz, Justin; 3076 - Roberts, Susan; 3087 - MCGHEE, WILLIAM; 3117 - Neuman, Eileen; 3149 - Markus, Daria; 4107 - Castro, Eddie; 6060 - Markus Jr., Vasy; 6090 - Dosenbac, Nicole; 8 - Sigma Home Services. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 1:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #28160/1512 W. Jarvis Ave. Chicago, IL 60626-1909. (773) 338-6828. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 079 - Boudreaux, Stephanie; 088 - Sullivan, David; 153 - Phelps, Aram; 199 - Alleyne, Rohyne; 218 - GREENE, ETHEL. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **October 25th, 2012 at 2:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #28161/5733 N. Broadway St. Chicago, IL 60660-4301. (773) 878-3913. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0010 - Pagan, Luz; 0018 - Johnson, Clorinda; 0036 - drier, brian; 0065 - Dimuccio, Cody; 0111 - PARKS, JOYCE; 0125 - Russell, Keela; 0205 - Muganda, David; 0210 - Andrews, Amour; 0243 - leoni, Shannon; 0263 - Smith, Rhonda; 0276 - Jackson, Michael; 0282 - Lampkin, Stephanie; 0293 - Djoukeng, Eric; 0305 - FREEMAN, DANA; 0390 - Parquet, Linda; 0476 - wynn, Stephanie; 0540 - Avila, Silvia; 0601 - Evans, Jarvis. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

### PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

**PIANO & VOICE LESSONS** – in my studio or your home offered by young, gay, professional with Master's in music. Andersonville, Boystown and Near Northside. Take lessons with a neighborhood teacher. **All ages welcome. Jonathan at 646-418-4043. (11/14/12-9)**

### PLUMBING

**DENIZA'S PLUMBING IS BACK** again as the community's plumber of choice. All plumbing services available at reasonable rates. If you need plumbing services call 773.891.6322 or place a service request via email at denizas19@gmail.com. **Deniza's - serving the community since 1985. (10/17/12-8)**

### SPIRITUALITY



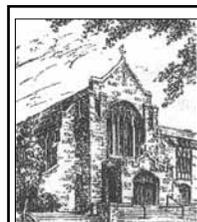
**You Are Loved,  
You Are Welcome,  
You Are Celebrated!**

**Chicago Coalition of  
Welcoming Churches**

**60+ ministries celebrating  
LGBTQ lives**

[www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org](http://www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org)

### SPIRITUALITY



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

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

### VETERANS SERVICES

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**OCT. 20, 2012**  
Northeastern Illinois University

Info: Lorry Luscri  
lorry.luscri@va.gov, (708) 202-8387 x21228

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**WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?:** Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc. Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 25 years. **773-271-2361. www.JosephRiceInteriors.com (12/29/12-26)**

## REAL ESTATE

### OUT OF TOWN - HOMES FOR SALE

**CALIFORNIA COOL IN ST. JOSEPH MICHIGAN.** Transformed ranch with amazing architectural style and amenities. Check out the virtual tour at <http://tours.positiveimagine.com/74742> and then call **Nora Duffy, Crawford Group Sotheby's Realty- 312-953-1783. (10/17/12-8)**

**LIVE AND WORK IN LAKESIDE MICHIGAN** in the heart of Harbor Country. Fabulous home- pool, beach rights, luxury finishes PLUS nearly 4000 sq ft of retail/office/studio/gallery space- all for \$549,000. Unlimited possibilities! **Check out the virtual tour at http://tours.positiveimagine.com/74892 and call Nora, 312-953-1783. (10/24/12-8)**

**FL REAL ESTATE PRICES ARE STABILIZING, INVENTORY IS LOW.** Perfect time to buy, sell or invest. Allow me to be your agent in Ft Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors or SE FL. Over 25 yrs experience in Chicago/FL. **John Baer, Broker Associate, ERA Herman Group, johnbaer100@gmail.com. 954-218-6262 (10/17/12-4)**

**MILLER BEACH-WELL MAINTAINED BUILDING** w/interior meticulously redesigned, easily accommodates more than one business and/or artist live-work space; \$175,000. <http://millerbeach.com/>, While in Miller Beach visit the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District's October Pop Up event curated by graduate students of the School of the Art Institute, Sat Oct 13th, 6-10 pm on Lake Street (<http://millerbeacharts.org/>). **Ayers Realtors, 219-938-01188 (10/10/12-3)**

### OUT OF TOWN - REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**MICHIGAN PROPERTY FOR SALE** 1.5+ acres (8 lots) located minutes south of Saugatuck, parcel sits east off Lake Shore Drive in Pier Cove. Wooded, private, perfect for camping or building. \$87,500. **Contact Mike @ mandm100910@comcast.net (10/24/12-4)**

### FIRE from page 27

If you experience claustrophobia like that and the pressure—I mean, it really plays with your mind and can screw you up. We were experiencing [during] that simulation probably, I don't know, maybe 10 percent of the heat of a real fire, I reckon.

**WCT: Do you have any personal favorite Chicago places yet?**

TK: I have yet to go to a Bears game but I know Jesse went and a few of the other cast members went, and I'd love to do that. We've been to two Cubs games. Jesse played the national anthem and I got to throw out an opening pitch, which was a dream come true as a kid and a baseball fan.

We've been pretty busy but I think the biggest history lesson within the city is during work because we shoot so many locations. We're getting to see places that we otherwise wouldn't on the South Side, all over the Loop, downtown, Lincoln Park and Wicker Park.

JS: I feel like you could spend years here and still find stuff. Local knowledge is really good, too. So I think we've only barely scratched the surface. Chicago overall just has a really nice feel. We've hit a few steakhouses and a few restaurants and as Taylor said we're mostly working. We know Englewood probably better that we know downtown Chicago.

**Read the entire interview online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

# calendar

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## Wed., Oct. 10

**HIV Support Groups** Living with HIV? Join one of our 10-week groups to share experiences, learn from one another and find support in a safe, confidential setting. Wednesdays and Thursdays: noon, Saturdays. Free; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.CenterOnHalsted.org](http://www.CenterOnHalsted.org)

**Pizza Persona Raises Funds For Cystic Fibrosis** 10 percent of all proceeds will be donated to Wish for Wendy, an event benefitting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. 11am-11pm, 773.327.8500, Pizza Persona, 614 W. Diversey Pkwy., [www.pizzapersona.com](http://www.pizzapersona.com)

**Fireside Chat: Douglas O'Keefe and Lourdes Torres** Dr. Lourdes Torres of Amiga Latinas will be the subject interviewed. Torres will discuss her community history, and involvement. Suggested donation \$5.00. 7:30pm-9pm, 773-472-6469, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Bingo in the 'Burbs** It's wall-to-wall balls with Miss Fozzie's bingo. Special \$5 Miss Fozzie pitchers (whatever that means). 8pm-10pm, Hunters, 1932 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village, <http://www.hunters-nightclubs.com>

## Thursday, Oct. 11

**Boom Student Art Exhibition** Exhibition of works by students in the Department of Art and Architecture; drawing, painting, architecture, ceramics, sculpture, photography, print media, and digital media. Through Friday, 10am-5pm, 312-553-5738, Harold Washington College, 30 E. Lake St., <http://goprider.com/z7kt>

**Chicago International Film Festival** For

## THAT TOUCH OF KINK Thursday, Oct. 11

Cyndi Lauper will be at a reception for the musical *Kinky Boots* at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St..

Photo by Ellen von Unwerth



two weeks, audiences see the world in different ways through 150 films, the countries they represent and their filmmakers. Through Oct. 25; 12pm-12:45pm, AMC River East 21, 322 E Illinois St., [www.ticketmaster.com/chicagofilmfestival](http://www.ticketmaster.com/chicagofilmfestival)

**The Legacy Walk** Dedication of the walking museum on a half-mile stretch of Halsted Street showcasing biographies of notable LGBT people across history. 2-3pm VIP pre-ceremony, Sidetrack. 3-4:15pm Tented outdoor ceremony, Roscoe and Halsted. 4-4:15pm Streetscape dedication, Halsted from Melrose to Bradley; free. 4:30-7pm Reception, \$100 - \$200 VIP; 4pm-7pm, Halsted St., [www.facebook.com/pages/the-legacy-project/124794807576962](http://www.facebook.com/pages/the-legacy-project/124794807576962); Tickets: [http://legacyprojectchicago.org/dedication\\_tickets.html](http://legacyprojectchicago.org/dedication_tickets.html)

**Dining Out for Equality** Celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 and support Equality Illinois in the 4th Annual Dining Out for Equality. Each restaurant will be donating a portion of the sales from that evening to benefit the efforts of Equality

Illinois. 6pm-11:30pm, Taverna 750, 750 W. Cornelia Ave., <http://eqil.org>

**Keith Boykin presentation at Northeastern Illinois University** 1:30-3pm Keith Boykin presentation; NEIU Main Campus - Student Union 003; 3-5pm National Coming Out Celebration; email [a-papini@neu.edu](mailto:a-papini@neu.edu) or call 773-442-5440

**Up & Out: A Celebration of Queer Visibility and Advocacy** In honor of National Coming Out Day, The College of Communication and The LGBT Studies Program at DePaul will be presenting an evening of performance. The night is a celebration of work by DePaul LGBT students and LGBT allies. Open to the public. Performances by: Ben Brooks, John Ortega, Nya Brooks, Nerrisa Osby, Tyler Butterfield, Javon Smith, Kat Myers, and Amanda Stefanski DePaul University Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton Ave. 6pm-10pm; email [dgoltz@depaul.edu](mailto:dgoltz@depaul.edu)

**About Faces's Clear: A New Musical Experience** Musicalized, first-hand account of one man's experience working on a presidential campaign. Through Oct. 13; admission is free. Reservations can be made online or by phone. 7pm, 773-784-8565ext.111., Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion, [www.aboutfacetheatre.com](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com)

**Get Kinky with ALCC and Cyndi Lauper!** AIDS Legal Council of Chicago VIP reception with Cyndi Lauper, followed by Pre-Broadway world premiere performance of *Kinky Boots* \$80-\$150; 7:30pm, 312-427-8990, Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St., [www.aidslegal.com](http://www.aidslegal.com); Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/258947](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/258947)

## Friday, Oct. 12

**Second Friday at Cocktail w/ Ald. Joe Moreno and Aimee Pine** Gear up for this year's elections (and celebrate Halloween early) by joining The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) this coming second Friday and donate to help TCRA fight for LGBTQ rights throughout Illinois and nationally. For \$10 at the door, you get two free drinks This month's guest bartenders are Aimee Pine and Joe Moreno. 6pm-10pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N. Halsted St, <http://jointcra.org>

**LIFE IS A CABARET! Words and Music of Kander & Ebb** A 50th-anniversary musical tribute to the legendary songwriting team that gave us Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman, New York New York, Cabaret and so many more Broadway hits; 8pm-9pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave.; [www.thescottgryder.com/calendar/life-is-a-cabaret.html](http://www.thescottgryder.com/calendar/life-is-a-cabaret.html)

**Think Pink: Benefiting Breast Cancer Awareness** Help raise some coin and

awareness for Breast Cancer. This will also help in Breast Cancer research and since you're going to go out for cocktails anyway why not do some good for human kind ... and get some great cocktails to boot? 8pm-11pm, Sidecar Bar, 6920 N. Glenwood Ave., [www.sidecarbarchicago.com](http://www.sidecarbarchicago.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 13

**Bolder Than Out; African-American Black Lesbian and Gay Identity Conference** In planning by the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR) 2012 National Coming Day and Week activities, workshops and an Empowerment Lunch with policy makers and elected officials. Info: [cjr.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:cjr.chicago@gmail.com); 8am-5pm

**Bridging the Gap Music Fest** Rainbow Serenity and Northwest Indiana Pride have united together to host. 11am-8pm, 219-595-2321, Veterans Memorial Park, Veteran's Memorial Park, 5899 E. 73rd Ave., Hobart, Ind., <http://bridgingthegap.rainbowserenity.org>

**Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBT)** A weekly peer support group for members of the LGBTQ community with depression, bipolar disorder, or other psychiatric illnesses. Free of charge. Community Room. 11am-12:30pm, 872-216-3272, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., [www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com](http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com)

**DarQness** Eerie evening of spooky theatrical sensations with a sexy twist. "MACABEROTIC" event—benefiting Heartland Alliance Food Pantry—combining a unique Haunted Walk Through Ghost Tour and a Macabre Themed Variety Show; 8pm-11pm, Ruth Page Dance Center, 1016 N. Dearborn St., <http://darqness.org>

**Latrice Royale** RuPaul's Drag Race star Latrice Royale does two shows at midnight and 1am \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. \$25 VIP includes hosted bar package 10-11pm and a meet and greet after the show. Special guest DiDa Ritz. Also, Saturday Night Dance Party with VJ Dominic and DJ Bronzed. 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, [www.spin-nightclub.com](http://www.spin-nightclub.com)

**Wiggocalypse 2012** New sketch comedy revue from Wig Bullies, a gay and gay-friendly ensemble whose previous productions include *The Girl With the Drag Queen Tattoo* and *It Takes A Village, People!* 8pm-9pm, 773-327-5252, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., [www.stage773.com/tickets](http://www.stage773.com/tickets)

## Sunday, Oct. 14

**Urban Village: Wicker Park Service** LGBTQ-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 10:30am-11:45am, Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St., [www.urbanvillagechurch.org/wicker-park/](http://www.urbanvillagechurch.org/wicker-park/)

**Gabby Douglas, Pink Pearls & Pretty Dresses: Girls' Empowerment Brunch** The Olympic champion will speak at a fundraiser for Inspire Girls to Lead Our World (iGlow), a Chicago mentorship program for young girls. 12pm-4pm, Donald E. Stevens Convention Center; 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, <http://iglowmentoring.org>

**Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Sunday-Funday** Join us and raise a glass to benefit this organization. Raffles will be held for fabulous prizes! 2pm-5pm, 773-575-8886, Marty's, 1511 W. Balmoral Ave.

**Brother Outsider** screening Documentary film series, endorsed by PFLAG, OPALGA and the Chicago Gender Society, takes place every Saturday afternoon in October. This week, the compelling story of Bayard Rustin. Hosted by Oak Park PFLAG. Refreshments. Discussion. Interpreter on site. 2pm, Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park

## Monday, Oct. 15

i2i new API Coming Out Group Open to



## DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Wed., Oct. 10

Dr. Lourdes Torres of Amigas Latinas will participate in a "Fireside Chat" at the Center on Halsted.

Photo by Hal Baim

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and queer APIs. Adoptees, hapas, and multiracial folks welcome too. First Monday of every month. Free. Snacks. More info: [chicagoi2i@yahoo.com](mailto:chicagoi2i@yahoo.com); 6pm-7:30pm, Asian Human Services, 7th flr conference room, 4753 N. Broadway; email [chicagoi2i@yahoo.com](mailto:chicagoi2i@yahoo.com)

**Gay Day at Dave & Buster's** Honorary Chairwoman Vernita Gray. Performances by LGBT youth, keynote speakers, politicians and dignitaries will help celebrate Gay Day at Dave & Buster's and the 9th year Anniversary of Youth Pride Services. RSVP at [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com) or 773-977-8051; 7pm, 1030 N. Clark St.

**44th Annual Jeff Awards ceremony** Honoring excellence in professional theater produced within the immediate Chicago area. Appetizers, cash bar 6pm to 7:30pm Ceremony 7:30pm; buffet and reception follow. Advance \$75. Black-tie optional. Tickets online. 6pm, Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org)

## Tuesday, Oct. 16

**Harvey Fierstein** "Kinky Boots" just kicked off in Chicago and the show's author, Harvey Fierstein (also author of "Torch Song Trilogy," "La Cage Aux Folles," and "Newsies" and an actor in Woody Allen's "Bullets Over Broadway" and many other movies) talks with Tribune critic Chris Jones about his life and work and his longtime support for gay rights. 7pm, Music Box Theatre, 3733 N Southport Ave., [www.musicbox-theatre.com](http://www.musicbox-theatre.com)

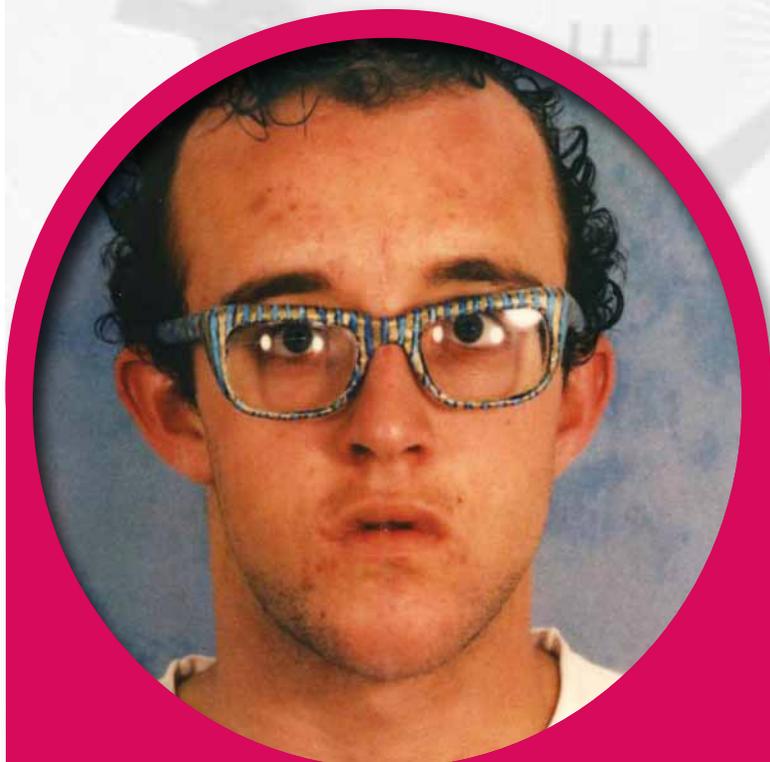
**Opening Night - Lakeside Pride Symphony Orchestra** Lakeside Pride Symphony Orchestra brings members and friends of the LGBT community together. 7:30pm-9:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.lakesidepride.org](http://www.lakesidepride.org)

**Queen of My Dreams** starring Fawzia Mirza The Queen of My Dreams screens multiple times throughout the Chicago International Film Festival, but will have its first screening tonight in competition as part of Shorts 1: "City & State" program. Check site for times. 11pm, AMC River East 21, 322 E Illinois St., [www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com)

## Wed., Oct. 17

**Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation Annual Fall Benefit Luncheon** Brooke Shields will be the guest speaker. 11am-3pm, 312.926.4274, Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., <http://www.lynnstage.org>

**Brandi Carlile** Lesbian Alternative country and folk rock singer-songwriter with special guest Blitzen Trapper. Doors open at 7pm. 7pm-9pm, 414-765-9801, Riverside Theatre, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, [www.pabsttheatre.org](http://www.pabsttheatre.org)



## LEAVING A LEGACY

Thursday, Oct. 11

The late artist Keith Haring (above) is one of the LGBT icons who will be honored at the Legacy Walk dedication at Roscoe and Halsted streets.

Image of Haring self-portrait  
courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum

# BILLY MASTERS

"What kind of moronic thing to say. Maybe that's projection. Maybe she's the one who's disgusting and she's projecting her hate. I LOVE all gays."—Nadya Suleman takes Paris Hilton to task for her comments about gay people. You know you're f\*cked when Octomom is the voice of reason.

One of my friends stays up nights trying to think of roles that could resuscitate Cher's and Barbra's film careers. (Apparently, he doesn't think those Focker flicks rank with Yentl.) Every time I made a suggestion, we both concurred that it would first be offered to Meryl. Then it hit me—what has been very successful for Streep lately? Biopics. Just think how great Streisand would be as someone like Madeleine Albright or Helen Thomas. Or what about a remake of A Woman Called Golda? As for Cher, I have three words for you—Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

While Barbra's options may be limited, her son Jason is embarking on a whole new career. Although he tried acting (appearing with mom in The Prince of Tides) and filmmaking (directing, writing, producing and acting in the short "Inside Out," which also starred his dad, Elliot Gould), what he's always wanted to do was sing. But he was a little intimidated ... and understandably so! But for his mom's 70th birthday, he made a special film montage which was accompanied by him singing Nat King Cole's Nature Boy. Mom was so overwhelmed that she invited him to join her on her upcoming tour. This gave Jason the incentive to release his first EP ... a collection of five songs (including "Nature Boy"). This came out Oct. 9—the same day mom's latest CD, Release Me, dropped. Of course, there's no need to wait. If you want to hear Jason, just go to BillyMasters.com.

When I heard that Nolan Gerard Funk would be appearing on Glee playing a Warbler trying to lure Blaine back to the fold, I was sure that name sounded familiar. It turns out that he starred in the TV remake of Bye, Bye, Birdie and the Nickelodeon flick Spectacular, which was a small-screen attempt to cash in on High School Musical. Since I didn't see those, I must have known him from somewhere else. Turns out that prior to these gigs, he was a hard working stripper/go-go boy in Los Angeles area gay bars. To see how good he looks in and out of his clothes, check out BillyMasters.com—where we apparently bring in da noise and da Funk.

Last week, dashing newsman Thomas Roberts married Patrick Abner, his partner of 13 years. The ceremony took place at the Gansvoort Hotel in NYC, and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom officiated it. Quite a number of you dashed off emails asking when those photos from Thomas' Manhunt profile went public. That was in 2007. While the profile's gone, the photos live on at BillyMasters.com.

Tom and Pat's wedding provided another announcement. Sam Champion (weatherman on Good Morning America) was one of the guests and took that opportunity to announce that he, too, would be getting married ... to a man. While none of my readers will be surprised that Champion is gay, this is a very roundabout way of coming out since he's never publicly discussed it before. He and boyfriend Rudem Robierb will be getting married in NYC with a large celebratory party for family and friends to follow in Miami.

You may have heard that Star Jones recently accused Anderson Cooper of coming out to help the ratings for his daytime talk show. The normally reticent Coop addressed this topic while gabbing with Andy Cohen on the aforementioned talk show: "I haven't thought about Star Jones in I don't know how long. I was unaware she was even on TV still, but she apparently shows up on a morning show." He didn't stop there. Oh, no—not Anderson. "I seem to recall her hocking her wedding every single day to get

free products when she was on 'The View' and I seem to recall her lying about her gastric bypass surgery and making everybody else lie about it as well. So for her to suddenly emerge out of the shadows and suddenly attack me for this, I couldn't believe it." Neither could I!

Hunky Chris Evans was recently spotted at a gay bar in West Hollywood called Eleven. Now before you say it probably wasn't him but his very sexy and similar-looking brother, forget it. Because BOTH Evans boys were there. The reason? Celebrating Scott's 29th birthday. In fact, Chris was not expected at the tres gay soirée, but surprised his brother by coming up behind him and putting his arms around him. I recently had a dream where Chris did the same thing to me, but it was in a different context ... although there were just as many people watching.

I've held onto our "Ask Billy" question for a



Thomas Roberts (above) is definitely off the market—although those Manhunt photos are still around, Billy says. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

couple of months. This summer, Kevin from Orlando asked: "What ever happened to that porn video that Chris Crocker was going to make with Chi Chi La Rue? Is he really a top?"

The young Crocker became an Internet sensation with his cry for people to "Leave Britney Alone." He later resurfaced as a struggling actor and prospective gay porn star. He did indeed sign a deal with Ms. La Rue ... one that did not bear fruit. However, his ambitions have found a new home at the Maverick Men website. But many of the details have changed. First, the self-proclaimed top suddenly is bottoming for at least two guys. And, oh yes, he's not using one of those pesky condoms that only helps to save your life. *Chacun a son goût.* Who am I to judge? I'll leave that to those of you who want to check out the footage on BillyMasters.com.

When Sam Champion marrying a guy is news, it's definitely time to end yet another column. You'll note I didn't write a word about this whole Mariah Carey/Nicki Minaj fracas. And there are three reasons for that: 1) by the time this column comes out, I'm sure you'll be sick to death of this story; 2) I'm not entirely convinced that this whole thing hasn't been somewhat manufactured; and 3) I really don't want to piss off Minaj. Instead, I'll just say that you can get the best gossip and much, much more at www.BillyMasters.com. If you have a question for me, e-mail me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Babs and Jason debut their version of "No More Tears (Enough is Enough)"! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# Chicago Marathon: 26.2 miles of memories

BY ROSS FORMAN

There were a record number of starters (38,535) in the 35th annual Chicago Marathon, held Oct. 7, coupled with near-perfect running conditions (42 degrees at start time), leading to a record-setting performance.

Tsegaye Kebede set a new course record by 59 seconds, finishing the 26.2 miles in 2:04:38. The previous record was set in 2011.

Kebede is the first Ethiopian male to win the Chicago Marathon in the event's history.

Atsede Baysa, also from Ethiopia, was the first female finisher, crossing in 2:22:03.

"Obviously, the popularity [and] demand of the race continue—a great day for racing," Chi-

cago Marathon Executive Race Director Carey Pinkowski told the media assembled at the post-event press conference, held at the Chicago Hilton Hotel.

The race attracts participants from literally around the world—all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Some were running for a bucket-list, some the simple challenge, and, oh, about 10,000 on behalf of a charity, according to race organizers.

"It was a great day; a lot of people set [time] goals or a personal record (PR)," said Dan Lakin, director of endurance events for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), which features the Team To End AIDS (T2). "The weather helped. The energy and camaraderie was great through-

out the day; it was amazing."

There were about 220 T2 runners in red on Sunday, including about 190 supporting AFC. Others came from T2 programs in Los Angeles, Houston and Washington, D.C.

All T2 runners crossed the finish line.

"That just shows the quality of the program," Lakin said. "We are able to take people who have never run a marathon before, many who were very skeptical when they registered [with the program] that they could in fact finish a marathon."

"But they did it; they all finished."

Ryan Hopper was the top T2 finisher (2:56:02), while many other T2 runners set personal-best times, such as Craig Foley and Otis Richardson, among others.

There are about 350 T2 participants this year in seven endurance events, including the Chicago Marathon, and more than \$600,000 has been raised for AFC.

The T2 goal for 2012 is \$700,000 and Lakin said the group "should hit" that total.

Paul Ketz set a personal record in the marathon, eclipsing his time in the 2011 event by 16 minutes. Ketz also was the top T2 marathon fundraiser; he has raised close to \$7,000 for AFC this summer, and is running the Honolulu Marathon in December on behalf of T2.

The T2 tent in charity village featured parts of the AIDS Quilt, no doubt added motivation for T2 runners

Illinois state rep. Deb Mell, an open lesbian, finished in 6:03:03. She is recovering from a breast-cancer diagnosis.

The runners cruised through Boystown at about Mile 7, where they were greeted by cheer-

leaders in football gear. They blared the Chicago Bears' theme song, among others. The area featured members of the Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago.

Along the course, runners were greeted by wild fans, crazy signs, plus opportunities to indulge in beer and jello shots late in the race.

The most common sign seemed to be, "Run Like You Stole Something." There also were several signs stating "Worst Parade Ever."

One of the funniest signs was "Paul Ryan Finished Yesterday."

"This was my first marathon and a truly moving, amazing experience," said T2's Greg Orbin, 36, who lives in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood and had the red AIDS ribbon drawn on each calf. "Knowing that each mile I was running was helping people in Chicago living with HIV/AIDS was all I needed to push to the finish line. In my five months of training I learned that the body is an amazing machine and if you put your mind to it, you can do anything."

Peter Ruger, 25, finished his second marathon in red, running to support T2.

"The sentiment of myself and everyone I talked to from T2 after the marathon is that we were so unbelievably lucky—running a race with weather conditions like [they were on Sunday] is unbelievable," said Ruger, who finished in 3:57:04. "Running for T2, which is such an important cause with wonderful coaches and teammates, is a real blessing. The support that you feel from all the Chicagoans who come out to cheer is unreal. I was grinning from ear to ear and having a blast 95 percent of the race, even when I felt like my legs were going [to] fall off."



Left: Completion medal for the Chicago Marathon. Right: Two participants in the marathon. Photos by Ross Forman

## Boxer comes out of the closet

BY ROSS FORMAN

Boxer Orlando Cruz rocked the sports world Oct. 3, revealing in an interview with USA TODAY that he is, "a proud gay man."

The big catch on Cruz's coming-out is that he still competes in the ring.

Cruz, 31, a Puerto Rico native, competed at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney and is now the No. 4-ranked featherweight by the World Boxing Organization (WBO).

"I've been fighting for more than 24 years and as I continue my ascendant career, I want

to be true to myself," Cruz told USA TODAY. "I want to try to be the best role model I can be for kids who might look into boxing as a sport and a professional career."

Cruz has been fighting professionally since December 2000, and his next fight is Oct. 19 in Florida.

USA TODAY reported that Emile Griffith, a welterweight and middleweight champion who fought in the 1950s and 1960s, told Sports Illustrated he was bisexual years after his athletic career had ended.

"We hear that baseball and football players are afraid to come out," said Cyd Zeigler, co-founder of Outsports.com. "Here we have a professional boxer whose opponents are paid to knock him unconscious. If he can find the courage to come out, with more of his future at risk, I'm left wondering more than ever what big time pro athletes are waiting for."

Brian Kupersmit, president of the predominantly gay Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), tagged Cruz as "doubly courageous."

"Not only has he come out of the closet, he is the rare athlete who has done so while still at the peak of his career," Kupersmit said. "He is an inspiration to gays and lesbians around the world, and a positive example for other closeted professional athletes who are seeking the courage to stop hiding and be themselves."

## 'CLLAW-O-WEEN' on Oct. 13

The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CCLAW) are hosting CLLAW-O-WEEN on Saturday, Oct. 13, at O'Malley's Liquor Kitchen, 3551 N. Sheffield Ave.

Courtesy of Sideshow Theatre Company, CCLAW's 14th match will feature lady arm wrestlers decked out in outrageous outfits; an open bar; referees; and audience participation all wrapped into one wild, crazy, theatrical Halloween event.

Tickets are \$25, and include access to a three-hour open bar (10 p.m.-1 a.m.); also, people can pay \$10 each, and have access to a cash bar. The first match is at 10 p.m.; see [www.cllaw.org](http://www.cllaw.org).



Orlando Cruz. PR photo

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In February of 1989, six years later, the Minnesota district court ruled that Sharon Kowalski could decide her own visitation rules and have herself moved to a facility where she could visit with her lover. Faced with such a long separation, Karen and Sharon had to face the problems of rebuilding their lives together.

Although a court petition to adjudicate a person disabled may be brought by any reputable person over the age of 18 and capable of providing a suitable and active program for the disabled, it is usually brought by a family member. If a family member attempted to have themselves declared legal guardian for their LGBT son or daughter because of an injury or accident the non-disabled lover would be in a perilous situation.

The family guardian would have control over property owned by the disabled lover including one-half of jointly owned property. In a worse case scenario the guardian could ask the court to sell jointly owned property to pay for medical or nursing home expenses. Not only could the non-disabled lover find themselves locked out of the nursing home but they could end up owning their home and bank accounts with the hostile parents of their disabled lover.

By Illinois law, members of LGBT couples can avoid this problem by entering into a Civil Union. Or they could designate each other to be their legal guardian and avoid this legal nightmare. If a designation of guardian is executed and attested in the same manner as a will it will have prima facie validity and will be given preference by a court should the court determine that the one designated will serve the best interests of the disabled person. A Health Care Power of Attorney and Power of Attorney for Property can also provide for the appointment of a guardian over the person and property and can serve the same purpose as a designation of guardian.

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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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1987 Meeting with Cardinal Bernardin where we affirm the dignity of same-sex relationships



1980's recognition to first board president, Bill Seng



1995 Recognition of Jim Bussin's commitment to the LGBT community



2003 Witness of LGBT families in front of the Cathedral

## for LGBT Catholics



Sept. 2005: Chicago Magazine featuring board president Ramon Rodriguez



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2012 Dignity couple filing lawsuit to have their civil union recognized as marriage



2011 gathering after Mass



2012: Rev. Lois Cullen-Parr (BUMC) and Chris Pett, board president



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