



**KINSEY SICKS' IRWIN KELLER**

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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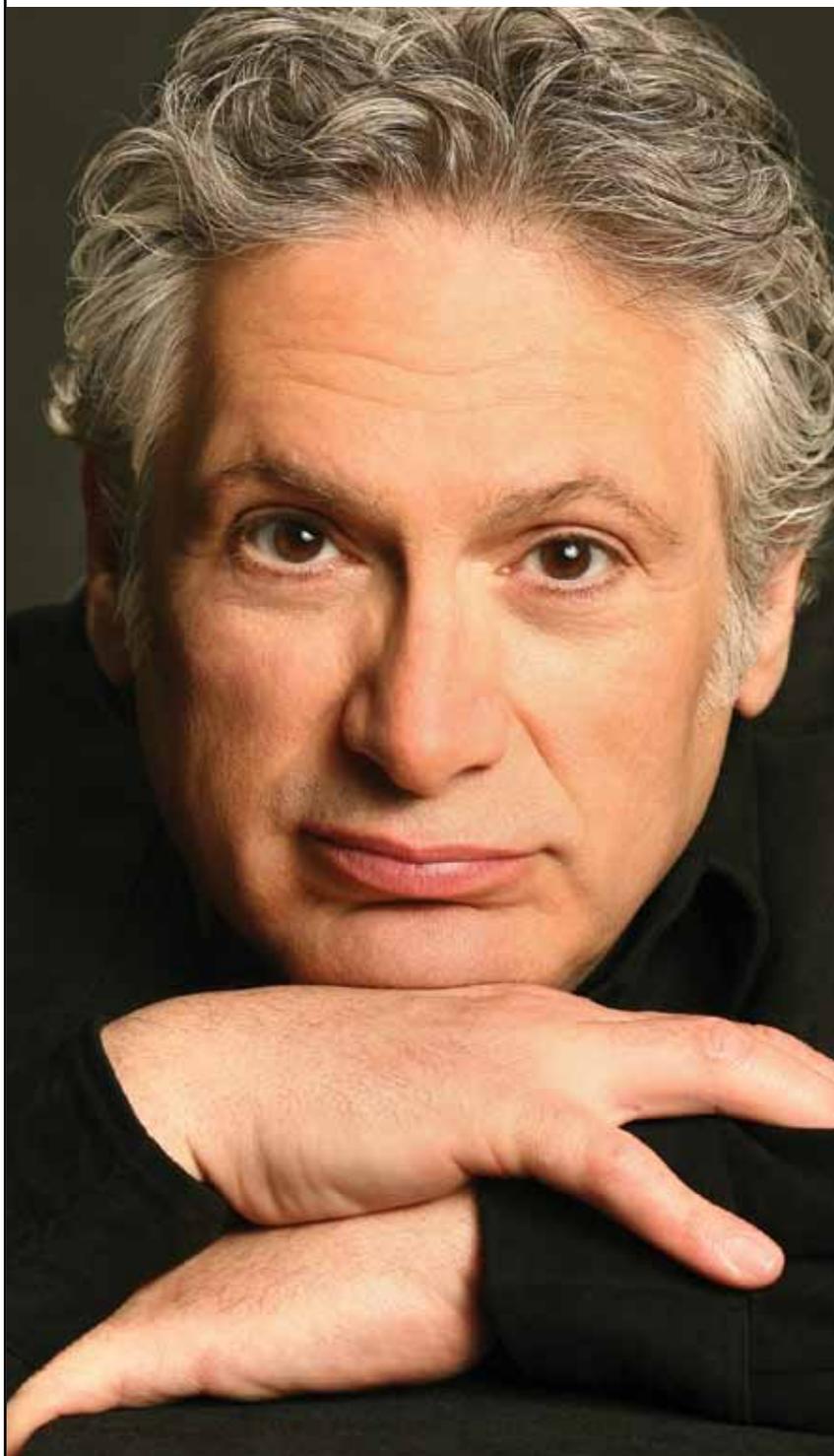


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## A new legacy

The long-awaited Legacy Walk, the outdoor museum of LGBT history, was officially dedicated this past week along Halsted St. Read the details and see photo coverage of the dedication ceremony. Photo by Hal Baim

## 'Kinky' Harvey



Actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein discusses Kinky Boots, in town before going to Broadway. Press photo

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Kinsey Sicks by Erez Ben; cover of William Mann's book on Barbra Streisand; Gloria Allred PR photo; photo of Tina Feldman by Hal Baim

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### TIME WARP

Relive the '80s with pics of Adam Ant, Bananarama and Cyndi Lauper (left). Also see pics from shows with Norah Jones and Alanis Morissette.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Read about what activist Helen Zia had to say at UIC recently for LGBT Heritage Month.

Photo by Stephen Sonneveld



See photos from Martha Stewart's visit to Chicago last week.

Photo by Melissa Wasserman

### SPELLBOUND

Read John-Manuel Andriote's piece on reclaiming HIV as a "gay" disease.

### HISTORY LESSON

Read the latest item in the LGBT History Month series about Rivendell and its role with LGBT publications.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Madonna, Andy Warhol and the show Fashion Star.

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# Five reasons to stay awake Nov. 6

## *Polls show ballot battles will be tight*

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Anti-gay activists opposing marriage equality for same-sex couples are counting in fives. They're distributing videotapes to pastors, laying out a five-step plan-of-action for each church. They're distributing another video offering five reasons voters should defeat marriage equality ballot measures at the polls. And they've got their eyes on five votes Nov. 6: four statewide ballot measures and one Iowa Supreme Court justice up for a retention vote. Here's how things are stacking up:

### Maine

Tony Perkins of the national Family Research Council has distributed a video aimed specifically at pastors, giving them a five-point action plan to implement in their church to defeat Question 1. The five steps are: Recruit a leader, hold a voter registration event by Oct. 14, deliver a "Vote No on 1 Sunday" sermon, collect an offering for ProtectMarriageMaine.com, and push to get congregants to the polls to vote No on Nov. 6.

There are 19 political action committees in Maine listed as providing funds on the state's same-sex marriage initiative, Question 1—12 in support of its passage, seven opposed. To look at their totals, one might expect passage to be a slam dunk: \$4.7 million in support of same-sex marriage, \$697,000 against.

The latest poll by the Portland Press, conducted Sept. 12-16, looks good, too: 57 percent in favor, 36 percent opposed, 7 percent undecided—numbers that were essentially unchanged since June. The latest poll by Public Policy Polling, conducted Sept. 17-18, showed 52 percent favor allowing same-sex marriage while 44 percent oppose; 4 percent are undecided.

However, the pollster says this is "a very close race."

"Our experience in polling gay marriage is that if people say they're undecided it usually means they're opposed to it," said Dean Debnam, president of Public Policy Polling, in a press release.

And many LGBT activists suspect that the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) is pouring a lot more into the contest than it is indicating on state campaign reports. As of the latest of those reports, NOM claims to have given only \$252,300. NOM has been in a court battle for several years now, seeking to circumvent Maine campaign reporting requirements.

It lost its most recent battle before the U.S. Supreme Court, but the organization is still fighting the state law with the state ethics commission over the 2009 marriage ballot battle. In a statement released October, NOM Chairman John Eastman said, "NOM has not solicited donations in order to contribute to the Protect Marriage Maine campaign." However, the statement also says, "NOM has made organizational contributions to the effort from our general treasury, and all those contributions have been fully disclosed by both NOM and Protect Marriage Maine."

On the pro-marriage-equality side, there are some new major money players this time around. The Freedom to Marry Maine group has pitched in more than \$1 million and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders has raised \$218,000, to supplement the \$3.4 million raised by the pro-Question 1 group Mainers United for Marriage.

If they're successful in passing Question 1, the marriage-equality law would go into effect 30 days after the governor proclaims the results of the election.



Gov. Martin O'Malley's state of Maryland is the site of a heated battle for marriage equality. Photo by Patsy Lynch

### Maryland

The latest poll in Maryland found that support among African-American voters had increased significantly between January and September—from 33 percent then to 44 percent now. The Gonzales Research group that conducted both surveys noted that a majority of African-Americans (52 percent) still say they'll vote against marriage equality, but the improved numbers, it said, suggest "public pronouncements in the interim from the President and others have had an ameliorative impact for proponents."

This matters in Maryland. Thirty percent of the state's population is African-American, compared to 13.5 percent of the population nationally and low single digits in the other ballot battle states this year. And that's why the support of the NAACP is seen as critical to preserving the legislative victory won for marriage equality in February. The group launched its own radio ad Oct. 8, featuring its chairman emeritus Julian Bond telling voters that voting for Question 6 is "the right thing to do."

"Maryland's gay and lesbian families share the same values and they should share in the right to marry," says Bond.

Overall, the polls in Maryland promise a tight contest. The latest indications are 51 percent for Question 6 (for marriage equality) and 43 percent against, with 6 percent undecided. That lead offers no real comfort. If the six percent undecided vote "No," as Public Policy Polling warns, it's a loss. And historically, most polling prior to similar ballot measures has shown a pro-equal rights position winning, only to have a flip-to-loss on election day.

### Minnesota

Polls in Minnesota have been roller coastering on the issue. A Minnesota Star-Tribune poll of 806 likely voters in May 2011 found only 39 percent for and 55 percent against a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage,

with seven percent undecided. But by November of 2011, it was 48 percent for and 43 percent against, with 9 percent undecided.

The latest Star-Tribune survey of 800 likely voters, taken September 17-19, showed a "statistical dead heat." Forty-nine percent would vote "Yes" for the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, 47 percent would vote "No" and 4 percent said they were undecided. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The Star-Tribune said the strongest support for the ban lies in the suburbs, a reality that seems to echo the tribulation of Prop 8.

An exhaustive analysis of pre-election polls and voting on California's same-sex marriage ban found that the votes of more than half-a-million parents with kids living at home were prepared to vote against Proposition 8, sending it to defeat. Then, in the last weeks of the 2008 campaign, proponents of the ban saturated the airwaves with advertisements that warned parents that the legalization of same-sex marriage would require public schools to teach children that same-sex marriage is a viable option for them. The No on 8 campaign failed to respond directly and quickly to that claim, said the study's author David Fleischer, and the parents' votes were converted to "Yes." Prop 8 passed 52 percent to 48 percent—or barely 600,000 votes in an election in which 13.7 million votes were cast.

But Minnesota's constitution has a quirk. It requires that amendments must be passed by a number of votes that totals a majority of all ballots cast. That means that anyone who votes for president and some of the other offices on the ballot but does not vote on Proposed Amendment 1 will be counted as a "No" vote on Proposed Amendment 1. So, if 100 people go to the polls, it would need 51 "Yes" votes to pass, even if only 60 people voted on the marriage measure and a majority of 60 would total only 31.

### Washington

In Washington state, the Preserve Marriage Washington coalition seeks to overturn the legislature's approval of marriage equality by offering five reasons the state doesn't need to approve same-sex marriage. They are:

—"same-sex couples already have the same legal rights as married couples,"

—"children do better when raised by a married mom and dad,"

—"anyone who does not comply with the new definition of marriage will face legal consequences,"

—"public schools will have no choice but to teach this new genderless institution," and

—"businesses like Chick-Fil-A, doctors, and others "will risk their state licenses if they act on their beliefs" against same-sex marriage.

Anti-gay activists in Washington State are going for the Prop 8 jugular. In ads that began airing Oct. 8, they claim passage of Referendum 74 will mean homosexuality will be taught in schools.

"Whenever schools educate children about marriage, they have no choice but to teach this new genderless institution," says one ad, "Consequences of Redefining Marriage."

"In Massachusetts, kids as young as the second grade have been taught homosexual marriage," claims the ad, being aired by Preserve Marriage Washington.

"Everyone in Washington must comply with the new definition of marriage or face negative consequences. Anyone who does not accept this new definition of marriage will soon find themselves at odds with the law and facing legal consequences." Among those negative consequences, it claims, is Catholic Charities loss of "its adoption services" when Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage.

In truth, of course, Catholic Charities voluntarily gave up its adoption services after the state government said it could no longer fund the organization because it was violating a state human rights law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination.

But voters cannot be expected to know or look

ONLINE AT  
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NATIONAL NEWS

—Bloomberg (left) gives \$250K for marriage equality

—Phelps: Gay people should be put to death

—Nordstrom backs same-sex marriage

for the veracity of certain claims in a fast-moving television advertisement.

### Iowa justice

Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins was one of seven justices who voted unanimously that the state constitution guarantees same-sex couples equal protection under the law. Three of those justices were up for their retention votes in 2010 and were ousted. Now, Wiggins is due a retention vote and press reports in Iowa say it's a fierce fight once again—even three years beyond the landmark decision.

The usual suspects are back to try and defeat the justices: Bob Vander Plaats, the National Organization for Marriage, and even failed Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum. Santorum rode a "NO Wiggins" bus around the state late last month, and making stops to tell voters a vote against Wiggins is "vitaly important."

"Seven individuals decided to change the entire fabric of the state of Iowa," said Santorum, at a stop in Des Moines Sept. 24. He suggested that by removing Wiggins and having four new justices on the court, opponents of same-sex marriage could "maybe even reverse this horrific decision."

The Des Moines Register reported Oct. 3 that 49 percent of likely voters polled said they would vote to retain Wiggins, 41 percent would vote to remove him, and 9 percent were undecided.

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## Crossroads Fund announces grantees

The Chicago-based organization known as Crossroads Fund announced that, this year, it distributed \$303,846 to 73 groups working for racial, social and economic justice.

In the LGBT Issues category, Affinity Community Services, the Association of Latino Men for Action, Earth Pearl Collective, the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois received grants.

Among some of the other groups receiving grants are the Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Occupy Chicago and Lakeview Action Coalition (in the Economic Justice and Community Development category); Community Media Workshop and Chicago Area Peace Action (Human Rights, International Policy & Government Accountability); Beyondmedia Education and the Women's Voices Fund (Women and Girls); and Broadway Youth Center's Peer Advocates Program, Youth Outlook, Young Women's Empowerment Project and the Immigrant Youth Justice League (Youth).

For more info, see [www.CrossroadsFund.org](http://www.CrossroadsFund.org).



Mike Quigley. Photo by Adam Bouska

## Quigley part of 'NO H8'

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley, D-Ill., reiterated support for the LGBT community and National Coming Out Day by participating in the NOH8 Campaign, which promotes equality through education, advocacy and visual protest.

In a statement, Quigley said, "I've always been a strong supporter of marriage equality for all, so I consider it an honor and a responsibility to draw attention to this cause through unique opportunities like the NOH8 Campaign."

Quigley, along with 25 of his colleagues and more than 100 congressional staffers, participated in a NOH8 on the Hill photo shoot last month.

## HRC releases report on LGBT youth and being out

LGBT youth who are out to their immediate family or at school report higher levels of happiness, optimism, acceptance and support, according to a new report on LGBT youth that the Human Rights Campaign released.

"Growing Up LGBT in America," released on National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), revealed (for example) that among youth who are not out at school, the most frequent obstacle they describe is that teachers or classmates will treat them differently or judge them.

"We know that LGBT youth who are out and accepted by even a handful of close friends or family are happier, and everyone has a role in creating an environment in which youth feel safe and comfortable being themselves," said Ellen Kahn, director of the HRC Family Project and a professional social worker. "Today, we should all consider what more we can be doing—from the conversations we have at the kitchen table or in the workplace, to comments made by national leaders in the media."

The full report is at [www.hrc.org/youth](http://www.hrc.org/youth).

## Arlen Specter dies

Former U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter died Oct. 14 in Philadelphia at age 82 after battling several illnesses, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the L.A. Times reported. Specter battled liberals and conservatives as a senator, killing the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court but preserving Clarence Thomas' bid for the same judicial body.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin, in a statement, said of Specter: "His support for repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and passage of the Matthew Shepard hate crimes law was critical, as was his willingness to change his mind and oppose the Federal Marriage Amend-

ment in 2006 after voting for it in 2004.

"While we disagreed with his support for some conservative judicial nominees which will leave a lasting negative impact on our community, he was willing to work across party lines to get things done."

## Fla. gay GOP group 'disgraces' dead ambassador, NSD says

The National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) claims in a press release that, in an ad in the LGBT weekly The Florida Agenda, the Broward Log Cabin Republican Club of Florida attacked Democrats and President Obama using an image of the lifeless body of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in the aftermath of the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. (A screen capture of the ad is at [www.stonewalldemocrats.org/files/LCRBrowardAd.png](http://www.stonewalldemocrats.org/files/LCRBrowardAd.png).)

NSD Executive Director Jerame Davis said, in part, "It is simply unimaginable to me how any political message, let alone the muddy and ludicrous message of this ad, in any way justifies disgracing the memory of a man who gave his life in service to his country. This level of depravity and moral indifference must not be allowed to enter our political discourse." NSD has called on the Log Cabin group "to retract this ad and apologize to Floridians."

## Rockford rep compares same-sex marriage to people marrying dogs

BY KATE SOSIN

A Rockford lawmaker may be in hot water with some constituents after he likened same-sex marriage to bestiality.

John Cabello, a recent appointee to the state's 68th Dist., told voters at a Rockford Tea Party forum Oct. 6 he was "dead-set opposed to civil

unions" because they could open the door "to other things."

"Now, and please bear with me," Cabello said. "Does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?"

Cabello, who is up for re-election, did not respond to a request to clarify those comments.

A video from the forum was posted to event's Facebook page, but the settings on the YouTube clip appeared to have been changed to private following the media inquiry.

Cabello's Democratic opponent, Carl Wasco, condemned the remarks in a statement to Windy City Times.

"I was shocked to hear John say such a thing," said Wasco, in the statement. "To infer that being gay is similar to bestiality is simply nonsensical and offensive to the entire gay community and those who support their right to love one another."

Wasco supports marriage equality, according to his campaign. His campaign initially sent the video clip to Windy City Times.

## Addendum

In last week's article about Terrence McNally, Windy City Times ran that the Catholic League placed envelopes in church pews to raise money to get McNally's play Corpus Christi stopped in New York.

The league emailed WCT to say that this never happened. However, McNally responded that he "stands by the statement" as made to him by his mother.

## Correction

In last week's issue, Jerry Nunn should have also been credited with taking photos at Test Positive Aware Network's (TPAN's) 25th-anniversary gala.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

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# Intimate partner violence report cites lack of access

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

In an Oct. 10 telephone press conference, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released the major findings from its report, Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected (LGBTQH) Communities in the United States in 2011.

Lisa Gilmore, director of education and victim advocacy at Center on Halsted and a member of the governance committee of the NCAVP, reported some of the report's findings.

"The lack of access to appropriate and competent criminal legal system responses, safe shelter and other supportive services results in increased exposure to harm and decreased safety," Gilmore said.

Gilmore noted that LGBTQH men were about twice as likely to experience injuries when compared to the overall group, and that the majority of intimate partner violence homicide victims reported were LGBTQH men. She also noted that people of color under 30 years old were four times more likely to report experience physical violence and were about twice as likely to be injured as a result of intimate partner violence.

Gilmore stated these groups were in need of competent ways to increase their safety. She cited hostile police and inability to access shelters and other forms of intimate-violence survivor support as causes for a decrease of safety rather than increase.

"For example, in Chicago there is not one single domestic-violence specific emergency shelter bed available for any adult who identifies their gender as anything other than as a biological woman," Gilmore said.

She stated this lack of access makes some survivors of intimate partner violence dependent on having to try to predict the abuse they're experiencing, or forces them into other unsafe situations in which to navigate.

"The systems in place to increase safety for those abused by intimate partners must be accountable to serving all victims and survivors," she said.

NCAVP collected data concerning intimate partner violence within LGBTQH relationships from anti-violence programs in 22 states across the country, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont and Washington as well as from the District of Columbia.

Despite the fact that the Los Angeles Gay &



Lisa Gilmore. Photo courtesy of the Center on Halsted

Lesbian Center (LAGLC) lost funding and staff for its IPV programming, reducing the number of LGBTQH intimate partner violence survivors from whom they collected data from, the national survey still found an 18.3-percent increase in reports of LGBTQH intimate partner violence nationwide.

The report made overall recommendations to policy makers and funders. It called on Congress to pass a LGBTQ-inclusive Violence Against Women Act, as well as making recommendations for prevention initiatives for youth and young adults, increasing cultural competency for victim service providers and increasing research and documentation.

The full report is available at [www.avp.org/docs/2012ReleaseIPVREPORTFinal.pdf](http://www.avp.org/docs/2012ReleaseIPVREPORTFinal.pdf)

## PASSAGES

### Fred M. Zucker

Fred M. Zucker of Lincoln Park—a retired gallery director at Merrill Chase and Sears Vincent Price Art Galleries, opera aficionado, dedicated bicyclist and member of Chi-Town Squares—passed away peacefully Oct. 8. He was 88.

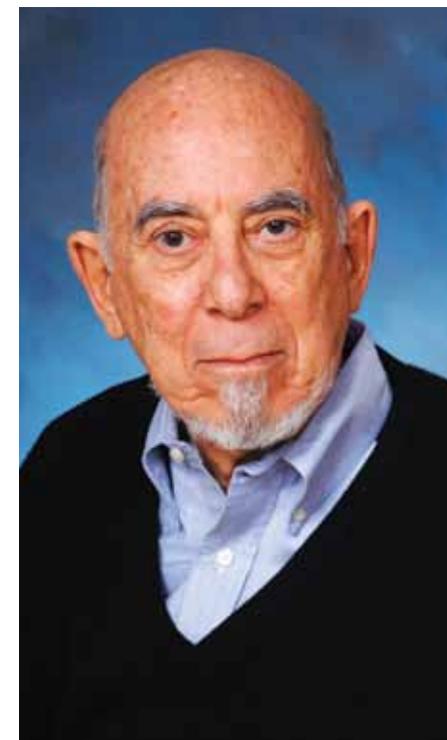
Zucker was the cherished father of David, Paul (Susan), and Eric (Margie) Zucker; beloved brother of Betty (Larry) Berkow of Bethesda, Md.; and dear uncle of Jay and Steven Berkow.

Zucker recorded an interview at ChicagoGayHistory.com. Among other things, he discusses the Center on Halsted, his identity and community involvement (joining the Mattachine Society in the 1960s, and many other groups subsequently), among many other topics. He also says at one point, "I've never been a leader in the gay community but I've been a foot soldier—and a good one."

There will be a celebration of life and reception Wed., Oct. 17, 3-5:30 p.m. (service at 3:15 p.m.) at The Cliff Dwellers, 200 S. Michigan Ave.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Lyric Opera ([www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org)) or Lincoln Park Zoological Society ([www.lpzoo.org](http://www.lpzoo.org)).

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois: 773-281-5058 or [www.cremation-society.com](http://www.cremation-society.com)



Fred M. Zucker. Photo by Hal Baim

## Groups hit 'ex-gay' therapist with complaint

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois became the latest battleground state in a nationwide fight over "ex-gay" therapy Oct. 11.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) and the American Psychoanalytic Association announced that they have filed a licensing-board complaint against a mental-health professional practicing reparative therapy, a practice purported to change sexual orientation.

The complaint, filed with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, advocates for the investigation of Paul McNulty, a Bloomington Illinois social worker.

McNulty has a profile on the People Can Change website, a self-described non-profit that aims "to support and guide men who seek to transition away from unwanted homosexuality, by courageously and compassionately sharing our own first-hand experience with change."

According to that profile, McNulty is also a member of Exodus International and the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, two controversial groups seen as anti-gay by many.

The complaint against McNulty alleges he violated the Illinois' Professional Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing Act in offering "ex-gay" conversion therapy.

"By offering and embracing scientifically unsound and potentially harmful services that reflect prejudice, Mr. McNulty appears to be in violation of the State's licensing standards," the complaint states.

McNulty did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The complaint is part of a national effort to end reparative therapy in the U.S. said Christine Sun, deputy legal director, Southern Poverty Law Center.

"We have traveled across the country listening to survivors stories," said Sun. "The common thread for all of these stories is the pain and devastation this junk science has caused them."

The complaint comes on the heels of the passage and signing of a California bill that makes it illegal to practice reparative therapy on minors. LGBT rights advocates that backed the Cal-

ifornia bill have vowed to support similar efforts in other states.

Yamani Hernandez, executive director, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, said that the groups would also support legislative efforts to end conversion therapy in Illinois.

"The fact of the matter is that it's not just about one individual," said Hernandez. "It's about the practice in general."

## Seminar talks surrogacy options

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) hosted a seminar on surrogacy options for same-sex couples Oct. 9.

The free lunch session, titled "Conceivable Options: Navigating Alternative Family Building," focused on legal, ethical and fiscal considerations for prospective parents.

"Today, more than ever, we as patients are consumers," said Mindy Berkson, an infertility consult with Lotus Blossom Consulting. "We need to be savvy, ask the right questions, and pursue options. We need to challenge scientists and build choices into our treatment plans so we can be the best advocates for ourselves."

Speakers highlighted tricky terrain such as choosing a surrogate, naming same-sex partners on birth certificates, and shipping breast milk.

Julie Tavoso, an attorney who specializes in surrogacy law, explained that state-by-state reproductive laws vary wildly. Michigan and New York, for example, criminalize surrogacy, while other states offer LGBT-friendly options.

Tavoso urged all parents in same-sex partnerships to legally adopt their children. This should help parents avoid legal issues when traveling to states that don't recognize civil unions or other LGBT rights.

Both Berkson and Tavoso tell clients to budget anywhere from \$100,000 to \$125,000 for the surrogacy process, which includes doctor, lawyer and hospital fees.

LAGBAC co-hosted the event with the law offices of Goldberg, Weisman & Cairo. To learn more about LAGBAC, visit [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).

## Wade named manager of TransLife Center

BY KATE SOSIN

Bonnie Wade, a longtime advocate for LGBTQ youth, will be at the helm of Chicago House's new transgender initiatives.

The organization announced that Wade has been hired as project manager of the TransLife Center, Chicago House's new Edgewater-based housing for transgender people.

"She's a rock star," said Stan Sloan, CEO of Chicago House. "We're thrilled."

Wade most recently served as associate director of UCAN's LGBTQ Host Home Project. She also previously worked at Teen Living Programs and Horizons Community Services (which later became Center on Halsted).

Wade will be working off a five-year annual grant for \$300,000 from the Health Resources

and Services Administration to study transgender women of color and retention in HIV care. According to Sloan, Wade will oversee a staff of five.

Chicago House previously announced that Lara Brooks, a senior staffer at Broadway Youth Center (BYC), had been hired to fill the position. Brooks, later announced that she would be staying on at BYC, however.

The TransLife Center will serve as both a nine-bedroom home for transgender individuals as well as a site for services including healthcare, drop-in programs and employment support.

Preparations on the TransLife Center are underway, said Sloan. The housing is expected to open early next year.

# Keith Boykin talks about 'The Right Thing to Do' at NEIU

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

"Mom, I'm gay."

A hush fell over the room of about a hundred people. The speaker in the front, Keith Boykin, was telling his coming-out story. He had paused for effect after the recited pronouncement.

"And there was a pause just like that," he then added, to several chuckles in the audience.

As part of Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) celebration of National Coming Out Week,



Keith Boykin at Northeastern Illinois University. Photo by Matthew C. Clark

Boykin, gave a presentation Oct. 11. Boykin was a special assistant in Bill Clinton's White House administration, making him the highest ranking gay person in the executive branch at the time; he is also the host of "My 2 Cents" as well as an author. He recently edited a collection of essays entitled For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home.

Boykin's address touched on a number of topics all around his own life experiences, coming out, and learning to do the right thing.

"Knowing the right thing to do is not the same thing as doing it," he told the crowd after an opening anecdote.

Boykin discussed his involvement in the Coalition for Civil Rights, a group of Harvard Law School students who sought to diversify the school's faculty in the late '80s and early '90s. The group filed a suit that went all the way to the Massachusetts Supreme Court before ultimately being dismissed.

It wasn't until Boykin's second year of law school that he said he began to reflect on his own sexual orientation. After the long pause, Boykin said the first thing his mother told him was, "I love you."

While sometimes casual and joking, he also stressed serious topics, such as the differences between identity, behavior and orientation. Discussions about sexual orientation, he said, require a level of nuance.

"We need to bring sophistication out of the closet," he said.

He also discussed the debates in the early '90s about gays in the military during the time he was working in the White House, when "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was implemented. He compared

the arguments against gays and lesbians serving in the military with those that justified racial segregation in the military. He also stressed that you can compare issues of race and sexual orientation without conflating or equating the two.

His latest book is intended to be a response to the series of suicides of young, LGBT youth in 2010, particularly those of young men of color that went unreported by the mainstream media.

Boykin also discussed the impact of Obama's support for gay marriage on the Black community. He said that Obama acted as an enabler of support, citing the NAACP, Colin Powell and Jay-Z as an institution and popular figures who've come out in support of gay marriage.

"We know the right thing to do, but it is not the same as doing it," he said.

## Rustin's partner remembers the activist

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Walter Naegle, partner of the late civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin, spoke at an Equality Illinois briefing Oct. 11 at the law offices of Quarles & Brady.

Naegle was in town for the unveiling of Chicago's Legacy Walk, which honored Rustin with a plaque in the Boystown part of North Halsted Street. Rustin is best known for his service as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s chief political advisor, strategist and speechwriter; he also worked toward LGBT equality in the 1970s and 1980s.

"If you really look at the whole of [Rustin]'s life," Naegle said, "the theme was equality. He was raised in a Quaker household, where one of the fundamentals is the brotherhood of all people. ... He was in the African-American civil-rights movement—not just because he was Black—but because it was the right thing to do. It was the movement of that time."

Naegle offered brief remarks before opening the floor to questions. He shared stories from his time with Rustin and mused on ways in which LGBT civil rights have shifted over the years.

For example, Rustin legally adopted Naegle as his son before Rustin's death in 1987. According to Naegle, it was the only way to put a legal framework on the men's relationship.

"[Rustin] was 37 years older than I was," Naegle said. "We did not want to find ourselves in a position where he was ill or incapacitated, and I was not allowed to be with him, to visit him, because I wasn't a blood relative."

As Rustin's legal child, Naegle was able to act as executor of the Rustin estate. Today, he works to preserve Rustin's memory.



Walter Naegle. Photo by Erica Demarest



Top (from left): Laura Ricketts, Jane Saks and Sarah Schmidt. Above (from left): State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, LPAC's Sarah Schmidt and Commissioner Debra Shore. Photos by Hal Baim

## LPAC hosts Chicago event

LPAC, the first-of-its-kind lesbian political action committee, held a reception at Chicago's Woman Made Gallery Oct. 11. LPAC Chair and Treasurer Sarah Schmidt and Laura Ricketts, LPAC advisory board member and director and part owner of the Chicago Cubs, addressed the gathering. Also attending were state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz and Cook County Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore.

LPAC is a values-based PAC that is supporting several candidates in this election cycle, including openly lesbian U.S. Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin, and U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts.

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# Legacy Walk launches on Halsted Street

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On the 25th anniversary of the start of National Coming Out Day, more than 200 people attended a dedication ceremony and reception for the Legacy Walk, an outdoor museum created by The Legacy project to honor the work of LGBT pioneers. The event took place on a balmy, sunny fall afternoon Oct. 11 on Halsted Street between Belmont and Waveland.

The festivities began with a pre-ceremony reception at Sidetrack bar followed by an outdoor dedication ceremony.

During the ceremony the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus performed lesbian writer Katherine Lee Bates' "America the Beautiful" and Rev. Wayne Bradley gave the invocation. Legacy board chair Ralph Kennedy served as the emcee and vice-chair Laura Angelucci gave the closing remarks.

The ceremony also featured remarks by state Rep. Greg Harris, who spoke on behalf of Gov. Pat Quinn, and Commissioner of the Chicago Department on Human Relations Mona Noriega, who spoke on behalf of Mayor Rahm Emmanuel. Scheduling conflicts prevented both Quinn and Emmanuel from attending the event.

Reading from Quinn's remarks, Kennedy said, "I Pat Quinn, governor of the state of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Oct. 11, 2012 as Legacy Walk day and do hereby encourage all residents of the Land of Lincoln to learn about and honor the significant contributions that GLBT individuals have made throughout the history of the world."

Harris said, "With the dedication of the Legacy Walk we are now joining the legions of folks before us who have contributed to making this one of the greatest cities on the face of this planet."

Prior to reading from Emmanuel's remarks Noriega noted that "without the tenacity, dedication and commitment of Victor Salvo—executive director and founder of the Legacy Project/Walk—this walking museum wouldn't have happened."

Ald. Tom Tunney told the crowd that "history is coming once again to Halsted Street and I'm so glad to be a part of it."

During Salvo's keynote address he acknowledged former 44th Ward Community Liaison Max Bever and 44th Ward Chief of Staff Bennett Lawson for their assistance in navigating the intricacies of city government as well as two volunteers on the project—Brother Michael Oboza and this reporter.

"The notion of a collective tribute to GLBT people who have been overlooked by history or obscured by historians is not new ... . That is where the Legacy Walk comes in. Because it puts that history right on the street where everybody can read it," said Salvo. "Cutting across lines of gender, class, race, sexual orientation, gender identification and nationality, the Legacy Project—and the Legacy Walk—is about all of us—in whatever form we may exist. It is about rescuing unsung GLBT heroes from obscurity, and reuniting others—whose sexuality has been edited away—with the truth about their lives."

Ending his remarks, Salvo spoke about the Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI), which will debut next spring. The LPEI—co-sponsored by the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance—will provide gay-straight alliance faculty advisors with educational materials for students and will be made available for free on the Legacy Project Website for all educators to use in their classrooms.

A live reveal of Sgt. Leonard Matlovich's plaque—sponsored by Patrick Bova and James Darby—closed out the dedication ceremony (Matlovich was chosen to represent the 17 other people who were inducted this year). Representatives from the American Veterans for Equal Rights Color Guard took part in the ceremony: Bova, Darby, Jean Albright, Mary Ellen Burns, Brian Donegan, and Ed Wosylus. Susan Jones and Melissa Terrell of the Lakeside Pride Band performed "Taps" during the live reveal.

The other 2012 inductees are: Jane Addams—sponsored by the Heartland Alliance; Alvin Ailey—sponsored by Fifth Third Bank; Reinaldo Arenas—sponsored by Art Johnston and Jose Pena; James Baldwin—sponsored by friends of the late Tim Imse;

Dr. Margaret Chung, Harvey Milk, and Rep. Barbara Jordan sponsored by Levi Strauss and Co.; Barbara Gittings—sponsored by the Adler School of Professional Psychology; Keith Haring—sponsored by Paul Highfield, Myron Mix, Elizabeth Liechty, Chris Pritchard, Eddie Seslowsky, Kirin Dolezal, Paul DeSousa and Patrick Torres; Christine Jorgensen—sponsored by the Tawani Foundation; Frida Kahlo—sponsored by the Highfield Group; Dr. Alfred Kinsey—sponsored by the Northalsted Business Alliance; Dra. Antonia Pantoja—sponsored by the Aspira Association; Bayard Rustin—sponsored by Equality Illinois; Alan Turing—sponsored by Salvo and Joseph Coray; the Two Spirit People—sponsored by BMO Harris Bank; and Oscar Wilde—sponsored by retired Judge Tom Chiola.

After the ceremony, guests strolled down Halsted Street to see a number of the plaques before returning to Sidetrack for a post-ceremony reception featuring a performance by award-winning singer-songwriter Matt Alber.

Also in attendance were visiting dignitaries representing a number of the 2012 inductees; all members of the Legacy Project board of directors; a number of the advisory board of academics, researchers and biographers; and all but one of the plaque sponsors.

Along with Harris, Noriega and Tunney, Ald. James Cappleman, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley and state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz also attended the dedication ceremony.

"The Legacy Walk affords us the ability to look back at the rich heritage of our past, and acknowledging the hard work of the individuals who have been highlighted along Halsted will help prepare us for the journey that still lies ahead for the LGBT community ... . We've come so far, but we still have work to do," said Cappleman.

"Throughout the history of this country, the contributions of LGBT people have been minimized, or worse—outright ignored. The Legacy Project helps restore some of that lost history by telling the stories of individuals who transcended bigotry and made meaningful contributions to our society. The project reminds us what this community has achieved but, just as important, it will also inspire the continuing efforts of future LGBT leaders," said Quigley.

"Chronicling the significant, rich and global contributions of the LGBT community, the Legacy Walk will play an important role in educating the public, disproving stereotypes, fostering compassion, and improving humanity. I couldn't be more proud to have such a unique and significant institution right on Halsted Street for everyone to experience and I look forward to learning more as it grows and evolves each year. I am fortunate to have this in my district," said Feigenholtz.

Johnston, co-owner of Sidetrack, said, "By reclaiming our past in such a public way, the Legacy Walk offers real hope to coming generations of LGBT youth that their futures can be successful, fulfilling and happy. After all, if we do not know where we came from, how can we ever really know where we are going."

Center on Halsted Chief Executive Officer Modesto Tico Valle said, "Our movement has made real advances over the years. We no longer hide behind curtains, but instead celebrate our accomplishments with permanent, visible markers for all to celebrate. The Legacy Project reminds us of where we've come from and where we can go when all work together."

The Legacy Walk is the first-of-its-kind open-air museum honoring notable LGBT people across history and from around the world. Each of the people inducted this year are represented with a bronze plaque that is affixed to the "rainbow pylons" that dot the sidewalks of North Halsted. They feature an image of the inductee and a short biography honoring the individual's contributions to the world. Information about the sponsor(s) of each inductee is also noted below each of the bronze plaques.

See [www.legacyprojectchicago.org](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org) for more information.

Note: Carrie Maxwell is also a volunteer with the Legacy Project.



At the Leonard Matlovich plaque. Plaque sponsors Jim Darby (left) and Patrick Bova (right) with Matlovich's nieces Vicki Wrobel Walker (second from left) and Pam Sanders, and Michael Bedwell (center). Photo by Hal Baim



The Legacy Project founder Victor Salvo. Photo by Tracy Baim



Left: The Two Spirits plaque, sponsored by BMO Harris Bank. Right: At the Barbara Gittings plaque: Anne Moore, representing Gittings' widow Kay Lahusen, and Roland Hansen. Photos by Hal Baim



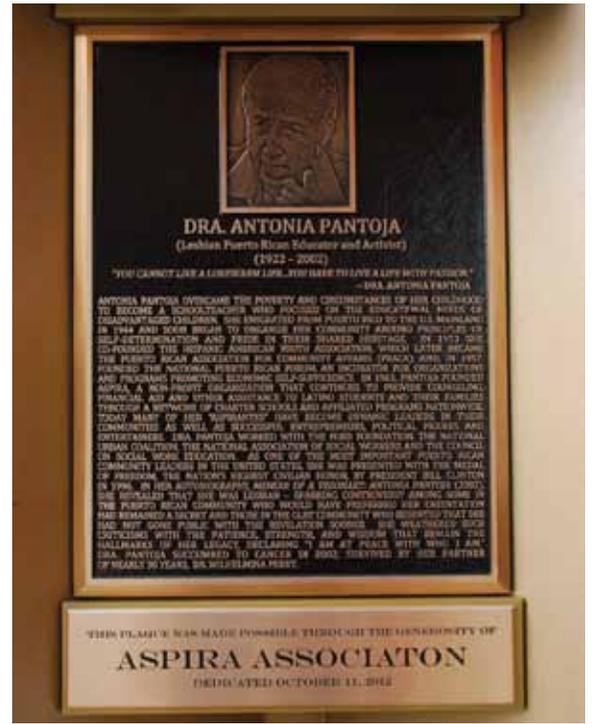
Left: The Alvin Ailey plaque, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. Above: Vernita Gray and Pat Ewert at the Bayard Rustin plaque. Photos on this page by Hal Baim



Singer/songwriter Matt Alber performs at the afterparty at Sidetrack.



Ralph Kennedy, Legacy Project board chair, with Richard Knight Jr., at the plaque for James Baldwin, sponsored by friends of the late writer Timothy Imse.



The Dra. Antonia Pantoja plaque, sponsored by Aspira Association.



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# Gloria Allred talks LGBT rights before Chicago visit

BY KATE SOSIN

With the battle over reproductive rights heating up this election season, Chicago is about to get a visit from one of the country's best-known pro-choice advocates.

Celebrity attorney Gloria Allred will speak at the Personal PAC Annual Awards Luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 30. Personal PAC is a political action committee that aims to elect pro-choice candidates.

In preparation for her visit, Windy City Times caught up with Allred to talk about the state of women's rights today, her decades of work on LGBT issues and what she believes is at stake in November's presidential election.

**Windy City Times: At the start of your book [Fight Back and Win: My Thirty-Year Fight Against Injustice—And How You Can Win Your Own Battles], you talk about how you couldn't imagine you would be fighting the same battles for women's rights 30 years later because you thought more progress would have been made.**

Gloria Allred: Now, make that 36 years later.

**WCT: Ha, yes. Where do you think we are on women's rights now and have we really made progress?**

GA: Well, I guess a conservative would say, "Look how far we've come." And as a progressive, I say, "Look how far we have to go." My standard is when we enjoy equal rights under the law and are our rights being enforced under the law? And the answer is, "No." We don't enjoy



Gloria Allred.

equal rights under the law.

It took us 72 years to win the right to vote from 1848 to 1920, the addition of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. And now, we are far in excess of 72 years in working to win the right to enjoy the protection of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

There are constant attacks on reproductive rights, which is going to be the focus of my speech on Oct. 30 in Chicago. And, of course, we have so much at stake in this election. People say, "What's at stake?" Everything's at stake. But on the reproductive rights issues particularly, the next president of the United States is likely to be able to appoint two potentially at least vacancies on the United States Supreme Court because of the age of certain justices.

**WCT: There has been a strong resurgence of anti-choice activists in the last few years. Why do you think we're revisiting this issue right now?**

GA: It's because the other side was not satisfied with the *Roe v. Wade* decision, and they are continually battling to undercut it, to undermine it, to eliminate it. As long as they are fighting this battle and are actually being successful in many ways in many states in that battle, we have to continue to protect our rights and to protect the women who depend on those of us who know how to protect rights. That's why we have to organize politically, fight the battle legally, in the court of public opinion and everywhere else.

**WCT: You've also been very active on LGBT issues in addition to women's rights. Where do the two movements intersect for you?**

GA: Well, the answer is persons who are lesbians are women as well. Let that not be forgotten. So, some of them also want to become pregnant and give birth or they want to be able to be sure that they have their reproductive rights or they may need access to birth control to treat other medical conditions that they have. In addition, some of them may be raped and may need to choose have a safe and legal abortion. So, I think they need to have access to information about their bodies as well and to have right to choose what to do about their bodies because we all say that the most important turning point in a woman's life is if she becomes pregnant.

**WCT: In your book, you talk a lot about how you became connected to women's issues and race issues. Did you have an experience that mobilized you towards working on LGBT issues?**

GA: What did? That's a good question. I went in the practice of law in the '70s. Not long thereafter, I somehow met a man named Morris Kight who was, and is, very well known in Southern California. He's passed away now, but he was one of the founders of the big ... gay and lesbian pride parade here in Los Angeles. [He was] behind very early efforts and continued for his entire life to advocate for gay and lesbian rights and transgender and bisexual and so forth.

Anyway, he invited me to his home, which was in Hollywood. It was a small group there.

I remember this was in the '70s. He said to me, "Gloria, you need to do some of these cases for us about discrimination." At that time, he said, "We don't have anybody to do these cases and we need to file lawsuits on these cases. We need you to do that."

And I thought about it, and I said, "Well, I'd be open to at least considering what the problems are." Then, I don't know. I think people started contacting us.

**WCT: I have to ask: What do you think of the whole Chick-fil-A controversy?**

GA: Ah, I really don't have any comment on that. [Laughs] It's not my case so I don't have any comment.

**WCT: Going back to your own work on LGBT issues—**

GA: We were the first ones in California to announce that we would challenge the ban on same-gender marriage, marriage equality in California. Our clients Robin Taylor and Diane Olson were not permitted to marry. We did that on Valentine's Day one year... We have been very very successful with our gay and lesbian civil-rights cases and second time, of course, Prop 8 was upheld. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court upheld Prop 8 the second time, but we argued that at least that the marriages between the same-sex couples that had taken place between the time we had won the first time and the second time should be upheld even if Prop 8 was upheld.

I also would have been very willing and happy to fight the case in federal court. However, lawyers from important organizations in the lesbian and gay community asked myself and all other lawyers who were involved in the California cases not to file in Federal court because they were afraid of what the Supreme Court might do once it reaches the Supreme Court, if it does. So, we agreed not to, but I would have had it not been for that request.

**WCT: As you know, we have now have lawsuits seeking marriage equality in Illinois, and I've heard some lament that these suits are circumventing the legislative process. How do you feel about that argument?**

GA: I believe in fighting for it in the legislature and fighting for it in the courts. If you're being denied rights, fight for it everywhere that you can. This exclusion of a group who has been so persecuted in the past as gays and lesbians have been—first stigmatized, victimized by discriminatory laws and enforcement of those laws, denied their rights, treated as second-class citizens or worse, why should they have to choose only one form to fight for their rights which they should be entitled to? These are human rights.

**WCT: Do you have any advice for the next generation of activists?**

GA: It would be the Mother Jones advice: "Don't agonize, organize."

**See Allred at the Personal PAC luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. at 12 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$150; call 312-422-0005 or visit [www.PersonalPac.org](http://www.PersonalPac.org).**

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# Church Within a Church celebrates 10 years, launches video campaign

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

Anna DeShawn had always had a difficult time reconciling her faith and sexuality.

"Being a Black, queer woman ... most of the time in my life, I don't get the opportunity to combine all of my identities in one space and to feel safe with it," DeShawn said. "Church is not the number one topic of conversation when I'm hanging out with my LGBTQ friends. The church is a pain point for a lot of us.

"I grew up in the church Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and the first thing you think about when it's time to come out is 'am I going to hell?' and condemnation. You lose your faith. I know I did."

However, it's been while working with the Church Within a Church (CWAC) movement—a grassroots, faith-based organization that works to combat racism, heterosexism and transphobia in institutional churches—that she's found a home.

"Being able to be all of myself and to be able to speak to my spirituality and my struggles with my faith, it is one of the safest places I've found to do that," she said.

On Oct. 19-21, during the 10th-anniversary weekend celebration of the CWACM, DeShawn, founder and CEO of E3 Radio, and the organizers of CWAC movement will launch a video legacy project titled "My God is not a Bully!" The project will collect testimony from a cross-generational group over the weekend, answering how they've reconciled their faith with their sexuality. They'll then collaborate with other groups working with youth who would be interested in participating.

One video will be released each day of the month next June to coincide with Pride.

"It is personal experience trying to reconcile this," cathy knight, executive director for the CWAC movement, told Windy City Times. "If the LGBT community could feel more wholeness in reconciling their spirituality and the sexuality I think we would see a much healthier community. The Church Within A Church movement wants LGBTQ youth to know there is another side to the story. We want to share a message that God loves them and that however you define God, in all traditions, God is Love, not a bully."

knight said that internalized homophobia begins in church and at home. She has been

involved with the CWAC movement since its' founding ten years ago in Atlanta. The organization was born from a desire to chance the United Methodist Church's (UMC) discrimination against LGBT people.

Since, the organization has transformed from a movement in resistance to UMC's discriminatory policies into a non-hierarchical, inclusive movement with its own voice, according to knight.

"I think we can taken some significant actions into how you be an inclusive community," she told Windy City Times.

The CWAC movement has ordained four women denied ordination in the UMC, is currently transferring a clergy credential from another denomination, engages in anti-racism work and starts new churches throughout the country.

The 10-year anniversary celebration will begin Friday, Oct. 19, in the evening with a Justice Jam spoken-word performance by author, spoken word artist and performer Phenomenon. Saturday's events include a panel on the intersections of oppression, a workshop by the Chicago-based Transformative Justice Law Project on transgender law and liberation, racial caucusing and a ceremony honoring two recipients of the Gil Caldwell Justice Award. Sunday morning will feature a "Church-Within-A-Church-movement-style worship," according to knight.

E3 Radio is an online radio network that started in 2009. It seeks to produce authentically edgy programming, blending talk and independent music.

DeShawn (a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree) and knight cited Audre Lorde's famous title, *The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*, as a guiding principle that sums up many of CWAC's objectives, as well as the "God is not a Bully!" project's ambitions.

"Inspiration can come from a variety of places. It doesn't have to come from scripture," knight said.

For two years, the three members that compose the full-time staff of CWAC movement have begun their weekly phone meetings with a reading from Audre Lorde.

knight acknowledged that can make many feel uncomfortable, but stresses that liberation and reconciliation are themes that everyone is searching for in their lives.

The CWAC movement will be looking for many LGBTQ organizations to collaborate with on this project, as well as looking for allies to speak to discrimination they've seen in the church and how they rectify it with their own spirituality.

DeShawn and knight are hoping the project will grow into a participatory tool that inspires other youth and adults to make their own videos.

"I love this collaboration. This is who the movement is," knight said. "This is a tangible way where the movement can really live out it's calling to create authentic voices and I'm excited that we have this collaboration with Anna."

**All 10th-anniversary information and registration can be found at the CWAC Movement's website link: [www.cwac.us/celebrating-ten-years-faith-community-justice](http://www.cwac.us/celebrating-ten-years-faith-community-justice).**

## Boris Dittrich talks coming out, global LGBT rights

BY KATE SOSIN

Chicagoans got a chance to talk LGBT rights with the man responsible for the passage of the world's first same-sex marriage bill Oct. 10.

Boris Dittrich, a former Dutch lawmaker and current advocacy director of the Human Rights Watch LGBT program spoke at special breakfast presentation at Center on Halsted.

The openly gay legislator made history in 2001 when the same-sex marriage bill he introduced in the Netherlands became law.

Dittrich discussed what led him into LGBT advocacy in the interview-style chat with Jobi Cates, Midwest and Chicago region director at Human Rights Watch.

It was Harvey Milk who first inspired Dittrich to take up LGBT issues, he said.

In 1975, an 18-year-old Dittrich hitchhiked to San Francisco from Ohio, where he was studying abroad. A group of gay Scandinavian men introduced Dittrich and his girlfriend at the time to a San Francisco gay activist.

"All of the sudden, he turned to me and said, 'You, you are gay,'" Dittrich recalled.

Years later, Dittrich happened upon a documentary about the assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and gay activist Harvey Milk.

"The first image I saw of this documentary was this man that outed me, and that was Harvey Milk," said Dittrich.

Dittrich took it as a sign that he was supposed to advocate for LGBT people.

That work has taken Dittrich from the Netherlands to countries across the globe.

Dittrich discussed efforts to fight Uganda's anti-gay bill, which many have referred to as the "Kill the Gays Bill" because it allowed that homosexuality could be punishable by death.

Dittrich blamed foreign Evangelical activists for supporting the bill, stating that he has seen an influx of anti-gay activists in the country.

Dittrich encouraged LGBT advocates to build coalitions across countries and across political movements to combat such efforts.

"Our message is that LGBT rights are human rights," he said.

Still he said, disparities between countries create challenges for advocates. In Europe, Canada and the U.S., he said, activists want to discuss same-sex marriage and the end of the military's ban on openly gay service members. In other parts of the world, however, activists are still pushing for the decriminalization of homosexuality.

"In most parts of the world, we are talking about physical integrity," he said.

According to Dittrich, countries resist decriminalizing homosexuality because they worry that same-sex marriage will follow, resulting in a continual shrinkage of the population.

Dittrich said LGBT activists need to be reaching out to people who may not be supportive of LGBT rights, in addition to motivation those who are already allies. And when it comes to LGBT equality, he said, activists should not hesitate to ask mom for a little help.

"Straight mothers are the best allies because everybody trusts mothers," he said.

Approximately 40 people attended the morning talk.



Anna DeShawn (left) and cathy knight. Photo by Matthew C. Clark



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## Dignity/Chicago to hold history panel Oct. 21

Dignity/Chicago, an organization for LGBT Catholics, will end its 40th-anniversary year with a history panel where current and past members will share stories about their faith journey and the many changes experienced in church and society.

The event will take place Sunday, Oct. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N Broadway. Dr. Thomas O'Brien, director of DePaul University's Center for Inter-religious Engagement, will moderate the session.

For more information, call 312-458-9438.

# Prairie District has strong champion in Tina Feldstein

BY ROSS FORMAN

Tina Feldstein moved into Chicago's Prairie District in 2004 because she loved the area and, admittedly, had a long-time fascination/obsession with the history of Prairie Avenue.

"My love for Prairie Avenue stems back to the mid 1990s, when I worked for the Chicago Trolley Company as a tour guide and would come down to 18th Street and Prairie Avenue, where the trolley garage [was] located," she said. "I never will forget the first time I laid eyes on Prairie Avenue and discovered the Kimball House and the Glessner House; I was blown away."

Feldstein soon started the Near South Neighborhood Social, a way for neighbors to get to know each other—and the group had four successful events.

Then one day, while talking with neighbors, she learned of a development that had been proposed for the Prairie District, which she said many neighbors deemed inappropriate because it was too tall for the area. It just didn't fit the site that it was proposed for, Feldstein said.

"Then I heard that it had been approved with community support," she said. "I was shocked—because none of us even knew about this. That's when it dawned on me that there was no real representation for this community."

So, in 2006, Feldstein formed the Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance (PDNA), even creating a mission statement.

"After the [PDNA's] first year, it dawned on

me that, even though we had successful efforts to advocate for the community, the neighborhood politics and clashing with developers really wasn't something that a lot of people were really interested in engaging in; certainly, the masses were not interested," Feldstein said.

So, she made a decision to go back to what/how she founded the PDNA—for social get-togethers, where neighbors could get to know one another and have a sense of community.

"It seemed like the neighbors were not interested in addressing political issues, but were very interested in social events, such as a wine and food tasting, or a children's Halloween party, or an Easter egg hunt," Feldstein said.

The PDNA chose to shift, and that's when the PDNA exploded.

At its first-ever Easter egg hunt six years ago, there were about 20 participants. Earlier this year, there were about 1,200 at the annual Easter event, including more than 500 kids.

"Over the years, the PDNA has focused on events, activities and programs that give people the opportunity to come together socially and for purposes that might interest them, such as a heart education program or a safety class with the Guardian Angels," Feldstein said. "Turns out, that's what the residents and neighbors are most interested in.

"We've built a relationship with the residents, based on giving them a sense of belonging, a sense of neighborhood and community. Now that we have earned their trust and loyalty, there definitely is interest in advocacy/import-



Tina Feldstein. Photo by Hal Baim

tant meetings."

Feldstein, originally from Los Angeles, has lived in Chicago since 1992 and truly has lived all around the Windy City—from Lakeview and Lincoln Park to Wicker Park and the Fulton River District.

Feldstein and her partner, Kim, will celebrate 12 years together in November.

"I wanted the PDNA to be big, influential from

the day I created it; I just had to figure out how to get there. And we definitely have a very good start," she said. "I'm very pleased with how well it's done, but it doesn't surprise me. I think the surprises are yet to come."

Now in its sixth year, the PDNA is a volunteer-run organization, but ready for an executive director, she said.

The PDNA's core focus area extends from Roosevelt Road (1200 South) to the Stevenson Expressway (2500 South), and from Lake Shore Drive to Michigan Avenue west. PDNA's broader focus area also expands a bit to the surrounding areas. It's about two miles long by one mile wide, with extensive high-density living. It mostly features town homes and condo living, with rapidly growing retail districts.

"The area is not stereotypically [prominent within the LGBT community], but I think people would be surprised how many LGBT people are living in the South Loop; there are lots," Feldstein said. "The area absolutely is gay-friendly and I think it's the most diversified neighborhood in the city of Chicago. It really is a melting pot, and we all get along; it's wonderful. In other Chicago neighborhoods, you don't see the diversity that you see here. There's a real sense of neighborhood that some people might associate with a suburban community.

"I want to continue to grow the PDNA brand; I want it to grow to become the most respected, known and influential community group in the city."

Feldstein rode the real-estate wave, particularly during 2000-2008. Then, the economy turned south.

"The market shifted and it just seemed like everyone was unhappy. It got to the point where the segment of the market that seemed to be making sense was getting into the short-sale and default properties. And I just didn't really want to do that," Feldstein said. "It was a painful, depressing process; I just found it to be unappealing."

And she lost her passion for the real estate business, despite being a successful realtor.

Feldstein switched careers, moving into senior services and the insurance industry, "and it's been wonderful—I love it," she said.

To learn more, visit [www.pdnachicago.com](http://www.pdnachicago.com).



THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER  
25TH



## Michael Leppen's 60th Birthday Celebration

TO BENEFIT OPERATION BEAR HUG



MINIBAR CHICAGO

3341 N. HALSTED ST. | CHICAGO, IL 60657  
Open bar, appetizers and music provided by Michael Leppen.

In lieu of gifts, please make a **\$60 per person** donation to Bishop Anderson House for ticket.

Please respond by October 18th by phone at 312.563.4823, or online at [bishopandersonhouse.org](http://bishopandersonhouse.org).

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

## Stigma Elimination Festival seeks contributions

The Stigma Elimination Festival is seeking contributions from businesses and organizations in the form of monetary donations, raffle prizes, refreshments or sponsorships for specific areas of the event.

The festival, Nov. 15-17, is in partnership with Haymarket Center, which offers comprehensive alcohol- and drug-treatment programs; the event is a three-day festival utilizing art, music, and entertainment as a way to bridge the gaps that stigma makes.

There are donation levels ranging from "Stimulator" to "Eliminator." Checks (made out to "Haymarket Center—Stigma Elimination") can be mailed to Attn: Jill Wolf, Haymarket Center, 120 N. Sangamon, Chicago, IL 60607. Also, email [Stigma.Elimination@gmail.com](mailto:Stigma.Elimination@gmail.com).

## Shimer College LGBTQ event Oct. 17

Shimer College, 3424 S. State St., will host "The Future of the American Family" with Diana Adams Wed., Oct. 17, 12:50-1:45 p.m.

Adams, an activist and attorney, will discuss her New York law practice serving LGBTQ, polyamorous and non-traditional families, in a time when the structure of the American family is evolving faster than the law.

For more info, email [i.winkler@shimer.edu](mailto:i.winkler@shimer.edu).

## Veterans/ servicemembers health event Oct. 20

Operation: "Do Ask, Do Tell," a conference for LGBT veterans, servicemembers and their families focusing on health needs and resources, is planned for Oct. 20, according to Lorry Luscri of the Hines Veterans Hospital.

The event will be held at the Northeastern Illinois University Student Union, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the conference will continue through 4 p.m. Attendance is free.

Speakers, exhibits and breakout sessions will cover topics including the mental health needs of LGBT veterans and service members, military sexual trauma, suicide prevention, transitioning home from active duty, an overview of the Women's Health program, and transgender health care in the Veterans' hospitals. Other topics include tips for caregivers and families, substance abuse in the LGBT population, veteran burial benefits and veteran health insurance.

The conference is sponsored by Northeastern Illinois University, American Veterans for Equal Rights and the three area VA healthcare facilities; Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

For more information, contact Lorry Luscri, [lorry.luscri@va.gov](mailto:lorry.luscri@va.gov), 708-202-8387 x21228, or Mandi Evanson, [mandi.evanson@va.gov](mailto:mandi.evanson@va.gov), 708-202-7875.

# GAY *in the* LIFE

## Victor Marrufo

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



**Age**  
24

**Job title**  
Make-up artist

**Neighborhood**  
Pilsen

**Hometown**  
Cicero

**Hobbies**  
Boxing, weight training, fashion and style

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Schooling**  
Graduated from Morton East High School in 2007; now a student at Harold Washington College, studying business development

**Little-known fact**  
Has received A's and B's in school ever since first grade

Victor Marrufo has been around the beauty pageant industry for several years—now he's the one wearing the sash.

Marrufo was the director of both the Miss Hispano U.S.A. and the Miss Hispano America Illinois Organization pageants. This summer, he was selected as Mr. Illinois to participate in the inaugural Mr. U.S. Universal Competition next June in Fort Collins, Colo.

"I feel I have the experience to compete," said Marrufo, nominated as Mr. Illinois by event director Victoria Hughes, who was Miss New Mexico Teen USA 1996.

"This competition means a lot to me; it has already really changed my personal life, improved my focus and dedication."

Meaning, Marrufo is rarely seen anymore around the Boystown nightlife. Instead, he's spending hours every week in the gym, focusing on his physical fitness, and adhering to a strict, high-protein diet. He also has been attending charity events for multiple causes, fashion events and other appearances that he is invited to.

The 2013 event is open to gay and straight participants, Marrufo said.

"Although I am very busy these days, I still have time to be a very giving person. I think my gift in life is to make people very happy. That is, for instance, one of the reasons I do makeup—to make women feel happy, to help their self-esteem," Marrufo said.

He also volunteers at facilities that do HIV/AIDS testing and promote safe sex. Plus, in October, Marrufo will spend several days homeless in Chicago for a documentary about the plight of the homeless.

In November and December, Marrufo will be donating food to the needy in his native town of Cicero.

"Growing up, we ate food from the [local] food pantry, so, through a corporate sponsor, I am able to give [away] turkeys and gifts for the kids. I am very happy, very proud to be able to do that," he said.

"A year ago, I was a Victor who was lost. I didn't know what I wanted; I was out of shape, with low self-esteem. Now, I know it's time to wake up and improve myself, my conditions, and my life—and that's exactly what I'm doing."

So, how will you do in the pageant?

"I'm confident. I think I can win it. I'm excited, and happy to participate," Marrufo said.



**Sunday, Oct. 21**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**Sarah Pennypacker**  
**Summer of the Gypsy Moths**

**Saturday, Oct. 27**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Janet Groth**  
**The Receptionist: An**  
**Education at The New Yorker**



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# T *in the* LIFE

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN



Photo by Eric Noeske

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

## Stephanie Dykes

**Pronouns**  
She, her

**Identifies as**  
Woman, transwoman, transsexual woman

**Neighborhood**  
Lombard, Illinois

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Hobbies**  
"I enjoy singing, and I currently sing with my church choir. I have also begun to do musicals with community theater groups. I also enjoy reading, and I have become a real fanatic about walking."

**Career**  
"I am fortunate to be the director of research for a Chicagoland nursing school (though I am not a nurse myself). The school I am with knew I am transgender, yet chose me anyway based on my qualifications."

**What is the best thing about being trans?**  
"Being transgender can really stink. You lose a lot and experience a lot of pain in daring to be yourself. I think people who are transgender learn to be courageous and brave; we really don't have a choice."

### When did you start questioning gender?

"In my 6th grade year, I began praying to God that I would wake up in the morning and be a girl. This was all very puzzling because my favorite toys as a boy were my plastic M-16 and my toy soldiers. Around this time, as I began going through puberty, I realized I was attracted to girls. (I'm still attracted to women). This was a time of great confusion for me."

### Do you consider yourself an activist?

"I believe every out transgender person is an activist, whether they want to be or not. I would say I am an activist in that for many people who I meet, I am the first transgender person they have ever known. In that sense, just by being out about who I am helps fight a lot of the negative stereotypes that exist about my community."

### Whom do you admire most?

"If I had to name a person who has been influential in my life as a transsexual woman, it would have to be Kate Bornstein. Her book, Gender Outlaw, helped me reach a deeper level of self-acceptance. I would say I also admire all of the brave transgender people who came before me who had things much more difficult than I could imagine. They helped pave the way for folks like me."

### In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the trans/gender-variant community?

"I believe the key issue facing the transgender community is employment. We tend to face unemployment in greater proportion to the population in general. Without a job – and I mean a real job with benefits – a person – whether transgender or cisgender – lives at the survival level."

## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 28, No. 2, Oct. 17, 2012

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founded May 1987.PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
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IRENE  
MONROEA month for  
anti-bullying

October is National Anti-Bullying Awareness Month. With one incident of bullying every seven minutes, sadly, bullying is the most frequent form of violence school-aged children encounter.

In the 2011 documentary film *Bully*, film director Lee Hirsch, also the victim of bullying, gives us a window into the lives of five school-aged children—from across ethnic, cultural and geographic boundaries—who confront bullying on a daily basis. Their stories are unimaginably painful.

Their stories are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. The statistics are staggering.

According to *BullyingStatistics.org*, approximately 42 percent of school-aged children have been bullied while online with 35 percent being the victim of threats. Approximately 58 percent of have reported that something mean has been said about them or to them online.

It is estimated that 160,000 children miss school everyday because of the fear of assault or intimidation by other students.

Statistics also reveal 77 percent of students have been the victim of some type of bullying with 46 percent of males and 26 percent of females being the victims of physical fights. Homophobic bullying targets LGBTQ students, or those perceived to be LGBTQ.

Case in point: Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover.

When Sirdeaner L. Walker of Springfield spoke at a press conference in Massachusetts in 2009 calling for effective and comprehensive anti-bullying legislation to be passed in response to the tragic loss of her 11-year-old-son, Carl,

I had hoped I would neither read nor hear ever again about another child or young adult committing suicide as the result of homophobic bullying.

Again, and sadly, it was just the tip. "Bullicide" was on its way to becoming a national epidemic. Just in the month of September 2010, nine teen suicides were tied to sexual orientation or gender expression. This highlighted the disproportionate bullying of our LGBTQ kids (or those perceived to be).

One of the suicides that September was that of 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi. Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after finding out that his college roommate and another classmate used a webcam to secretly broadcast his sexual encounters with another male, highlighting the dangers of "cyberbullying"—teasing, harassing or intimidating with pictures or words distributed online or via text message.

Clementi's suicide, along with the other eight, went viral and they saturated the media. Those of us in the African-American community, however, were not surprised that Joseph Jefferson's suicide, just two months later that November, went unnoticed. Jefferson, a 26-year-old African-American gay youth activist, took his own life; he worked with HIV/AIDS charities and was an assistant to promoters of Black LGBTQ events in NYC.

"I could not bear the burden of living as a gay man of color in a world grown cold and hateful towards those of us who live and love differently than the so-called 'social mainstream,'" Jefferson posted on his Facebook page the day he killed himself.

African-American LGBTQ individuals residing in the Black communities are frequently the subjects of bullying, which often times lead to their death by suicide or gang violence. In 2006, Michael Sandy was killed after being hit by a car while he was trying to escape attackers in Brooklyn on Plumb Beach. Sandy and a man arranged to meet after their exchange in an online gay chat room. When Sandy arrived, he was confronted by four men who robbed him and chased

him onto the highway. Sandy was then hit by an oncoming vehicle and died from brain injuries.

Walker found her son, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, hanging by an extension cord on the second floor of their home after he endured endless anti-gay and homophobic taunts by schoolmates, although Carl never identified as gay.

And with homophobia being what it is in the African-American community, I imagined Carl must have experienced an endless cycle of bullying.

The harm from bullying and the toll it takes—not only on our kids but also the society at large—is far greater than people realize. At the press conference, Walker highlighted those concerns.

"In the immortal words of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, 'It is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education.' Bias, bullying, and harassment currently stand between too many youth and this essential opportunity," she said.

Walker is right. Anti-gay bullying truncates a child's academic ability to excel. And the cost, while immediately about the child, is an equally greater cost to us as a society down the road.

Anti-gay bullying is not to be endured or tolerated. It must be stopped by us all—and at all levels, from our legislators to our educators.

In 2010 Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed a strong anti-bullying legislation cementing the state's commitment to changing the culture of bullying in schools, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) was involved in the drafting and legislative process from beginning to end.

Victims of bullying endure a host of emotional problems. They become anxious and insecure, and they suffer from low self-esteem because the targeting of them has made them feel isolated, helpless, and vulnerable. Those feelings are just merely some of what we can surmise Carl and Tyler experienced.

Countless others, unfortunately, will experience those same feelings during this school year.

## LETTERS

## Get out the vote

To the Editor:

Why should LGBT Roman Catholics should vote in the Nov. 6 presidential election?

What divides the Catholic vote has more to do with "prudential" judgments than Catholic dogma. Catholics of every stripe make such judgments. The Catholic bishops of the United States have repeatedly indicated by statement that they oppose abortion, same-sex marriage and, more generally, a person's right to follow the Church's teaching on the "Primacy of Conscience" when it comes to hot-button social issues.

"There's a profound wrestling going on in the Church right now over what it means to be authentically Catholic," said John Gehring, Catholic program director for Faith in Public Life. "I'm worried that the Church is becoming a less friendly place for moderate and progressive Catholics who believe in the social justice mission."

Writer and former priest Robert McClory said the stance of U.S. bishops on issues such as same-sex marriage and contraception is partly to blame for the continuing exodus of non-immigrant Catholics from the Church: Lapsed Catholics have become the nation's second-largest

religious group, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. The push on sexual morality comes as the Church leadership is still recovering from the child sex-abuse scandal.

"You get the feeling that the Church is a ship and that somebody amongst the crew goes down every week and drills another hole in the bottom of the boat, and eventually it's going to be a very serious situation," said McClory. "People are leaving. They're embarrassed."

I think the recent vice-presidential debate between the two candidates (who both happen to be Catholic) highlighted this. While the only question in the debate that focused on their respective Catholic faith had to do with abortion, both candidates seem to mirror what is happening in the Catholic Church around these issues with their replies.

Ryan seemed to be more comfortable with the bishops' position, while Biden seemed to represent the broader and more inclusive concept of the Church's social-justice issues of lay people in the pew. Clearly, I think, more U.S. Catholics are more comfortable with Biden's policy positions, although leading members of the Catholic hierarchy are clearly more enamored with Ryan's.

Who will speak for the Catholic vote? Will it be the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, or will it be the folks in the pew? The issue of the role of bishops in the Catholic Church has been problematic since Vatican II. That body declared

them as servants and not autocrats—a role the bishops seem incapable of filling.

The bishops believe they are the leaders of the Church and no others have the right to speak for the Church. While many in the pew see Vatican II as the highest teaching authority when it comes to one's own moral compass, it goes without saying that the sex-abuse scandal has done more to destroy the authority of the bishops in the Church than has the issue of secularism.

It is important for LGBT Catholics to vote this November because we have a choice to support marriage equality and a women's right to choose as well as address the issue of poverty in our nation when it comes to issue of national health care.

Clearly, the GOP does not speak to the broad spectrum of Catholic values, like the Democratic Party. Human beings outside the womb—the poor, immigrants and the socially marginalized—all assume a lesser place in GOP politics than do the unborn. Under the GOP's tent there is no room for Cardinal Bernadin's "Seamless Garment of Life" and the common good.

I invite my fellow Catholics to join me and vote for President Obama Nov. 6.

Joe Murray  
Rainbow Sash Network

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Michael Brosilow

## ACTION JACKSON

Bailiwick Chicago is putting on Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson. Read the review on page 16.

## DISH

Annie, get your bun.  
Page 29.

Photo of the Annie O at Jerry's Sandwiches by Meghan Streit



## THEATER

The 'Name' game.  
Page 18.

Photo from One Name Only by Danny Nicholas



## SPORTS

It's a Rapp.  
Page 28.

Photo of Melissa Rapp as Ambi Dextrous from Rapp



## DANCIN' FEATS

## Hubbard Street turns 35

BY VICKI CRAIN

In 1977, dancer/choreographer Lou Conte (who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2009) ran a small dance studio downtown located at LaSalle and Hubbard streets.

He started taking four of his students out to perform shows locally, and the company now known as **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** was born. That same year, Russian-French artist Marc Chagall created a stained glass masterpiece, "America Windows," for the Art Institute of Chicago and dedicated it to then-Mayor Richard J. Daley to celebrate the U.S. bicentennial. Fast forward 35 years and Hubbard Street mimics the grand gesture by creating its first full-length work inspired by Chagall's windows and dedicating the world premiere to our current dance-loving mayor, Rahm Emanuel.

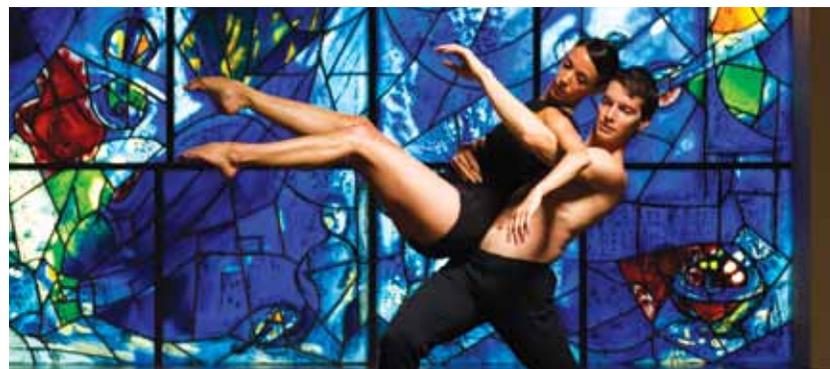
All the creation, dedication and inspiration is a tall order for one man, but Hubbard Street resident choreographer Alejandro Cerrudo (who's held the post since 2009) is up to the challenge. "I'm honored that I'm doing this ... that they trust me with this," he said earlier this summer while on a break from rehearsals. Cerrudo, now recognized internationally as a choreographic talent, just signed on for three more years of creating new works for the company.

This also marks the first-ever full-length work for Hubbard Street. "One Thousand Pieces," premiering at the Harris Theater Oct. 18, runs 75 minutes with a short pause and one intermission. Aiding Cerrudo in his vision are German designer Thomas Mika (sets and costumes) and

Michael Korsch (lighting design), with the music of composer Philip Glass. Normally, finding the right music is difficult for perfectionist Cerrudo, but this time it came easily and quickly. He created his own soundscape with Glass' music. "Many people think that it's about time that someone makes something without Philip Glass, but I'm not going to shy away from him because others have used it," Cerrudo said. "Particularly for this project, the mystery of the music and the magic. ... I think it goes perfect."

He's also using all 24 of the Hubbard Street dancers—the full company, plus HS2, the second company. One of those dancers is Arizona native Garrett Anderson, now starting his second season with the company, who is featured in a series of duets throughout the piece with dancer Ana Lopez, a frequent muse for Cerrudo. Anderson, 30, previously danced with San Francisco Ballet, the Royal Ballet of Flanders in Antwerp, Belgium and a brief stint with the Trey McIntyre Project (coming to the Harris Theater Nov. 30) before landing at Hubbard Street in 2011. "Coming here was a dream for a long time," Anderson said. "Lickety Split [by Cerrudo] was one of the first things that I saw Hubbard Street perform. The dancers were so good and they had an understanding of movement. I don't remember any piece seeing them do that I did not find interesting."

He admits that adapting to Cerrudo's movement style hasn't been easy, but credits his fellow dancers, particularly Lopez, with helping him feel more comfortable in his style. "I have a huge advantage because everyone else is so experienced with him already," he said. "Ana has



Ana Lopez and Garrett Anderson. Photo by Todd Rosenberg

that in-depth knowledge, so she's a great coach for me. She's been wonderful and I'm lucky to be able to dance with that level of intimate knowledge of the work."

Assimilating to Cerrudo's quirky moves aside, the dancers have a respect and confidence in their resident choreographer. They are his biggest fans. "What's unique about his choreography is that it uses a really beautiful line and aesthetic in combination with really unexpected gesture, characterization and humor," Anderson said. "There's that light and dark and playful, with a sense of foreboding as well. I think all of it combines into a beautiful fabric. Therein lies the challenge in understanding it physically, and cerebrally even, but that's also what makes it so unique."

Another of Cerrudo's traits is the element of surprise. Notoriously secretive about his new works, he always offers the audience something it has never seen before. "We haven't seen it," said Anderson. "We've talked about what it's going to be, but I'm just as excited to see it and experience it as someone who is totally in the dark."

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago presents "One Thousand Pieces" at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph Dr., Thursday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 19-20, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$94; call 312-850-9744 or visit [www.hubbardstreetdance.com](http://www.hubbardstreetdance.com).

## Also in October:

**The Joffrey Ballet** presents "Human Landscapes" at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17-20, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 20-21, at 2 p.m., as well as Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 27-28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$31-\$152; call 800-982-2787 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**The Seldoms'** 10th-anniversary season continues with "Exit Disclaimer: Science and Fiction Ahead" at The Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 25-27, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit [www.colum.edu/dancecenter](http://www.colum.edu/dancecenter).

**The Leopold Group** and **Bread and Roses Productions** present "A Correct Likeness" at the Defibrillator Performance Art Gallery, 1136 N. Milwaukee Ave., Saturday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 28, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/264244](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/264244) or call 847-702-5493.

**Giordano Dance Chicago's** fall engagement includes two world premieres at the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 26-27, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).

## DOUBLE REVIEW

## 44 Plays for 44 Presidents

Playwright: Multiple authors

At: The Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.

Tickets: 1-773-275-5255;

www.neofuturists.org; \$20

Runs through: Nov. 10

## Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson

Playwright: Michael Friedman

(music and lyrics), Alex Timber (book)

At: Bailiwick Chicago at National

Pastime Theater, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

Tickets: www.bailiwickchicago.com; \$25-\$30

Runs through: Nov. 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Even at theater, you can't get away from presidential politics. Two shows about the presidency are running plus a third about presidential assassins. We'll save the shooters for a week or so and focus today on plays Presidential.

Both 44 Plays for 44 Presidents and Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson (BBAJ) are vaudeville entertainment of sorts, with BBAJ billing itself as such although 44 Plays is closer to the mark. First staged in 2002 (only 43 Plays then), the Neo-Futurist potpourri offers a song, skit or comedy routine about each White House occu-

pant. It's a variety show of two-to-four-minute acts, most of which are comic and a few of which supply pointed commentary.

Being broad and shallow, the 44 impressions are hit-or-miss. Martin Van Buren (8th president) receives no credit for creating the modern party-nominating convention. Grover Cleveland (22nd and 24th) isn't acknowledged as a reformer who created the Civil Service to defang political hiring. Richard Nixon's legitimate domestic achievements are credited (such as starting the EPA), but Vietnam and Watergate are ignored.

Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama pointedly ask for help from Congress and don't get any.

There's a joyful six-person cast under director Halena Kays and a great little band under musical director Mike Przygoda. It's a good-time show with just enough bite to it, especially if you can remember presidents before the first George Bush (as most youthful Neo-Futurist audiences cannot). The cast includes Neo-Futurist ensemble member Joe Dempsey, long one of Chicago's most skillful comic actors, who is first among equals in 44 Plays.

The 100-minute long Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson focuses entirely on president #7, the first anti-establishment and populist chief executive from what was then our western frontier, Tennessee. Jackson himself was an establishment figure by the time he became president after a long military and political career, but he successfully positioned himself as a Washington outsider (sound familiar?) opposed to the Virginia-Massachusetts oligarchy of the Founding Fathers.

BBAJ calls itself a vaudeville because it tells Jackson's story through a loose structure of songs (mostly not-very-distinguished punk rock), sketch-like scenes and narrative devices that give Jackson the aura of a disaffected youth who becomes a rock star. Indeed, with a sexual scandal about his wife (a divorced woman but still married when he wooed her), his military dash and his "we the people" political phi-

losophy, Jackson absolutely was a charismatic figure.

But BBAJ is crude storytelling, both vulgar and intentionally offensive. Frontiersman Jackson is seen as the only heterosexual male while other political figures are portrayed in gay stereotypes, among them Martin Van Buren (a Jackson ally), John Quincy Adams (whom Jackson defeated for re-election) and James Monroe (the fifth president).

Ultimately, BBAJ focuses on Jackson as the architect of Native American destruction in order to facilitate white westward expansion (so-called "manifest destiny"). Today Jackson's genocidal policy (as some view it) competes with Jacksonian democracy as his principal legacy. The Neo-Futurist's skit focuses on the same issue, and I learned as much about Andy in four minutes of 44 Plays as in 100 minutes of BBAJ.

The agile 15-person cast isn't at fault, performing the always-clever staging of Scott Ferguson and headlined by youthful veteran Matt Holzfeind as Jackson (with the charisma to pull it off). However, the authors intentionally dumb down what they know about Jackson, which always is an insult to the audience. They also offer rather heavy-handed contemporary parallels with regard to immigration policy (Jackson was anti-immigrant) and Washington insiders. Ferguson and company makes a good show and certainly have fun with the material, but there's less here than meets the eye.



44 Plays for 44 Presidents. Photo by Maggie Fullilove-Nugent

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## Prop 8 play at GSU Oct. 25-26

The play 8—which chronicles the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8—is coming to University Park's Governors State University (GSU) for two performances in Sherman Hall, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25, and Friday, Oct. 26.

The play, written by Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, is a production of the Southland Area Theater Ensemble (SLATE). The play is being presented with license from the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER), of which Black is a founding board member, and Broadway Impact.

Admission to 8 is free with reservations. Visit www.centertickets.net or call 708-235-2222.

## Finalists in gay screenplay contest

Five finalists have been named in Pride Films and Plays' Great Gay Screenplay Contest.

The finalists include Visalia by Dennis Nivens, A Friend of Dorothy's by Jim Piazza,

Barrio Boy by Dennis Shinnars, Snowmen by Ethan Steers, and Father Frances by Thomas Ziegler.

Members of the Artistic Ensemble of Pride Films and Plays will perform these five screenplays as enhanced staged readings (with movement and design elements) by during Gay Film Weekend, Oct. 18-21, at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Tickets are \$10-\$45. Tickets for individual events can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com or 800-838-3006. Weekend passes can be bought at 773-250-3112 or www.pridefilmsandplays.com.

## 'Burn This' Oct. 18-Nov. 18

Shattered Globe Theatre will launch its 2012-13 season with Lanford Wilson's Burn This Oct. 18-Nov. 18 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Set in a loft in Manhattan, Burn This explores four violently opposing characters attempting to regain control over their lives.

Tickets for previews (Oct. 18-19) are \$18; regular-run admission is \$27-\$32; see www.ShatteredGlobe.org or call 773-795-8150.



Agnes of God. Image by Peter Coombs Photography

THEATER REVIEW

The Catholic Repertory: Doubt/ Agnes of God

Written by John Patrick Shanley/  
Written by John Pielmeier  
At: American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St.  
Tickets: 773-409-4125  
www.atcweb.org; \$38 (Wed., Thu., Sat. & Sun. matinees), \$43 (Fri./Sat. evenings)  
—shows ticketed separately  
Runs through: Nov. 4

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

They appeared on Broadway more than 20 years apart, but after you see Doubt and Agnes of God presented together as The Catholic Repertory by the American Theater Company (ATC), you might start to wonder if they weren't destined for each other in some strangely cosmic way.

Aside from the habits and other obvious Catholic trimmings, both plays involve three central characters brought into conflict over the most taboo and egregious of secrets imaginable, matters so disturbing and troubling that they shake each of them to both their moral and mortal cores.

In Doubt, a Catholic school principal suspects a priest of foul play with an altar boy. In Agnes of God, a psychiatrist searches for the truth from a young nun accused of giving birth and killing the child. Both plays are far from steeped in religious discourse; rather the Catholic context serves to amplify the severity of these crimes.

These are intimate stories with far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the walls of the Church, and the cast of Kate Skinner, Lance Baker, Penelope Walker and ATC ensemble member Sadieh Rifai capture this powerful range of big ideas and deeply personal issues under the direction of ATC Artistic Director PJ Paparelli.

There are moments in both plays when the unusually wide space at ATC feels intimate and times when it feels cavernous. It's as though Paparelli keeps giving the audience a microscope and then takes it away, over and over again. On occasion it's the nuance of the fine performances that steal our attention and at others the weight of ideas present in these fine plays.

The three leading ladies populate both works, with the most intriguing juxtapositions coming in the form of Skinner who plays Sister Aloysius in Doubt and Mother Miriam Ruth in Agnes of God and Rifai who plays Sister Agnes and Sister James. Aloysius and Miriam Ruth are cold and steadfast in their diametrically opposed beliefs, whereas Agnes and James represent two extremely different notions of naivety. The overlap thematically is simply uncanny.

Individually, each play could start the same discussion, fascinatingly enough, but it's the ways the two works speak to each other makes for the most stimulating conversation. Doubt remains the better of the two from a writing standpoint, but Agnes of God is far more dramatic and grabbing.

ATC makes both worthwhile. What seems as though it would be a dour double dose of a faith-based theater proves to be anything but constricted and preachy.

SPOTLIGHT



Kurt Jooss' influential 1932 anti-war ballet The Green Table is one of the centerpieces of **Human Landscapes**, the Joffrey Ballet's fall repertory program that also includes a revival of James Kudelka's acclaimed 2010 work "Pretty BALLETT" and a revival of Jiri Kylian's rarely seen 1981 work Forgotten Land set to a music by gay composer Benjamin Britten. The Joffrey Ballet's fall repertory program Human Landscapes runs 10 performances from Wed., Oct. 17, through Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17, 19, 25 and 26; at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 10 and 27; and at 2 p.m. Oct. 21 and 28. Tickets are \$31-\$152; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.joffrey.org. Photo by Sean Williams

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photo: Bill Buntingham; Georges Sural, French, 1859-1891. A Sunday on La Grande Jatte—1884. Oil on canvas, 81 3/4 x 338 1/4 in. (207.5 x 338.1 cm). Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection, 1936.224. The Art Institute of Chicago



One Name Only. Photo by Danny Nicholas

## THEATER REVIEW

### One Name Only

Playwright: Rueben Echoles

At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-769-4451;

www.blackensembletheater.org; \$55-\$65

Runs through: Nov. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The PG-rated sister of the bunker drama is the sorority house play—typically centered around a group of girls endowed with diverse temperaments (but uniform ambition) who undergo an array of personal crises/learning moments before finishing wiser and sometimes happier. The roots of Rueben Echoles' musical pageant in such female-driven classics as Stage Door and Women In White render its premise immediately recognizable, even to theatergoers unfamiliar with the currently popular manifestations of this dynamic: the televised contest and the so-called "reality" show.

The "One Name Only" competition giving Rueben Echoles' musical pageant its title borrows chiefly from America's Got Talent—whose squabbling judges, oily emcee and snapshot backstage interviews it invokes satirically, while the device of having the final contestants live communally in a mansion belonging to the recording company providing the prizes—is a nod to such faux docusoaps as Big Brother. The various levels of the sing-off under scrutiny incorporate assigned selections from the superstar repertoire—Aretha

Franklin, Gladys Knight, Beyonce Knowles, Adele, the late Whitney Houston and others—guaranteeing a roster of pop anthems to stir the blood and pull forth the hankies.

Echoles has assembled a squad of fresh-on-the-scene belters and warblers to portray the contestants—cool cutthroat divas, scrappy ghetto mamas and sweet homebodies displaying the appropriate nervousness at first in order to highlight their growing confidence later, augmented by a few BET veterans playing much-missed kinfolk and "guest celebrities" (notably, Rashawn Thompson as an emcee no smarmier than his role requires). Robert Reddick's orchestra generates, almost literally, wall-to-wall melody that keeps our emotional intensity on the brink of fulmination, even without the television-studio cue cards exhorting spectators to enthusiastic expression of their endorsements—or disapproval, as the case may be.

Plot complications, such as they are, revolve around the usual gynocentric backstories—husbands, children, parents, power games and schoolgirl crushes—but you don't need a plot when you have Dawn Bless channeling Patti LaBelle (garbed in a cocktail dress that makes you wish that costume designer Ruthanne Swanson had a retail shop) bringing the audience to its feet barely halfway into her transcendent rendition of the Hollywood classic "Over The Rainbow." By the final full-cast chorus, your only unfulfilled desire is for a house big enough to invite the entire company (or at least the brass section) over after the show.

ets are \$20; visit [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com) or call 773-381-4551.

### 'True Blood' star directing local play

Nelsan Ellis—best known for playing the gay character Lafayette on the HBO series True Blood—is directing Hoodoo Love.

Ellis is helming Katori Hall's Hoodoo Love at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave.; the regular run ends Oct. 21.

Tickets are \$20-\$32; visit [www.athenaeumtheater.org](http://www.athenaeumtheater.org).

### '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 Saturday, Oct. 20, Friday, Oct. 26 and Wed. Oct. 31, at midnight; and Sunday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. Tick-

## CRITICS' PICKS

**33 Variations**, TimeLine at Stage 773, through Oct. 21. Beethoven, a musical researcher and a concert pianist join forces for a theatrical look at two people at their creative peaks who are dying. They have relationship issues, too, and the pianist plays Beethoven's variations live. JA

**Good People**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Nov. 11. K. Todd Freeman directs an engrossing production of David Lindsay-Abaire's masterful examination of the growing class divide in modern-day America. SCM

**The Iron Stag King**, House Theatre of Chicago at the Chopin, through Oct. 21. Knights, wizards, pirates, Founding Fathers, Native-American tricksters, witches, eagles, snakes, dragons and coyotes—and this is just part one! It's from the folks who brought you San Valentino and the Melancholy Kid back in 2004. MSB

**Xanadu**, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Oct. 28. Thank out playwright Douglas Carter Beane for creating a comically campy new script for this hit 2007 Broadway jukebox musical that lovingly savages the bizarre original 1980 film involving muses and a roller disco. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

Playwright: Jennifer Haley

At: Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway

Tickets: 773-528-9696;

www.strawdog.org; \$28

Runs through: Nov. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's a video game, you see—an interactive amusement conducted via computers connected on-line to render it a team sport, even when the participants, who often assume alternative identities, are miles apart physically. The particular game titled "Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom" is constructed around a scenario involving a quiet American community terrorized by Hollywood-style zombies—hideous reanimated corpses who roam the night seeking to devour innocent mortals. The kicker is that the game board can be customized to look like *your* surroundings, right down to the floor plans of homes and names of the residents dwelling therein.

Theatergoers who have never played video games (like me) might recall The Twilight Zone and other classic TV series featuring morality fables disguised as science fiction, though the literary form dates back centuries, to a time when the metaphorical boundaries between myth and reality were far less circumscribed. Jennifer Haley's smart critique of affluent suburban parenting skills may employ high-tech tools in making its case, but any intergenerational culture shock generated thereby swiftly dissipates to locate audiences of all ages in a dramatic environment immediately recognizable from a legacy of caveats on letting our imaginations run away with us.

What distinguishes Haley's thematic approach from that of its slash-and-giggle associates is that never do we see actors staggering stiff-legged while swaddled in cadaver drag, nor do we hear choruses of shrieks and

groans. In the universe of virtual battles waged with crayon-hued weapons, death is silent and bloodless—not unlike the abuse endured by spiritually neglected adolescents dwelling in widely-scattered McMansions under the supervision of authority figures oblivious to the malaise bred of isolation and a steady diet of martial fantasy. By the time a lone matron discovers the key to stopping the slaughter, however, it's too late.

A mere four actors representing an entire subdivision's worth of families is no easy task, especially when required to swap personae at the speed demanded by the 70-minute running time (although Haley is savvy enough to have them frequently address each other by name), but director Joanie Schultz reins in her cast well short of camp caricature, instead allowing the paranoia to arise from the very banality of what passes for filial conversation within this social stratum. Gamers in attendance may snicker at the inside jokes but Rod Serling, wherever he may be, would certainly approve the lesson we take away with us.



Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom. Photo by Chris Ocken

THEATER REVIEW

# Black n Blue Boys/ Broken Men

By: Dael Orlandersmith

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

www.goodmantheatre.org; \$12-\$42

Runs through: Oct. 28

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are quite a few disturbing stories that Dael Orlandersmith shares in *Black n Blue Boys/Broken Men*, her one-woman show where she portrays different men and boys who talk about the physical, emotional or sexual abuse they either suffered, observed or perpetrated in life.

Although many of these tales told by Orlandersmith are undoubtedly shocking, they also have the power to jolt audiences to rethink their assumptions about rigid male gender norms and notions of who can and cannot be an abuse victim.

Created as a co-commission with Berkeley Repertory Theatre in California, Orlandersmith

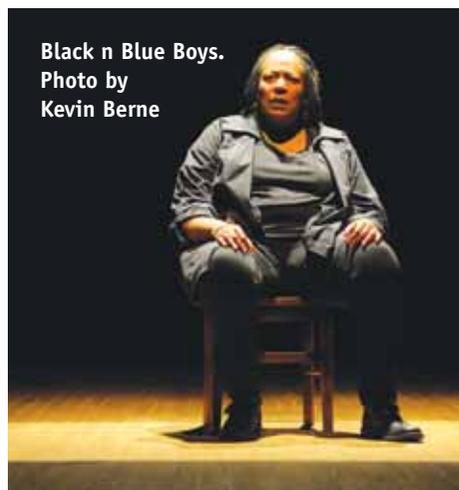
draws from her experience years ago as a social worker in a house for runaway kids. As Orlandersmith points out in her stories, boys can be molested and abused by women—drawing even more societal stigma since they're not able to defend themselves or are accused of lying. Shifting between ages, races and even nationalities, Orlandersmith creates vivid portrayals of grown men who still bear emotional or behavioral scars from their childhood abuse and young men who are still struggling with their parents' neglect. At first each character is announced by a projected name, but you're soon able to decipher who is who—whether it's the self-destructive Irish-British man Ian or the defensive Puerto Rican-American youth who goes by the name of "Flaco."

One might question Orlandersmith's decision to include a child molester in the mix, as if to provide balance or a viewpoint from the other sides. Yet the inclusion does match up with the overall stories of people polite society would rather sweep under the rug instead of listening to what they have to say.

Director Chay Yew stages *Black n Blue Boys* sharp and incisive simplicity. Set on a largely bare stage (with some rough edges) designed by Daniel Ostling, Yew and lighting designer Ben Stanton keep things deliberately dark so that the dim pools of light center concentration on Orlandersmith as she sheds some illumination her male characters' difficult lives.

Yew and Orlandersmith are greatly aided in their storytelling efforts by sound designer Mikhail Fiksel, who accentuates the drama with telling music cues or ambient noise that often increases along with the recounted tension and horror.

The difficult subject matter of *Black n Blue Boys* no doubt might scare away some theatergoers. But those who brave *Black n Blue Boys* are in for a richly written and expertly performed piece that should hopefully change perceptions and assumptions on the emotional and physical bruising faced by many boys and men.



Black n Blue Boys.  
Photo by  
Kevin Berne

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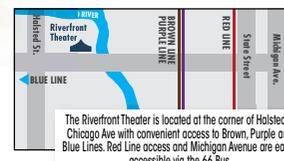
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RIVERFRONT THEATER

## NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

# Harvey Fierstein on 'Kinky Boots and 'unconscious' people



BY JERRY NUNN

Actor, and playwright Harvey Fierstein was openly gay and fighting for LGBT rights early in the game. Torch Song Trilogy brought Fierstein success on Broadway, winning him two Tony Awards before it was made into a feature film that garnered him an Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead. He has a strong track record, writing *La Cage aux Folles*, which won him another Tony, for Best Book of a Musical.

His roles in movies like *Mrs. Doubtfire* and appearances on TV shows such as *The Simpsons*, *Nurse Jackie* and *How I Met Your Mother* have left lasting impressions with viewers over the years.

Recently, he has continued to write more heartfelt dialogue for such shows as *A Catered Affair*, *Newsies* and, now, *Kinky Boots*.

Windy City Times talked to the man behind the musical right before *Kinky Boots* officially opened in Chicago.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Harvey. I heard you were at the show last night.

Harvey Fierstein: Yes, I am at the show most nights.

**WCT:** How did you become involved in *Kinky Boots* in the first place?

HF: That's not much of a story. Jerry Mitchell called me. I liked the movie.

**WCT:** How much from the movie went into the musical?

HF: It is a true story. I don't know the actual people but I have read a couple of articles about them. It's about people who are alive, so you try to not put words in their mouths. I wanted to be fair to everyone. You have a little bit of responsibility there, which is different than a fictional story. I tried to be respectful as I could about changing certain things that I didn't believe.

**WCT:** For example?

HF: You know, like, in the movie Charlie's girlfriend fucks around behind his back; I thought that was unnecessary. That was more "Hollywood movie," using that term loosely. In relationships there is usually something else going on when somebody cheats.

**WCT:** I noticed some updating with the show.

HF: We didn't really put a time period on it. I tried to keep any political or social references out because you like to think the show will be around forever. I didn't think there was any updating from the movie and, clothes-wise, it seemed pretty general as well.

**WCT:** I was thinking about the cell phones and laptops.

HF: Well, I don't think we are going backwards. Cell phones in Europe were bigger there much earlier than us. We didn't even have plasma television until 10 years after Europe already had them.

Everyone in America thinks we get everything first!

**WCT:** The audience was very into the show last night, with all of your one-liners really cracking them up.

HF: What is wonderful about the show is that the audience gets invested in it in a really beautiful way. They get to know these people and they are slowly let into their lives. It's not a typical Broadway show with a lot of kicking when the show starts! The audience gets slowly invested in the relationship between Charlie and Lola. With Lola's journey there were a lot of people around me crying with bittersweet and happiness. Obviously, nothing terrible happens in the show but people were invested. When Lola was in the nursing home and said, "My name is Simon," people went crazy up in the balcony.

**WCT:** I heard that!

HF: That is the kind of stuff you want. When you hear the audience all laugh together, that is a lovely thing. When it hits a chord and people make their own statement it is really wonderful.

**WCT:** Was Lola your favorite character to write for?

HF: No, she was easy because I sort of know that journey. She is so damaged. Someone that looks so tough and has it all going on, someone that you could throw against a brick wall and it won't make a dent, but that is all on the outside. She so hurt and scared on the inside. That is really fun to write for.

Out in the world Charlie is what you would run into most. These are people who would like to be happy and have no fucking clue how. They are people who you admire that are excited by life and don't know how to find their passion. Sometimes we go through that several times in our life, reinventing ourselves.

Like I said in the movie, they use the girlfriend cheating on him to motivate him but I felt that was wrong. That certainly wasn't the moment that I wanted. I wanted someone who gets thrown against the wall and at that moment find his passion, going from being forced to do something to wanting to do something. It is kind of wonderful to feel the audience feel that when he sings "Soul of a Man."

**WCT:** I love that song. Is writing a show like this cathartic for you, personally?

HF: It is always cathartic; that is why you write. [If] you don't have to write if there is nothing you want to say, then why bother? I don't write newspaper articles or greeting cards. I write communication that has to be emotional, intellectual; at the core it has to reach an audience's mind or heart.

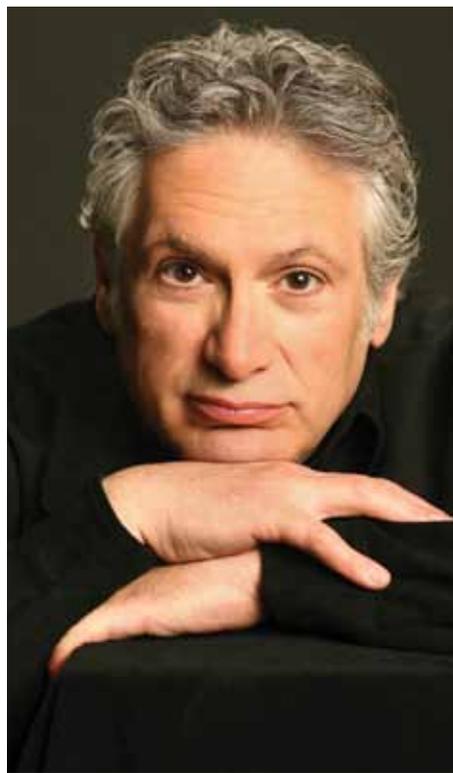
**WCT:** How long did the process take you to write the *Kinky Boots*?

HF: There is no way to answer that question. It has more to do with scheduling, and there are over 200 people involved with the show.

**WCT:** Well, you have been busy. *Newsies* is still doing very well.

HF: Yes, *Newsies* is a big hit on Broadway. I just went to see it last Sunday. I got to write a family show, which I had never tried before. I know young people will go into the theater and have their lives changed. Just the act of going into the theater, if I give them a good time, can turn them into theater queens, you know? Maybe it will make them like me, going into the theater as a kid. That is a boys' show; [it] is so rare to write a boys' show. Girls come screaming for the boys, though!

That show is much more political. That show is



Harvey Fierstein.

about banding together. That one has messages on changing the world that way. *Kinky Boots* is about changing your mind and [changing] the world.

**WCT:** I went and saw your show *A Catered Affair* when it was in town.

HF: Was that by Porchlight?

**WCT:** Yes, it was.

HF: They sent me stuff about it, and I heard it was a lovely production.

**WCT:** It was, and I imagine the mother was an important character for you to write. These women were such the backbones of the families at that time.

HF: Yes, there is that. It was my little tribute to Paddy Chayefsky, of course; when I spoke with Gore Vidal he said it was all him! [Laughs]



Tim Kazurinsky.

## Kazurinsky, Wendt in 'The Odd Couple'

Saturday Night Live alum Tim Kazurinsky and George Wendt (best known as Norm on the TV classic *Cheers*) will headline *The Odd Couple*. The comedy will play at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Nov. 2-Dec. 9.

Kazurinsky was recently in Chicago filming the gay-themed holiday movie *Scrooge & Marley*. Wendt returns to Northlight, where he appeared in the world premiere of *Rounding Third* in 2002.

What attracted me to it was the idea of Sophie's Choice of what was more important: the future or the present.

But what I really wanted to write about was people unconscious in their own lives. You had the mother who was madly in love with her husband and sleeping in the same bed with someone 30 years and thinking he didn't love her. We can be that unconscious in our lives and we can be so busy in our thinking that we never open our eyes to see what is going on. I love that.

I used the uncle as a metaphor for how gay people used to live. We slept on our family's couches and had no lives of our own. We didn't think we deserved it. We lived on the fringe of heterosexual society. We never really belonged anywhere. You see what is awakened in that man. It was the 1950s so you know he isn't going too far. It was time for him to get off his sister's couch and get his own couch.

I was heavily criticized for that. Critics said it was a post-Stonewall message. To me, it was a human message. It may have not taken effect until later on, but people have been fighting for gay rights through the centuries in their own way. I wanted that moment as to when somebody realizes they have a right to have a life.

**WCT:** Your work has meant a lot to me, [with me] being gay.

HF: You are gay? I didn't know that.

**WCT:** [Laughs] Yes, that mother-and-son scene in *Torch Song Trilogy* meant a lot to me.

HF: That is, of course, wonderful. You never know how you touch people and you can only hope to be as honest as you can be. Like I said, you have to represent the characters and make sure they tell the truth. Why do we love stand-up comedians? We love the way they cut through to something so true that you have to laugh.

With the audience last night, everyone was having their individual reactions to the show. To me, that is really entertaining!

**Kinky Boots the Musical officially opens Wed., Oct. 17, at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St., with previews currently running. Visit [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com) for tickets today before *Boots* heads to New York and *The Great White Way*!**

Tickets are \$25-\$72; see [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org) or call 847-673-6300.

## 'Sister Act' Nov. 13-Dec. 2

Broadway In Chicago has announced that single tickets for *Sister Act* are on sale. *Sister Act* will play the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Nov. 13-Dec. 2.

Featuring original music by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken, *Sister Act* tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a singer whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look—a convent.

Tickets are \$28-\$103, and are available at all Broadway In Chicago box offices, the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place, [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) and [Broadway-InChicago.com](http://Broadway-InChicago.com).

## '42nd Street' in Ind.

Theatre at the Center is presenting *42nd Street*—the winner of the 1980 Tony Award for Best New Musical and the 2001 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical—through Oct. 21 at 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, Ind.

Performances are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.; and select Thursday evening and Saturday matinees. Individual ticket prices are \$38-\$42; call the box office at 219-836-3255 or [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com) at 800-511-1552.

TELEVISION

# 'In the Life' leaving media landscape

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

In December, after 20 years on television, In the Life Media will air the last episode of its pioneering LGBT-focused show In the Life.

Premiering in 1992 on six public television stations, In the Life entered a media landscape with little to no portrayals of LGBT individuals. Melissa Etheridge had yet to come out; Roseanne had yet to air its controversial lesbian kiss episode, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell;" Pedro Zamora had not yet appeared on The Real World; and it would still be five years before Ellen DeGeneres would come out.

"Just the idea of putting LGBT people on TV

was radical," explained Ellen Carton, In the Life Media interim executive director.

Carton said that LGBT individuals were practically invisible when the show was being developed. If an LGBT character or real-life person was shown, it was typically as a spectacle or during sweeps week.

In the Life was a way to begin to bring real-life LGBT people and their families into living rooms across the country through in-depth portrayals, with the people behind the show hoping the exposure would serve as a catalyst for change.

Today, In the Life airs on 76 public TV stations. It has shared the lives and stories of many dif-

ferent types of LGBT people, and has tackled numerous issues, including HIV/AIDS, bullying and trans-related issues. Carton said it was also the first to expose the high rates of homelessness among LGBT youth to a mainstream audience.

It is a two time Emmy Awards nominee, was a 25th Annual Webby Award nominee, is the recipient of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Ribbon of Hope Award, of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association's 2011 Excellence in HIV/AIDS Courage Award, among other awards and nominations.

In addition, the show has saved at least one life, probably more.

Carton shared the following email from Dan

Karslake, former In the Life producer, "The day after my first In the Life piece aired, I got an email from a gay kid in Iowa. I don't know how old he was, but I had the sense that he was a teenager. And it was five lines long. He said, 'Last week, I bought the gun. Yesterday, I wrote the note. Last night, I happened to see In the Life on PBS, and just knowing that someday I could go back into a church with my head held high, I threw the gun into the river. My mom never has to know.'"

As the show prepares to say goodbye, Carton mentioned that this year's fall prime-time television line-up includes several shows with LGBT characters, and is being tagged as "gay is the new normal."

GLAAD's 2012-2013 "Where We Are on TV" report proves Carton right. The report came out earlier this month and notes that this year is set to have the highest representation of LGBT characters on primetime television. In 2011-2012, LGBT characters made up only 2.9 percent of regularly featured characters on the five broadcast stations; this year that number has climbed to 4.4 percent.

Still, there is room for improvement, Carton noted. She points to the disproportionate portrayal of gay white men and the overwhelming focus on gay marriage over other LGBT-related issues, which she said go mostly ignored.

There is no doubt that In the Life will leave a hole in the media landscape. However, the show will not entirely disappear. Instead, In the Life Media plans to create a media hub where thousands of hours of footage from the show will be available and people will be able to add and share their own stories. Carton said the site would be an open source, interactive resource for the LGBT community.

The final In the Life episode is still being developed, but Carton said it will be a retrospective and will feature comedian Kate Clinton, who also appeared on the very first episode of the show.



In the Life. Still from In the Life Media

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## NUNN ON ONE: PERFORMANCE

# Kinsey Sicks' Irwin Keller on Lady Gaga, playing a lesbian

BY JERRY NUNN

America's favorite dragapella group, Kinsey Sicks, is hitting the road with a stop in Chicago this October. This time it's part of a campaign trail called "Electile Dysfunction."

Kinsey Sicks was originally formed at a Bette Midler show in San Francisco when the members were the only ones to show up in drag. Their name played off the Kinsey scale. They sang at a birthday party afterwards, forming a strong bond that has lasted for almost 20 years.

The group's Irwin Keller—also known as Winnie—started off as a lawyer and even helped pass Chicago's gay-rights ordinance in his early years. He returns to his roots for a very special show at Mayne Stage.

**Windy City Times:** Hello, Irwin. When did

enough to figure out that singing was possible, fun and really, really portable. Back then I was a lawyer. I directed San Francisco's AIDS Legal Referral Panel until the Kinsey Sicks went full time in 2001.

**WCT:** Can you go over the history of Kinsey for people that aren't familiar?

Keller: A little gang of us went to see a Bette Midler concert and thought, "Wouldn't it be fun to go as the Andrews Sisters?"—you know, as an homage to "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." We were a bit of a spectacle. A promoter approached us, presuming, I guess, that if you dress like the Andrews Sisters you must be able to sing like the Andrews Sisters. She offered us a gig at a USO-themed event she was planning. Until that moment, it had never dawned on the four of us to sing together, although all of us had musi-

Kinsey Sicks in Electile Dysfunction.  
Photo by Erez Ben



**you first start singing and what were you doing before the group formed?**

Irwin Keller: The Kinsey Sicks formed in San Francisco 19 years ago. I came from a musical family: My dad was a bandleader in Chicago; his mother played piano for the silent movies; my sister is a professional bass player; and I grew up playing clarinet and piano.

But I didn't start singing until I was in my 30s. I was in a couple operas in Sacramento and Berkeley—just singing in the chorus, but

cal backgrounds. It was a night that will live in infamy. In fact, it lives there already.

**WCT:** Describe a live performance. Everything is a cappella?

Keller: A Kinsey Sicks performance is full of politics, raunch, highbrow, lowbrow, clever jokes, terrible jokes—all delivered in four-part harmony by four self-absorbed but deeply lovable characters. And yes, it is all a cappella, although people often forget that as they get wrapped up in the show.



Irwin Keller.

**WCT:** Is there a Q&A at the end?

Keller: We love doing Q&A, and often do when we perform in college settings, but not as often at theaters. At Mayne Stage we will be out chatting in the lobby after the show, but we will flatly refuse to answer any of your questions.

**WCT:** What is your character, Winnie, like?

Keller: I confess she's an exaggerated—or, I hope, exaggerated—version of me. She's frumpy, awkward, a little controlling and a bit of a know-it-all. She's also the lesbian in the group. When I began creating this character, it was important to me to leave the faux "girly" stuff behind—it would have been as artificial for me as it is for many or most women. I didn't want her to be a caricature. So how she holds herself, how she speaks, is an outgrowth of who she is, rather than an imitation of some stereotype of women.

**WCT:** Have you been in the group since the beginning?

Keller: Oy, yes.

**WCT:** What has been your favorite place to travel to so far on tour?

Keller: We've played at lots of great venues we've played at. We did an Off-Broadway show at Studio 54 in New York, which was very exciting. We always love doing the Montreal Comedy Festival. We've performed in 41 states, Canada, Mexico and Europe. There are lots of cities where we make regular visits. But I think it's the small towns and conservative environments that are the most memorable experiences: South Carolina, Alabama, Utah, Idaho...

**WCT:** Is Kinsey still doing Lady Gaga parodies? Maybe something about vomiting...

Keller: Many of our songs make one want to vomit, so you won't be disappointed, Jerry. But no, we did our one Lady Gaga parody, and we're probably shoving the stopper in right there.

**WCT:** This show will be tackling politics?

Keller: Tackling, dropkicking and possibly fumbling. This show, "Electile Dysfunction: The Kinsey Sicks for President," is a last gasp rally

for our campaign to be the first corporation to serve as President of the United States and Leader of the Free World. We present our carelessly thought-out views on immigration, economics, education, scandal and legitimate rape, all in delightful four-part harmony.

**WCT:** Are you updating the song "I Wanna Be a Republican?"

Keller: Funny you should ask—no.

**WCT:** There is election merchandise on the website?

Keller: Why, yes, thank you for mentioning that. In fact, it's not too late to order your Kinsey Sicks Election Super-Pack: Two patriotic CDs and a DVD discounted by a very American 17.76 percent, in honor of the wealthy white male landowners in your life. Just go to [www.kinseysicks.com](http://www.kinseysicks.com).

**WCT:** You are returning to your Chicago roots. I heard you were very involved with gay rights locally in the past. Can you talk about that?

Keller: Well, news sure travels slowly. It's been a long time since those days! But yes, I was a pretty busy Chicago activist in the 1980s. Did anti-discrimination work at University of Chicago. Did AIDS activism—even had a guerrilla clinic operating in my Hyde Park apartment. I was primary author of Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance (still the law last time I checked).

I was also among those targeted for harassment and death threats by a group calling itself the Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist. Turned out to be a couple University of Chicago students terrorizing people; they were ultimately suspended for two years. Anyway, I moved to San Francisco to take a break from the battle, and got stuck. Anyway, now I do most of my activism in song (and pumps).

**WCT:** I read about your mother in the Moms book, which is about mothers of LGBT children. Sounds like she has had quite a journey.

Keller: Ain't she something? She's become quite the doyenne of the Chicago-area PFLAG. She's also a pretty scary Kinsey Sicks fan. She knows too many of our punchlines. We have to put her under a strict gag order when she's at our shows. Of course, many people gag at our shows. Anyway, I'm very proud of her. It's hard being so far across the country.

**WCT:** Is the group coming back next year for the 20th-anniversary tour? What are your special plans for that tour?

Keller: We certainly hope to. We're in the process of writing that show. I guess we're the longest running, full-time openly queer ensemble ever. That's something either to crow about or eat crow about. Still deciding.

**WCT:** Welcome back to Chicago!

Keller: Thank you, Jerry. It's still my favorite city in the world. "Each time I roam"—well, it's true, you know.

**Catch Keller and the gang at Mayne Stage, 1328 Morse Ave., for 7:30 and 10 p.m. shows Friday, Oct. 19. For ticket information, visit [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com) or call 773-381-4551.**

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# Slice of Life: A Self-Help Odyssey

by Rick Lindal  
\$16.95; AuthorHouse;  
210 pages  
BY SALLY PARSONS

Slice of Life follows the odyssey of Rikki, a young boy transitioning to gay young man in Iceland. (Lindal, who grew up in Iceland, bases his tale on his own life story, and mixes in encounters with elves and trolls who populate the mythic plane of Iceland.) On his journey Rikki often seeks understanding from Old Soul, a spirit guide (*fylgja* in Icelandic).

The author, a practicing psychotherapist in Canada, on his website describes this book as a "... synthesis of spiritual, existential, and cognitive/behavioral approaches that will provide the reader with important concepts that are helpful for a reasonably successful opportunity in life." That's a mouthful and, wisely, Lindal only prefers "reasonably successful" as the payoff. Take it for what it's worth.

Lindal relies heavily on the influence of Viktor Frankl, noted Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, who was a leader in existential therapy; Seth, a disembodied personality channeled by Jane Roberts in the 1960s; Neale Donald Walsch (*Conversations with God*); and Michael Newton, whose focus is "life-between-life" regression.

Slice of Life is therefore a hodgepodge of different philosophies and approaches to finding meaning in life. One would think if this topic is of interest to folks, they might start with the

writings of the above-named, well-known figures in their fields, rather than the musings of a psychotherapist who prefers to draw on the background of magical creatures from his childhood.

But for the reader who seeks a fresh approach to this heavy topic, perhaps this is the ticket. Especially if you're young and gay and other sources don't provide the enlightenment you're seeking. Lindal, who is gay, counsels mostly adults, according to his website, but also young adults 16 and up. He appears to have the chops to address this age group. He received a PhD. at York University, England, while researching emotional responsiveness in adolescents; has worked at a youth custody prison facility; and directed an outreach program for mentally disturbed young adults. He has also worked as a therapist for victims of the AIDS epidemic.

Although Lindal explores other aspects of the meaning of life, we will focus here on what he has to say about recognizing and embracing one's sexual identity (if gay). On one of Rikki's first encounters with Old Soul, the spirit guide tells the youth to be himself unapologetically. Rikki asks, "What if people ... judge me?" To this, Old Soul replies, "... what other people think of you is none of your business."

Later, Old Soul explains that people determine their gender, sexual identity, and sexual orientation at gestation. He reminds Rikki that the boy chose to be homosexual before he was born, in part because he wished to experience specific feelings that would provide him a depth of understanding for his future career as a therapist,



Rick Lindal. Publicity photo

working with AIDS victims (Lindal's word). In other words, Rikki set a challenge for himself.

Lindal apparently believes we all have predetermined our life paths. Some of us rise to the challenge we set for ourselves and others do not, in his understanding of the forces that shape our lives. This is a hard belief system to embrace, particularly if one is struggling with issues of self-esteem, direction, and isolation. If you are seeking answers, you may find them in *Slice of Life*—or you may just end up more confused.

For the reader who is comfortable with his or her life choices and life path, this book would seem just a curious detour. But for its creative approach, it's perhaps worth a look.

## 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.

## Writer Dorothy Allison at Harold Washington Nov. 3

Writer Dorothy Allison will speak in the Harold Washington Library Center's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium Saturday, Nov. 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

She is the author of the prize-winning novels, *Bastard out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*, as well as *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*, *Trash*, *Skin* and a book of poetry, *The Women Who Hate Me*. Her new novel, *She Who*, is forthcoming from Penguin.

Admission is \$5-\$10.

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Halloween at the movies

It's a well-known fact that Halloween is the second most popular holiday, with retail revenues in the \$2.5-billion range—a figure that doesn't include the plethora of choices for moviegoers. For fans of the horror genre, there's no dearth of options this witching season, whether it be at home or at the local Cineplex. An overview of haunted movie happenings this season:

### In theaters

The "found footage" craze—which The Blair Witch Project popularized a decade ago and other films like Cloverfield capitalized on—is part of the schtick in **Sinister**, which finds Ethan Hawke back in horror territory after his hit 2010 vampire flick *Daybreakers*. In true Amityville Horror fashion, Hawke plays a true crime writer who moves his family into a home of a recently murdered family. In the attic, he finds a box of old Super 8 films that, when viewed, kick the psychic happenings into hyperdrive.

**Paranormal Activity 4** derives from another "found footage" megahit with this third sequel finding the series' original star, Kate Featherston, once again headlining. It opens this Friday. **Silent Hill: Revelation 3D** is another sequel—of sorts—to the 2006 original, both derived from a video-game series (with many more incarnations) that is set in the fictional title town—a place that acts as a cover for lots of evil happenings thanks to a doorway to another dimension. The 2006 film was confusing as hell but its nightmarish visuals were just as striking, sparking my curiosity about this new movie that is being released Oct. 28.

There are two area one-night-only cinematic scarefests worth noting. The first is the return of horror entrepreneur Rusty Nails' **The Massacre: 24 Hours of Horror Movie Madness**, which commences Saturday, Oct. 20, at noon at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. The line-up includes 16 features, an assortment of trailers and short films, along with vendor tables, a zombie make-up table and special guests (Linnea Quigley, star of 1985's *Return of the Living Dead* and *Spider Baby* director Jack Hill).

The films include everything from silent fare to movies such as the Karloff-Lugosi S&M/homosexual 1931 curio *The Black Cat* (which includes gay actor David Manners as its young heartthrob lead), *Curse of the Werewolf* (a Hammer horror classic), *The Witchfinder General* (with Vincent Price) and the 2009 Norwegian Nazi zombie black-comedy gorefest *Dead Snow*. There are also several interesting sequels: *Phantasm II*, *Halloween II*, *Nightmare on Elm Street 3* and one of my personal favorites, John Carpenter's *Prince of Darkness*. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Vital Bridges. Complete line-up and advance tickets available at [www.portagetheater.org](http://www.portagetheater.org)

The second one-night-only special event is NCM Fathom Events, TCM and Universal's Wed., Oct. 24, double-feature screening of queer director James Whale's 1931 monster classic **Frankenstein**



Johnny Depp in *Dark Shadows*. Image courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

**Frankenstein** and its superior 1935 sequel **Bride of Frankenstein**, both to celebrate the release of the films on Blu-ray as part of Universal's classic monster movie box set. The screening will begin at 7 p.m. with a filmed interview segment that TCM host Robert Osborne will conduct with Boris Karloff's daughter, Sarah; Bela Lugosi, Jr.; and special effects makeup wizard Rick Baker. [www.tcm.com](http://www.tcm.com)

### Home video

Bare bones to lavish, feature-stuffed editions of Tim Burton's campy reimagining of the 1960s gothic soap opera **Dark Shadows** are now available. Although the film wasn't exactly his best collaboration with Johnny Depp—who takes on the role of the forlorn vampire Barnabas Collins from the original's Jonathan Frid (who made a cameo in the film just months before his death)—Burton's stylish, dark visual palette is tremendous (as usual), and that's reason enough to see the film.

Even though the up-and-down tone of Seth Grahame-Smith's script veers between a traditional nightmare and low-grade comedy (based on the 1972 time period), the film never congeals and finally bogs down with too many plot strands tossed in for good measure. Michelle Pfeiffer, among others, is also sorely underused. Frid and other original members of the TV show shot a condensed film version of the soap titled

*House of Dark Shadows* in 1970 during their summer break. The movie was a big enough hit for MGM to order 1971's *Night of Dark Shadows*, which utilized cast members and characters from the series but focused on spirit possession (thanks to nasty witch Angelique) rather than rogue vampires—but wasn't nearly as successful. Both are coming to Blu-ray/DVD for the first time Tuesday, Oct. 30.

That same day the Criterion Collection releases its spectacular new version of Roman Polanski's 1968 movie **Rosemary's Baby** (which the director approved). Mia Farrow stars as the hapless Manhattan housewife who slowly realizes that her unborn child is in danger from a coven of witches living in the apartment next door. The release boasts a host of newly created special features, including new interviews with both Polanski and Farrow as well as a full-length vintage documentary on the film's score composer, Krzysztof Komeda, who tragically died within a few years of the making of the movie.

Other recent releases worth noting include **Cabin in the Woods**, the loving and very clever tribute to the black-comedy gorefests of Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead* series; the visually gorgeous **Prometheus**, Ridley Scott's prequel to his sci-fi horror classic *Alien*; John Cusack as Edgar Allan Poe, mystery writer-turned-serial-killer pursuer (with gay actor Luke Evans as his sidekick) in **The Raven**; the silly guilty pleasure **Abe Lin-**

**coln: Vampire Hunter**; and collector's editions of the 1980 slasher picture **Terror Train** and Tobe Hooper's 1981 oddity **The Funhouse**.

Of particular interest is 2011's **Munger Road**, a production with Chicago-area actors that was shot and produced locally; it is the first-time feature from Columbia College graduate Nick Smith. An urban legend involving a set of train tracks and a dark country road is the jumping-off point for a well-crafted horror thriller (starring veteran character actor Bruce Davison) that relies on atmosphere over gore. Smith throws in elements of a lot of other movies; while not all of them ultimately fit together, this is an admirable first effort worth checking out.

Still want more? In addition to a plethora of cable stations running a bevy of scary movies (with more available for a price OnDemand), the return of two horror-based TV shows on the horizon are worth enthusing over: the second season of Ryan Murphy's **American Horror Story** (titled **American Horror Story: Asylum**), which kicks off tonight, while season three of the hit "zombie apocalypse" series **The Walking Dead** returned Oct. 14.

**Of related interest:** British director Julian Jarrold's **The Girl**, which debuts Oct. 20 on HBO, details the Svengali relationship suspense director Alfred Hitchcock (Toby Jones) had with discovery Tippi Hedren (Sienna Miller), whom he handpicked to star in *The Birds* and, later, *Marnie*. Imelda Staunton plays Hitchcock's wife and creative consultant, Alma, while Downton Abbey's Penelope Wilton plays the master of suspense's secretary.

The movie's rather dry tone, considering the juicy material at hand—which focuses on Hitch's sexual and otherwise rather strange harassment of Hedren—is a bit of a letdown, as is the miscasting of Miller, who never captures Hedren's innate graciousness or sweetness. But for the uninitiated, the movie will be an eye-opener and provide insight into Hitchcock's rather odd proclivities—and whet the appetite for the forthcoming Blu-ray boxed set from Universal that features his movies.

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.



Charlize Theron in *Prometheus*. Photo by Kerry Brown

## BOOKS

# Biographer William Mann talks Barbra Streisand

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Queer author William Mann has balanced his popular gay erotic novels with a raft of best-selling Hollywood biographies—many of them with strong ties to the LGBT community.

Mann has profiled William Haines, the first openly gay movie star; Katharine Hepburn; director John Schlesinger; and Elizabeth Taylor. Now, Mann takes on Barbra Streisand. In *Hello, Gorgeous: Becoming Barbra Streisand* the author follows the seminal five-year period in which the diva's DIVA went from Barbara, the homely Jewish girl from Brooklyn with insatiable dreams of stardom, to B-a-r-b-r-a, the show business sensation whose meteoric rise to fame and praise for her unique beauty and style perhaps eclipsed even what she had imagined for herself.

In typical Mann fashion, he carefully pieces together little-known details with new research that combine to offer a multifaceted portrait of the young girl on the brink of womanhood who, with her stark individuality (not to mention her stunning singing voice), would become a lasting, shining beacon for the gay community.

Streisand, at 70, shows little sign of slowing down—she's, at present, on tour with son Jason Gould, has just released the first of what promises to be a multivolume selection of songs from her vault and, this Christmas, is starring in her first movie in years, a comedy with Seth Rogan titled *The Guilt Trip*. As the mega-superstar enters her 50th year in show business at the top of the heap, Mann's book about her formative years makes for fascinating reading. Streisand's strong tie to the gay community that has championed her from the start is no less telling.

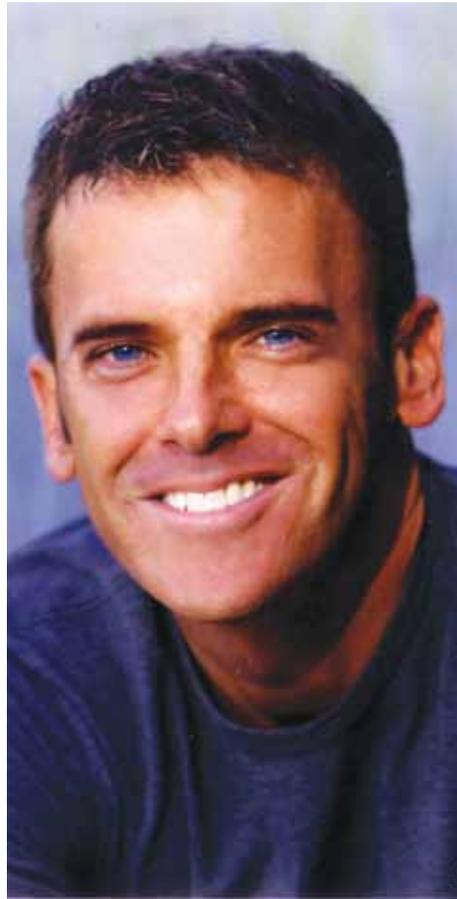
**Windy City Times: This bio reminds me of your Liz Taylor book where you took a specific portion of her life and put it under the microscope. I can't believe the amount of detail—Streisand enthusiasts like myself are going to be verklempt. [Laughs]**

William Mann: I wanted it to be a very up close and personal look at those five beginning years of her career, and I have to say that I would not have done this book if there wasn't new material to be found. I know she doesn't talk to biographers but after doing some research I found that, indeed, the Jerome Robbins papers had never been utilized before; I requested and was given access to them which help rewrite the whole "Funny Girl" period of her career.

And, also, having access to the Bob Fosse papers and the Bob Merrill papers helped. Then I found all these wonderful people who knew her in those early days, like Bob Schulenberg, who was practically my right arm in writing this book because his memory is so photo recall. So I was pleased to see that this new material was out there.

**WCT: Well, as someone who reads biographies first and foremost, this is certainly a book to be savored. As a gay man, it's a wonderful bonus to read about the influence gay men had on helping to bring out her individuality, her taste, her look, etc. Very cool.**

WM: Gay men put together her act [and] her look, and brought her to a gay bar, and gay audiences gave her her first rousing welcome. So her gay connection goes back very far. Bob had been mentioned in a couple of earlier biographies and I knew that he had clearly been right there with her, elbow to elbow, and I knew that if I could win his trust there would be a wealth of stories and, indeed, there was. And, likewise, Barry Dennen—who I knew through mutual friends, who told their story in his own memoir. But I



William Mann. Photo by Michael Childers

knew there were points I wanted to push him on and ask him about which he was willing to revisit. That's just two of them.

**WCT: How brave was this young woman at 19 to go to Detroit for a gig by herself, to begin with, and then after not doing well at first, the gays find her and embrace her?**

WM: She was incredibly brave but heartbroken as well—her heart had just been broken by the man (Dennen) she thought she was going to get married to—

**WCT: ...until she discovered him in bed with a man.**

WM: Yes—but it didn't stop her from going to Detroit on her own. She had incredible where-withal to pull that off.

**WCT: This book reveals the bravado shielding the vulnerability and that often indifferent home life from which she sprang. It's eye-opening to learn that the first time she was on national television she wasn't even sure if her mother was going to watch her.**

WM: I was hoping this would come through in the book—and it sounds like it did for you. She had many moments where she was grasping and perhaps self-centered but she's also incredibly vulnerable and sweet and kind and really, really funny.

**WCT: The relationship with Barry Dennen is in so many ways so classic—the gay man and the unrequited passion of the quote-unquote ugly duckling female best friend with the dazzling personality.**

WM: That's a piece, I think, that's been missing from a lot of previous accounts of her life, or it's been barely mentioned. He was her first love and you never forget that—especially when you're that young. Barry said to me, "You know, sometimes I think the fans don't like me because they think I hurt Barbra" and I said, "Barry, if we could all remember what we were like at 21 or 20 or 19, we all made impulsive choices and decisions." I think their story is sweet in a way

because they were so young and were still trying to figure out who they were. But you're right: As a gay man, I can certainly relate to that, and I think a lot of women who have been in those situations can also relate to it.

**WCT: What was different about this book, Bill, after having chronicled so many interesting lives?**

WM: What I'm always interested in is finding out "why" and "how" a person goes after fame and success and the limelight. And Streisand's pursuit of fame was so different from Hepburn's or Taylor's.

With Streisand, it was completely different than either of those. She was looking for some kind of affirmation that she didn't have as a kid: a sense that she mattered, a sense that she was good—and not just good but great. I came away with a real respect for her because she wasn't looking for the applause—she was looking for the acknowledgement that her work was good and that it mattered. She craves anonymity and wants the work to speak for herself. I think that's the key to understanding her.

**WCT: You also illuminate something that's underlined her entire career—her indifference to her singing voice. You write about how tough it was to get her to her club gigs on time because she didn't want to sing—literally—for her supper.**

WM: Exactly. She thought singing in a nightclub made her like a floozy. I think that goes back to her desire to prove herself. She held her father, who she never knew, in such high esteem and I think she wanted to do something that would have impressed him. He was an intellectual and was well-read and she went through his library and read Shakespeare and Shaw, but singing? And she never had to work at singing—she worked her heart out at acting, though. So yes, it's a great irony. In a way I think she felt, "I didn't have to work for this so it mustn't matter." Maybe today—I would suspect—that she probably now sees that her voice was a great gift.

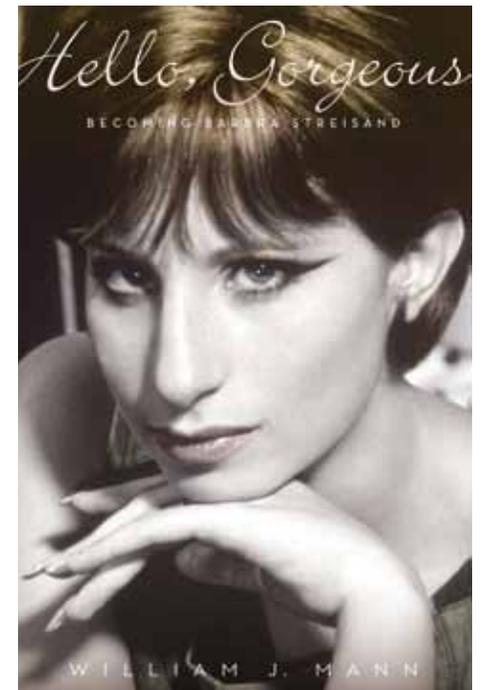
**WCT: She had/had incredibly high standards for herself, which is a curse as much as a blessing, I would suspect.**

WM: Oh, yes. During her two times on Broadway shows when the audience would go crazy for her before she'd done something to deserve the applause, it drove her crazy. She knew what nights she was good and what nights she wasn't up to par, and on those nights if the audience went nuts she would resent it. That's admirable but I think that also became a bit of an obsession for her because she was constantly pushing herself to excel.

**WCT: Perhaps, as you say, she's learned to live with a few mistakes. Well—she's said that very publicly in interviews for this new collection of never released material from the vaults. When you hear this material and her stunning performances, it really illuminates her exacting standards.**

WM: I also love hearing in some of them a certain vulnerability that I think disappeared from her recordings at about the time I finish the book—when she became a sensation with "Funny Girl." I think she learned how to protect herself emotionally in her work, and I hear a difference. It's not that the later work isn't wonderful; it's just more guarded to me.

She gave an interview around that period where she said, "I was giving my all every single time and if I give my 'all' all the time, I'm going to use myself up." And I don't think it's coincidental that that interview came not long



after her appearance with Judy Garland because there's a supreme example of a performer who always gave her all and just burned herself out. I think Streisand took that lesson to heart and it was probably a good strategy but I also think something was lost for her audiences when that raw, personal revelation that she brought to almost everything she did before that point was covered over.

**WCT: This is also the story of a great feminist, a great liberal—she didn't give a crap about someone's sexuality, for example—and as I once termed her, the story of the ultimate individual, in a way.**

WM: I think that's a great assessment. Thank you.

**WCT: Have you heard from her camp?**

WM: No, but I don't sense any hostility, either. That inner circle just doesn't talk about her, period. I just wrote to Marty Erlichman (her manager of decades) and sent him a copy of the book and said, "It must be weird for Miss Streisand to have some stranger writing a book about her early years and talking to all her old friends from when she was 20 years old. If someone did that to me, I would be saying, 'Oh my God, what are they saying?'"

So I understand that, but hopefully she'll read the book and know that my intent was sincere to treat her story respectfully and to put it into context with the story of popular culture in America in that pivotal period of the early 1960s. That's what I tried to do, anyway.

## Streisand in Chicago Oct. 26

Legendary singer Barbra Streisand has added performances in six additional cities besides her previously announced concerts in Brooklyn, N.Y.—and one of the new sites is in Chicago.

Streisand will perform at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., on Friday, Oct. 26.

Streisand has received 10 Grammys—including the Grammy Lifetime Achievement and Grammy Legend Awards—and has sold 51 gold albums, 30 platinum albums and 13 multi-platinum albums. In addition, she is the only artist ever to receive an Oscar, Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Directors Guild of America, Golden Globe, National Medal of Arts and Peabody Awards as well as France's Legion d'Honneur and the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tickets are available at LiveNation.com, Ticketmaster.com and the venue box office; people can also call 800-745-3000.

# Bollywood explores gay-related themes

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

Bollywood (India's movie community) doesn't just have fans in its own country. It's become a worldwide phenomenon.

For example, NBC's hit show *Smash* incorporated Bollywood into an episode and *So You Think You Can Dance* has Bollywood as one of its genres. So, it's got U.S., European, Middle Eastern and, of course, Indian fans.

Bollywood director Onir and other artists from exploring those themes in *My Brother Nikhil* (2006) and *I Am* (2011), Chicago-based queer Muslim actress Fawzia Mirza said.

*Dunno Y ... Na Jaane* (2010) was the first Bollywood movie offering a raw portrayal of a gay relationship. In fact, the Huffington Post reported it was India's version of *Brokeback Mountain*. While IMDB.com offered no synopsis, BBC said the movie chronicles the affair between two middle-class Mumbai men.

Passionate kisses, shaving together and sharing a bed were among those most provocative scenes.

"This film was banned in some places—at least, the sexy parts," Mirza said.

But that's not the only cinematic offering with gay themes. Mainstream blockbuster *Dostana*, according to Mirza, featured a "totally dramatic and unrealistic male kiss."

Reminiscent of the U.S. movie *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, the movie centered around two men pretending to be gay in order to get an apartment.

"Being gay is more part of the joke," Mirza said.

Even so, *Khashish*—India's queer film fest—launched in April 2010. In fact, it's where "Dunno Y" premiered. Another Indian film, *Sholay*, portrayed male friendship in way queer Indian men have embraced as a model.

Pakistan still hasn't made significant strides toward presenting images of gays and lesbians, according to Mirza. However, she stressed things in Bollywood must be kept in perspective.

"Remember, kissing even between men and women on screen is still taboo," Mirza said. "So, the gay kiss is truly amazing to see!"

With that said, lesbians are nearly invisible in Bollywood and beyond. Mirza said lesbians are rarely mentioned. For instance, Deepa Mehta's *Fire* was released in 1996.

Kareem Khubchandani, who Mirza calls her "queer brown brother," is a Northwestern University School of Communication graduate student. Khubchandani's studies focus on staged queer South Asian performances in nightclubs and daily life.

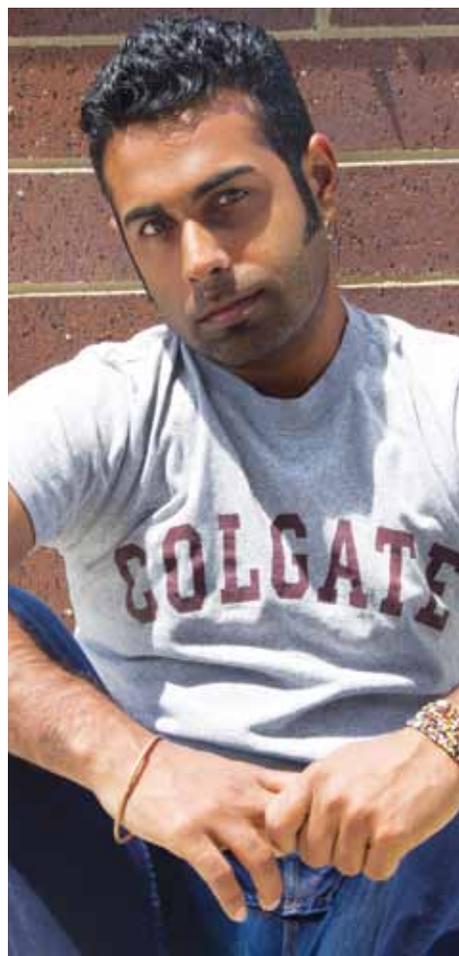
When he's not studying, Khubchandani performs in cabarets and drag shows. He also works with Chicago-based theater companies while workshoping his one-man show, "Material Boy: An Adaptation of Queer South Asian fiction."

So Khubchandani's got plenty to say about Bollywood cinema and its gay quotient.

"I think that the message about the toleration and acceptance of gays has come from directors and actors, who feel compassionate about the issue, and have inserted it into their movies," Khubchandani said.

He cites *Dostana*. Khubchandani said "it offered a very strong message for the acceptance of gays in the family through the figure of the mother." While Bollywood isn't totally LGBT-friendly, Khubchandani thinks activism has made queer life more palatable.

"I think the visibility of gay pride parades, gay- and transgender-rights movements, and out public figures (not Bollywood stars, but designers, philanthropists, etc.) has really brought the topic into the public eye," he said.



Kareem Khubchandani. Photo courtesy of Will Knight

Tragedy has helped make LGBT issues more real, according to Khubchandani. A gay professor committed suicide after being fired while a television station outed gay-networking-site users. But Khubchandani said gay themes have never been foreign concepts in Bollywood.

"Gayness has always been present in Bollywood," Khubchandani said. "But, more so in the context of effeminate men who prance and whimper ... or butch women who are eventually forced into more feminine roles."

He confirmed many gay people work in Bollywood; however, they certainly aren't out. So, he said, they use their position to try to have good influence on society.

"It serves them well to articulate more positive messages about homosexuality in their films even if they do not come out themselves," Khubchandani said.

*My Brother Nikhil*, he said, was the first film, which portrayed gay men in a positive light. Unfortunately, since it lacked the usual song-and-dance format, the film was largely ignored.

Other movies, including, *Bombay* (1995) and *Tamanna* (1998) tried offering sympathetic views of transgendered people.

So, Bollywood has no truly out stars, although actress Celina Jaitley is a well-known and committed LGBT ally. Sridevi, a superstar in the 1980s and 1990s, spoke out—on film—for the community recently.

Sridevi made a comeback in English Vinglish. One of her lines spoke volumes.

"We are all people and a broken heart is a broken heart. We don't need to make fun of him for loving differently," Shashi Godbole (Sridevi's character) said, roughly translated.

Khubchandani stressed the significance of Sridevi uttering such words, given her large contingent of gay male fans.

"The likes of Sridevi delivering such a message carries a lot of sway, I think," he said. "[She] also has a huge following amongst gay men, and so hearing that message from her is deeply validating."



Dragonette.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

## Dragonette singer talks Toronto, videos and gay fans

BY JERRY NUNN

Formed in Canada, the pop band Dragonette took over the music world with a simple hook on "Hello." The musical act has collaborated with everyone from Basement Jaxx to Cyndi Lauper, and received a Juno Award from its native Canada for Best New Group.

Windy City Times talked with Dragonette singer Martina Sorbara before a recent performance.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Martina. The last time you were in Chicago was for a *Borderline* Music appearance, correct?**

Martina Sorbara: Yes, it was just a signing. I don't think we played. We hung out there for a bit. We were there for *Lollapalooza*.

**WCT: How did it go at *Lollapalooza*?**

MS: It was awesome. It surprised me to see that many people coming to see us.

**WCT: Are the '80s an influence of Dragonette's work, like *Cut Copy's*?**

MS: I don't think it consciously goes into our writing. I think when you use synthesizers to write songs that are not full dance songs the mind goes to the '80s. I think that is time that synths came into a pop-song format. When we made *Galore* we were listening to a lot of Tears for Fears. It is not something we strive for, but we grew up in the '80s so it had to have worked its way in there.

**WCT: Your group is from Toronto?**

MS: Yes, we are.

**WCT: I recently went there; it is beautiful city.**

MS: Is it like Chicago? I don't know Chicago at all.

**WCT: People say that, but I think Toronto is really laid out well. Chicago doesn't have room to spread out because of the lake.**

MS: We are on a lake, too, but you don't notice because we have done such a great job of fucking it right up.

**WCT: And Toronto doesn't have our skyline. Hopefully, you have some time to explore Chicago while you are here.**

MS: I doubt it. This tour is so retarded. We have like one day off in a month. One week we play seven shows!

**WCT: Will you be releasing a video for "Rocket Ship?"**

MS: No. We just felt it was a good summer song and didn't want to wait to release it later so we threw it out there.

**WCT: What is the second single?**

MS: "Live in This City." I am just waiting for the first edit of that video. I am so excited to see it. It is going to be hilarious.

**WCT: It seems like you are having fun making videos. I was watching several of your past ones.**

MS: We have fun, for sure. There is not a lot of money being thrown at videos these days. So a lot of times we are squeezing a lot of work into only one day. Sometimes you don't get everything you need. With a culture of YouTube if you don't capture someone's attention there is no way that they won't click onto something else. You have to tell a story in a smart way and make it look good. It is hard. Having your friends as part of the process makes it easier.

**WCT: The "Let it Go" video has a story like you are saying.**

MS: That was a one-day shoot and quite stressful towards the end. Again that was made with my very dear friend Drew Lightfoot. We just go between those people for our videos because we don't want to go with people we don't know.

**WCT: It looked like it was heading towards animal experimentation.**

MS: That was the whole idea but I don't know if we played out the whole concept enough to make it obvious. We had scenarios where you will think it will be dark but it actually is a positive thing. You think something bad is going to happen to the rabbit but then it was feel how soft this bunny is. You think someone will be tortured then they start dancing. You think someone is brainwashed with a TV like *A Clockwork Orange* but then it is cupcakes, rainbows and ponies.

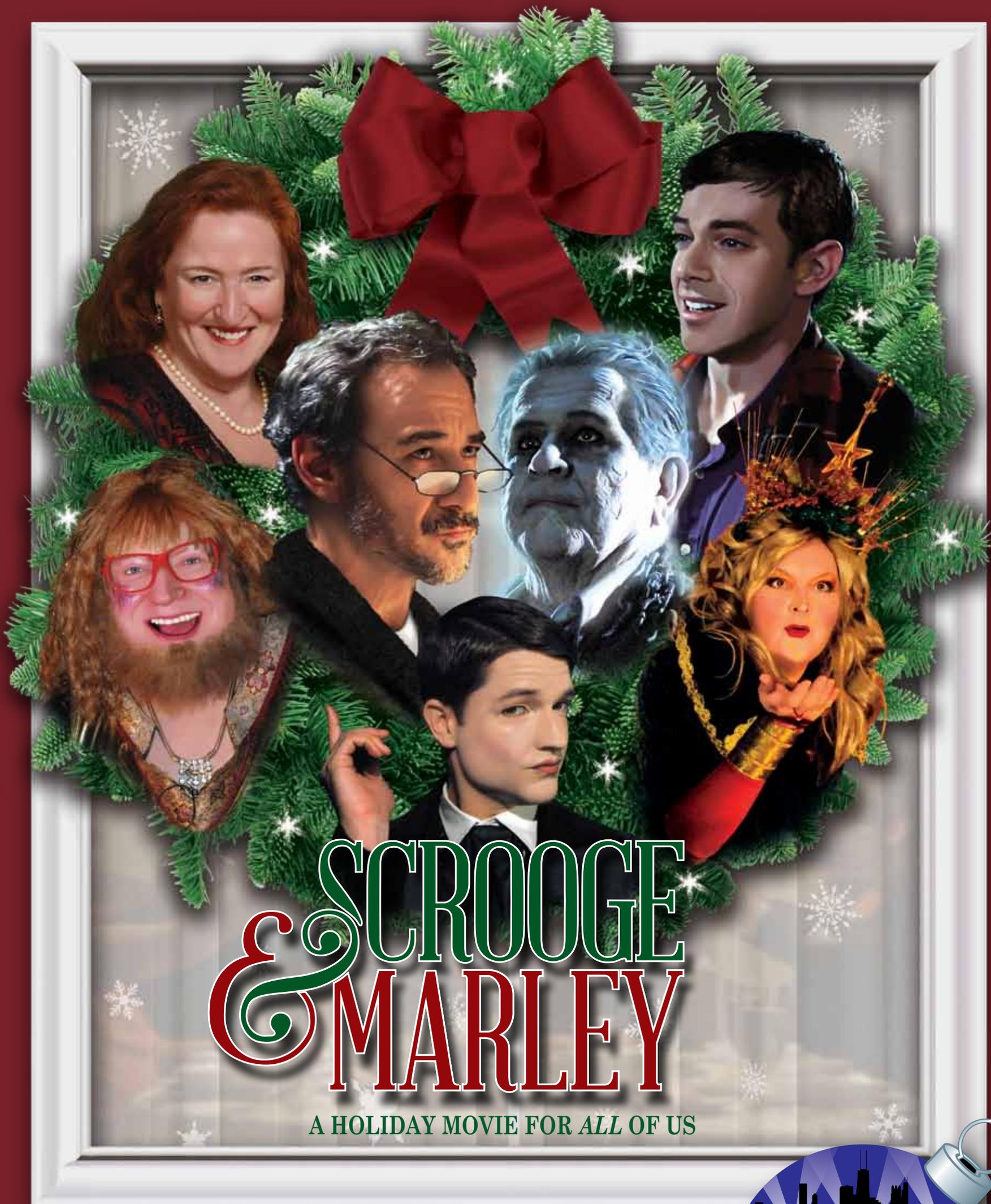
**WCT: You have not changed your sound from this album. It is called *Bodyparts*. Where did the title come from?**

MS: I just really liked the word. I tend to throw into body parts into lyrics a lot over the years. I saw the word as not something bloody or gory but as something musical, beautiful and sexual.

**WCT: That brings me to question if there is a gay member of the group?**

MS: No, but we are very gay without being gay. It is socially where we have ended up as well as professionally. I think we are attractive to a gay audience because we are coming from an angle that is not straight up the center. When you have singing that is not a cookie-cutter of emotions and sexuality, I think that could be where the attraction comes from. The way some girls sing about love I can't really relate to when it is right down the center. It just doesn't speak to me. I try to represent something else.

**Dragonette's *Bodyparts* is out on CD. Check out [www.dragonetteonline.com](http://www.dragonetteonline.com) to purchase.**



# SCROOGE & MARLEY

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 Costume Designer JILL DUNBAR Editor PETER NEVILLE Production Designer ROB STEFFAN Director of Photography ANDREW PARROTTE Written by ELLEN STONEKING, RICHARD KNIGHT, JR. and TIMOTHY IMSE  
 Produced by DAVID STRZEPEK, TRACY BAIM Directed by RICHARD KNIGHT, JR. and PETER NEVILLE



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## SPORTS

# The adventures of roller-derby star Melissa Rapp

BY ROSS FORMAN

From appearing on *The Jenny Jones Show* to a strong tie to the ever-popular musical *Rent* to roller derby, welcome to world of Melissa Rapp, known as Rapp Scallion on the track during her stint with the Windy City Rollers and, starting this winter, for *The Chicago Outfit*.

And that's just a portion of Rapp, 37, who lives on Chicago's North Side and identifies as pansexual. She is the co-founder and game maker at Chicago Pervasive Games, which held its first public event, the Alien Invasion Race, Sept. 22. (Previous events had been private.)

Rapp has been with her girlfriend, Dela, for four years.

"This is a crazy moment in time, and all us humans refer to this moment as 'life.' These silly meat sacks/bodies we're all inside of are so temporary and the end is so final," Rapp said. "It's the beauty and tragedy of life. This embracing of mortality reminds me daily to engage fully in daily living, including those times of quiet reflection and stillness, and to live my life as much as possible with as few regrets as possible."

Rapp's wild ride has included a few decades of memorable—and some not so memorable—moments, most interwoven in the gay community.

In the early 1990s, for instance, she endured gay-bashing. She was chased down the street a few times in Chicago, and she also was attacked with three friends by four men with crowbars in San Jose, Calif.

"Several times during the 1990s, I had bosses say things like, 'I never would have hired you if I had known you were gay' or 'Gay people are fine as long as they keep quiet and never raise children because you need a mother and a father.' For decades, people have yelled insults at me on the street and thrown stuff out of their cars at me; it still happens today, but less frequently," she said.

Also in the 1990s, Rapp, while living in California, learned about producing by assisting in event production with two different producers. "When I returned to Chicago in 2001, besides getting involved with the Dyke March and running the pub quizzes, I started performing vaudeville, drag and burlesque with earnest," she said. "I began performing as a guest with

such groups as Gurlisque Burlesque and Girlie-Q.

"After guest performing with the Chicago Kings drag troupe, I joined them and spent many years working with some of the most talented people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. The shows of the Chicago Kings spiked in quality, choreography, costuming, and talent. We were regularly selling out shows and I had the privilege of performing all around Chicago and in other U.S. cities.

"I will never forget the feeling of performing in front of a ravenous sold-out crowd (1,200) during [the] International Drag King Extravaganza, which the Chicago Kings hosted and I was one of the committee heads."

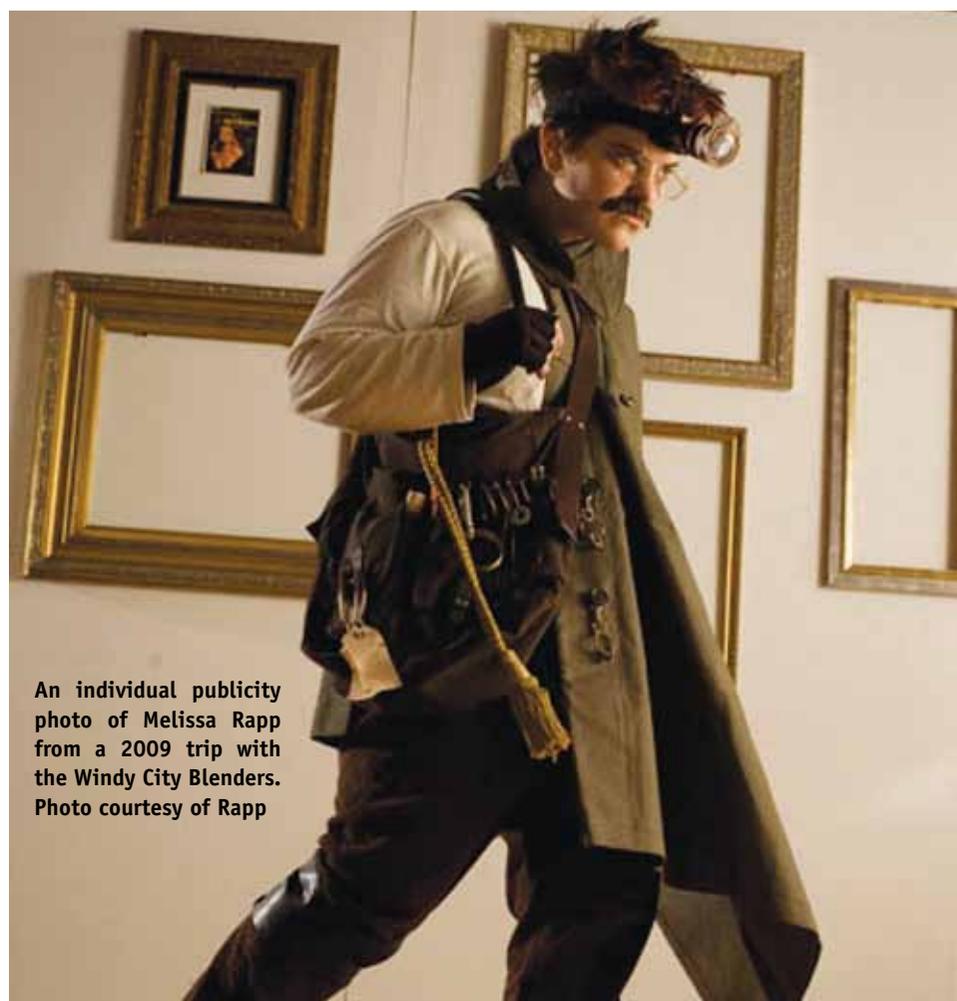
Rapp, in the early 2000s, ran a semi-regular quiz show at T's Bar & Grill in Andersonville, as well as BINGO for local non-profit organizations and events.

She eventually created the Windy City Blenders. According to the group's official website, it's "a Chicago performer collective building international communities through gender performance."

"I made all the connections and arrangements for a group of Chicago performers that I selected, to travel internationally to work with other groups for combination shows in their countries. I produced international trips to Dublin, Berlin and Toronto," she said. "We also held fundraisers here in Chicago building up to each trip and then went abroad to perform in [those] cities, developing unique and special connections with other performers.

"These [shows] required an incredible amount of hard work and were definitely stressful to produce, but I wouldn't trade those experiences and friendships for the world. Looking back, despite any producer panic moments—like going through customs and airport security in multiple countries with the accoutrements of 10 or more drag and burlesque performers packed with elaborate costuming—the trips and shows were all huge successes and priceless memories."

Another integral part of Rapp's repertoire over the years is the gaming world. "I am fortunate to have a very large and insanely active community in Chicago of nerdy gamer friends. I'm talking board games, card games, role-playing games—hobby games, not video games," she said. "Each year, for the last 10 years, we make



An individual publicity photo of Melissa Rapp from a 2009 trip with the Windy City Blenders. Photo courtesy of Rapp

an annual trip to GenCon in Indianapolis. The first year it was five of us for the gaming convention. This past year there were about 50 of us. The group has grown and morphed organically, overlapped and merged with other groups, and become this Frankenstein of geek love. It is an essential part of my life."

Rapp brought roller derby into her world last year as a blocker for the Windy City Rollers.

"I always played sports when I was younger—rugby, soccer, swimming, archery, etc., until I took a break [from sports] during the years I was performing and producing all the time," she said. "I had already been watching roller derby for several years, and all of a sudden, it was just time for me to try on skates and learn to roll. It was a no-brainer and I wasn't getting any younger. It is a sport filled with strategy and tight teamwork. It is physical, aggressive, fast and slow, with constant streams of input and ever-changing strategies all while in the midst of a jam. I love the complexity."

Rapp appeared on *The Jenny Jones Show* multiple times in 1992 to talk about a subject related to sexual orientation.

"I have many stories about that first show, [including] the behind-the-scenes dramas and excitement of a gaggle of teenage queers all

hanging out in a hotel together for a weekend during filming," she said. "The notable thing about the second show was that I was brought on [for] a special gay perspective on a show that was about the general topic of teenage girls navigating life.

"[The musical group] Wilson Phillips was the special guest on that one. Interestingly, the whole show took a quick turn into dissing on males. Considering that my closest friends and roommate at the time were all straight men, by the time it got to me, I—as the token lesbian—spent my whole segment defending young straight men."

Rapp is a cousin of Anthony Rapp of *Rent* fame, and they have a "special bond," she said.

"I was just so excited for my cousin when *Rent* very first opened, that he was a lead in a show that was getting some amazing initial reviews," she said. "I flew out from California to see the show shortly after it opened. By then, the buzz was on fire. When I saw the show for the first time, I was floored, absolutely floored. The whole cast, which I had the honor of hanging out with, was solid, real people and passionate performers who were involved with something magical that launched many of their careers. I'm just so damn proud and happy for them all, still to this day. When the show went to London, I went and visited Anthony there as well, and I think I openly cried from the opening to the closing number, filled with all ranges of emotion.

"We [now] both go off and live our very busy lives and fall in and out of regular touch, but whenever I see him, it's as though I just saw him last week, only we have a lot more to catch up on."

Rapp added, "In the early 1990s, I was involved with [the advocacy organization] ACT UP, and did safer-sex and needle-exchange street-level outreach. Stories of being queer, being different, being HIV-positive, living a life on the constant edge of poverty and homelessness ... well, those were stories that hadn't been told with that level of exposure before that I knew of—powerful [and] needed. Stories like these seem sadly absent today."

This past summer, Rapp marched in her 20th consecutive Chicago Pride Parade. "Pride marches were different [in the early 1990s]," she said. "It was a different time. Pride marches were angry, political, sexual, hopeful and filled with



Windy City Rollers farm team The Haymarket Rioters. Photo by Gil Leora

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



## Jerry's Sandwiches

BY MEGHAN STREIT

If Chicago had to lose its one and only lesbian bar, at least we lost it to a place that serves a grilled cheese made not only with smoky Gouda, but with actual mac and cheese. And applewood smoked bacon. On challah bread. Yeah, it's pretty amazing.

The folks behind Jerry's Sandwiches, of Wicker Park fame, opened their newest location in An-

dersonville in the Clark Street building occupied by Stargaze for all of those years. They gave the space a full makeover, adding a massive handsome wood bar, windows that flood the space with light and a cozy stone fireplace smack dab in the middle. It's a warm and welcoming spot that beckons you to linger. And that's a good thing because you'll need about 20 minutes just to get through the menu.

There are more than 100 sandwiches to choose from on Jerry's almost overwhelming menu—and that doesn't even include the endless options you might concoct from the "build your own" section. With so many tantalizing (beef tenderloin with Swiss, herb butter and fried portabellas) and intriguing (cold lemon chicken with peanut butter and cilantro) choices, picking a single sandwich is kind of exhausting. I can recommend a couple of strategies to tackle

this mind-boggling menu. Simply commit to the first sammie that catches your eye. Or, bring some sandwich-loving friends so you divide and conquer and taste a few of Jerry's meaty masterpieces.

The Reuben is definitely one to remember. Dark rye bread is piled high with thick slices of corned beef, melty Swiss and Russian dressing. Jerry's fresh update on this deli classic replaces the traditional sauerkraut with cider slaw, which gives the sandwich a light and zesty kick. I'm salivating about that Reuben as I write this and wishing I didn't agree to give my fiancée the second half of my sandwich that I brought home as leftovers the other day.

Jerry's roast beef sandwiches are made with pot roast beef rubbed with a special blend of garlic and herbs. I loved the McGannahan S, a roast beef sandwich that is straightforward but anything but ordinary. The flavorful slices of roast beef are paired with not only pungent provolone, but also fresh mozzarella. Horseradish and Jerry's own zesty yellow mustard give this sandwich a memorable kick.

That aforementioned chicken and peanut butter sandwich is called the "Annie O," and it is surprisingly delicious. The juicy chunks of chicken have a subtle lemon flavor. A generous smear of peanut butter and mango-chipotle chutney conspire to make the sandwich taste almost like Asian chicken in peanut sauce—except on a pretzel roll (or sourdough or brioche or whichever other type of bread strikes your fancy).

The shrimp po' boy is also quite good. Large fresh shrimp are fried golden brown in Louisiana-style corn flour, and stuffed into an Italian roll with sliced pickle, mayo and hot sauce. I enjoyed the 'po boy, and the only reason I wouldn't order it again is because there are simply too many other sandwiches competing for my attention.

Vegetarians, fear not. You will not be left out in the cold at this sandwich extravaganza. There are seven different meatless grilled cheeses, including one called the Zippy, which I'm looking forward to sinking my teeth into one day very soon. It's got roasted portabella mushrooms, cheddar spread, pepper jack, sliced jalapeño, southwest mayo and is served on sesame sourdough. Plus, there's a whole section of vegetarian sandwiches that venture far beyond the grilled cheese. The Able L, for example, combines hummus, grilled asparagus, roasted green chilis, Swiss cheese and lemon mayo. Hidden in the "Jerry's Neo-Classics" section of the menu is a fried green tomato sandwich—the vegetarian answer to the shrimp po' boy. While I haven't sampled that particular sandwich yet, I

did try Jerry's friend green tomatoes, which are crisp and delicious. I can only imagine they'd be improved by the basil, fresh mozzarella, lemon mayo and hot sauce that accompany them on the fried green tomato sandwich.

All of Jerry's sandwiches come with your choice of two sides. So far, I've most enjoyed the housemade chips and the French fries, which are cut thin, deep fried and salty. They taste kind of like the fries at McDonald's, without the bitter aftertaste of mass-production and corporate greed. All of the sides are just fine, but really, the sandwiches are the stars of the show at Jerry's.

If you're thirsty, this overachieving sandwich shop has you more than covered. Look for a dizzying array of craft beers, on tap and in bottles, and so many whiskey selections that you might turn Irish if you spend enough time at the bar.

Oh, Jerry's also serves a handful of entrée salads, but we don't even need to discuss that, do we? Order a sandwich and work out a little harder tomorrow.

**Jerry's Andersonville is located at 5419 N. Clark; call 773-796-3777 or visit [www.jerrys-sandwiches.com](http://www.jerrys-sandwiches.com).**

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



Some sandwich selections at Jerry's. Left: Annie O on pretzel bun with housemade chips. Above: Reuben with mac and cheese and fries. Photos by Meghan Streit

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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 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, Darrell; 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 - arnoux, amneh; A122 - Hunt, Francis; A132 - Gold, Reina; A150 - Thompson, Leatha; A163 - chan, Rolando; A224 - Dethloff, Erich; A240 - Sellountos, Nephela; 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, ELEVINIO; 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, Christopher; 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.

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## SPIRITUALITY



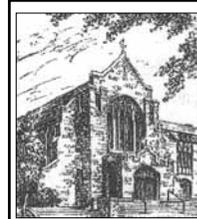
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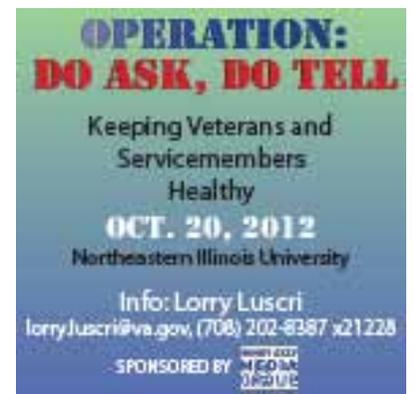
## SPIRITUALITY



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

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Sundays at 11 A.M.**

## VETERANS' SERVICES



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### 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.positiveimagelive.com/74742> and then call **Nora Duffy, Crawford Group Sotheby's Realty- 312-953-1783. (10/17/12-8)**

## RAPP from page 28

both the excitement of being the majority on a street, if for only one day, and the seriousness of the busloads of the dying.

"In the 1990s, I really thought that the LGBTQ community was going to be able to make the larger society more open, more diverse, more celebratory of the different. To spill gender and relationship expectations out and allow more opportunities for all people, LGBTQ and straight, to have room to be their own unique selves. Twenty years later, I believe things have gone the other way and that the larger society has made the LGBTQ community more traditional, more normal, and that conformity is demanded more than before."

Rapp also has attended Pride Parades in Washington D.C.; San Francisco; Santa Cruz, Calif.; Monterey, Calif.; San Diego; Richmond, Va.; Madison, Paris; Tulsa, Okla.; and Indianapolis.

"[Pride Parades] used to mean a lot more to me personally," she said. "I fully believe that

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**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)**

### 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)**

### OUT OF TOWN - REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**WINTER IN PALM SPRINGS/CATHEDRAL CITY CA.** Daddy Don's Leather Lodge in Cathedral City, Palm Springs, CA is available for winter rental. Nice cottage in triplex 2 bd room 1 bath, pool, mountain views. Furnished \$990/month first last and deposit. V/mc dog friendly. **Loretta@daddydon.com (11/28/12-8)**

### TWO BEDROOMS FOR RENT

**ROGERS PARK GRANVILLE WESTERN TWO BDRM,** 2nd floor. Newly redecorated, granite countertops, C/A, washer/dryer in unit. Walk to L. Permit prkg. Immediate occupancy. **2344 Granville, U2. Advisors Properties Group. 630-370-5471. (10/24/12-4)**

humans need more outlets to 'let go' in our society. Our citizens of all sexualities crave experiences that allow them to revel in adult-focused celebration, in drunkenness and general mischief. A time and place to misbehave, to purge cultural norms and expectations. It's why Mardi Gras, Burning Man, and Halloween are such a huge deal in the U.S. But Prides now are, for the most part, just shallow large street parties, like a Mardi Gras, but with huge corporate sponsorship. But, LGBTQ folks still don't have basic equal rights under the law, and I wish that we still owned our event and that it was about visibility and equality and diversity, rather than an excuse for people, many who aren't even allies or LGBTQ people, to party."

—It's a fact: Rapp's mother (Stephanie Colburn) and stepmother (Kim Engel) were on the cover of Windy City Times approximately 15 years ago, talking about their gay children. "All four of my parents get along famously," Rapp said. "There was a photo of them sitting next to one another on a bench."

# calendar

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## Wed., Oct. 17

**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)

**Chicago International Film Festival** For two weeks, audiences see the world in different ways through 150 films, the countries they represent and their filmmakers. 9am, AMC River East 21, 322 E Illinois St., [www.ticketmaster.com/chicagofilmfestival](http://www.ticketmaster.com/chicagofilmfestival)

**LSCRF Annual Fall Benefit Luncheon** Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation announces Brooke Shields as guest speaker. 11am-3pm, 312-926-4274, Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., <http://s226523977.onlinehome.us/category/future-events/>

**Joffrey Ballet's 'Landscapes'** The Joffrey Ballet's 2012-2013 season will start with the mixed-repertory program "Human Landscapes," which will feature three choreographers exploring principles of the human spirit through dance. Ten performances will take place through Oct. 28. \$31-\$152; 1:30pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy., [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Carl Sandburg Awards** The Chicago Public Library Foundation and the Chicago Public Library will honor National Book Award winning author Don DeLillo and best-selling biographer Walter Isaacson. Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim, author of several books, will be attending. 6pm, 312-201-9830x25, The Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Rd., [www.cplfoundation.org](http://www.cplfoundation.org)

## LAUGHTER HOURS

Saturday, Oct. 20

Leslie Jordan will have the audience laughing at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Publicity photo



**Brandi Carlile** 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)

**Chicago Prime Timers Gay Book Club/Discussion Group** Writer and historian and Chicago author Owen Keehnen will attend discussion of his newest book, "The Sand Bar," published in May 2012. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

## Thursday, Oct. 18

**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://gopride.com/z7kt>

**Can't Stop the Music: Hunters' 30th Anniversary** It's been 30 years and they're going to celebrate like they have never done

before. Food, drinks, cake, history, and of course fun all night. You can't stop the music and you can't stop Hunters Nightclubs and on October 18. Hosted by Miss Fozzie. Dress in your favorite 1982 disco outfit. 1pm, Hunters, 1932 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village, [www.huntersnightclubs.com](http://www.huntersnightclubs.com)

**Key to the Cure** Saks Fifth Avenue Chicago and Bright Pink celebrate a charity shopping weekend through Oct. 21, featuring hors d'oeuvres, music and of course, shopping. Tickets \$75 online. 1:30pm, Saks Fifth Avenue, <http://brightpink.org>

**GOAL Chicago Comedy Night Benefit** Buffet, comedy show and prizes. \$25. Benefiting Gay Officers Action League Chicago member Kristin Zimmerman's climb up the Willis Tower for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Questions to Jamie Richardson 773-392-4992 or [jricha5354@al.com](mailto:jricha5354@al.com); 6:30pm-9:30pm, Spyner's Pub, 4623 N. Western Ave., [www.goalchicago.info](http://www.goalchicago.info)

**Mika** Concert to support his album, The Origin of Love, out on Universal Republic. His single "Celebrate" (featuring Pharrell Williams) is available. 7:30pm, The Vic Theatre, 3145 N Sheffield Ave., <http://mikasonounds.com>; Tickets: [www.jamusa.com/venues/vic/concerts.aspx](http://www.jamusa.com/venues/vic/concerts.aspx)

## Friday, Oct. 19

**The Church Within A Church Movement** Weekend gathering; workshops, talks, launch of "My God is not a Bully" video with Chicago's E3Radio innovator, Anna DeShawn. \$75. Schedule and venues online. 9am-10pm, 312-664-8100, Howard Johnson Inn Chicago Downtown. 720 N. LaSalle St., Tickets: <http://cwac.us/celebrating-ten-years-faith-community-justice>

**Susan G. Komen for the Cure, second class of Pink Tie Guys** Chaired for the second consecutive year by Richard M. Daley to welcome an exclusive group saving lives and ending breast cancer. These men were nominated by the community and selected by the Komen Chicagoland Board of Directors. Tickets online or by phone. 6pm-10pm, 773-444-0061, Riverfront Theater on the Chicago River, [www.komenchicago.org](http://www.komenchicago.org)

**Dare to Dream** features Suzanne Westenhoefer Suzanne Westenhoefer, dinner, community awards, silent and live auctions. Youth Outlook, working in the DuPage, Kane, Whiteside and DeKalb counties, is dedicated solely to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Tickets online. 6:30pm-11pm, 630-771-9400, Location: Bolingbrook Country Club, 2001 Rodeo

Dr., Bolingbrook, [www.youth-outlook.org](http://www.youth-outlook.org)  
**ALMA** Open bar, food and prizes support ALMA's advocacy work on immigration, healthcare and LGBT rights as well as a youth scholarship program. \$45 advance, \$50 at door. Over 21. ALMA is an organization dedicated to Latino gay men in Chicago. 7pm-11pm, Club Be, 2435 N. Leavitt Ave., [www.almachicago.com](http://www.almachicago.com)

**The Kinsey Sicks: Electile Dysfunction** The Dragapella® divas present their views on education, immigration, unemployment, scandal and corruption. Show combines political satire with music and raunch. 7:30 and 10 p.m., 773-381-4551, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse, [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com)

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 35th Anniversary** Through Oct. 21. \$25-\$99. 8pm-10pm, 312-850-9744, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph St., [www.hubbardstreetdance.com](http://www.hubbardstreetdance.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 20

**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)

**Open Casting Call for Season 4 of FOX's MasterChef** Award-winning chef Gordon Ramsay is back along with restaurateur Joe Bastianich and acclaimed chef Graham Elliot to find America's next best home cook. 10am-6pm, Le Cordon Bleu, 361 W. Chestnut St., [www.masterchefcasting.com](http://www.masterchefcasting.com)

**Fall Women's Social** Join Equality Illinois for an afternoon of socializing, cocktails, art, music, light bites, and great giveaways. 4pm-7pm, 773-477-7173, Las Manos Gallery, 5220 N. Clark St., <http://gopride.com/z7jz>

**An Afternoon with Leslie Jordan** Emmy-award winning actor and comedian Leslie Jordan is coming to Mary's Attic for an afternoon of laughs. Come early and partake in Hamburger Mary's mimosa brunch before heading upstairs for the show. Tickets are \$25. <http://tickets.reactionshows.com/>; 4pm-6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St.

**HRC Gala: Make Equality Count featuring Glee's Alex Newell** The HRC Chicago Gala is an annual event that consists of a large Silent Auction followed by a Black Tie dinner to celebrate the achievements made and to look toward a more just future. 4:30pm-11pm, Fairmont Chicago, 200 N Columbus Dr.; [www.hrc.org/events/entry/hrc-chicago-gala-dinner](http://www.hrc.org/events/entry/hrc-chicago-gala-dinner); Tickets: <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/go/event?id=181805>

**Brandi Carlile at The Chicago Theatre** With special guest Blitzen Trapper. 7:30pm-10pm, Chicago Theatre, 175 N State St, [www.thechicagotheatre.com/events/2012/october/brandi-carlile-at-the-chicagotheatre.html](http://www.thechicagotheatre.com/events/2012/october/brandi-carlile-at-the-chicagotheatre.html); Tickets: [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com)

## Sunday, Oct. 21

**Urban Village: Wicker Park Service** LGBT-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/)  
**Fred's Fright Night Halloween Costume Party** Come out and join Fred and friends for a Halloween costume contest for our four-legged friends. The winner of the costume contest determined by applause (so bring your friends) as well as great raffle prizes. Proceeds from this event benefit FredSays.org and the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and HIV prevention at Lurie Children's Hospital. 3pm-7pm, The Glenwood, 6962 N Glenwood Ave., [www.theglenwoodbar.com](http://www.theglenwoodbar.com)



## BY THE BROOKE

Wed., Oct. 17

Brooke Shields will speak at the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation's annual fall luncheon.

Publicity shot

**Scrooge & Marley movie sneak peek** With special guests directors Richard Knight, Jr., and Peter Neville. Closing night presentation of the "Your Normal LGBT Film Fest" which runs Oct. 17-21. All seats \$6 tickets available at the door the night of the screening; box office opens at 6:30 pm; 8pm, Normal theater, 209 North St., Normal, [www.scroogeamarley.com](http://www.scroogeamarley.com)

## Monday, Oct. 22

**i2i new API Coming Out Group** Open to 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)

**Cyon Flare presents United House: A Night of Unity in House Music** United House "A Night of Unity in House Music" returns to Boystown. Presented by Cyon Flare; 10pm, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted St, [www.facebook.com/cyons.unitedhouse](http://www.facebook.com/cyons.unitedhouse)

## Tuesday, Oct. 23

**Night of 100 Drag Queens: Goddess A-Go-Go** You won't want to miss this two day extravaganza, help support the work of Equality Illinois by joining them at Sidetrack on Tuesday, Oct. 23, and/or Wed., Oct. 24, for the always popular Night of 100 Drag Queens. Tickets sell out fast so get yours today! 7pm-11:30pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://gopride.com/z7jf>

## Wed., Oct. 24

**Project VIDA's 20th Anniversary "Faces of A Legend" Masquerade Ball** Benefits those living with HIV and AIDS and supports the continuation of violence prevention, health education, outreach, testing and counseling, and wellness services. The gala will include food, drinks, music, and entertainment and showcase the partnerships, collaborations, contributions, and supporters that have made Project VIDA a success over the past 20 years. 6pm-10pm, National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., [www.projectvida.org](http://www.projectvida.org)

**Hocus Pocus The Sequel** Subject To Change presents its inaugural Halloween party. \$5 suggested donation will benefit About Face Theatre, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. 9pm, The Burlington, 3425 W. Fullerton Ave., <https://www.facebook.com/events/504846112859581/?fref=ts>



## 'COUNT' ME IN

Saturday, Oct. 20

HRC-Chicago's annual gala ("Make Equality Count") will take place at the Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus Dr., with Glee's Alex Newell

Image of Tiffany and Piper Perabo at last year's gala by Kat Fitzgerald

# BILLY MASTERS

"If I had been Mariah, I would have walked over to Nicki and strangled her to death right there. I would have killed her in front of all those people and had to go to jail for it."—Stevie Nicks shares how she'd handle conflicts if she were an American Idol judge. Since the powers-that-be have said they'd like to switch judges every year, might I suggest the legendary Stevie Nicks for next season. But feel free to keep Nicki around ... it might be fun!

I've been pleased to be involved with GayDays Anaheim since its inception as a fun little gathering of friends going to Disneyland. Now, 15 years later, it's blossomed into a global phenomenon with tens of thousands of queers converging on Southern California—not that we have a shortage here! Being the goodwill ambassador that I am, I personally entertained a group of nubile youths from Barcelona and I thoroughly



Another man is in Daniel Craig's (above) pants—and that man paid \$72,000 for the privilege.

enjoyed their native tongue ... but that's another story. More appropriate for publication is discussing the entertainment. I've worked with American Idol alum Kimberly Caldwell at several gay-pride celebrations and her appearance at the Kingdom dance party was a great success. Even more memorable was the virtual mini-concert by Karmin. Interestingly enough, two days later Karmin was the featured musical guest on Dancing with the Stars—the top-rated TV show in the country. And GayDays had them first. Just like they had Jennifer Hudson singing from Dreamgirls before anyone else. You can see photos and footage at [www.GayDaysAnaheim.com](http://www.GayDaysAnaheim.com).

Ever since Swinging Richards in North Miami Beach opened last November, it's been fighting a battle to retain their status as the only club in the area where male strippers went fully nude. But was it legal? Depends who you ask. Since 1994, there's been a law banning total nudity in any club that serves liquor. Three clubs that featured female strippers were grandfathered exceptions since they existed before the ban. The club previously in the Swinging Richards location was one of those three exceptions. The new owners claimed they should also be grandfathered in because they simply changed the name. Oh, yes, and they switched to male strippers.

After several run-ins with the authorities, the owners filed a lawsuit in federal court against the city claiming they were being discriminated against because they had male dancers and catered to a gay clientele. The city responded by saying it would start enforcing the law banning alcohol sale in clubs featuring full nudity across the board—something that did not please the

remaining two female strip clubs. After several tense months, the city and the club made a deal. In exchange for dropping the lawsuit, Swinging Richards had to get a new license from the city—which legally grandfathers it into the pre-1994 conditions. The bottom line is if you want to see nude men dancing in South Florida (and don't have my address), go to Swinging Richards.

Last week, Matt Bomer and partner Simon Halls received the "Inspiration Award" by GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) for "meaningful contributions towards creating a world where every child learns to respect and accept all people." In his speech, Matt focused on the work that still needs to be done, stating that "kids aren't born to be bullies; they're taught to be bullies"—which would prompt Barbara Walters to sing that song from South Pacific if this presentation was being done on The View. The award was presented by Matt's "Magic Mike" co-star, Joe Manganiello. Any reason to get Matt and Joe together is OK in my book.

How much would you pay to get into Daniel Craig's pants? One guy paid \$72K for the privilege. At a charity auction, various pieces of memorabilia from the James Bond films were put on the block. One of the choice bits was the snug blue swimsuit Craig wore when he walked out of the ocean in Casino Royale. The suit was presented by the divine Dame Judi Dench, who said, "All I'm going to tell you is that it's unwashed." So if the new owner comes across any stray curly hairs, he may someday be able to clone his very own Daniel Craig—a wise investment, indeed.

John Travolta has reteamed with Olivia Newton-John for a CD of Christmas duets. The news came with a copy of the album cover that features a rather spooky-looking Travolta and ONJ clinking tea cups ... which is exactly how I'd picture them (well, him). Look for the CD to drop (as the kids say) Nov. 13. In other words, in the discount bins in time for Christmas.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Morgan in Baltimore: "What do you know about those Chippendales dancers on The Amazing Race? I think I heard they were gay. Do you know for sure? They are SO hot!"

I not only know about them, I actually know them—having met them when my pal Jeff Timmons was appearing with the Chippendales. The

guys in question are James Davis and Jaymes Vaughan. And one of them is gay. Which one do you think it is? The one who spells "James" with a "Y," of course! He's the blonde (well, blonde like I'm a blonde). In addition to his work as a dancer, singer and emcee of the Chippendales at the Rio All-Suites in Las Vegas, he also sings at the Rio's "Show in the Sky." And just last month he hosted Las Vegas Pride. He's been best friends with James ever since they met as aspiring male models years ago. After auditioning to become Chippendales (on a dare), they toured Europe for a while—which definitely helped prepare them for "Amazing Race." Obviously, I'll run some steamy pics of the duo on BillyMasters.com. And, yes, I hear Jaymes is available.

When I'm considering relocating to Vegas, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Nah, it would never work. Between Los Angeles, Boston and Florida, I have too many houses. While I try to figure out the best way to downsize, you can always get the best gossip around at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If you've got a question for me, just send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I convince Jaymes to do a special appearance at Swinging Richards! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# CMOSA: On solid ground

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMOSA) is the largest non-profit gay sports league in the nation, with nine sports on its roster—and that number likely will grow in the coming years.

CMOSA president Brian Kupersmit said long-term goals for the group include growing the membership, increasing the number of social activities offered, and increasing CMOSA's charitable involvement in the community.

"CMOSA is a solid organization," said Kupersmit, 37, a three-sport competitor within CMOSA who was named president earlier this summer, replacing Shawn Albritton.

"We have an amazing all-volunteer staff of elected officials, directors, commissioners and countless members who give their time and energy so generously. Our sports run successfully from season to season and the product on the court or field is always extremely well put together. We have built an incredible relationship with so many wonderful sponsors who share our community with us. We've also worked very closely with the Chicago Park District and are proud of that relationship.

"As is the case in most large organizations, we have the opportunity to increase our communication with our membership and share the great activities, work, and community involvement we are doing. We plan to leverage social media, an improved website, and a streamlined registration process. We also have an opportunity to increase the social and community involvement aspects of our league and are putting plans in place to achieve this goal. The board also is working hard to drive membership, through new sports, increased branding, and communication plans to prospective members."

There are about 4,000 CMOSA members, with

about two-thirds of them male. Most CMOSA members live on the city's North Side, "so part of our marketing efforts will stretch beyond that region," Kupersmit said.

Kupersmit said multiple sports are being considered to be added to CMOSA, including racquetball, golf and ping-pong, among others.

None of the current sports offered by CMOSA are in jeopardy, or even being considered, for elimination.

"We plan to grow through reaching out to new members across the Chicago area, getting our current members to play more sports, and offering new leagues," Kupersmit said. "We will use a mix of traditional media, social media, and word-of-mouth programming to bring in new members and ensure our organization remains healthy.

"[As president,] I would like to help change the image of what it takes to lead CMOSA. We are at a critical point in our history, where we are not really a sports organization exclusively. We are a not-for-profit organization with legal requirements, audits, insurance, etc. Our challenge is to be responsible to the organization while also maintaining the fun, small feel that our members love."

Kupersmit, who lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood, is the senior manager at Mars Inc., working in the Wrigley segment (gum and candy). He has lived in Chicago for eight years and plays flag football, softball and tennis.

He has been on the CMOSA board for six years and, for the past three years, has been the commissioner of the men's flag football league. He also has been the tournament director for the annual Chicago Pride Bowl for the past three years.

In addition to Kupersmit, the CMOSA board includes Mark Sakalares (vice president), Jessica



Brian Kupersmit. Photo by Ross Forman

Andrasko (vice president), Michael O. Rice II (treasurer) and Matt Simpson (secretary); and six appointed members: Jack Nielsen, Jackie Schimt, Brian Lopez, Julie Colwell, Jason Kallen and Michael Erwin.

"I am fortunate to have an incredibly strong board behind me," Kupersmit said. "I was overwhelmed by the number of candidates who ran for two-year elected positions and the number of candidates who ran for appointed one-year positions [this summer]. This is the first time in recent history that we've really been intentional about collecting specific skills on the board and supplementing the skills of the five elected officers. Our six appointed positions are a great mix of new blood with those who have served before. We've brought in board members as communication experts, advertising and branding experts, and so much more. I've been impressed with the leadership and commitment of this board."

So where is CMOSA, financially?

It's on good ground, Kupersmit said. "Thanks to an incredible history of fiscally responsive boards, our not for profit organization is well positioned to meet the organization's needs."

During elections this past summer, Kupersmit stressed the importance of improving the CMOSA website, and he repeated that agenda when interviewed for this story.

"Our website is not up to the level where we

need it to be," he said. "We are undertaking a major project to build a new website that will allow our members easier access to information, better integration with social media and a streamlined registration process. In our first 60 days, this board has already simplified registration by cleaning up the interface and allowing for the membership and sports transactions to be performed together. We will continue this progress."

Another area of concern this summer at the election was an apparent split along gender lines. "We've already taken positive steps to ensure that all of our leagues have elections and that each sport has the ability to make most of its decisions autonomously," Kupersmit said. "Beyond that, we believe that some planned communication, social, and community activities will continue to bring everyone together and leverage the great power of the full CMOSA organization, working together towards one goal.

"Our first course of action has been to ensure that our sports have elections for [a] commissioner. An elected representative from each sport is a critical step in our decentralized business model. We've already conducted, or are conducting, elections in five sports within our first 60 days and will work with those commissioners to ensure each sport [has] clear policies and procedures for governance."

Two of the most popular CMOSA leagues are the predominantly male open-division Sunday softball and Friday beach volleyball. However, both leagues are at capacity.

"Clearly, field/court capacity is one of our biggest challenges," Kupersmit said. "We are always seeking new options and venues for our sports. In the case of beach volleyball, we've done a good job working with the incredible staff at the Chicago Park District to add some courts on the beach and will continue to work closely with them."

Open-division basketball is now a CMOSA sport after falling under the Athletic Alliance of Chicago (AAC) flag for years.

"The addition of basketball was a very proud moment for me personally, as I worked closely with that organization to bring them in to the CMOSA family," Kupersmit said. "Basketball brought us some new members, but it offered us a cornerstone sport to help complete our portfolio. In addition, under the leadership of Mark Sakalares at the time of integration and now Andrew Burke, I've been impressed with the leadership and the creative approaches to parties and sponsorship. We are learning a lot from the basketball league that our other sports can leverage."

Kupersmit said he wanted to be CMOSA president to pay back the organization that has given him so much.

"I can't imagine a time when LGBTQ individuals didn't have the community we have today. I admire the true CMOSA trailblazers who have come before me and I hope my contributions will add to the CMOSA legacy," he said.

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## WAYS TO AVOID THE HIGH COST OF PROBATE

Some people have become concerned about avoiding probate at all costs. But you don't need to take extreme steps to avoid probate such as divesting yourself of direct ownership of all your property. Preserving control over your finances and property while alive and reducing the expense and complexity involved in transferring your property upon death should be the primary goal of your estate plan.

Probate is the legal process which begins at death when all your earthly possessions—from your home, car and investments down to your wrist watch—come under the control of the local probate court. The court's job is to make sure all debts and death taxes are paid and that your directions as set forth in your will are carried out.

Although probate should only take six months, more often than not it will go for at least a year and often for several years. Before the court process turns over your property to your heirs and loved ones it will extract court costs and legal fees. Some ways to avoid probate are:

**Joint Tenancy.** With joint tenancy two or more people equally own an asset whether it is a car, house or bank account (actually any property can be owned in joint tenancy). After the death of one joint tenant, the remaining joint tenant will continue to own the entire property.

One drawback is that if you create a joint tenancy bank account by putting your lover's name on the account, he or she can take all the money and spend it for whatever they want. You must have complete confidence in the integrity and good faith of the person you are adding to your account.

**Name a Beneficiary.** If you name someone other than your estate as beneficiary of your life insurance, IRAs and employee benefits—such as 401(k) and pension and profit-sharing plans—that asset won't be subject to probate.

**Totten Trusts.** A totten trust is simply the name for a kind of bank account where one person deposits money in his or her name as trustee for another. The depositor reserves the power to withdraw all or part of the money at any time. Upon the death of the depositor the money in the bank account is paid to the named beneficiary of the trust, which could be the surviving lover, friends or family members.

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## NBA, WNBA, soccer and more go purple for Spirit Day

The National Basketball Association (NBA), the National Women's Basketball Association (WNBA), Major League Soccer (MLS), the New York Stock Exchange, Times Square and Facebook will wear purple Friday, Oct. 19, in a stand against bullying and to show their support for LGBT youth, GLAAD announced.

They will join hundreds of celebrities, corporations, news outlets and schools, as well as millions of Americans in wearing the color. Supporters are encouraged to take the Spirit Day pledge at [www.glaad.org/spiritday](http://www.glaad.org/spiritday).

GLAAD also launched the "19 Days of Action," a countdown to Spirit Day that provides supporters with one simple action they can take daily to combat bullying.

## Nine to Twelve Bowling rolling along

Nine to Twelve bowling has been rolling on at River Rand Bowl for more than 30 years and is the longest-running LGBT league in the suburbs.

Bowling takes place on the third Saturday of the month through May. The success of the original league led to the development of the Nine to Twelve No Tap league, which rolls on the first Saturday of the month from October through May.

New seasons will begin in the fall and there are a few spots available in both leagues for new bowlers and a couple of teams. Interested persons should contact Rob at [9to12bowling@comcast.net](mailto:9to12bowling@comcast.net). League information is also available on Facebook at "9 to 12 Bowling."

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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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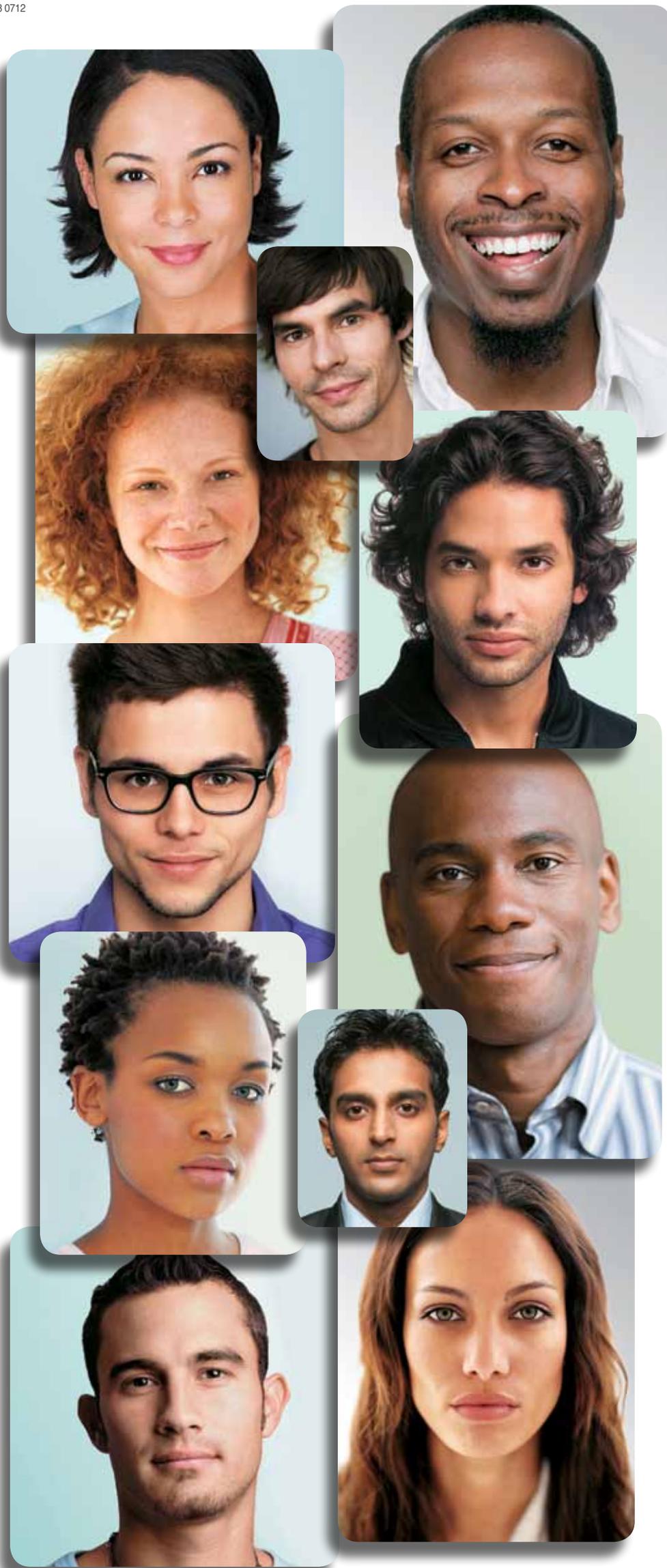
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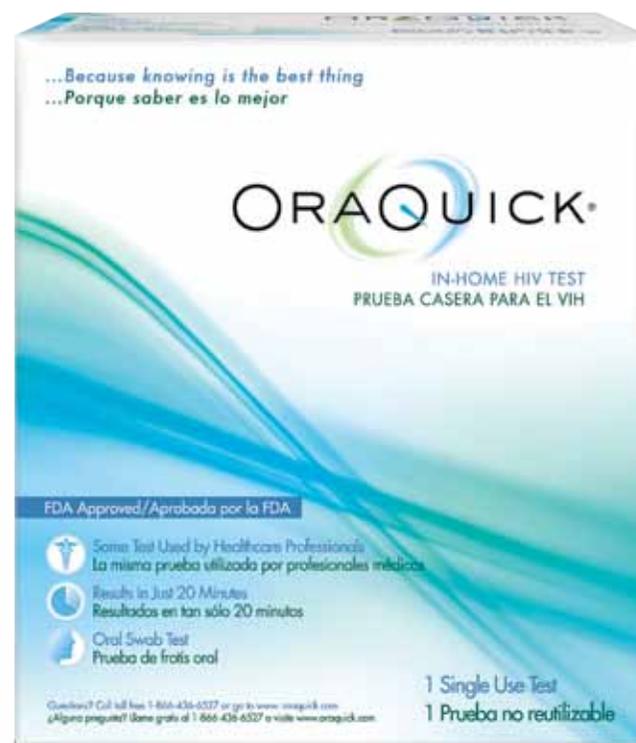
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