



JEN RICHARDS ON THE 'Q LIST' PAGE 25

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

NOV. 7, 2012 VOL 28, NO. 5

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OUT KENYAN LEADER MBOTE TALKS WITH WCT PAGE 6



## MAKING HISTORY

Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin has become the first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate by defeating former Gov. Tommy Thompson. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama retained his post as chief executive.

Read more news on page 4 and online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com). Picture of Baldwin by Tim Carroll Photography; photo of Obama by Jean Albright.

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GLORIA ALLRED AT PERSONAL PAC LUNCHEON PAGE 8



HALLOWEEN PARADE PHOTOS PAGE 23

## The new head of OutServe-SLDN

BY CHUCK COLBERT

She's the right person in the right place at the right time.

That's the consensus viewpoint about West Point graduate Alyson Robinson, a former Army officer and transgender woman who was selected last week as the new executive director of the nation's leading LGBT military advocacy organization, OutServe-SLDN, which announced plans to merge earlier this year.

"As I look back, it seems as though my entire life has been preparing me for this particular moment because it is right in the center of my calling, my history, my identity, and my passion," she said in an Oct. 24 YouTube video.

Robinson, 42, is married to wife Danyelle and the couple has four children. She is believed to be the first transgender person to head a national LGBT organization that is not transgender-specific. Robinson began her new duties Oct. 25.

Her selection to lead OutServe-SLDN comes just as the boards of directors of the nation's two foremost LGBT military groups formally voted in Orlando, Fla., the weekend before last to join forces, including a merger of their respective boards.

An OutServe-SLDN spokesman declined to provide Robinson's compensation.

"We don't disclose salary," said Zeke Stokes.

The new team's senior partner is Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). Founded in 1993 in the wake of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," SLDN provided free, confidential, and direct legal services to LGBT service members and veterans affected by the now-defunct ban on open gay and lesbian service. Over the years the organization has assisted more than 12,000 individuals while becoming a key player in the fight to repeal DADT, which took effect a year ago.

Only two years old, OutServe is the team's junior partner. And yet the association, which emerged in the summer of 2010 through social media, such as Facebook, as an underground network of LGBT active duty service members, now claims more than 6,000 members and 50-plus chapters worldwide.

As a combined organization OutServe-SLDN has its work cut out. DADT repeal took effect at the stroke of midnight, Sept. 19, 2011, lifting the ban on openly gay, lesbian and bisexual service. Transgender-related military service is still prohibited.

Other disparities result from the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

Consequently, LGB service members who are legally married in same-sex unions are denied more than 1,000 marriage-related benefits at the federal level, as well as some military benefits and support afforded to opposite-sex couples and their families.

In October 2011 on behalf of seven, same-sex, legally married military couples, SLDN filed suit in federal court challenging DOMA and other federal laws that prevent the military from providing equal protection, benefits, and support to all service members and their families

Robinson said that among her top priorities would be the fight for full equality for all.

"The repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' taught us that to be victorious, we must fight inequality on multiple fronts—in the courts, on Capitol Hill, and in the public square," she said.

Robinson also vowed to press for transgender inclusion in military service.

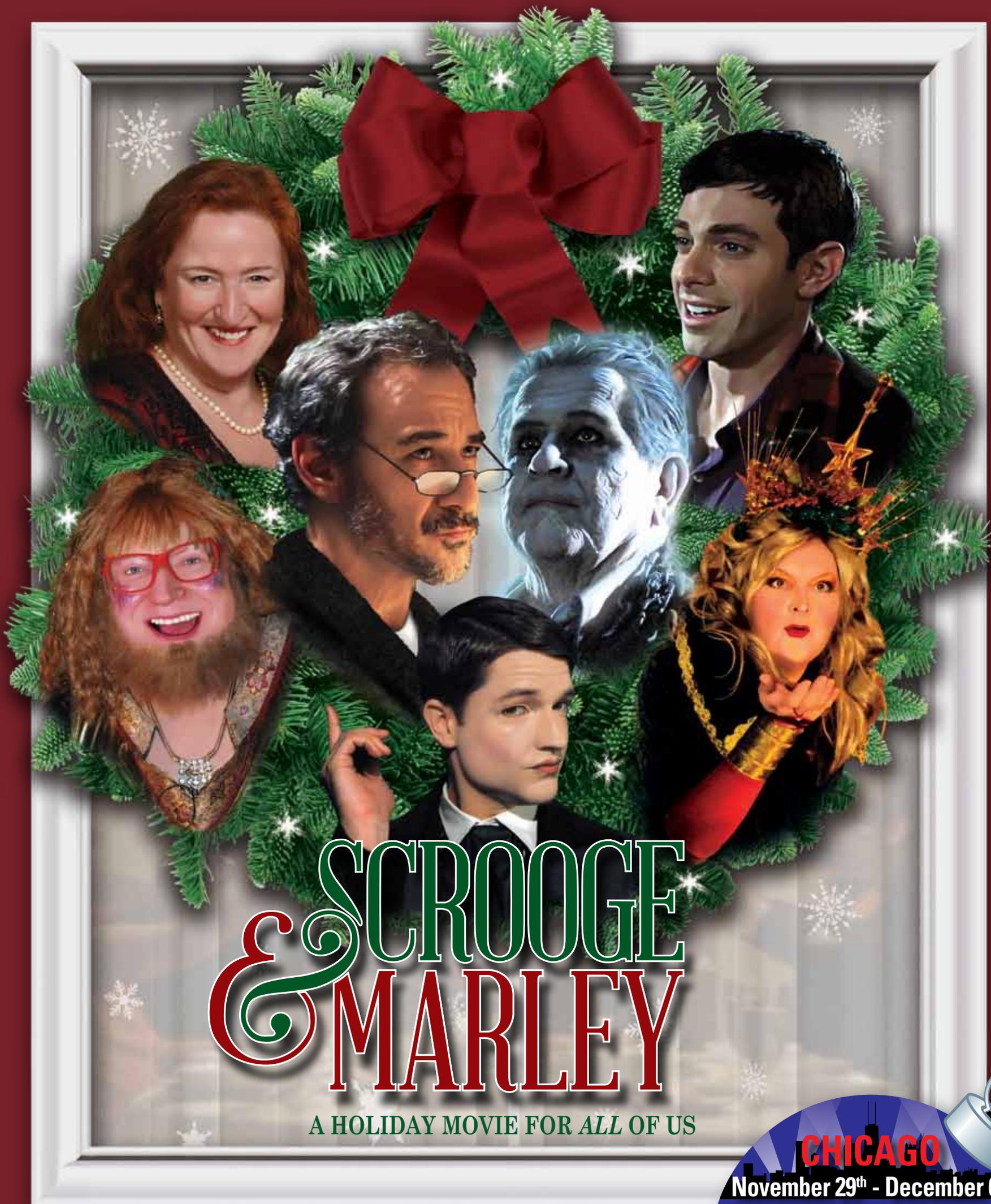
"We cannot stop until we reach the day when qualified Americans who wish to wear the uniform or our armed forces have the opportunity to do so with honor and integrity—and without fear of harassment—whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender," she said.

To that end, Robinson told BuzzFeed that two other priorities for OutServe-SLDN include adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the military's non-discrimination policy and removing the stigma of less-than-honorable discharges for veterans

Turn to page 6



Alyson Robinson is the leader of the new OutServe-SLDN organization. Photo courtesy of Robinson



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this week in  
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*Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Jen Richards by Steve Starr; photo of David Kuria Mbote courtesy of Ian Temple; photo of Gloria Alred by Kate Sosin; image from Northalsted Halloween Parade by Jerry Nunn*

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*Photo courtesy of Bravo*



See images from the always-intriguing SOFA Chicago art show.  
*Photo by Andrew Davis*

Read a profile of Halsted Vodka, which gives back to the local LGBT community.  
*Photo by Ross Forman*

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Read about the North Shore organization the Pride Youth Program.

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Read entertainment news about Carly Rae Jepsen, Rihanna and Jodie Foster.

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Read Vern Hester's takes on shows by Diamond Rings and Baathhaus (above) in Bent Nights.

*Photo by Vern Hester*

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## ELECTIONS '12

# Obama wins; however, Romney finally concedes

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In the Nov. 6 race with the most impact on the LGBT community, President Obama won reelection, although Republicans were rumored at midnight to be mulling over contesting numbers in Ohio and perhaps other states.

The apparently heavy turnout of Democrats for Obama seemed to have paid off for LGBT candidates and ballot measures too—with pro-same-sex marriage ballot measures appearing to be passing in Maine, Maryland, and Washington, and the unprecedented defeat of a proposed ban on same-sex marriage in Minnesota. Also, at deadline, it appeared Obama's victory in Wisconsin was propelling Rep. Tammy Baldwin to

an historic win as the first openly gay person elected to the U.S. Senate.

The Obama victory is especially sweet for many LGBT people given the Republican ticket's staunch opposition to equal rights for gays in marriage, the military and nearly every other arena.

While Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney did not make same-sex marriage a prominent issue in his campaign, he and vice-presidential candidate Paul Ryan made indirect attacks against Obama over his support for marriage equality, in particular.

Ryan, in a conference call sponsored by the National Journal with right-wing activist Ralph Reed's "Faith and Freedom Coalition" Nov. 4, said Obama was taking the country down a path

that "compromises those values, those Judeo-Christian values, Western civilization values that made us such a great and exceptional nation in the first place."

A Romney campaign robo-call in Virginia also attacked Obama on religious values. And another robo-call, released last Thursday, warned "President Obama used his health care plan to declare war on religion, forcing religious institutions to go against their faith."

Early returns suggested that heavily gay sections of key states, including Ohio and Florida, may have played a role in Obama's eventual win in the electoral college. At deadline, Obama was leading the popular vote; Romney's campaign eventually conceded victory to the president.

But numerous news organizations called the electoral vote for Obama. Realclearpolitics.com and Fox News put the win at 290 to 203 electoral votes at deadline. The New York Times put it at 285 to 200. CNN was calling it 283 to 203. The Washington Post was saying 271 to 200.

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ONLINE AT  
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NATIONAL NEWS



—Signorile (left) rues suicide/Romney comparison

—Male firefighter claims harassment

—Gay men's fraternity sues "frarority"

## LGBTs battle locally for election gains

BY KATE SOSIN

LGBT candidates battled in races throughout the city and beyond, and several will be returning to office—or going for the first time.

### State House

In one of the most-watched races among LGBT Illinoisans, Sam Yingling has become the first openly gay rep elected outside of Chicago, taking the 62nd District Seat. Yingling bested Republican Sandy Cole with 54 percent of the Lake County vote.

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, called the win "extraordinary."

"Many people throughout the state believe that LGBT individuals live only on the North side of Chicago, but LGBT individuals live and work in every community throughout Illinois," said Martinez in a statement. "This shows that constituents in Illinois are no longer concerned with the sexual orientation of their representative, but the capability of the individual. Mr. Yingling is a true representative of his constituents and the 62nd district will be well served by his leadership and representation."

Openly gay Rep. Deb Mell carried a strong leader over Republican challenger Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson, taking 81 percent of the Chicago vote with 77 percent of precincts reporting.

Reps. Greg Harris (13th District) and Kelly Cassidy (14th)—two openly gay lawmakers behind Illinois' marriage-equality bill—ran unopposed. Reps. Sara Feigenholtz and Ann Williams, two allies, were also unchallenged.

### State Senate

Democrat Heather Steans (7th), largely seen as an LGBT ally, ran unopposed. Daniel Biss (9th Dist.), who pledged strong LGBT support, won his race with 66 percent of the vote, with 159 of 168 precincts reported.

### Congress

Democrats trumped Republicans in three of the state's most closely watched Congressional races.

Tammy Duckworth, a favorite among many local LGBTs, is headed to Congress. Duckworth beat Republican incumbent Joe Walsh with 51 percent of the vote in DuPage County and 55 percent of the vote in Cook County, with all but eight precincts reporting.

Democrat Bill Foster defeated Judy Biggett

in another highly contested race, this time for the 11th Dist. seat. Foster carried the vote in Kane, Will, Kendall and DuPage Counties, all four of the counties that make up his district.

Democrat Brad Schneider narrowly beat Republican Robert Dold in their race for the 10th Dist. seat.

Ninth Dist. Rep. Jan Schakowsky easily won in her race to maintain her 9th Dist. seat, as did Mike Quigley (5th) and Jesse Jackson Jr. (2nd). Jackson did not actively campaign, as he has been battling clinical issues.



Sam Yingling. Photo courtesy of Yingling

### Judicial races

Judge Andrea Schleifer, another out gay candidate, bested Republican James Pieczonka for the Cook County 12th Subcircuit Rochford vacancy. Schleifer had carried 53 percent of the vote with 247 of 252 precincts reporting.

John Dalton became the first openly gay judge elected outside of Chicago, defeating Republican John Waters in the race for the 16th Circuit seat in Kane County. Dalton pulled in 54 percent of the vote.

John Ehrlich, an openly gay judicial candidate, ran unopposed for the Cook County 8th Subcircuit Cole vacancy.

### Other races

Out gay Democratic candidate for Sangamon County Auditor Chris Boyster lost his race to Republican Paul Palazzo, who took 64 percent of the vote.

Debra Shore, the out gay commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, led a pack of eight in both city and Cook County elections and will be staying in office.

## ELECTIONS '12

## Baldwin makes history; others win as well

BY ANDREW DAVIS

A variety of contests took place around the country Nov. 6 that were of specific interest to the LGBT community. (These results are as of 11 p.m. CT.) Among those were:

—**Wisconsin:** In her race for the U.S. Senate seat, Tammy Baldwin made history by edging former Wis. Gov. Tommy Thompson to become the first openly gay person in that national legislative body.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said in a statement that "Tammy Baldwin has always been a trailblazer, but with her victory tonight Senator-elect Baldwin has again earned her spot in the history books. As the first openly gay person elected to the United States Senate, Tammy Baldwin is a role model for LGBT youth and all young women across the country."

Also, Mark Pocan—a friend of Baldwin—captured Baldwin's Congressional seat by defeating Chad Lee. Lee had made news recently when Kyle Wood, an out supporter, claimed (falsely, it turned out) that someone gay-bashed Wood. Pocan was heavily favored to win.

—**Massachusetts:** Richard Tisei is trying to make history of his own by becoming the first openly gay Republican on Capitol Hill—and succeeded. To do so, he must upset incumbent Democrat U.S. Rep. John Tierney. With 87 percent of the vote counted, the outcome was too close to call.

Also in Massachusetts, there was a tight U.S. Senate race between Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren and GOP incumbent Scott Brown (in one of the most closely watched contests in the country), who participated in some pro-gay votes while on Capitol Hill. Warren prevailed, prompting the Human Rights Campaign to release a statement saying, "Senator-elect Warren's victory tonight is nothing short of inspiring. As she prepares to fill the seat once held by the late Senator Edward Kennedy, I have no doubt that Senator-elect Warren will be an equally dogged leader for LGBT Americans and our families."

In addition, there will again be a Kennedy in Congress as Democrat Joseph Kennedy III has beaten Republican businessman Sean Bielat to replace retiring out gay Democrat Barney Frank.

—**New York:** Sean Patrick Maloney attempted to be the first out gay member of Congress from New York state. As of 9:19 p.m. CT, he had a 7,000-vote lead over Republican Rep. Nan Hayworth, according to RecordOnline.com. However, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) later congratulated Maloney on winning, stating, "The growing presence of LGBT voices on Capitol Hill draws much-needed attention to the urgency of advancing equality, and HRC is excited to work with the Congressman-elect on these issues in the coming term."

—**Colorado:** Congressman Jared Polis easily recaptured his seat, becoming the most senior openly gay member of the U.S. House. Democrats have controlled Polis' district since 1975, the Denver Post reported.

—**Rhode Island:** Gay Congressman David Cicilline retained his post after a campaign that included a National Republican Congressional Committee-sponsored ad linking Cicilline to a convicted pedophile and murderer he represented as a defense attorney 20 years ago. In a statement, National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director Jerame Davis said, "We're proud to have David return to Washington for another term as the representative from Rhode Island's first congressional district."

—**Indiana:** Republican U.S. Senate candidate Richard Mourdock lost to Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly. The loss will almost certainly be blamed on Mourdock's controversial comments about rape and abortion.

—**Missouri:** On a related note, Republican Todd Akin (who once spoke of "legitimate rape") lost to Democratic U.S. Senate incumbent Claire McCaskill.

### Marriage initiatives

There was also the issue of marriage equality in four states: Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington state. Six U.S. states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage, but the decisions were made through judicial and legislative actions.

At 11:45 p.m. CT, the Maine vote was 54 percent to 46 percent in favor of marriage equality (with 50 percent of votes in), according to CNN. In Maryland, it was 52 percent to 48 in favor (with 93 percent of votes in), while in Minnesota the vote to ban marriage equality was tied at 48 percent (with 53 percent of the votes counted). In Washington state, it was 52 percent to 48 percent in favor of marriage equality, with half of the votes counted.

# LGBT groups recover from Hurricane Sandy

BY ANDREW DAVIS

As the East Coast (particularly New York and New Jersey) recovers from the damage that Hurricane Sandy recently caused, a few LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations provided updates to Windy City Times (through personal emails or statements) about how things are:

—**Rea Carey, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:** “Our thoughts are with those who have been affected by the storm and are trying to recover. We want to let you know that our New York Task Force offices in lower Manhattan—one of the hardest hit areas—will be closed for at least the rest of this week due to power outages, flooding in the building and no subway service.

“Some of our staff are able to work from home or remotely and since our email, data and phones are all based out of our main DC office, we are operational. However, some of our folks are focused on cleaning up and staying safe. If you are trying to reach one of our New York-based staff members and are unable to, you can also call our main number (202-393-5177) for a directory of options. Again, our hearts are with those who have experienced losses and hardship from this storm.

—**Vanessa Bowling, Equality Maryland:** “Luckily, Sandy didn’t hit Maryland as hard as it did other states. I would ask that readers help New Jersey and New York as much as they can. It will take a while to get them fully operational again, and the pictures I am seeing are devastating.”

—**Carisa Cunningham of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), based in Boston:** “We are actually doing fine. We closed for one day (Monday) because both the governor

and the mayor asked businesses to close, and because the [Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority] shut down operations during the day. A few staff members are without power at home, but we realize that others—especially those in New York and New Jersey—have real hardships to deal with.

—**Jessica Stern, International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission:** “From our global headquarters in New York City, I am relieved to report that the staff of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is safe and sound after Hurricane Sandy swept through the Caribbean and Northeastern United States this week.

“IGLHRC’s lower Manhattan office is temporarily closed as a result of flooding, but that hasn’t stopped us from working. We are used to crackling phone lines, fleeting internet connections, and dropped Skype calls with our staff in regional offices and with LGBT activists and organizations worldwide. With IGLHRC staff on five continents—spanning 15 time zones—we’ve been in constant contact throughout the week. Whatever the storm, natural or political, the day-to-day work of IGLHRC continues.”

—**Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal:** “Our thoughts are with all of those who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. With our New York offices in lower Manhattan, we have been unable to return to the building and much of our digital infrastructure (emails, etc.) has been disrupted. If you have called our National Headquarters in New York and have received a busy signal, please consider reaching out to the regional office closest to your home [Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles].”

—**Kelly Simon of the National LGBT Bar As-**



Jessica Stern. Photo from IGLHRC

**sociation:** “While our offices have been closed for the past two days (most of Washington, D.C. was shut down), everyone is fine here at the LGBT Bar offices. The damage around the city is minimal compared to what our friends up north experienced. Oddly, we didn’t even lose power—just some minor tree damage. Right now we’re just sending thoughts and prayers up to our friends in New Jersey and New York.”

—**Sharon Lettman-Hicks, National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC):** The NBJC team has returned safely to our office in Washington, D.C. We have not let the storm slow our mobilization efforts as Election Day quickly approaches. Our hearts and prayers go out to the individuals and families also affected by the hurricane.”

—**Dan Rafter, Human Rights Campaign:** “HRC staff are doing well—we didn’t bear the

brunt of the storm here in D.C.—but we are keeping all of those impacted in our thoughts and prayers, particularly those in the devastated communities in New Jersey and New York. We’re encouraging our members to donate to Red Cross relief efforts if they can.”

In addition, the Washington Blade reported that Hurricane Sandy destroyed several New York City-based LGBT organizations.

Carl Siciliano, executive director of the Ali Forney Center (a facility for LGBT youth), said that the storm left up to four feet of water from the nearby Hudson River in the facility on West 22nd Street in Manhattan’s West Chelsea neighborhood. The water has since receded, but Siciliano said the storm surge “decimated” the drop-in center.

“Everything is destroyed—all of the electricity in the place, the floors, the computers, the laptops, the phones, files, all the furniture,” he said. “Everything is just destroyed. The refrigerator was floating and knocked over, all the food was out. The space is uninhabitable.”

Sandy also forced the Empire State Pride Agenda, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and other LGBT advocacy groups to close their New York offices because of a lack of electricity and, in some cases, flooding.

Gay City News reported that its offices have been temporarily relocated to 1 MetroTech Center North in Brooklyn because flood waters inundated its Canal Street offices.

However, neither the LGBT Community Center in Greenwich Village or the Gay Men’s Health Crisis’ new offices on West 33rd Street on the West Side of Manhattan suffered any damage from the superstorm.

Also, New York City-based GMHC (Gay Men’s Health Crisis) cancelled its Fashion Forward 2012 event. A statement read, “Given the ongoing immediate challenges faced by our clients, GMHC has decided to cancel our annual fundraiser, Fashion Forward, and focus on our core mission, providing direct support to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.”

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## WORLD

# Kenya's first out gay candidate hopes to make history

BY STEPHEN SONNEVELD

David Kuria Mbote is the Africa's first openly gay Black political candidate running for national office (outside South Africa). The senate hopeful from Kiambu County is campaigning in a Kenya that punishes same-sex intercourse as a crime and in an Africa where, according to Gay Star News, "it is illegal to be gay in 25 out of 38 nations. In Uganda, homosexuality is punished by life imprisonment, and in Mauritania, Sudan, and northern parts of Nigeria gay people face the death penalty."

Windy City Times caught up with Mbote when he was in London presenting a leadership lecture for the international LGBTI rights group, the Kaleidoscope Trust, to discuss confronting hatred, human rights and hope.

**Windy City Times: If you are elected to the Kenyan Senate in March 4, 2013, how long will your term be, and what will you be able to accomplish as a senator?**

David Kuria Mbote: If elected or perhaps I should say, *when* elected, I will serve for five years. During this time I hope to implement the five-point program for Kiambu. This program is elaborated in greater detail on my website.

**WCT: What are your hopes for the people of Kenya?**

DKM: Kenya is a country endowed with many natural resources and very hard-working people. Yet, almost half the population lives below poverty line, many die out of easily preventable or curable diseases, youth unemployment is over 60 percent. Can you imagine the plight of those with no education? What is their hope?

We all want a country and a people that are living decent lives, have access to quality treatment and are treated equally before the law. It is my hope that all forms of discrimination and exclusion become a thing of the past—but that can only happen if Kenyans elect good and accountable leadership in the upcoming elections.

**WCT: What are the major challenges facing Kenyans today?**

DKM: The main challenges include poverty, and, with it, [there are] poor health, corruption, lack of access to quality education, high youth unemployment, excessively high rates of HIV infections—four times the rates of all of western Europe put together. Many of our people still die of preventable or easily curable diseases—even while the political elite award themselves embarrassingly high salaries for the size of our economy.

**WCT: Why do you have faith in Kenya's political system, especially when you have criticized its corruption?**

DKM: It would not be right to give up on our people. The Kenyan people and Kiambu residents, in particular, have consistently fought for

change, and they remember the dark days of one party rule. They know change for the better is possible, and many now realize I represent that change.

**WCT: I read a report that you were studying to be a Catholic priest since the age of 13, but were dismissed from the seminary at age 22 when accused of having relations with a priest who had left two years prior. You have denied that allegation.**

DKM: Actually, that is not correct. Firstly, I was in the seminary until age 27 after graduating with a [bachelor of theology degree]; I left of my own volition. True, there was that false accusation—I left after being cleared. The reason I left is because I could not, in conscience, teach something that I had serious misgiving about.

**WCT: LGBT people are persecuted in Kenya. In 2010, there was measure introduced in the Ugandan parliament to make homosexuality an executionable offense, while two years later a new anti-gay bill there incited lynchings and fanned more hatred, forcing many LGBT people to seek refuge in Nairobi, Kenya, and other cities. What are the contributing factors to Africa's homophobia?**

DKM: The political class act and talk as if their personal views are the views of everyone in the society. The religious leaders on the other hand, are not democratic and have never respected an individual's option to live their lives as they know to be fit. The combination of these two forces and the lack of positive role models in the society make it difficult to project positive social perception of gay people.

**WCT: Does homophobia have traditional and cultural roots in Kenyan and African culture, or did this attitude develop at a later period in history?**

DKM: I would not say that homophobia has traditional or cultural roots in the Kenyan society. For one, our cultural values are so different—what is respected in one community is derided in another; [for example,] circumcision in one community is a very respectable practice and yet in another just villages apart, it is thought of as mutilating oneself. Among the Kikuyu, women could marry other women—I saw one such couple in my own village.

**WCT: Why is it important for you to say to Kenyans, "I am a gay man and I am campaigning for public office?" What do you hope to achieve through this?**

DKM: For me, being out about sexual orientation is more about honesty in public life than anything else. I also want to talk against structural barriers to HIV treatment, care and prevention. This gives me credibility, but in terms of performance in leadership, I do not think it is of much relevance.



David Kuria Mbote. Photo from Ian Temple

**WCT: Have your political opponents stoked homophobia to belittle you and your campaign?**

DKM: I have yet to hear of anything that is offensive—if they do, I will go to court to seek protection. Hate speech is criminalized in this country.

**WCT: How do you and other LGBTs survive under a system that criminalizes your basic humanity?**

DKM: Human beings learn to adapt even in the harshest of situations; we have all have to adapt.

**WCT: In the United States, any mention of faith in politics today rarely rises above extreme fundamentalism and other hardliner rhetoric. In Kenya recently, devotees of one faith bombed churches of another faith. Religions of all stripes have been used to justify**

slavery, manifest destiny, homophobia and the subjugation of women. As a theologian, as well as a student of history, what place should religion and books of faith have in government workings, if any?

DKM: Separation of state and religion is very important. It offers protection to both religious believers and nonbelievers. Unfortunately, religious leaders tend not to learn from history—what they fail to understand is when they enjoy great power and use it unwisely to oppress and compel nonbelievers to live by the standards set from the pulpit, people generally rebel. We witnessed that in Kenya in 2010, when the religious leaders were campaigning against the constitution—they still hold sway but they have to be more responsible about it.

**WCT: Is AIDS education where it needs to be in Kenya and the greater continent? If not, what is hindering that, and how can such be overcome?**

DKM: This is one area where our leadership have failed us miserably. We still have approximately 120,000 new infections every year and about 80,000 deaths each year due to AIDS complications. Having realized that they are unable or unwilling to do what it takes, our leaders now prefer to be silent about it. It is a shame that even with such a sad situation, someone would actually defend laws that keep vulnerable sections of the population from access to services.

**WCT: You wrote, "Human rights are an essential component of building strong democratic structure." Tell us why.**

DKM: Respecting the basic human rights of each and every person is the basis [for people to] recognize their capacity for self-determination, and respect for the political choices they make through their vote. Dictatorship starts when a section of the society [takes for] itself the right to determine how other members of the society should live or not live.

**To learn more about Mbote's campaign, visit [www.kuriaforsenator.com](http://www.kuriaforsenator.com).**

## ROBINSON from cover

dismissed under DADT.

Robinson comes to her new leadership role at OutServe-SLDN from the Human Rights Campaign. There, she served as deputy director of learning and development for the HRC Foundation's Workplace Project, which provides curricula and training aimed at corporate leadership and employee audiences to improve LGBT cultural competence and inclusion on the job.

In a statement, HRC president Chad Griffin said, "Allyson Robinson is strategic, passionate, and committed. She's the right person to lead OutServe-SLDN."

"A decorated military officer," he added, "makes her uniquely qualified."

"The LGBT-rights movement is made stronger by the inspired appointment of Robinson as the head of a critically important organization," said Griffin.

Sue Fulton, executive director of Knights Out, an organization of West Point alumni, staff, and faculty, voiced praise for the selection of Robinson.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us at OutServe-SLDN, and we need a strategic, smart, dynamic leader who is strong both inside and outside the Beltway," she said in a statement. "Allyson fits the bill perfectly. She understands the importance of faith and family, especially within the LGBT and military communities, and will be able to get things done."

A native of Scranton, Pa., Robinson is a former pastor in Christian ministry, having earned a master of divinity degree in social-justice theology from Baylor University.

Transgender activist and blogger Autumn Sandeen, a retired Navy veteran based in San

Diego, could not be happier with Robinson's appointment.

"It's clear to me that in selecting Allyson Robinson as their new executive director OutServe-SLDN chose someone based on her qualifications and competence instead of sexual orientation or gender identity," Sandeen said in email correspondence. "That selection speaks volumes about the integrity of the organization's board."

"If there were any doubt about OutServe-SLDN's commitment to open military service for qualified transgender people, the selection of a transgender, military veteran as the organization's new executive director should put all questions about that full commitment to rest," added Sandeen.

Gunner Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, offered his assessment of Robinson's appointment. "Allyson is the right choice to lead OutServe-SLDN as she brings her experience of having served in the Army and an understanding of what our LGBT military personnel and veterans are still dealing with in a post 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' time," he said.

"This is also a giant step forward for the transgender movement as there are so few transgender people in leadership of either state and/or national advocacy organizations, which also reflects in lack of priority and resources devoted to issues transgender people face across the country," said Scott.

"I am hopeful that Allyson will make headway in removing the barriers for our transgender men and women to serve openly in the military and for transgender specific medical care to be provided to transgender veterans who have served our country," he added.

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# Circuit nightclub temporarily closed; business split in play

BY KATE SOSIN

Boystown mainstay Circuit nightclub has closed temporarily, according to a statement from owner Mike Macharello—and a business split is at the heart of the development.

The late-night club, located at 3641 N. Halsted St., was closed after an apparent falling out between owners Mike Macharello and Patrick Harms, but why exactly the business is shuttered remains uncertain.

The Circuit website has been replaced with a statement stating that Macharello's assets have been seized by debt holders. ChicagoPride.com first broke that story, noting that Boi Magazine, which Macharello published, has also been seized.

"As a matter of public notice: As of November 1, 2012 all assets of Michael Macharello d/b/a Circuit Nightclub have been seized by first position debt holders," the statement on the Circuit website now reads.

News that the club was closed first came from Macharello who posted on Facebook that Circuit was renegotiating its lease with its landlord. Macharello alleges that the club's landlord has dramatically raised the rent for the space.

"My landlord continues to raise the rent on us by thousands of dollars and all the money you spend at Circuit, the majority goes to him!" Macharello wrote. "I do not want that for myself, for you or the future of Circuit."

"So right now I am trying to work a deal out with him so that I, along with the club has a better future, where the money that you spend at Circuit will go directly back into Circuit to make it a better club experience for you and all to enjoy!"

Dozens of Facebook commenters lamented the temporarily closure, made public on the club's Facebook page.

But Franklin L. Friedman of Sterling Properties (which manages 3641 N. Halsted St.) stated that Macharello's claims were false:

1. Mike Macharello is NOT the tenant of the 3641 Building;
2. [Circuit's] Patrick Harms IS the tenant of the 3641 Building;
3. Under the current lease for the 3641 Building, the ownership of the 3641 building has NOT raised the rent;
4. Mike Macharello's implication that the ownership of the 3641 Building forced Circuit to close by a rent increase of thousands of dollars is absolutely and completely false; and
5. the ownership of the 3641 Building (i) enjoys a close and harmonious business relationship with Patrick Harms and (ii) looks forward to



Circuit has hosted many musicians, including Elvis Crespo in 2011. Photo by Jerry Nunn

this relationship continuing for many years in the future."

Harms later emailed Windy City Times, stating, "I wanted to reach out to you regarding an e-mail sent from Franklin Friedman, the property owner of 3641 North Halsted Street. All five points that Mr. Friedman identified in his e-mail are true. I am the lease holder of the property, and I still enjoy an excellent working relationship with Mr. Friedman and his family."

According to Harms, he negotiated a significant rent reduction with Friedman in 2010, when the economy was still struggling. Since, he said, there have not been increases.

"Finally, on Nov. 1, Mike Macharello removed the business licenses from the premises because of serious disagreements between him and myself over administrative and operational concerns," Harms wrote. "Despite my best efforts to reach to an amicable solution, Mike and I have been unable to find common ground."

Macharello, reached by phone Nov. 5, said it is true that he removed business licenses. He also

agreed with Harms' version of events, including Harms' statement that Friedman had not raised the rent recently. Rather, he said, he had hoped to negotiate a rent reduction for the property, half of which he said is currently being used for storage.

Macharello said he took responsibility for Circuit's latest woes, but also alleged financial mismanagement on the part of Harms. Still, he said, Harms remains a close friend. He said the poor economy has meant struggles for Circuit, forcing him to raise drink prices and cover charges.

Asked why his websites had been seized, Macharello said he believed Circuit's website had been seized by one of its investors, but that Boi Magazine should not have been taken over. He

said that Boi will continue to publish and that he would be launching a new Circuit website soon. The future of the club at its current location, however, remains uncertain.

Windy City Times is looking into several of Macharello's claims. A follow-up inquiry to Harms was not immediately returned.

Circuit regularly hosts LGBTQ community events and popular theme nights. Macharello has found at least one other venue for Circuit events, as he held "Noche Vaquera" at 1675 N. Elston Ave. on Nov. 4.

Windy City Times will update this story as details become available.

—Contributing: Andrew Davis

## Alleged anti-gay judge suspended; claims she's target

BY KATE SOSIN

An Illinois Circuit Court judge whose alleged bias against lesbian couples in an adoption case in the late '90s is making new headlines.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Judge Susan J. McDunn appeared before a federal court judge, claiming that people were filing secret lawsuits in her name in an attempt to ruin her life. Chief Federal Court Judge James F. Holderman said the cases do not exist.

The Circuit Court Office of the Chief Judge released a statement Nov. 2, stating that McDunn has been suspended.

"Judge Susan J. McDunn was removed from hearing cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County by Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans and her Presiding Judge, William D. Maddux, months ago, and has been on medical leave since that time," the statement said. "It is the policy of the Office of the Chief Judge not to comment on the extent or nature of medical information concerning judges or employees."

McDunn took heat in late '90s for delaying a lesbian adoption ruling in one case any involving anti-gay organization the Family Research Council in another. Another judge intervened and granted custody in the cases, a decision that McDunn fought to reverse.

In 2004, bar associations found her unfit for retention, but voters kept her on the bench. She was also retained in 2010.

## Two arrested in murder of gay youth

BY KATE SOSIN

Two young people are facing murder charges in the slaying of a gay youth on Chicago's Southeast Side.

Jarone Carter, 16, and a 14-year-old, who will be tried as a juvenile, have been arrested

for the murder of Terrance Wright, an 18-year-old gay youth.

The 14 year-old was ordered to be held in custody. Carter's bond was set at \$2 million Oct. 31.

According to Cook County state's attorney's office spokesperson Andy Conklin, Wright was waiting for a bus at 9901 S. Yates St. when the juvenile approached him and put a gun to his chest. Carter began to rummage through his pockets. Wright and the juvenile fought over the gun, and the juvenile discharged the gun into Carter's chest.

Five witnesses identified the juvenile in a line-up, said Conklin.

Wright was transported to Advocate Christ Medical Center, where he died as a result of the injury.

Carter faces charges of first-degree murder, attempted armed robbery and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. He is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 20.

According to multiple reports, Wright recently transferred high schools to evade his anti-gay bullies. Wright was attending Banner Academy South High School. His family believes his murder could be an anti-gay hate crime.

Conklin said that neither defendant has been charged with a hate crime.

Windy City Times will update as details become available.

## LAGBAC recognized as CLE provider

The MCLE Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois has recognized the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) as a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) provider.

LAGBAC has sponsored legal education series, both for the legal profession and the community at large, including ad hoc events and a previous legal education series in collaboration with Howard Brown Health Center.

Nick Furtwangler and Mario Sullivan, co-chairs of the Programming and Events Committee, continue to develop CLE programming. See [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) for more information.

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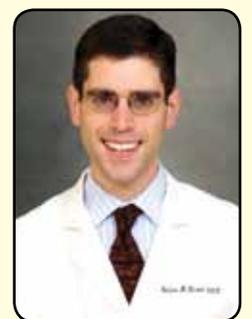
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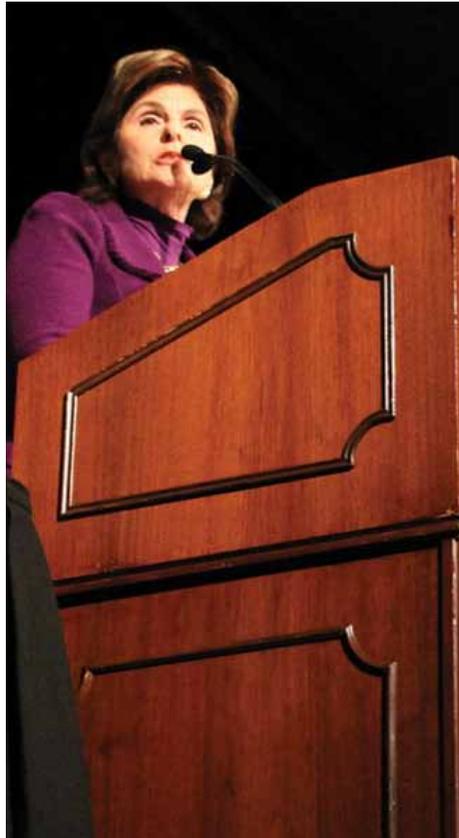
Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

# Gloria Allred addresses Personal PAC luncheon

BY KATE SOSIN

Well-known attorney Gloria Allred headlined this year's Personal PAC luncheon, which largely focused on upcoming elections and reproductive rights.

Approximately 900 people, including Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, attended the fundraiser, held at



Gloria Allred at the Personal PAC luncheon. Photo by Kate Sosin

the Hilton Chicago hotel Oct. 30.

Allred, a rape survivor who had an illegal abortion when she was younger, criticized lawmakers such as Rep. Todd Akin, whose comments about rape and abortion have stirred controversy this election season.

"These extremists are everywhere," said Allred, adding later, "I am very very worried about this election."

Allred read an open letter she had addressed to Akin after he commented that in cases of "legitimate rape," women's bodies fended off pregnancy. She also criticized conservative Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh and Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney as she supported the re-election of President Obama.

Other speakers also focused on the upcoming election and what they could mean for reproductive rights both locally and nationally.

Personal PAC President/CEO Terry Cosgrove urged attendees to vote and keep pro-choice leaders in office.

"It's pro-choice or no choice," he said. "This election is urgent."

Personal PAC honored Marjorie Benton—who co-founded the Chicago Foundation for Women, the Women's Issues Network and The Peace Museum—with the Irving B. Harris Spirit of Choice Award.

Benton encouraged attendees to look at issues facing women globally.

"Violence against women is worldwide," she said. "We must never underestimate the number of people who want to turn back the clock."

Jon O'Brien, president of Catholics for Choice, accepted the Pro-Choice Leadership Award.

O'Brien decried what he characterized as pressure from Catholic bishops to vote against pro-choice and pro-LGBT candidates.

"You can't have freedom of religion without freedom from religion," he said.



From left: The Rev. Stan Sloan, Kenneth Cole and Susanna Negovan. Photo by Bahar Partow

## Kenneth Cole talks philanthropy at Chicago House event

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Kenneth Cole made a special appearance as keynote speaker for Chicago House's 4th Annual Speaker Series event Nov. 2 at the Hilton Chicago.

"His generous interests reflect the core values of Chicago House, making him an excellent addition to the growing list of prominent individuals featured here at our largest annual fundraising event, The Speaker Series," Chicago House CEO Rev. Stan J. Sloan and Chicago House Board Chair Ed Laginess wrote in the event's printed program.

Todd Hamilton, founder and senior managing director of Bolder Capital, and Susanna Negovan, "Splash" editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, co-chaired the luncheon held at the Chicago Hilton. Cheryl Burton, ABC-7 co-anchor, served as the emcee for the afternoon, leading a Q&A session with Cole following his speech.

Guests had the opportunity to support the cause further by donating money toward Chicago House to build bedrooms, computer stations and gardens throughout the event.

"I have a genuine appreciation for the important work that Rev. Sloan [CEO of Chicago House] and the Chicago House does and I appreciate this invitation to be here to share with you and to impose upon you some aspects of my journey and a few insights I've picked up along the way," said Cole, the brand's chairman and chief creative officer.

The fashion designer and humanitarian stated he does not typically make speeches. However, at the podium in front of the hotel ballroom, he shared his experience starting Kenneth Cole Productions 25 years ago out of the back of a 40-foot trailer in New York City and how the company has expanded over the years with a goal of "making cool clothes for cool people."

Also standing as chairman of The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) and a founding board member to the homeless organization HELP USA, Cole spoke about his philanthropic beliefs and how he found importance in combining business with social action. Photos by Bahar Partow; more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

# OPALGA honors LGBT advocates at gala

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 150 people attended the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) annual gala celebration at the Nineteenth Century Club Nov. 3.

Following a buffet dinner, OPALGA co-chairs Rebekah Levin and Greg Raub welcomed everyone ahead of the evening's program.

Raub introduced the elected officials in attendance—state Sen. Don Harmon; state Rep. Camille Lilly; Ald. Marge Paul of Berwyn; and Oak Park Village trustees John Hedges, Ray

Johnson, Adam Sulzman and Bob Tucker. Oak Park Village Trustee Colette Lueck was unable to attend; however, Raub acknowledged the work she has done for OPALGA this past year.

The Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Sailors (GLASS) at the Great Lakes Naval Base, Lambda Legal and Scouting for All shared the event's proceeds. These organizations were chosen because they embodied this year's gala theme of "Taking Action," Levin said.

Formed in February, GLASS was the first on-base LGB group the military recognized following the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."



OPALGA Co-Chairs Greg Raub and Rebekah Levin. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

This past May, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf of 16 same-sex couples who are seeking full marriage equality in Illinois. The mission of Scouting for All is, according to the organization's website, "to advocate for the full inclusion of youth and adult leaders regardless of their spiritual beliefs, gender or sexual orientation."

HM3 Richard Dumbrique and HN Nikole Steeves represented GLASS. Two of the couples involved in Lambda Legal's case—Robert Hickok and Brian Fletcher and Julie Barton and Patricia Garcia—represented that organization. (Garcia was out of town so she was unable to attend the gala). Scouting for All was represented by Rob Breymaier, who returned his Eagle Scout medal this past July to protest the Boy Scouts' ban on gay scouts and gay and lesbian scout leaders.

Ted Korbos and Oak Park Temple each received this year's Oak Park Area Leadership (OPAL) award in recognition for their work in promoting positive change within the LGBT community. Paul presented Korbos with his award and Betsy Ritzman presented the award to Oak Park Temple. Annika and Andy Rothbaum accepted the award on behalf of the temple. Rabbi Max Weiss—who was also in attendance—chose them to accept the award because of their involvement with LGBT initiatives at the synagogue.

To close out the evening, Raub mentioned that state Rep. Greg Harris may bring the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act to the floor for a vote during the lame-duck session of the Illinois general assembly. He also made note of the upcoming OPALGA, 16th Street Theater, Circle Theater and the Oak Park Festival Theater collaboration of the American Foundation for Equal Rights and Broadway Im-

pact's play "8" that will take place March 10, 2013.

The event featured a silent auction; guests were also treated to a photo booth and dancing.

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

## Heart Alliance names Sinski to post

Heartland Alliance has announced that David Sinski has joined its leadership team as executive director of Heartland Human Care Services, the largest subsidiary of Heartland Alliance, effective Oct. 22.

Since 2001, Sinski, who is openly gay, has served in senior leadership positions—including executive director—at After School Matters, the nonprofit founded by Maggie Daley that provides opportunities for Chicago high school teens in the arts, communications, science, sports and technology.

## 'Vital Nights Fall Soiree' Nov. 8

The Junior Networking Committee of Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care will present the "Vital Nights Fall Soiree" at the Palmer House Hilton's Potter's Lounge, 124 S. Wabash St., on Thursday, Nov. 8, 6-9 p.m.

Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres provided by Potter's Lounge and sip on complimentary SVEDKA Vodka cocktails. In addition, there will be raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and \$30 at the door. Visit [www.heartlandalliance.org/vital/events/vital-nights-potters.html](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/vital/events/vital-nights-potters.html).

# Hall of Fame to honor 12 individuals, three groups

Twelve individuals and three organizations will be inducted Monday, Nov. 12, into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the country's only known government recognized hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT communities. This will be the 21st ceremony.

The inductees were selected by a committee composed of former inductees, which reviewed nominations submitted by members of the public. The names were released by Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, a § 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, which assumed responsibility in 2012 for the Hall of Fame's operations in cooperation with the City of Chicago and its Commission on Human Relations.

The chosen nominees will be inducted at the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's annual ceremony Monday, Nov. 12 at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. The event will be free and open to the public.

The persons honored in 2012 are:

## Individuals

**Minister Lois L. Bates** (1970-2011), for her 14 years as an advocate for transgender youth and other LGBT youth. She served as an adviser, trainer, and health educator on HIV-prevention and transgender issues; as secretary of the Windy City Black Pride Committee; and as a clergywoman in Chicago and in a national transgender ministry.

**St. Sukie de la Croix**, 60, for his 25 years as a social commentator and researcher on Chicago's



Lois L. Bates. Photo by Hal Baim

LGBT history. He has published oral-history interviews; lectured; conducted historical tours; documented LGBT life through columns, photographs, humor features, and fiction; and written the book *Chicago Whispers* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012) on local LGBT history.

**Sanford E. Gaylord**, 47, for his 17 years as an actor, a creative LGBT and HIV/AIDS activist, and a writer. He co-founded A Real Read, an African American LGBT performance ensemble; has written for LGBT-themed films and in columns for LGBT media; and participated in HIV/AIDS research and education projects.

**William W. Greaves**, 61, for some 25 years as an activist in politics and in running-and-walking clubs and as an editor focusing on AIDS. As a member from 1995 to 2000 and as the director from 2000 through 2011 of the city Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (later, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues), he took an important part in local LGBT rights advances.

**Keith R. Green**, 35, for 10 years of work on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Black gay and bisexual men. He was associate editor of *Positively Aware*, helped to establish the anti-AIDS group Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, led a research project on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among young men who have sex with men, and is on the AIDS Foundation of Chicago staff.

**Mark Ishaug**, 48, for 21 years of work as a Chicago social-service administrator concentrating on AIDS and as a political activist. He led the AIDS Foundation of Chicago from 1998 to 2011 and was on its staff since 1991. While there, he led in diversifying its funding base, expanding its services, and heightening its profile as a national authority on AIDS political issues.

**Bill Pry**, 64, for some 25 years of community service as a business owner, philanthropist, and advocate. He is an owner of BBJ Table Fashions and has donated tens of thousands of dollars' worth of services to enhance local organizations' programs and events. He has also been a vocal advocate for increased services to help LGBTQ youth realize their potential.

**Chuck Rodocker**, 63, for his more than 30 years as an activist and community-minded business owner. His first major forays into activism occurred with anti-Anita Bryant and anti-police harassment protests in the 1970s. In 1977, he opened the bar Touché, which has been a place of community ever since, hosting benefits and meetings and responding to a variety of social needs.

**Heather C. Sawyer**, 48, for nearly 10 years of service in Chicago's Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal and her subsequent efforts in Congress. As Lambda's senior counsel in Chicago, she worked on issues of HIV/AIDS, LGBT youth, parenting, and marriage. As minority counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, she has continued working for marriage rights.

**Honey West**, 51, for more than 25 years as a cabaret singer and entertainer in Chicago nightclubs and restaurants. She has blended her transgender identity into her career, and during that career she has often performed at benefits for AIDS and other charities. She has also appeared onstage as Honey West and, as Don Auxier, in *Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid*, an early AIDS musical.

## Organizations

**Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus**, for its seven years of bridging gaps between traditional health providers and nontraditional providers (club/party, faith, business) that serve black men who have sex with men. The organization works to reduce new HIV infections through creative and collaborative programming that promotes HIV testing and risk-reduction activities.

**Chi-Town Squares**, for its 25 years of breaking barriers between LGBT and non-LGBT square dancers, while teaching and providing a venue for LGBT square dancing in Chicago and the central U.S. It hosted an international gay square dance convention in 2010, and one of its offshoots is the well-known *She Devils*, a bearded troupe of drag performers who dress in square-dance attire.

**Proud to Run, Chicago**, for the 30 years of Proud to Run races, walks, and rallies during Pride Week each year that it and its precursor entities have conducted as a celebration and as a way of providing financial support to community organizations. The annual events have grown to more than 1,400 participants and, in the past three decades, have raised more than \$300,000 for local beneficiaries.

## Friends of the community

**David Orr**, 67, for his 38 years of outspoken support for LGBT communities as politician and public official. As a campaign manager in 1974

## PASSAGES

### Barbara Ann Schon-Lundberg

Barbara Ann Schon-Lundberg of Glenview, died Oct. 28 in the arms of her family after a year-long journey with brain cancer. She was 62.

Schon-Lundberg was the lifelong partner and spouse of Bernhard "Larry" Lundberg; mother of Russell (Luci) and Steven; beloved sister of Albert (Roger Bridgewater) and Carol Reznicek; and aunt and friend to many.

She was a graduate of the Illinois School of Professional Psychology and used her skills in behavioral therapy with chronically mental ill adults. She was a relentless advocate for equality issues first with AIDS patients at Chicago House, BE-HIV: Evanston, The Names Project and Safe Schools Illinois, ending with years of action with the Northern Illinois PFLAG Council, where she was acting president at the time of her diagnosis.

Schon-Lundberg lobbied for marriage equality (with Equality Illinois) and many other LGBT issues. She was a Mothers' Day fixture in the gay community, giving out hugs and kisses. Her most recent concerns were bully-

ing and the misconceptions of the transgender community.

She will be sorely missed in the LGBT community and her church home. A celebration-of-life service was held Nov. 4 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the church's endowment fund or PFLAG: Northern Illinois Council would be appreciated.



Barbara Ann Schon-Lundberg. Photo from Larry Lundberg

and beginning in 1978 as 49th Ward alderman, he backed a city ban on anti-LGBT discrimination. As Cook County clerk, he has helped set up a county domestic-partnership registry, pass the state civil-unions law, win the current marriage suit, and oppose DOMA.

**Laura S. Washington**, 57, for her 29 years of supporting LGBT communities as a journalist and a member of the late Mayor Harold Washington's administration. She has illuminated LGBT goals and achievements through her columns in the *Chicago Sun-Times* and alternative media and earlier as editor of the *Chicago Reporter* magazine.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame was established in 1991 under the auspices of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' former Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, a municipal government agency. At the end of 2011, the Advisory Council ceased to exist after a reorganization of the Commission's advisory councils, and the Friends organization succeeded it as caretaker of the Hall of Fame.

Beginning with the first one in 1991, former Mayor Richard M. Daley personally participated in the Hall of Fame's induction ceremonies. Current Mayor Rahm Emanuel has continued to do so.

The Hall of Fame's purpose is to recognize the achievements of LGBT Chicagoans, their contributions to the development of the city, and the

help they have received from others. In 2012, it holds its 22nd annual induction ceremony and continues to represent an official recognition by Chicago's government of the city's LGBT residents and their allies.



William Greaves. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

## Jon-Henri Damski

Gay Writer/Queer Thinker



"Whereas Jon-Henri Damski writes with integrity and honesty, never compromising the truth as he sees it, never hiding behind the myth of objectivity;"

- from the City Council of Chicago resolution presented by Ald. Hansen and Ald. Shiller, June 4, 1997

# Lesbian nurse part of pediatric care facility

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Almost Home Kids, according to its website, is “a pediatric, short-term care home that services children who are medically fragile.” The Naperville-based business is poised to double its operation size through a Chicago expansion.

One of the employees there is openly lesbian case manager Layenie Anderson.

The Scottish-born nurse has been with the Naperville nonprofit since 2007—working to connect families with medically fragile children to suitable care. On a sunny Sunday morning in early September, Anderson bustled about the short-term care facility, making sure prescriptions were filled, patients’ siblings were entertained, and trainee employees were comfortable with procedures.

For Anderson, caring for others has always come naturally—although it was not her first career choice.

The would-be performer studied dance in college before taking time off in 1996 for a one-year nanny position in the United States. Anderson had briefly worked as a nanny in Australia

The pair opted for a holy union in San Francisco in 2009. In February 2012, they held a civil union in Chicago. And while neither the holy nor civil union has any federal sway in the United States, the United Kingdom recognizes the couple’s Illinois civil union.

“If we were ever to move [to the United Kingdom], the [country] would recognize [Grace] as my partner, and she would be able to come in without a job because she’s my partner,” Anderson said. “Whereas, I would never be able to live in the U.S. without a job. I have to have work sponsorship from Almost Home Kids [or someone else].”

Anderson said the legal complexities surrounding her union and visa status can often be frustrating, but “we’re pretty cheerful people, so we just do what we need to do.”

That cheer was augmented in January of this year, when Anderson delivered twin sons Benjamin and Joseph, who were conceived through the in vitro fertilization. Anderson grins when talking about her boys, who recently experienced their first trip to Scotland—kilts and all.

“[My partner and I] keep joking that because



Layenie Anderson (left) and partner Elizabeth with twin sons Benjamin and Joseph. Photo by Erica Demarest

when she accompanied her mother there on a teacher exchange program; Anderson adored the experience.

“I’ve always loved kids, ever since I was a child myself,” she said. “I’ve always been the mothering type.”

She found similar joy as a nanny in the United States.

“I thought, ‘Well, I’m not very good at dancing and acting, so maybe I won’t do that after all,’” Anderson said with a laugh.

When she returned to Edinburgh, Scotland, she studied nursing with a focus on neurology and pediatrics. After three years in Edinburgh hospitals, Anderson returned to the States eager for a change.

“I hadn’t planned on staying here [in America] for more than a few years, but then I met my partner,” she said with a smile.

She and Elizabeth “Ibby” Grace, an education professor at National Louis University, were introduced in 2007 through Grace’s sister. The pair began dating long-distance (Grace lived in California at the time) and, after a 2008 move, decided to enter into a civil union.

“When it was briefly legal in California, we set it all up and organized it,” Anderson said. “We had a big ceremony planned. My family came from Scotland, and her family came from Chicago. People came from all over, and then the whole Prop 8 thing happened, and it wasn’t legal [anymore]. We went ahead and did it anyway. Everyone had tickets booked.”

Scotland has now announced that they’re going to make same-sex marriage legal in the U.K., that we’re going to go back over and do another ceremony so [my family] can come. I mean, three unions? Why not?”

When Anderson switches topics from her sons to her Almost Home Kids clients, she continues to beam with the same sense of pride.

“The families with kids with special needs are just really special,” Anderson said. “There’s just something about them, where they’ve got that extra something.”

In her role as case manager, Anderson trains families to use the medical equipment (e.g., breathing apparatuses, wheelchairs) that their children rely on for survival. During hospital stays—which can come after surgery, illness, or freak accidents—children are connected to complex gear that parents often find intimidating.

“[Families] are so overwhelmed in the hospital that, a lot of the time, they don’t take it in,” Anderson said. “After training them on the same equipment they’ll use at home, the parents know exactly what they’re doing. Their confidence level just soars. There’s a much lower rate of readmission to hospitals after they’ve been trained, and the stress level goes down as well.”

Anderson helps families figure out logistics and troubleshoot.

Almost Home Kids also offers much-needed respite stays, during which parents who need to take an older child to college, travel for a funeral, or simply take a break, can leave their

special needs children at the facility for a few days.

“We find that families in our respite are able to manage at home for longer,” Anderson said. “If they know they’ve got a break coming up, they can keep going... [and not] burn out. For the overall mental health of families, it’s just a wonderful thing. And when some kids come here, they say they’re coming to camp.”

Tucked into a quiet residential community, the Naperville facility is outfitted with a large play-

ground, wheelchair-equipped swings and picnic tables, and flower and vegetable gardens. Children get excited when deer graze from the site’s feeders—a site Anderson notes the kids would never get in a hospital.

“The kids have so many visual and tactile experience here,” she said. “It’s part of what makes this facility so special.”

For more information on Almost Home Kids, visit [www.almosthomekids.org](http://www.almosthomekids.org).

## Almost Home Kids unveils Chicago site

BY ERICA DEMAREST

City children with special health needs have a new home to turn to after Almost Home Kids unveiled its Chicago facility Sept. 17 in a grand opening ceremony at the Ronald McDonald House, 211 E. Grand Ave.

Since 1999, Almost Home Kids has offered transitional help to children who need 24-hour medical care, such as breathing support or feeding tubes. Its new Streeterville location will join a Naperville retreat, which has served more than 800 children to date.

“What we did in Naperville was create a model that can be replicated anywhere,” said Judith McLean, director of marketing and communications.

The 12-bed Chicago facility is expected to save Illinois \$8 million per year, as it takes in children who are ready to be discharged from hospitals, but who cannot return home until special preparations are made. Short-term stopovers at Almost Home Kids are significantly cheaper than the extended hospital stays children would otherwise experience.

“In these tough budget times, that’s going to help us redirect money so we can help more families,” said Jack Lavin, chief of staff to Gov. Pat Quinn. “Parents want options for their children... They want [them] to have a chance to live in the community.”

The sixth-floor Streeterville locale features vibrant murals, state-of-the-art equipment, sweeping skyline views, and a lengthy patio. The goal is to create a comfortable, home-like setting where children can feel at ease as parents practice the logistics of at-home care.

This is especially helpful, McLean said, for parents whose children have suffered recent gunshot wounds or traumatic accidents.

“The house has to be readied before a child comes back, and we can offer a similar set-up to how you’ll have it at home,” McLean said.

“Maybe the oxygen in the hospital was in the wall, but you’ll have a tank.... [That way] you’re very comfortable with how you operate it.”

Democratic state Sen. Heather Steans and Republican state Rep. Patti Bellock were on hand to congratulate Almost Home Kids.

“[Efforts like these] have really shifted the whole tenor of the conversation in Illinois to really provide home- and community-based settings,” Steans said. “This is not an easy task... we have lots of reasons to preserve institutional care, and we need to be moving in another direction.”

NBC-5’s Dr. Sandy Goldberg emceed the event. Commissioner Karen Tamley from the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities; Almost Home Kids President & CEO Deborah Grisko; and Board Chair Doug Truax offered remarks.

For more information, visit [www.almosthomekids.org](http://www.almosthomekids.org).



Babies’ bedroom at the Chicago locale of Almost Home Kids. Photo by Erica Demarest

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Pam Hulvey**  
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



**Age**  
49

**Neighborhood**  
Edgewater

**Hometown**  
Danville, has lived in Chicago since 1984

**Relationship status**  
Partnered to Caren Carlson

**Job title**  
Ophthalmic photographer and artist

**Sports**  
Has played tennis and softball in Chicago's gay leagues and still plays volleyball

**Cubs or White Sox?**  
Cubs

**Favorite Chicago bars**  
T's and Big Chicks

**Favorite TV show**  
Modern Family

**Little-known fact**  
Can ride a unicycle

Pam Hulvey started taking photography classes while at the University of Illinois in the 1980s, and immediately was hooked. She ultimately graduated from Columbia College in Chicago with a degree in photography and now, 25 years later, is still active in photography—personally and professionally.

"I consider what I do at work to be an art form," Hulvey said. "I take the same philosophy with my job as I do with my art: I'm trying to get the absolute best quality that I can working with the patients as I do with my photos and with my art."

Hulvey was interested in art in high school, and then expanded to art and photography in college. She took medical photography classes in college, "because I felt working for a hospital would be steady income, a good fit for me."

Hulvey enjoys traveling worldwide; when she returns home, she often starts drawing her favorite photos, splashing in color. Thus, buildings she photographed in, say, Italy have wild, vibrant, rich colors when she draws them.

Some of Hulvey's art is on display through the end of the year at T. Salon and Gallery, 4705 N. Damen Ave., in Lincoln Square.

"My art is like my children. After I finish a piece, I have to live with it for a while and enjoy it," said Hulvey, who spends up to 15 hours to perfect a piece. Her works include pastels, watercolors and acrylics.

To celebrate her 50th birthday, Hulvey is having a one-person retrospective of her art throughout the month of February in The Sunshine Gallery at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave.



**Monday, Nov. 12**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Chris Hedges**  
**Days of Destruction,**  
**Days of Revolt**

**Wed., Nov. 14**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Kathryn Born**  
**The Blue Kind**



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



Photo by Elijah J. Burnett

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

**Ronen Mark**

**Identifies as**  
 Transgender, Genderqueer, Genderfluid

**Pronouns**  
 He/him/his or ze/hir/hirs

**Neighborhood**  
 Edgewater

**Life's work**  
 "Music and performance are my life's work. I've been a singer and performer all my life. Within the last five years I've set aside mainstream theatrical ambitions, picked up a guitar and begun to sing my own song, both literally and figuratively. I have a solo album which will be released soon, as well as a Time Lord rock band called Time Crash ( <http://www.timecrashband.com> ). Oh yeah, did I mention my rampant geekery yet?"

**Hobbies**  
 "Journal-based online roleplaying, reading science books for fun, climbing trees, cooking, watching British people on television."

**When did you start questioning gender?**  
 "The point at which I started questioning my assigned gender is difficult to pin down. I do remember deciding to label myself a 'tomboy' in elementary school. From puberty onward, there was an indefinable, nagging sense of wrongness that shows itself now in old diary entries and drawings I did

of myself with a flat chest. I knew for years that 'girl' and 'woman' felt wrong, but 'boy' and 'man' didn't feel right enough to necessitate a change. It wasn't until my early twenties that I learned the term 'genderqueer' and my world opened up."

**Do you have a coming out story?**  
 "My 'coming out story,' as a whole, is ongoing. What I have so far is a great deal of small, individual coming out stories involving various friends and family members. They are largely positive, and for that I know I am fortunate. It gets a little bit easier every time."

**What is the best thing about being gender-variant?**  
 "Knowing that I am and owning it."

**Whom do you admire most?**  
 "Anyone who can manage to live their life without apologizing for it."

**Do you consider yourself an activist?**  
 "I applaud those who are fighting the fight for social change in the streets, but I'm not often one of them. If I'm any sort of activist, I'm the sort that asserts my views simply by living day to day the way I do."

**How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?**  
 "People assume that gender is a strict spectrum of male to female, but actually, from a nonlinear, nonsubjective viewpoint, it's more like a big ball of wibbly-wobbly, gendery-wendery... stuff."

## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 28, No. 5, Nov. 7, 2012

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founded May 1987.*PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
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www.QueerTVNetwork.com**"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.**

Community Marketing, Inc.

SURAJ  
MADOORIFinding the  
DNA of AIDS  
activism

In the *How to Survive a Plague*, David France's new documentary on the history of AIDS activism, we find our activist movement reflected in a mirror that only time can provide.

The images are striking, disturbing and incredibly moving. People with HIV—their depleted bodies with translucent skin stretched over thin bony frames, pocked with vivid lesions of Kaposi's sarcoma—spiral toward AIDS and certain death.

And yet they fought. Organizing under the moniker ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), they entrenched themselves in the offices of the Food & Drug Administration, demanding treatment for an unstoppable disease ravaging their communities in 1987.

The documentary is both a powerful history lesson and a clarion call to action for the present day. More than 30 years after the first HIV diagnosis, much progress has been made in treatment, prevention and politics.

But look no further than Chicago to understand that HIV/AIDS is still a plague in the poorest communities of color. African-Americans in the city represent nearly 60 percent of the people living with HIV ([www.aidschicago.org/pdf/chicago\\_factsheet\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aidschicago.org/pdf/chicago_factsheet_2010.pdf)). Hispanic Chicagoans represent 26 percent, but make up 16 percent of new infections in the city.

The question is whether we still have the courage and urgency to act up.

The progress of the past 30 years has been vast and won't be fully detailed here. Today, more

than 30 different treatments are available. The FDA approved the use of treatment as prevention. Recently, we even witnessed an instance of a person being cured of his HIV, a man known in medical circles as "the Berlin patient." ([www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-57479106-10391704/timothy-ray-brown-man-thought-to-be-first-cured-of-aids-says-hes-still-cured/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-57479106-10391704/timothy-ray-brown-man-thought-to-be-first-cured-of-aids-says-hes-still-cured/))

Such progress is a direct result of men and women affected by HIV/AIDS crying out for public health attention to innovations in treatment and prevention. However, challenges loom large, despite progress in the areas of treatment and prevention.

HIV/AIDS disproportionately burdens communities of color in the United States, with nearly 1.2 million infected nationally, a majority of those are from the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Despite being minority communities, African-Americans continue to account for 44 percent of new infections ([www.cdc.gov/HIV/topics/aa/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/HIV/topics/aa/index.htm)). The rate of infections is especially disturbing among communities of young black gay and bisexual men. Latest data finds that their rate of infection is comparable to countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are hardest hit by the epidemic ([www.hptn.org/web%20documents/IndexDocs/HPTN061ResultsPR23Jul2012.pdf](http://www.hptn.org/web%20documents/IndexDocs/HPTN061ResultsPR23Jul2012.pdf)). About 20 percent of new infections came from the Hispanic community.

Nationally, African-American women are second only to gay men in HIV prevalence. In 2009, three-fourths of women in Illinois infected with HIV were Black ([www.aidschicago.org/pdf/women\\_factsheet\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aidschicago.org/pdf/women_factsheet_2010.pdf)).

Unstable funding forces storied AIDS service organizations to close ([www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=30181](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=30181)), shrinking health access to communities and placing increasing stress upon an already resource-strapped health system. This year, Illinois was hit with a 42 percent funding cut in HIV funding for community services. HIV services are not unique here, of course. States are putting a disturbing array of health and human services on the chopping block in their efforts to shrink budgets.

Social injustices are driving the epidemic. Issues of economic injustice, such as unstable

housing and unemployment, impact the mental, physical health and well being of those struggling with HIV. Loss of harm reduction funding makes it difficult for people to find and exchange clean needles. Struggles in the recognition of the rights of drug users and sex workers continue to impede efforts in turning the tide on the epidemic for communities that are most vulnerable and at highest risk.

Those scenes of 1987 depicted in the documentary warrant an analysis of how government and public health entities progressed, digressed, and now find themselves at a crossroads of truly changing the course of the epidemic at this juncture.

The Affordable Care Act represents a first step of providing unprecedented access to health care for millions who are uninsured, HIV-positive or not. Certain pieces of that legislation have already been implemented; others go into effect in 2014. The outcome of the presidential election will determine the extent to which the ACA is implemented.

Activists in 1987 helped science catch up to the advocacy, the effects of which can still be felt today. In contrast, the HIV/AIDS community today finds itself at the very same crossroads and a new opportunity to help the political will catch up to the voices of the present HIV/AIDS activist movement.

When we look to the DNA of our advocacy, we find the bold men and women featured in *How to Survive a Plague* were mere ordinary people—just like us. When exposed to the injustices of social exclusion and crippling disease, they fought back for visibility and did extraordinary things, changing the future course of the global epidemic.

Now, we must do the same. Let's act up like it's 1987.

**Suraj Madoori is a fellow for the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, a national AIDS-activism coalition convened by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.**

**Find out how you can get involved with ending the AIDS epidemic by visiting the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance website: [www.countdownaids2012.org](http://www.countdownaids2012.org).**

## LETTERS

## Dolan out awards

Dear Editor,

The Rainbow Sash Movement (National LGBT Catholics) board of directors have voted to award the bigot of the year to not only Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York for his vile activity and mean-spirited opposition to gay marriage in New York, but also to his fellow bishops for their abhorrent attack on women's rights.

The bishops of Pennsylvania released an unmistakably partisan letter to local voters declaring that the White House's policies on contraception, abortion and gay rights meant the nation was "losing its soul by little steps."

Legal equality for gays, the letter implied, would defy God, and contraception and abortion should not be contemplated under any circumstances.

In Wisconsin, Bishop David Ricken wrote a letter to parishioners saying that the Democratic platform was evil and attacking choice. He wrote that the party's support for abortion rights and same-sex marriage and other "intrinsic evils" made it impossible for Catholics to support the party without putting their souls at risk. Vote for Mitt Romney and the Republican Party or

burn in hell, Ricken suggested.

In Alaska, Bishop Edward J. Burns wrote a column in the local newspaper Oct. 27 comparing Vice President Joe Biden's support for abortion rights to supporting slave owners in the antebellum South, and he reportedly questioned both Biden's character and his Catholic Faith.

The bishops from Newark, N.J., to Springfield, Ill., to Colorado Springs, Colo., have made similar party political appeals. Although they stress they are not endorsing any particular party or candidate they usually start with their opposition to abortion and marriage equality and other policies that Republicans support and Democrats generally oppose.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Francis George is asking all the priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago to remind out loud to all parishioners of the archdiocese on the last Sunday before the election that it is the Republican party and not the Democratic party that is more aligned with the policies of the Vatican.

Sadly, this minority group of bishops has a stranglehold on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops with their fear that society is ready to embrace more rights for both women, lesbians and gays.

The bishops' opposition to these rights is only

driving more, and more reasonable Catholics away from the Church, generally, and youth, in particular.

Sadly, these Catholic bishops are more interested in following in the footsteps of bigots such as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robinson rather than Jesus Christ. This is why the Rainbow Sash Movement board of directors have voted to award them bigots of the year.

Bill O'Connor  
Rainbow Sash MovementSend letters and  
viewpoints  
to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Items may be  
edited for  
length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
Francois  
Duhamel

## THE EYES HAVE IT

Daniel Craig is once again James Bond in the upcoming film Skyfall. Read a review of the movie on page 22.

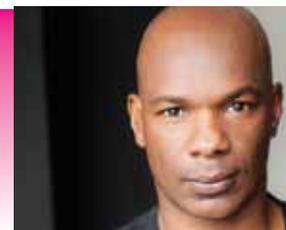
## DISH

Chop, chop.  
Page 26.PR photo of lamb chops  
at Rosebud Prime

## THEATER

'Rover' and over.  
Page 14.Photo from The Rover  
from 20% Theatre

## MOVIES

'Hot' time.  
Page 21.Photo of Doug Spearman  
courtesy of Spearman

## DANCIN' FEATS

## (Joel) Hall of fame

BY VICKI CRAIN

If you're familiar at all with dance in Chicago, you know his name. Over the last four decades he's taught thousands of students, grooming them to be the best they can be, watching them bloom into artists. Joel Hall has a number of things he's passionate about, but first and foremost is jazz dance.

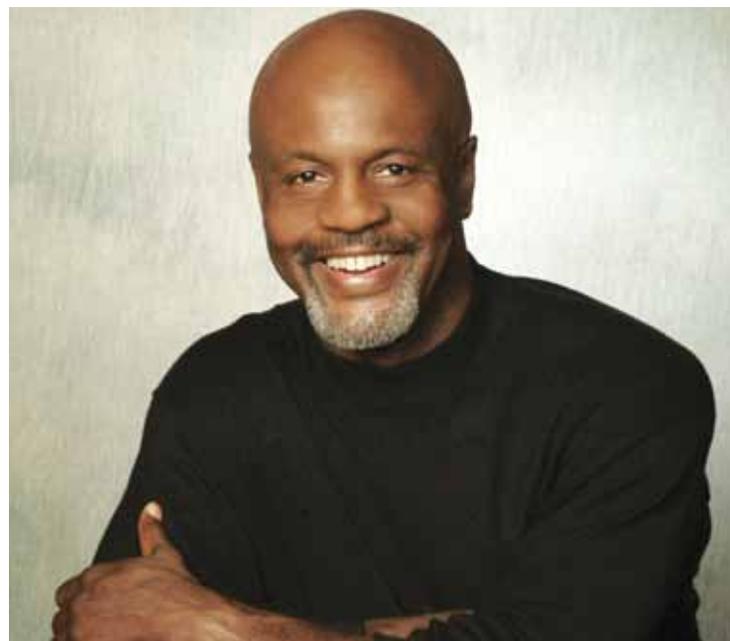
Hall, 63, grew up in Cabrini-Green and began dancing in his teens when he tagged along with some friends to a ballet class on Saturday mornings on the North Side. He continued dancing while in college at Northeastern Illinois University under the tutelage of Nana Shineflug, eventually making his dance debut with the Chicago Moving Company. In 1974, he started The Chicago City Theater with his partner, Joseph Ehrenburg (who passed away in 1995), renting a factory floor for \$15 a night. They taught classical theater works to minority actors and Hall taught dance classes while working on his choreography. Joel Hall and Dancers organically evolved and now 38 years later, he has the main company, Joel Hall Dancers II, a youth company and a school.

What keeps him going? It's that passion. "The most special thing to me in my career is still being able to do it, to still be engaged in the arts," Hall told Windy City Times. "I think the highlights are being able to see my students grow from a beginning level to a professional level into performing artists. This is the thing that gives me the most pleasure and the most reward out of my experience in my role being a leader or director. Other highlights are being able to do my work and choreography and to watch and teach others to do their work, to teach the value of the art form."

He's also passionate about gay rights. Hall, who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1993, has been with his husband for 15 years. They had a civil-union ceremony last June. "We're looking to the point of actually getting married whenever they can get themselves together in Springfield," Hall said. "I'm really tired of these people depriving me and everybody else of our rights. It's not that we're trying to take over anything or be given special privileges. It's about being equal to, not less than. Whether people get married or not is not the issue. The issue is that marriage is there and we have a right to it."

His latest project—again, a passion—is choreographing an opera based on the civil-rights movement. The MARCH is a collaboration with Alan Marshall (librettist) and Jonathan Stinson (composer), with Hall adding the dance steps as well as additional recordings and live voice text. "As far as I know," he said, "it's the first civil-rights opera that's been presented. The younger generation hasn't been informed of the civil-rights movement. They've heard of it, but certainly didn't participate in it or have the information unless they sought it out. Here's a presentation of what was actually going on during the movement. I'm proud to be a part of it." A one-night-only performance of the work on Nov. 10 will benefit the continuation and evolution of the work and The Joel Hall Dancers and Center.

November is notably the month for giving thanks, but Hall lives that way every day. Three things come across when talking with him (even over the phone): his passion, pride and love of life. "I've had an unbelievable life," Hall said. "I've been very blessed and fortunate to be doing what I'm doing my entire life. It's still a

Joel Hall.  
Photo by  
Jennifer  
Girard

struggle, but it's worth the struggle because it's my passion."

**The MARCH: A Civil Rights Opera plays at the Ravenswood Event Center, 4011 N. Ravenswood Ave., Saturday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$125; for more information visit [www.joelhall.org/general/benefits-civil-rights-movements](http://www.joelhall.org/general/benefits-civil-rights-movements).**

## More shows in November:

**Jump Rhythm Jazz Project** performs as part of Dance Chicago 2012 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 8-10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30; call 773-327-5252 or visit [www.stage773.com/tickets](http://www.stage773.com/tickets).

**Dropshift Dance** presents Catch and Release at the Hairpin Arts Center, 2800 W. Milwaukee Ave., Friday-Sunday, Nov. 9-11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16-\$20; visit [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/279774](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/279774).

**Inside Chicago Dance's** fall concert will be

at The Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Saturday, Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22-\$30; call 773-935-6860.

**River North Dance Chicago** welcomes four new dancers to the company for its fall engagement at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 16-17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30-\$75; call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).

**Chicago Human Rhythm Project** invites Vancouver-based ScrapArtsMusic to share the stage for Global Rhythms 8 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Saturday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 25, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$55; call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).

**Trey McIntyre Project** brings the Chicago premiere of Ladies and Gentle Men to the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$55; call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).



Bulrusher. Photo courtesy of Congo Square Theatre

## THEATER REVIEW

### Bulrusher

Playwright: Eisa Davis

At: Congo Square Theatre at the Beacon Street Arts Center, 4520 N. Beacon St.

Tickets: 773-296-1108;

www.congosquaretheatre.org; \$35

Runs through: Nov. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Our title heroine was found in the river as a baby, floating in a reed boat among the bulrushes, but the feisty home-schooled adolescent she became is no Moses, destined to lead her tribe out of slavery. For one, the Mendocino County community where she lives boasts only one other African-American citizen. For another, her spiritual connection to the water enables her to foresee the future—a talent engendering the awe and revulsion of her peers.

Audience members desiring a social context for Eisa Davis' coming-of-age tale may note the demographics of northern California in the 1950s, where an economy based in the logging industry renders well-managed brothels a civic necessity, and African-Americans face less prejudice than Native Americans from the nearby reservation. Playgoers seeking a religious analog might view the arrival of young Vera from the urban wilderness of Birmingham, Ala., as a harbinger of the fall from Eden offering Bulrusher protection from the outside world. Indeed, the intruder already carries the seed of knowledge within her—Vera is pregnant, you see, fleeing the city where she was raped by a white policeman for the sanctuary of her uncle's woodland home and the restoration of her innocence.

It has been long observed that girls on the brink of puberty often exhibit a period of intense attachment to one another before their hormones direct them toward procreative imperatives—or not. The unsophisticated Bulrusher forsakes the river as her sole confidante, vowing allegiance to her same-sex comrade and spurning the advances of the wistful boy who yearns for her attentions. There is no turning back the tide of maturity, we know, but as our two pilgrims struggle mightily against the inevitable, the adults who would also deny the deeds shaping their destinies gradually learn to accept their fates as well, finishing wiser and, if not precisely happy, then content.

Davis' pantheistic lyricism could easily dissolve

into empty rhapsodizing, but TaRon Patton's savvy direction keeps her actors firmly grounded in their story's progression to make every word carry its full weight in importance, while Andrei Onegin's scenic design puts the pastoral majesty of the Pacific northwest in the forefront of our consciousness (no easy task in the cavernous Beacon Street auditorium). Nature being traditionally represented as female, the major conflicts are shouldered by Ericka Ratcliff, Tamberla Perry and Elizabeth Laidlaw, though Joe Zarrow, Courtney Crouse and Adrian LaMonte Byrd acquit themselves bravely as men worthy of these powerful surrogate goddesses.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**44 Plays for 44 Presidents**, Neo-Futurists; Assassins, Viaduct Theatre, both through Nov. 10. Enjoy a satiric skit, song or comedy bit for each of our Chief Executives, then see the Sondheim-Weidman dark musical about folks who've shot them (or tried), both well-staged. JA

**Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson**, Bailiwick Chicago at National Pastime Theater, through Nov. 10. This gleefully vulgar musical account of our seventh president's controversial career is a perfect fit for National Pastime's big new room in Uptown—so are the cigarette jeans worn by Matthew Holzfeind as the rock-star frontiersman-turned-pol. MSB

**Good People**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Nov. 17. K. Todd Freeman directs an engrossing production of David Lindsay-Abaire's masterful examination of the growing class divide in modern-day America. SCM

**One Name Only**, Black Ensemble Theater, through Nov. 11. The framing device of a singing contest guarantees a string of diva showstoppers, accompanied by the muscular chops of the most spectacular stage band north of Roosevelt Road. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Rover

Playwright: Aphra Behn, adapted

by Melissa Albertario & Jason Peck

At: 20% Theatre Company at Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.

Tickets: 773-334-7728;

boxoffice@twentypercent.com; \$15-\$20

Runs through: Nov. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

At first glance, you'd never guess that this was the first English play to be written by a woman—not a hobbyist scribbling for friends, either, but professionally. The plot is the usual commedia-based muddle involving cultural clashes, exotic locales, haughty ladies, mercenary suitors, giddy lovers, clueless clowns and sly servants. What Melissa Albertario and Jason Peck's adaptation of Aphra Behn's 1670 comedy accomplishes is to highlight its female characters' observations on gender inequities in their society.

Our chief commentators are sisters Hellena and Florinda, the former determined to experience one last fling before entering a convent, and the latter despairing of marrying the officer she loves or escaping the unhappy match her brother has arranged for her. Ah, but the carnival season guarantees an abundance of masked revelers in the streets to conceal the two irreverent damsels and their likewise mischievous maid—and whattaya know? Also enjoying the festivities are

soldiers whose ranks include Florinda's beloved Colonel Belville, along with country boy Ned Blunt and their seagoing sidekick, the reckless Captain Willmore. Even the girls' stuffy sibling is venturing forth incognito on a quest for the favor of the courtesan Angelica, who prefers cold cash to pretty sentiments.

A milieu encouraging misrepresentation of identities is not without its hazards—Florinda twice narrowly escapes carnal assault, and Blunt is taken in by the age-old “badger game”—but Jessie Mutz's direction keeps the tone of the proceedings light and the stakes inconsequential, focusing on the witty repartee swapped by the various personae with stichomythic alacrity bespeaking classical training and engendering a comfortable familiarity with their milieu's language, fashions and swordplay. Indeed, the extensive by-play occurring in the corners of the stage away from the main action in many scenes often gives the impression of a much larger production compressed to the tiny playing area—11 X 12 feet, not counting audience laps—carved out in Rivendell Theatre's storefront auditorium.

Aphra Behn's plays were sufficiently popular among Restoration audiences to provide her a steady income, but are rarely performed nowadays. If the mission of the 20% Theatre Company is to offer a showcase for the segment of women artists represented in their title, the craft and exuberance the ensemble brings to this standard-issue romantic romp renders the fulfillment of that goal more fun than you'd expect from a museum exhibit.

## THEATER REVIEW

### 500 Clown Frankenstein

Playwright: Inspired by

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

At: 500 Clown, The Viaduct, 3111 N. Western Ave.

Tickets: 1-781-223-4174;

www.500clownfrankenstein.

brownpapertickets.com; \$35

Runs through: Nov. 18

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Not every work of physical theater is a clown show, but every clown show is physical theater, a term that helps define non-verbal performance as something suitable for adults and well beyond the circus and vaudeville. You won't see a finer or funnier example of physical theater than 500 Clown Frankenstein, a most-welcome revival and reinvention of a show created a decade ago by 500 Clown.

The fact that most of the show is very funny is not because it's a clown show. Clowns can be earnest (they usually are), sad (they frequently are) and sometimes very dark in tone. Indeed, a vast portion of clown humor is a result of the commitment with which they approach tasks and challenges, coupled with their incompetence to accomplish those tasks. What better example than three clowns who set out to present Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, a tale of a brilliant scientist who lacks the human accomplishments needed to successfully complete his great experiment? The meeting of clown and Creature—almost always the odd-beings-out—is a magical metaphysical match. Just as the original *Frankenstein* novel ends in gothic horror and darkness, so 500 Clown embraces a dark tone in the final 10 minutes of its 70-minute show to parallel the fundamental “nature vs. nurture” question at the heart of *Frankenstein*.

Make no mistake: this is not a heavy or pretentious show; it is a delight from start to finish with three brilliant clown-actors each with his/her own highly individual personality and style and marvelously ingratiating flourishes. Who can resist the impish energy of Pam Chermansky, or the mega-watt smile



500 Clown Frankenstein. Photo courtesy of JustinBarbin.com

of Jay Torrence, or the ever-so-gently supercilious air of Dean Evans? I can't. They throw themselves about with seemingly-careless and dangerous physical abandon and always bounce back for more, like cartoon characters. Their exquisite mastery of the so-called “plastique” of body and facial expression belies skill born, collectively, from decades of study and practice. FYI: There are five performers for the show's three roles so you may see a different—but equally skillful—mix of clowns (and gender roles) at any given performance.

The three work on an almost-bare stage with a few hand props and one large apparatus, a kinda-sorta table and desk and laboratory gurney and guillotine rolled into one. If you've ever wedged an extra board into a warped old dining-room table, you'll empathize with the 500 Clown antics. I'm not certain whether Dan Reilly (set designer) or Jim Moore (technical director) is responsible for this fiendish yet versatile device. I do know that the witty costumes, which combine crazy with craft, are the work of Jay Sangster. I also know 500 Clown Frankenstein is a rare treat.



Down & Derby. Photo by Ryan Bourque

## Down & Derby

**Playwright:** Aaron Weissman  
**At:** The New Colony at Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 6 21 W. Belmont Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-413-0862 or [www.thenewcolony.org](http://www.thenewcolony.org); \$20  
**Runs through:** Dec. 8

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The New Colony continues to amaze with its continued stream of world premieres. Down & Derby is the company's 11th original creation, which rolls in hot on the heels of the critical success of its New York production of 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, running off-Broadway through Nov. 20 at the SoHo Playhouse.

Down & Derby takes its inspiration from the world of roller derby. Right from the start, the audience is treated to an explanation of the rules to the jab-filled roller-skating sport on a suggestive roller derby racecourse designed by John Holt.

Yet roller derby isn't the whole story. Through flashbacks (underlined by the audio revving by sound designer Nick Kawahara), we come to learn about the tragic circumstances that spurred two grieving sisters to form the Larkin City Misfit Mavericks team.

Initially, the team becomes a great way to rally the broken community together. However, leadership issues, personal conflicts and a co-opting of the team for business and political purposes threaten to undo all the work that made the Misfit Mavericks a success.

Director Thrisa Hodits does a great job with creating an electric atmosphere throughout the production, be it at derby matches or via one-on-one scenes between players and their parents. True, the in-the-round show (and noisy acoustics) means that much dialogue goes by the wayside, but the audience can still follow what's happening.

Playwright Aaron Weissman's Down & Derby functional script was developed via improvisation with the cast. Yet one wishes Weissman's script refinements could have gone even further so their on-the-spot origins aren't so clunky.

Otherwise, Down & Derby provides a wealth of great character turns for its company, especially for the players who take on comical and

frequently rude derby player aliases. Much of the main conflict occurs between sisters "Hunt Her Ass Thompson" (the demanding Aileen May) and "Maul of the Wild" (the conflicted Rania Salem Manganaro), the father-and-daughter duo of Graham (David Kraviz, playing an alcoholic) and "Dirty Harriet" (Mary Williamson), and the at-odds mother-daughter team of Martha (Carol Saller, as the Mayor) and Kilotwatt (Jaclyn Keough, an actual former roller derby skater with the Windy City Rollers).

Of LGBT interest, there is an affectionate lesbian couple in the mix (Lauren Sivak as Jailhouse Block and Hannah Alcorn as JonBenet Slamsey) and a very camp supporter in Joel Kim Booster's super fan Diego, but these three take a backseat to the show's main conflicts—a sign of progress since the teams apparently have no qualms with diversity.

Although it has its faults, Down & Derby is still very entertaining. The show also aligns itself with the great tradition of homegrown and in-your-face Chicago theater.

### 'Dorothy's' wins screenplay contest

Jim Piazza's A Friend of Dorothy's won the 2012 Great Gay Screenplay Contest, part of Pride Films and Plays' Gay Film Weekend.

The Center on Halsted hosted the Weekend Oct. 18-21. Events included enhanced staged readings of new screenplays; panel discussions on the history and future of LGBT film; and a 90-minute program of new short queer films.

The other finalists in the contest included Visalia by Dennis Nivens, Barrio Boy by Dennis Shinnars, Snowmen by Ethan Steers and Father Frances by Thomas Ziegler.

### 'breaks' thru Dec. 9

Pavement Group presents the world premiere of "breaks & bikes" at Collaboration Studio 300 in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Nov. 8-Dec. 9.

Tickets are \$25; visit [www.pavement-group.org](http://www.pavement-group.org).

## Theatre Wit's 'Santaland' Nov. 23

Theater Wit's ninth consecutive outing of David Sedaris' The Santaland Diaries will take place No. 23-Dec. 30 at 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello with Theater Wit Artistic Director Jeremy Wechsler helming the production, Mitchell Fain will again star (with the candy-stripe tights).

Tickets are \$18-\$35; call 773-975-8150 or visit [www.TheaterWit.org](http://www.TheaterWit.org).

## 'Rudolph' Nov. 29

Hell in a Handbag Productions is running Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer, David Cerda's parody of the classic children's television special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, for the 15th year.

It will run at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. Previews are Nov. 29-30; the regular run is Thursdays through Saturdays Dec. 30, with an additional show Dec. 22.

General admission is \$12-\$22, and VIP tickets are \$35-\$95. Call 800-838-3006 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/131657](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/131657).

## SPOTLIGHT



Expect sparks to fly when church-going conservatives from Ohio try to help out their cousins who are left-wing former hippies in California in Jane Anderson's comic drama **The Quality of Life**. Exploring the growing political and religious divide in the country, this Chicago premiere also marks the debut of the recently expanded space known as The Den Theatre. The Quality of Life continues through Dec. 1 at The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays (no show Nov. 22), with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays. Tickets are \$25; visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or [www.thedentheatre.com](http://www.thedentheatre.com). Photo by Joe Mazza

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## MOVIES

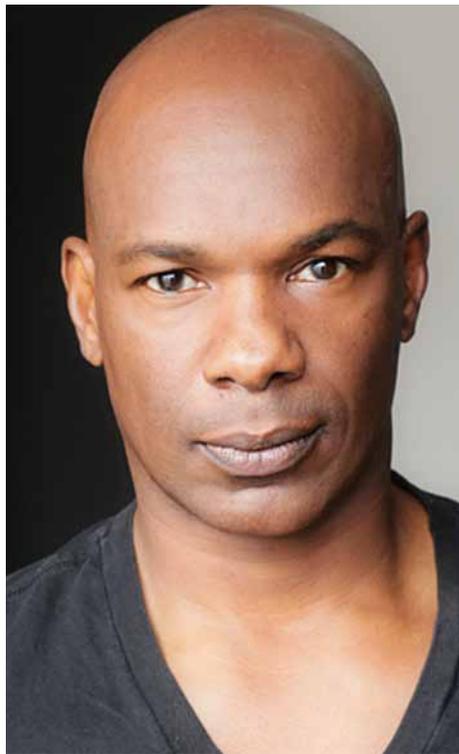
# Doug Spearman on his 'Hot' new project

BY DERRICK JOHNSON II

The action/adventure movie genre might not ever be the same, thanks to writer, director and producer Doug Spearman. Spearman's new independent project, *Hot Guys with Guns* (which has started filming) is slated to enter into post-production by Thanksgiving and be released by the beginning of January. The film has received funds largely through monetary contributions made through the fundraising website Indiegogo.

**Windy City Times: So where are you right now in the process of making this film?**

Doug Spearman: We're almost entirely cast,



Doug Spearman.

we're really lucky we just got Alan Blumenfeld, who's an actor who was on *Heroes*, he was on *Mad Men*; he's amazing and I'm super happy to have him on board. We started pitching investors; small investors are how we work.

**WCT: You hold several positions as the writer, director and producer. What is it like taking on so many jobs for the same project?**

DS: I'll probably sleep sometime after Thanksgiving. Seriously, I am up all the time. I'm awake all the time. It's all I think about, it's all I do, it

all I talk about. I've got to make sure everything is where it's supposed to be when it's supposed to be there, on time ready and prepped. I have to sort of be the overlord on everything. I've got to keep watch over all of this. I'm bringing everybody in so I have a responsibility to make this as a professional, hard-working and well-working experience as I possibly can.

**WCT: *Hot Guys with Guns* is going to be the first gay action film ever created. Why do you think it took so long for this to happen?**

DS: Really, I don't know. I think everything comes about when it's supposed to. So maybe it was just time for it. Maybe the universe was just waiting for me to just write the script.

A lot of time, with gay men, people don't necessarily want to see us do things like hold a gun or be aggressive. It wasn't that long ago that you really saw gay men with real lives in television and film. Hollywood likes us over the top or tragic and so we don't usually get stuck in story lines where we get to do a lot of action/adventure unless we're the bad guys. There's certainly a lot of gay bad guys. There was a film called *Hannah* that came out over a year ago and the bad guy in *Hannah* was gay, but in terms of two guys in action, where they have to fight their way out, we never get there.

**WCT: What do you think it will take for gay characters to fully break into the mainstream?**

DS: Well, I think it takes us [gay people] writing them. We have to do more and more. In Germany, there was a show where there was a lesbian and a gay guy that actually were detectives, kind of in a private investigator service, and I know that CBS was in talks years ago about a show called *Mr. and Mr. Smith*, about two gay private investigators. But the only way we can make these stories happen is if we change the story. Did you ever see *The Pelican Brief*?

**WCT: Yes.**

DS: Well, you're a reporter. Do you know how many movies there are about a reporter who finds a story and has to go on the run?

**WCT: Quite a few.**

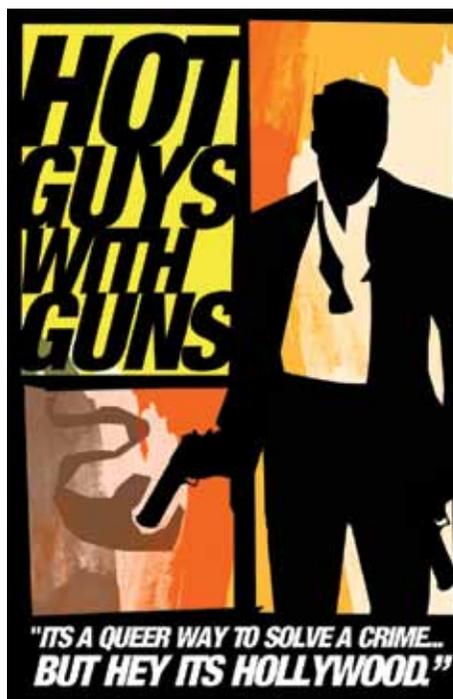
DS: Exactly. I mean, why couldn't any one of those have been a gay reporter?

**WCT: Very true.**

DS: I mean, human beings are human beings. It's just the fact that when you find out who they sleep with, we tend to have an idea of what their lives are supposed to be or give value to their lives, based on their sexual orientation.

**WCT: That's a very good point.**

DS: You cannot imagine how many times I've been told by people who liked me and wanted



to see me succeed—and told me not to make a movie with gay characters in it. And you won't believe how many of those people are actually gay.

**WCT: So even among gay members of the film industry there are those who say, "Don't write gay characters?"**

DS: Yes; agents, producers—a lot of money people. But if we don't do it, then it will never get done.

**WCT: What is your favorite part about working on a project—not only this project but any project you've worked on?**

DS: When it starts to come alive. There's a tipping point when you know it's happening, when you know it's there. My three favorite moments are when I finish a script, when I hear it read and when I'm on the set. There's nothing greater than being on a motion-picture set.

**WCT: When did you have that epiphany for the first time?**

DS: I remember the first time that I was on stage and I hear applause and I was like, "Oh my God, this is amazing." I was 15 and I was in a play in high school, a musical. I was in *Fiddler on the Roof*. I was in a really big number in the end of act one and it was sensational. We were high school kids and the crowd went wild; I just remember it felt like love. You could literally feel the force of the air moving created by peoples clapping, and the sound of it felt like love. I thought, "This is amazing; I want to be here, feeling this my whole life."

**WCT: Social media plays a huge role in the funding of this film. How much harder would it be to complete this movie without social media?**

DS: It would be impossible on a lot of different levels. First of all, you've got to build buzz now. You've got to get people to talk about the movie and talk about what's going on and talk about the fact that you're actually doing it and

it's here. You want people to start looking out for it. If I can raise a certain amount of money I can show people I can raise more money and I need social media more than ever to get this done. It's the most important part of this program.

**WCT: Do you think that *Hot Guys with Guns* will help change how films are funded and made?**

DS: No. I think it's going to change a lot about gay films. I think it's going to make you look at characters and go, "Aha! I know these guys but I'm just not used to seeing them like this." But, no, I'm using the formula a lot of people are using—Indiegogo and Kickstarter; I'm not the first person to use that. I'm just following in somebody else's footsteps.

I'm learning from other people—hell, even Whoopi Goldberg. One of the reasons I decided to do it this way is because Whoopi Goldberg has a project, a documentary that she wants to make, and she's using Kickstarter. If you wait for other people with big money to allow you to do something you'll never get it done. You've got to push.

**The movie is still accepting donations; people can still contribute to *Hot Guys with Guns* by visiting [www.DougSpearman.com](http://www.DougSpearman.com).**



David Cox (left) and Bruce Vilanch. Publicity shot

## Vilanch, entrepreneur on 'Shark Tank'

On the Nov. 9 installment of the ABC show *Shark Tank*, out comedian/actor/writer Bruce Vilanch and openly gay entrepreneur David Cox, founder of "The MAC Guru" and "PC Classes Online," will appear, according to a press release.

Cox was chosen from more than 30,000 potential contestants for the show, often called the "American Idol of Business." He splits his time running both businesses between Provincetown, MA and Key West, FL with his husband, Allen Gallant.

One of Vilanch's most recent endeavors is guest-starring in *Scrooge & Marley*, a locally filmed gay take on *A Christmas Carol*. The film, which Judith Light will narrate, will premiere at Chicago's Music Box Theatre Nov. 29.

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Skyfall; Lincoln

Two of Hollywood's most enduring franchises—James Bond and Steven Spielberg—return to theaters this week with stellar examples of their particular brands.

Bond—the super-cool, super-sexy British spy known as 007—is celebrating 50 years of turning on movie audiences with *Skyfall*, the long-overdue latest edition to the series. As for Spielberg, the crowd-pleasing, most financially successful filmmaker of all time and the accidental inventor of the summer blockbuster is returning with the epic *Lincoln*. *Skyfall* offers the unadulterated diversions of a great spy thriller while *Lincoln* makes history entertaining on a grand scale. This is a rare case of a win-win for audiences who will be rewarded by taking in both films—commerce and art both triumphing for once.

Like a child, I can't wait to get to the guilty pleasures inherent in *Skyfall*, which include the often shirtless, hunky Daniel Craig (hands down, the sexiest Bond); Judi Dench as his peppery boss, M, who has more screen time here than in previous outings; the usual assortment of eye-popping locations for the complicated and thrilling set pieces; and a swarthy new villain embodied by sloe-eyed Javier Bardem—not to mention a heavy whiff of bisexuality present in our dazzling hero and his nemesis (more on that later). After the traditional kick-ass opening sequence that finds Bond in pursuit of the usual baddie, skittering across the rooftops of the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul and atop a speeding train in the surrounding countryside, we get another memorable title song (by Adele) over the title credits.



Dame Judi Dench in *Skyfall*. Photo by Francois Duhamel



Daniel Day-Lewis as the title character in *Lincoln*.

The stripped-down-to-the-marrow story (by openly gay writer John Logan, Neal Purvis and Robert Wade) has an undercurrent that will resonate with longtime fans of the series: Bond and M are aging, relics of a time when spying included sports cars with ejector seats (the silver Aston Martin makes a nice cameo) and other out-of-date stealth gadgetry. Both have fumbled the ball when a zip drive containing the true identities of covert British intelligence agents embedded in terrorist organizations worldwide is stolen from M and slips out of Bond's fingers. Is it time for M to retire? Does Bond have the fortitude to keep up with the insanely tough demands of the job (not to mention the stamina to continue bedding the usual array of gorgeous beauties)?

The script pursues these questions as Bonds zeroes in on the thief—an elegant cyberterrorist with blonde highlights named Silva (Bardem) who wants revenge against M for past transgressions. When Silva first snares Bond in his web he flagrantly banter with him sexually ... and Sir James teases right back, suggesting that he is no stranger to man-on-man encounters. But that tantalizing idea is set aside as the revenge plot kicks back in, leading to the climactic section taking place at Bond's boyhood country estate.

Director Sam Mendes, newly invigorating the series after the less-than-satisfying *Quantum of Silence*, keeps the action hopping, greatly aided by the sumptuous cinematography of Roger

Deakins (the exotic locales glisten through his lens), Stuart and Katie Baird's razor-sharp editing and Thomas Newman's elegant, John Barry-inspired score.

Best, of course are the performances. In addition to the assured acting of Craig, who brings an emotional intensity to his succulent physicality and sophisticated demeanor, there's the delightful crack timing of Dench ("Don't cock it up!" she warns Bond) and M's moody introspection as well as some welcome new characters: Ben Whishaw as the fey (and I use the term affectionately) little tech geek Q, Ralph Fiennes as Dench's boss and, of course Bardem, having a hammy good time as Silva. Given all this, it's not surprising that *Skyfall*'s 143-minute running time doesn't seem a bit extended. Rather, one sits there taking in this 23rd Bond adventure, wishing to be shaken and stirred indefinitely.

In a way, the same holds true for Spielberg's *Lincoln*. Based on an exceedingly literate script by gay writer Tony Kushner (who first collaborated with the director on 2005's *Munich*), this is hardly the dry history lesson or by-the-numbers biopic that one might expect. It expertly draws its audience in from the first iconic shot of Daniel Day-Lewis, in yet another jaw-dropping performance, as our 16th president. However, that is to be expected with Spielberg—the man who made the Holocaust riveting in *Schindler's List*, rewrote the book on glamorizing war in the savage first section of *Saving Private Ryan* and directed several other immersive historical dramas (*Amistad*, etc.)—at the helm.

Kushner's script, winnowed down from 500 pages (!), ends up focusing on the last four months of Lincoln's life—most specifically, the president's determination to pass the Thirteenth Amendment (the abolition of slavery) before the end of the bloody Civil War. A master tactician, Lincoln sets his staff to work on getting Congress to pass the amendment—something his cabinet warns him is nigh on impossible. Kushner's screenplay, which Doris Kearns Goodwin's best-selling *Team of Rivals* inspired, has tremendous theatrical flair (no surprise there from the playwright who brought us *Angels in America*) and the Congressional battles are tremendously engaging—it's big fun to watch the characters squabble, fuss and really go at it.

The movie is essentially a large-scale drawing-room drama with lots of backroom political dealings and, for the first little while, we are trapped inside cramped interiors with clusters of characters vying for Lincoln's attention. But Lincoln, who is given to launching into meandering stories and who seems serenely confident and bemused by the constant tussles and flutterings around him, isn't about to be distracted from his

goal and we see the determination underneath the easy manner—the master politician at work on getting what he wants.

Day-Lewis (whose physical proximity to Lincoln is uncanny) gifts the tall, awkward man with the oddly high-pitched voice and slow drawl whom historians have described, as well as the profound sadness. His subtlety helps humanize this nearly mythic figure, once again approaching the unparalleled acting glory he achieved in *There Will Be Blood*. Tommy Lee Jones, as irascible Lincoln supporter Thaddeus Stevens, and Sally Field, as the long-suffering Mary Todd Lincoln, are exceptional standouts in a dream cast—the film is like a master class in film acting where even the actors in the tiniest parts shine. (These are the kinds of roles that actors dream of.)

The movie itself—thanks to Spielberg's experienced hand and the aid of his usual production team—is lyrical, graceful and feels a bit like one is aboard an elegant cruise ship gliding through a calm, glassy sea. One luxuriates amidst so much good acting, serene with the thought that a master technician is at the controls, with every detail thought out and presented just so.

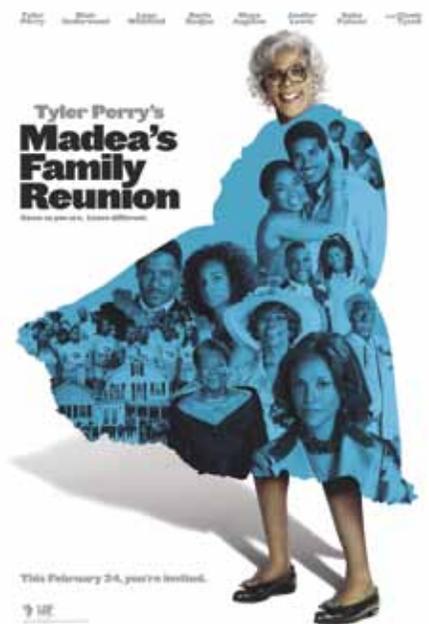
Perhaps one of the most surprising things about *Lincoln* and *Skyfall* is that both pictures go beyond their expected boundaries. The Bond movie has much more depth than the usual 007 outing while Spielberg's biopic is sensationally entertaining as it delivers a truly involving history lesson. Both movies also trumpet a reinvigorated renewal of their brands—Spielberg is back, firing on all thrusters after the predictable though entertaining *War Horse* and *Adventures of Tin Tin*, while the Bond franchise looks to add another 50 years to its luster.

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.

### Tyler Perry roundtable Nov. 28 at NU

The forum "Madea's Big Scholarly Roundtable: Perspectives on the Media of Tyler Perry" will take place Wed., Nov. 28, at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Dr., on Northwestern University's Evanston campus.

Two of Perry's films—*Madea's Family Reunion* and *The Family That Preys*—will be screened at Annie May Swift Auditorium, 1920 Campus Dr., prior to the 5 p.m. *Madea* roundtable at the Block museum. More info is at [www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2012/10/november-2012-film-calendar.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2012/10/november-2012-film-calendar.html).



Poster for *Madea's Family Reunion*. Image by Photofest

# Halloween parade marks 'Apocalypse'

The 16th annual Halloween parade kicked off on Halsted Street, changing the route to south instead of north.

The theme was "Apocalypse," which was fitting after certain weather conditions around the world, particularly Hurrican Sandy. The weather in Chicago was cold; however, the Salvation Army was on hand to warm attendees with hot chocolate and hot dogs for free with a truck parked in a nearby lot—an interesting development given the organization's controversial history with the LGBT community.

Macray Huff and Katrell Mendenhall, reality-TV stars from the show Chica-golicious, judged costumers. Local fave Miss Foozie walked with the pets, then hosted the main stage entertainment at the turnaround at Belmont, where the Chicago Spirit Brigade jumped in the air for donations and the Chicago Fire Tribe hula hooped with flames. Costumes ranged from Big Bird to Iron Man, with lots of Mexican Day of the Dead face paintings this year.

Visit [www.northalsted.com](http://www.northalsted.com) for future events in the gayborhood. Text and photos by Jerry Nunn



## COMING THIS FALL TO THE RIVERFRONT THEATER

From the creator of *Straight No Chaser* and the producer of *Under the Streetlamp*

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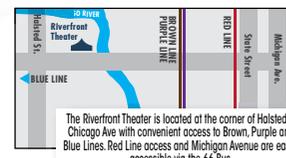
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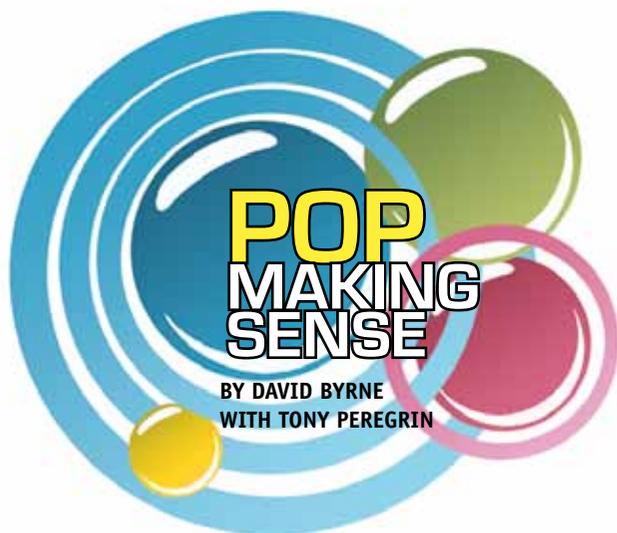


The Riverfront Theater is located at the corner of Halsted & Chicago Ave with convenient access to Brown, Purple and Blue Lines. Red Line access and Michigan Avenue are easily accessible via the 66 Bus.

**P** PARKING INFORMATION  
Parking is located on Chicago Avenue, next door to the venue with direct access to the show. Additional parking is located at 811 N. LaSalle and 950 N. Kingsbury.

facebook.com/RiverfrontTheater riverfrontchi

RIVERFRONT THEATER



**Melissa Etheridge** returns with 4th Street Feeling, her most cohesive album since 1993's multi-platinum coming-out collection, Yes I Am. On 4th Street Feeling, the newly single musician captures the essence of a restless soul traveling. The breast-cancer survivor does not make herself out to be a perfect angel, though.

On the opening track, "Kansas City," the Grammy and Oscar winner paints a picture with the particularly poignant lyrics, "I met a man in a diner outside Hayes / He said marriage brought him there / It was divorce that made him stay." "Falling Up" is a very pop effort that offers a strong contrast to its successor, the bluesy rocker "Shout Now." "A Sacred Heart" is a big show-stopper, while "I Can Wait" is a sweet love song and "Rock and Roll Me" is intended for a slow dance. Etheridge takes to the stage on Saturday, Nov. 10, at Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.

Also on Saturday, Nov. 10, **Amanda Palmer & The Grand Theft Orchestra** will have a sold-out show at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. Theatre Is Evil is the bisexual artist's second solo album. "Do It with a Rockstar" offers an '80s-alternative inspired punch, while "Want It Back" and "Lost" revisit the quirkiness of Palmer's days as half of The Dresden Dolls, which can be likened to Tori Amos meets Laurie Anderson. The verses are spoken on "Grown Man Cry," which really should come with its own serving of absinthe. I am partial to the quieter, less manic moments, as heard on "Bottomfeeder," "The Bed Song" and "Berlin." Palmer raised more than \$1.1 million on Kickstarter to fund this album.

**Kylie Minogue** is best known for her electronic dance-pop ditties like "Can't Get You out of My Head," "Love at First Sight" and "All the Lovers." On Abbey Road Sessions, she replaces her usual slick, synthesized production for a more mature, organic feel with strings and live instruments as she revisits her catalog.

This is a natural transition for Minogue. During her celebrated, elaborate tours, the pop star has been known to rearrange some of her songs to keep them fresh. The collection's cabaret version of the smash "Better the Devil You Know" recalls the rendition from On a Night Like This Tour. Also, the original takes of her previous international hits "2 Hearts" and "Tears on My Pillow" hint at the aesthetic on Abbey Road Sessions. "I Believe in You," "Finer Feelings" and "Slow" translate very well here too, even though these remakes are not as drastic compared to the jaw-dropping, yet impressive overhaul on "Come into My World." She continues to embody the goddess of love persona with the lead single, "Flower." Nick Cave joins Minogue for a new spin on their murderous ode, "Where the Wild Roses Grow." Abbey Road Sessions also finds Minogue's voice, which does not need to be reprocessed—unlike her counterparts.

Earlier this year, **Bettye LaVette's** performance at Old Town School of Folk Music wowed me. She engaged the audience with her stories about her often-derailed career and her magnificent interpretations of material spanning greats like The Who, Beatles, Sinead O'Connor and Dolly Parton.

Her latest, Thankful N' Thoughtful, is out now. Here, LaVette puts her signature vocal delivery on classics that seem to be hand-plucked for her, such as Savoy Brown's "I'm Tired" and two takes on Rod Stewart's "Dirty Old Town." "Old" shows off LaVette's heavy-hearted, aching voice. She even has a go with Gnarts Barkley's "Crazy" by slowing it down and giving it an old-school R&B makeover.

LaVette will be at City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St., on Friday, Nov. 9, and Sat., Nov. 10. To mark her 50th year in

show business, LaVette released her autobiography, A Woman Like Me, via Blue Rider Press, which David Ritz co-wrote.

Toronto's **Diamond Rings** avoids the sophomore slump with the well-polished Free Dimensional. Here, openly gay frontman John O. showcases his deep voice, which caught me off guard, especially on "Everything Speaks" and "Put Me



**Kylie Minogue. Photo by William Baker**

On." "All the Time" and "Runaway Love" shine brightly on this set and offer crossover potential. The influence from the '80s is undeniable. "Hand over My Heart" comes across as a lost collaboration between Human League and Howard Jones. Inspired by Eurythmics' Touch era, "I'm Just Me" is cool electro-pop with an irresistible double clap. "I Know What I'm Made Of" makes me smile with its Culture Club reference by having "kissing to be clever" in the lyrics. Diamond Rings toured with Robyn to promote the debut album, Special Affections. Free Dimensional is out now via Astralwerks.

Prolific singer-songwriter **Aimee Mann** has a two-night stay at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., starting Wed., Nov. 14. Her latest undertaking, Charmer, is out now on her label, SuperEgo Records. The melancholy feel on "Slip and Roll" is an attention-getter, especially when surrounded by the solid, more up-tempo tracks "Living a Lie" and "Gumby." "Gamma Ray" has a tambourine and guitar riffs that compliment the number wonderfully. Mann summons the spirit of Lucinda Williams on the beautiful "Barfly." The video for "Labrador" is hilarious, as it is a camp, take-for-take remake of "Voices Carry," the top 10 hit for Mann's former band 'Til Tuesday.



**Escort. Photo by Jody Kivort**

## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Solo with Escort's Adeline Michele



BY JERRY NUNN

Contemporary disco orchestra Escort started with producers Dan Balis and Eugene Cho before growing into a 17-piece band. Hailing from Brooklyn, the group—which has been described as one not to miss live—brings its tour to Chicago this week.

Lead singer Adeline Michele discussed life on the road, among other things, in this recent interview.

**Windy City Media Group: Hi, Adeline. Are you touring now?**

Adeline Michele: I'm at home in Brooklyn. We are going to D.C. on Thursday on Saturday so I get to stay home and do East Coast shows right now.

**WCT: That must be nice.**

AM: It is not bad at all. I love traveling, too, but it is not the same.

**WCT: Have you been to Chicago before?**

AM: We just went to Chicago two weeks ago, actually. It was a private party for NBC. We are coming back for our real show. We can't wait because the Metro has a great reputation and we are very excited to play there.

**WCT: With a live show, do you bring the whole band with you?**

AM: It depends. For Chicago it will pretty much be the whole band. There will be 10 to 12 pieces because it is a longer show. We wanted to bring it all the way. When we have been doing this East Coast tour we have been playing with a five piece band. It is easier to travel around because we are not able to travel with 17 people all over the world!

**WCT: Two producers started Escort, correct?**

AM: Yes, it was Dan and Eugene. Eugene is the keyboard player and Dan is one of the guitar players. They are best friends and went to

college together with some of the other band members. They had a band back in the day in high school and college.

When Dan and Eugene were deejaying in college they were playing disco records; then they moved to New York. They decided to create the music that they were playing when they saw their reactions. They called their musician friends because they wanted to have a live aspect on their record but they wanted to make it more organic. They wrote the songs and were looking for a singer. We had a friend in common and they introduced me, things worked out right away.

**WCT: Are you from Brooklyn?**

AM: No, not at all; I am from Paris. I was born and raised in France. I was on TV as a child. I was singing when I was 5 years old. Right after high school I decided to move to New York. I wanted to make it bigger than just Europe. I wanted to see where I could take it.

**WCT: So you moved to New York to make it big?**

AM: To become a star! I grew up loving soul music and I wanted to learn from the root. I wanted to investigate and get better. I wanted to try things in a big scale, I guess.

**WCT: How long have you been with Escort?**

AM: Four years now. The first show we did was about four years ago.

**WCT: I heard there are so many band members that you can't even practice all together.**

AM: We really practice only when we have shows; for instance, we had a rehearsal last night. Pretty much everyone was there except for the string players. We usually still rehearse if people can't make it. If I am not there or the rhythm section can't make it, then we can't do without them.

**WCT: The latest CD is Escort Remixed. How did you connect with the remix artists on that project?**

AM: Eugene and Dan are DJs [and] they have their DJ fans, so they have a crew of them. We have an Escort DJ thing that we promote once in a while. We are played by a lot of DJs, so the remix thing came off naturally. It was something that was meant to happen because of the music we do.

AM: Huge gay following! I love it!

**Dance the night away at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. with Escort on Friday, Nov. 9. Visit [www.metrochicago.com](http://www.metrochicago.com) for tickets and information today.**

# Jen Richards of We Happy Trans

BY NICO LANG

*This is the first edition of a new interview series called "The Q List," in which Windy City Times sits down with the creators, movers and shakers of queer culture in Chicago to highlight the important faces and happenings in Chicago's LGBTQ community.*

The first interview is with Jen Richards of We Happy Trans (WHT), a website that interviews trans people from across the country to showcase positive stories of trans live and change the public narrative on what it means to be trans. In this piece, Richards talks about her website and why WHT's message is important for the trans community in an increasingly wired world.

**Nico Lang: As a fan of the site, I would first like to know how it got started? What the concept was and how all of this happened.**

Jen Richards: Obviously, there is a longer story, about how my experiences and how they were playing out in this kind of way that diverged from the standard narratives that I encountered prior to my own transition. But the short version—slightly more dramatic one, too—is that I was on Twitter one day complaining that there

other people to contribute. What I did was I came up with a set of seven questions, now I call it the "7 Questions" project; it just sounds more formal that way.

Basically, what I do is made these seven questions and I put the call out there like, "Hey I would like trans people to answer these questions, and then send me their answers. It its text, you could just e-mail it to me. It it's a video go ahead and put it up on YouTube, send me the link, and I can embed it in a post and introduce it, refer the readers to your various forms of social media, et cetera."

And right from the beginning, in fact, I think the first video came from Italy, before I even really started asking for videos. Someone had come across the site and thought it was a great idea and did a video. A lot of the ones that came in from the start weren't solicited, I just put a general call out and they somehow found me. That was really thrilling and exciting, and once we had a couple on there and it was starting to work, I started seeking out people.

I think I started with my Twitter community. I know a lot of people through something called Trans Chat, which I and a few other people had



Jen Richards. Photo by Steve Starr

wasn't a website that talked about positive transgender experiences, and a woman, a trans woman that I know from here in Chicago, this really fierce tough lady named Jasmine Jewels, said, "You gonna talk about it or are you gonna do something about it?" She said, "You've got one month. Make the site yourself."

**NL: Well, no pressure.**

JR: Exactly, and she is kind of scary, in a good way, so I took it seriously. Three weeks later I launched the first version of the website; that was in January. It started to grow a little bit. Then I got put in touch with Kai, who is an incredible graphic designer and a trans woman in Chicago, and brought on Noah, who is a young trans man from the West Coast, as a contributor. The three of us we relaunched the site in March, with its own special look and logo and tons of great new content. Since then, we've had over 50,000 unique visitors.

**NL: So, when you are looking for people who you want to be on the site, how do you reach out to people?**

JR: Well, it started out as a personal blog, like any other Wordpress, with me talking about my personal experiences. Right from the beginning, I wanted to include other voices, and I wanted

once a month on Twitter; it's a two-hour discussion on a specific trans topic. I built up a big community through that. So I just started haranguing people, trying to get them to send videos. The ones that said they were interested I wouldn't let go. From that point on, every week I would just ask "Hey, you make your video yet?" Slowly, one by one, they did. We started doing better, word started spreading and we've had over 30 contributions so far, and there's quite a few in the pipeline.

**NL: How did you come to the seven-question format?**

JR: I figured [if] I just put an open call out there for them to tell me their story, it would be a little too loosely structured and a lot of people really wouldn't know exactly what to say; it might make a little more anxiety-producing. Plus, I wanted to have some kind of structure not only to make it easier for the person to tell their story but then so we can compare these stories. I came up with the idea of: "Why don't we just have a set of questions? We'll have everyone answer the same kind of questions."

I always love that—when you see different people answering the same questions. It shows something about their personality and their

style and their history, and how their narratives are different. We started thinking about these seven questions, they went through several different drafts; but always the basic idea was to get a basic sense of who they are, then to kind of frame the positive aspects of their transition, to focus on the things that went right. And also to talk about action, not just to talk about their identity but about what they are doing in the world and really who they are in addition to being trans, something beyond their gender identity.

**NL: In asking those questions, what are common themes you see come out of these stories?**

JR: I think what's most satisfying, in terms of comparing, is hearing these stories is how different they are. I will say that there are a couple of things that unify, I will say that a lot of the participants have a similar attitude, there seems to be a kind of ebullience, a kind of a positive attitude basically. Granted I think that's a little bit self-selecting, the kind of people that are going to submit to We Happy Trans already have

a bit of a happy outlook, and a positive transition.

But I think it's part of the reason they are having such successful transitions. These are people who take ownership of their process, and do see themselves as beautiful and worthy and want to celebrate being trans in some way shape or form. So, I do see that unity, but again, I am really astonished by the variety and the diversity of stories. It's really easy to slip into this false idea that the trans community is cohesive, that there is one trans narrative. You only have to watch two or three videos before you realize how widely varied our stories really are.

**Note:** This interview is part of a longer audio feature on Jen Richards that can be found at the end of the online version of this article at Windy City Times' website ([www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)). Use the search field to look for Jen Richards' name for the quickest way to find the online article.

Additionally, the We Happy Trans website is [www.WeHappyTrans.com](http://www.WeHappyTrans.com).



Dorothy Allison. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

## Dorothy Allison speaks on the power of the writer's voice

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Addressing a crowd of about 100 people, lesbian author Dorothy Allison spoke about the power and influence of the writer's voice at the Harold Washington Library Center Cindy Pritzker Auditorium on Nov. 3.

The Chicago Humanities Festival sponsored Allison's talk. This year's theme is "America: From Art and Literature to the History and Present of the Americas." The festival runs through Nov. 11.

Allison is a political activist, speaker and author of the award-winning books *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*. She lives in northern California with her wife Alix Layman and their son Wolf Michael.

Booklist senior editor Donna Seaman introduced Allison and also moderated the event.

Speaking about feminism and the feminist movement, Allison expressed concern that many young women don't consider themselves feminists. Allison said that she thinks of herself as a radical, lesbian feminist.

On the issue of marriage equality and her 2008 California wedding, Allison said, "That my personal intimate relationship should be so dangerous ... that's not funny." She also said that Planned Parenthood is a very useful organization.

Unlike many other authors, Allison noted

that she isn't on Facebook, nor does she tweet or blog.

Allison said that although writers are earning less for their work, there are also more avenues for writers to have their voices heard.

In talking about the writing process and where her stories come from Allison said, "I learned from reading Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Tennessee Williams, Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor that playing with language produces glorious, complicated and layered stories."

During the Q&A session Allison was asked about how writers find their voice. She remarked that all writers should use their own life experiences to tell their stories.

Allison was also asked if any members of her family had issues with her book *Bastard Out of Carolina*. She responded, "I am a deeply lucky person because nobody in my family reads." When the movie was released some family members got angry; however, most of them loved the film.

The Chicago Humanities Festival's mission, according to the organization's website, is to create opportunities for people of all ages to support, enjoy and explore the humanities through annual festivals.

See [www.dorothyallison.net](http://www.dorothyallison.net) and [www.chicagohumanities.org/Festival/Events.aspx](http://www.chicagohumanities.org/Festival/Events.aspx) for more information.

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

## Rosebud Prime; Chalkboard

BY ANDREW DAVIS

There are 3,700 Rosebud restaurants in Chicago.

OK: There are "only" 11 (at least), including Carmine's and Bar Umbriago, in the Rosebud family—a testament to the chain's popularity. That popularity was understood, thanks to a recent visit to **Rosebud Prime** (1 S. Dearborn St.; <http://rosebudrestaurants.com/rest10.php>).

It was interesting even figuring out how to dress there—but then I realized it's a whole new world from even a few years ago, when some restaurants required patrons to wear jackets. I wore a button-down shirt and dress pants, and realized that I was almost overdressed. (Patrons at the next table—as my dining companion, "Norris," pointed out—were wearing jeans and baseball caps, so I would say almost anything goes.)

That said, the atmosphere at Rosebud Prime was elegant without being stuffy. There were lots of warm colors and even a new jazz band that quietly played, rendering the place conversation-friendly despite its huge size. Also, despite the more casual appearance of the clientele, the service matched what you would expect from an upscale restaurant, with servers leaving our table for no more than a few minutes.

We started with drinks, including an above-average apple martini and wine. As for appetizers, we had lamb chops (which we both thought were tasty and succulent, rating them nine out of 10) and crab cakes. The cakes had a lot to live up to for this native of the Chesapeake Bay area—and were pretty good, for the most part.

The entrees were also great. The skirt steak (with Bermuda onions) proved to certainly be a juicy dish—not that having that quality is always a good thing. However, here the succulence worked to the steak's (and, hence, the patron's) advantage, although Norris felt that the meat could have used a little more pepper. I had the brick chicken—again, a juicy dish—that was approximately the size of Evanston. (It actually lasted me two days after the dining experience.) Sides included steamed spinach and jalapeno potatoes, with the latter providing just the right amount of kick.

However, Rosebud Prime offers a varied list of dishes, ranging from Kobe beef hot dogs to Oysters Rockefeller to escargot to crab-and-Brie-stuffed tilapia—and variety is definitely the



spice of life. I wholeheartedly recommend Rosebud Prime, which shows exactly the Rosebud is so popular—and deservedly so.

I recently met a couple of friends at **Chalkboard** (4343 N. Lincoln Ave.; [www.chalkboardrestaurant.com](http://www.chalkboardrestaurant.com)) for brunch—and was surprised at the start.



The brick chicken (above) at Rosebud Prime.

The titular chalkboard menu (upper left) and the French toast (lower left) at Chalkboard.

Photos by Andrew Davis

Usually when I meet someone for brunch, it's more crowded than a Black Friday sale—especially at 10:30 a.m. However, upon walking in, we discovered we were the first ones there (and we were the only ones for about an hour). This development saddened me, as Chalkboard definitely deserves more love, although not everything got a positive rating from me.

Chalkboard, as one might surmise, gets its name from the huge chalkboard that showcases the ever-revolving selection of dishes. (When I was there, I saw items that ranged from pulled goat gnocchi to whitefish.)

Brunch items were on the menu, and they certainly looked promising. I was eyeing the fried chicken and waffles (since I'd never tried that dish) and the "Mick Muffin" (duck confit, a fried egg and smoked Gouda on an English muffin), but opted for the breakfast cassoulet. My friends went with more traditional options: blueberry pancakes and French toast (the latter being a strawberry-shortcake variety with mint whipped cream).

The cassoulet—an olio of roasted potatoes, chorizo, chicken and white beans topped with two eggs, served in a large cast-iron pot—didn't quite work for me, as the dish seemed a bit watery and a bit lacking in bite. I ended up envying my friend's French toast after sampling some of it, as the whipped cream worked perfectly with the bread; I can understand why she ate all of the not-insubstantial portion. My other friend liked her pancakes as well. Service was pretty attentive; however, with us being the only ones in the place, how could it not be?

I would like to return to Chalkboard to sample the "Mick Muffin" or even the giant BLT; the restaurant is definitely pleasant enough to warrant a return visit. The good thing (or bad, for the business, I presume) is that I should have no problem booking a seat.

Send dining news to me at [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## the **DISH** DINING LISTINGS

### AMERICAN

**The Counter**  
666 W. Diversey Pkwy.  
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Custom built burgers with hormone-and-antibiotic-free 100% Angus beef.  
Facebook: The Counter Lincoln Park.

**Jane's Restaurant**  
1653-55 W. Cortland Ave.  
773-862-5263  
[janesrestaurant.com](http://janesrestaurant.com)  
An everyday, upscale eatery located in neighborhood Bucktown. Stunning Special Events Room. Brunch, Lunch & Dinner.

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

**ASIAN**  
**Thirteen Tapas**  
4202 W. Irving Park Rd.,  
773-283-6626  
[www.13pins.webs.com](http://www.13pins.webs.com)  
Serving unique Asian tapas-style cuisine, inspired by dishes of the Philippines. Half off tapas Tue.-Thu. from 3-6.

### BAKERY

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

**ITALIAN**  
**Taverna 750**  
750 W. Cornelia Ave.,  
Chicago  
773-348-5172  
Bright and fresh Italian small plates with an exciting cocktail menu. Surprisingly affordable.

### Club Lucky

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

**Armand's Pizzeria**  
4159 N. Western Ave.,  
Chicago  
773-463-5200  
[armandspizzeria.com](http://armandspizzeria.com)  
Since 1956. Award-winning thin crust. Also baked clams, sandwiches, salads. Dine in, take out, delivery.

### Ceres' Table

4882 N. Clark St.,  
Chicago  
773-878-4882  
[cerestable.com](http://cerestable.com)  
Sustainable, locally sourced contemporary Italian food, great cocktails, and fabulous wine and beer lists.

### GERMAN

**Chicago Brauhaus**  
4732 N. Lincoln Ave.,  
Chicago  
773-784-4444  
[chicagobrauhaus.com](http://chicagobrauhaus.com)  
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## Celebrations

### CIVIL UNION

## Shenelle-Thierry

Bennie Shenelle and Kate Marie (Jadin) Thierry held a civil-union ceremony Oct. 20 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. The couple honeymooned in the Canary Islands before returning to Chicago, where they will continue to reside. The couple is overwhelmed by all the joy and love at the union of our hearts and the merge of their families. Shenelle is a procurement administrator/loan advisor; Thierry is a social worker. Photo by Michelle Vigen



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

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## ANTIQUES

### ZURKO ANTIQUE EVENTS

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 Sat. Nov 10th & Sun. Nov 11th  
 Hours: Sat. 10am-4pm  
 Sun. 8am-3pm/\$6  
 Early Buyers: Sat. 8am-10am / \$25  
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**ANGELS AMONG US WITH SOPHY BURNHAM,** Friday Nov. 30, 6-8pm. \$10 admission benefits Greater Chicago Food Depository; event hosted by Swedenborg Library. Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St. (at Clark), Chicago. Author Sophy Burnham's 1990 "A Book of Angels" was an instant best-seller. She did not grow up believing in angels, but at 28 an angel miraculously saved her life. Are there really celestial beings watching over our lives? Join us as Sophy discusses the many powerful, inexplicable forces and coincidences that affect our lives. **Reserve seats at [SwedenborgLib.org](http://SwedenborgLib.org) or call 312-346-7003. (11/28/12-4)**



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### 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)**

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# GENERATION

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# HALSTED LGBTQ Youth Series from WINDY CITY TIMES

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# calendar

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## Wed., Nov. 7

**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)

**EQ IL Holiday Wine Tasting Party** Join Equality Illinois at Sidetrack for their annual evening of wine tasting and education. This super-popular event caters to all palates and budgets. \$20 donation provides access to more than 99 wines from around the world and hors d'oeuvres provided by J&L Catering. 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., [www.eqil.org](http://www.eqil.org); Tickets: <http://gopride.com/z7m7>

**GenderQueer Chicago** Grassroots, peer-led group creating safe spaces for all of us to talk about, think about, explore, and express gender. Meetings are safe, encouraging and supportive, open to those who wish to talk and think about gender. 6:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Gay Liberation Network meeting** Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group calling attention to equality and liberation for LGBTs, against America's wars, supporting labor and immigrant rights, and more. Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group; 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., [www.gayliberation.net](http://www.gayliberation.net)

**HyDrag Revue with Tajma Hall** Join Hydrate for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE hosted by Tajma Hall, featuring the all star cast of Dida Ritz, Sorraya Dash, Naysha Lopez, Erica Andrews and special

## 'MAUL' IN THE FAMILY Saturday, Nov. 10

The Chicago Dragons rugby team will hold its annual "Miss Ruck-n-Maul" pageant at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Photo from Chicago Dragons

guests each week!!! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

## Thursday, Nov. 8

**Open Gym Volleyball** Mondays and Thursdays. Co-ed, open court volleyball for players of all levels. \$7/night; \$30/month; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Bisexual Women's Support** Bisexual women's Support Group is for women looking to better understand what it means to be bisexual, or are questioning their identity; 6pm-7:30pm, 773-388-1600X3319, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., [www.howardbrown.org/lccp](http://www.howardbrown.org/lccp)

**Stand Out College Night** College Night is a fun and fabulous night for college students to meet others and build a community of LGBTQ College Students in Chicago. Free; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Parents of Transgender Individuals** A peer-led, conversation and support group for those who are the parents of individuals,



who identify as Transgender, or are questioning their gender. Occurs the Second Thursday of each month. Free; 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Boys' Night Out** Moda Boutique celebrates men's fashion with an incredible shopping experience. Complimentary cocktail, snack, DJ spinning, go-go boys shaking it up and modeling some new looks. 7pm-10pm, 708-997-0410, Moda Boutique, 5140 N Clark St., [www.facebook.com/events/123955004424220](http://www.facebook.com/events/123955004424220)

**Jump Rhythm Fall Concert (with Dance Chicago 2012)** 23rd Season at Stage 773, performing four shows co-produced by Dance Chicago on Nov. 8, 9, 10 at 8pm and Nov. 11 at 3pm. The fall season features five premieres; 8pm-9:30pm, 773-880-JRJP (5757), Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., [www.jrjp.org](http://www.jrjp.org)

## Friday, Nov. 9

**Women Working in Clay opening reception** Show celebrates 20 years—and more—of 21 American women working in clay. Free. 6pm-9pm, 312-738-0400, Woman Made Gallery, 685 N. Milwaukee Ave., [www.womanmade.org](http://www.womanmade.org)

**Breaking the Mold with Ann Libera, Chicago Ladies in Comedy** Second City legend is guest instructor for the 2 hour monthly workshop, Pitching Better Premises. [ladiesincomedy@me.com](mailto:ladiesincomedy@me.com); 7pm-9pm, 773.717.2542, The Training Center 4802 N. Broadway, 2nd Floor, Studio A, <http://breakingthemold.bpt.me/>

**The Odd Couple** Written by Neil Simon and Directed by BJ Jones. Featuring legendary comic actors Chicago's own Tim Kazurinsky and Marc Grapey; 7:30pm, 847-679-9501x3555, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org)

**West Suburban Gay Association Dinner** Medieval theme, cozy atmosphere, fireplaces and full-service bar. 7:30pm, 630-858-2506, Alfie's Inn, 425 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn

**Robert Klein** In 1975, Klein was the first comedian to appear in a live concert on Home Box Office. He has gone on to do nine one-man shows for HBO and received his first Emmy nomination for Outstanding Music and Lyrics in 2001 for Robert Klein: "Child in His 50's." Klein released "Robert Klein: The HBO Specials 1975-2005," a collector's DVD box set to critical acclaim. Continues thru Nov. 11. 8pm-9:30pm, 312-662-4562, Up Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave, [http://upcomedyclub.com/show\\_right.cfm?id=181462&cart](http://upcomedyclub.com/show_right.cfm?id=181462&cart)

**Club Kylie: The Abbey Road Sessions Release Party** Kylie's latest album - The Abbey Road Sessions. The night will feature

Kylie videos all night with DJ Riley York. There will also be album giveaways and more fun. 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave., [www.cattlcallchicago.com](http://www.cattlcallchicago.com)

## Saturday, Nov. 10

**Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (GLBT)** 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)

**Youth Speak OUT! Saturdays.** Open mic for young people to express themselves and to hear from legendary artists in the making. Free. 4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Miss Ruck-n-Maul 2012** Come support the Chicago Dragons as they take their turn on the center stage and lip sync for their life. Nine players from the Chicago Dragons will compete in the hottest "beauty" contest in town, ONE will be the winner. Doors open at 5pm, tickets are \$20 and include two drink tickets. Celebrity judges and host will be announced shortly. 5pm-8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, [www.sidetrackchicago.com](http://www.sidetrackchicago.com)

**Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band presents "Defining Moments"** The Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band plays music that expresses the joy, and sometimes the struggle, of life. For its concert—Defining Moments—the band will perform selections from Sousa, Bach, Prokofiev, Berlioz and others. 8pm, Peoples Church/Preston Bradley Center, 941 W Lawrence Ave., [www.lakesidepride.org](http://www.lakesidepride.org)

**Melissa Etheridge Live in Concert** Performance by Oscar winner and two-time Grammy Award winner. North American Tour in support of her upcoming studio album, 4th Street Feeling. One-night only. Tickets \$38-\$103 on sale online. 8pm-10:30pm, Chicago Theatre, 175 N State St., [www.thechicagotheatre.com](http://www.thechicagotheatre.com); Tickets: <http://gopride.com/z7fm>

**Olivia Newton-John** Olivia Newton-John. \$50/\$65/\$75 by phone, online, or visit the box office Monday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm, or two hours prior to evening performances. 8pm, 630-896-6666, Paramount Theatre, 23 East Galena Boulevard, Aurora, <http://paramountaurora.com>

## Sunday, Nov. 11

**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/)

**Human Rights in Iran** Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei, former prisoners of conscience in Iran, speak about their lives helping marginalized and stigmatized groups in Iranian society: HIV-infected drug users, sex workers, LGBT individuals and prison inmates. 1pm, The Bahá'í House of Worship, Foundation Hall, 100 Linden Ave, Wilmette, <http://gopride.com/z7nc>

**Estate Planning to Provide for What You Care About, with Rosemary Mulryan** Learn why everyone should have a will and estate plan, and how to approach the task of making a plan. With Rosemary Mulryan and Michael Helfgott; 3pm-5pm, Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, <http://www.orchadash.org>

**Dating for Queer Nerds** Get lucky during a fate-themed singles mixer. Find your charm over rounds of board games and trivia with other unattached smarties. Advance registration and online payment is required. \$30. per person; 4pm, Sun Nov 11 \$30.00 per person Will's Northwoods



## STRING THEORY

### Saturday, Nov. 10

Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band will perform at the Preston-Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Inn, 3030 N Racine Ave. Tickets: [www.meetup.com/datingforqueernds/](http://www.meetup.com/datingforqueernds/) more information

**Veterans' Day dinner** The gay veterans honor the service of all veterans with buffet dinner, open bar and, as guest speakers, two leaders from the Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Sailors (GLASS) organization, Brian Ruiz, vice president, and Richard Dumbrique, president. 6:30pm-9:30pm, Ann Sather - Belmont, 909 W Belmont Ave., [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org)

## Monday, Nov. 12

**2012 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame** Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's annual ceremony. Free and open to the public. 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark St.

**Open Gym Volleyball** Mondays and Thursdays. Co-ed, open court volleyball for players of all levels. \$7/night; \$30/month; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**New group for serodiscordant/magnetic couples: TheTwoOfUs** Introducing a six-week group for serodiscordant couples, 6:30pm-8:30pm, TPAN 5537 N. Broadway, [www.tpan.org](http://www.tpan.org)

## Tuesday, Nov. 13

**Iranian AIDS Specialists Speak at AIDS Foundation** Foundation of Chicago and Amnesty International welcome Dr. Arash Alaei and Dr. Kamiar Alaei, Iranian physicians and pioneers in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. 3pm-5pm, 312-334-0969, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 200 West Jackson Blvd., #2200, <http://gopride.com/z7nz>

**2013 Or Chadash Gala Planning/Silent Auction Committee** Discuss event specifics such as menu, music, decorations, set up, take down, and silent auction. RSVP to [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org); 6:30pm-8:30pm, Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 N. Sheridan Rd.

## Wed., Nov. 14

**Over the Rainbow 2** A benefit to raise money and awareness for those who struggle with cancer within the LGBT community with silent auction to benefit Gilda's Club Chicago. Tickets include the chance to win 2 roundtrip Southwest Airlines tickets. The link to purchase \$15 advance tickets will be posted October 1st. The link below is for donations. 7-10pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., [www.gildasclubchicago.org/overtherainbow.html](http://www.gildasclubchicago.org/overtherainbow.html)



## SHE'S THE ONE THAT WE WANT

### Sunday, Nov. 10

Olivia Newton-John will perform at Aurora's Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd.

Publicity photo

# BILLY MASTERS

"This is not just any gay play. It's a theatrical tour de force. In the vein of your gay theater greats—Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde, Tyler Perry. This is not a show on Logo, OK? I want manly men."—Leslie Jordan as theater director Harold on Logo's new series DTLA.

For months, you've all scoffed at my assertions that the world is coming to an end. And yet, we have another sign that perhaps the Mayans were on to something. This revelation came to me while watching one of David Letterman's audience-free hurricane shows. Jim Cantore from The Weather Channel explained that, for the first



Fran Drescher apparently knows how to have fun. Photo courtesy of TV Land

time in recorded history, a storm took a left turn instead of a right. Why? He didn't have an answer, but I do. One interpretation of the Mayans' predictions is that the polar caps will magnetically reverse. What does that mean? I have no idea—but I'm not paying any bills until after Dec. 21. I've also planned to be back in Boston by then, because if the world is gonna come to an end, I'd like to be near family and friends.

If you read this column with any regularity, you know that I detest going to tapings of television shows. I have, however, gone to two sitcom tapings—one of which was Will & Grace when Madonna was the guest star. Given my well-documented devotion to Fran Drescher and her delicious ex, Peter Marc Jacobson, and the fact that TV Land's Happily Divorced films on the old Will & Grace soundstage, I felt drawn to attend yet another sitcom taping ... and had a blast. OK, there was a VIP room. Food was involved. And liquor. And hot boys. And, best of all, guest stars. This season, people like Joan Collins, Molly Shannon, Florence Henderson, Robert Wagner, Cyndi Lauper and oodles of others drop by to play with Fran. It's like the new millennium version of The Love Boat! The season premiere is Nov. 28.

Somehow, I haven't filled you in on all the drama surrounding Joe Simpson, father of Jessica Simpson and Ashlee Simpson. He's getting a divorce from wife Tina after 34 years of marriage, and the couple claims there are no other parties involved. Then came rumors that Joe has been dating 21-year-old aspiring model Bryce Chandler Hill for the past year. (Bryce has taken to

Twitter to deny the entire story—although others claim he's been bragging about it for months.) Allegedly, Tina found photos of the aspiring model amongst Joe's things—something she found odd (as would I). She asked their business manager for a list of Joe's transactions over the past year and allegedly discovered that he had purchased quite a few pricey gifts for his good "friend" out of their joint account. She confronted Joe and he allegedly came clean—and then told the family that he's gay.

As if that wasn't enough, out of the woodwork pops Joey Anderson, a 32-year-old NYC-based gay male escort. He claims to have had a "three-hour romp" with Joe Simpson at a NYC hotel last May, during which time they "rolled around, kissed and gave each other oral." Oral what? An oral exam? An oral thermometer? Oral Roberts trivia questions? Anderson said that Joe "seemed to have an insatiable appetite for sex and never really appeared tired." Let me point out that men of a certain age who maintain the illusion of lengthy arousal are usually on medication. Anderson said it was the only encounter he had with the former minister, and that he was paid \$600. Because you know the "Enquirer" is a stickler for veracity, it made the hooker take a polygraph test—which he passed. Joey says he's received text messages from Joe wanting to set up another date, but so far they haven't been able to make it happen. Something tells me that ship has sailed.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Johnny in Boca Raton: "Have you watched Logo's DTLA? I hear there's an unedited version with nudity. Have you seen it? And I thought Logo was getting out of the gay TV business."

I, too, remember Logo announcing with quite a bit of fanfare that it was eschewing all future gay programming—with the exception of RuPaul's Drag Race, which transcends all categories. And yet, here's DTLA (which stands for Downtown Los Angeles—a place where precious few gay people actually live). The most remarkable thing about DTLA is that the powers-that-be raised the bulk of the money via Kickstarter—making this the first show funded by Kickstarter to gain international distribution. The remainder of the money came from Canada's OutTV. Since they didn't have to pay all that much, Logo was thrilled to add it to its schedule. And, of course, it's good exposure. I'm sure the show is now reaching dozens more people than it would have without Logo.

As to the unedited content, I must confess—I haven't seen the edited version. Why? Because, believe it or not, I don't even get Logo. So I had to rely on the kindness of people who leaked the first four episodes to moi. Did you get to see the penis of Jeremy Jackson (formerly of Baywatch) on Logo? Probably not. But I'm sure you enjoyed seeing Real World alum Danny Roberts playing a masseur who isn't a hooker. No? Didya miss that? Well, I guess I'll have to post some clips on BillyMasters.com—the site that is never censored.

When Joe Simpson is the most entertaining member of his family, we've definitely come to the end of another column. And I've found a clever way to make Neil Patrick Harris check out www.BillyMasters.com. Why? When he came out, NPH revealed that seeing Danny Roberts on The Real World was the first time he felt empowered by a gay man. You know what empowers me? Hearing from my fans. If you have a question, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before someone creates a Kickstarter campaign for the Mayans. (They better hurry!) So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Some fun requires a change of uniform.

Join us at Sidetrack as the **Chicago Gay Hockey Assoc., The Chicago Rowing Union & the Chicago Dragons** as they host their first ever... **Field Day.**  
Games • Door Prizes • 1 Hour Sponsored Bar  
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**Saturday, Nov. 17th • 3:30– 6:30pm**

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 /windycitymediagroup

# Trans athlete shines on CMSA fields

BY ROSS FORMAN

Cassidy Fallik is one of the few out and proud transgender men playing in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA)—and that certainly is a sporting flashback to Fallik's two years playing Division I soccer for the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Fallik, who celebrated his 31st birthday Sept. 25, has played indoor soccer in CMSA's co-ed league and is now playing flag football for Crew U in the men's league—the first time Fallik has played in an organized male sports league.

"I have always leaned toward being more male in everything I've done, ever since childhood," said Fallik, who lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood with his partner of almost 10 years, Jessica Gonzalez.

He is the special projects coordinator of strategic alliances with the National Community Tax Coalition. Gonzalez is a graduate student, and Gonzalez was, years ago, Fallik's first girlfriend in college.

"CMSA is proud to have athletes like Cassidy in our organization and I am personally proud that he is a member of the football league," said CMSA president Brian Kupersmit, who also is the commissioner of the men's flag football league. "I hope that he gives current and future participants the courage to be true to who they are and that CMSA will always remain a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for everyone."

Fallik has lived in Chicago for almost three years, lured to the Windy City from his native Kansas by good public transportation, its diversity of people and a strong job market.

Fallik and Gonzalez moved to Chicago together, although neither had a job when they arrived.

"I love Chicago. There are so many opportunities here and so many people to meet," Fallik said. "Everyone has been incredibly nice and it's been easy for me to meet people. Within a month after moving here, we had a good core group of friends."

"I feel really comfortable and really happy where I am."

Since the winter of 2009, Fallik has not encountered any obstacles in his sporting ventures within the multisport CMSA. And when Gonzalez is at Fallik's games cheering, his gender identity has never been an issue, Fallik said.

When the topic of sexual-orientation came up with members of Fallik's current flag football team, he told his teammates that he was transgender, even before the team's first game—and it wasn't an issue at all, Fallik said.

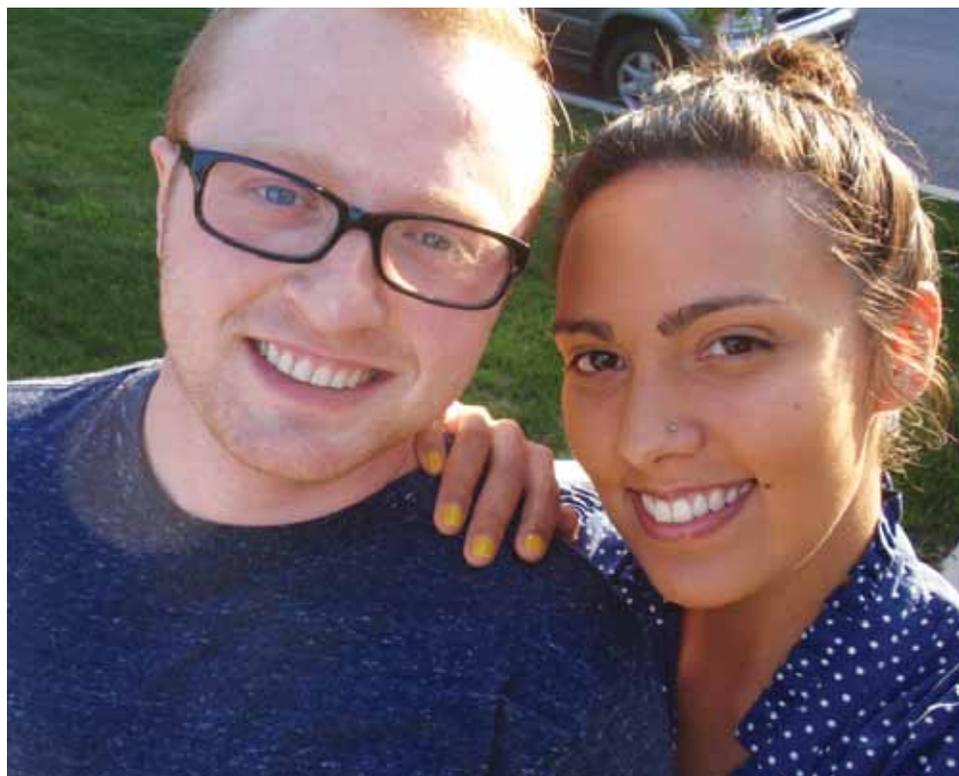
"My [flag football] team is awesome; they make me feel very comfortable," he said. "I like being a representative for the transgender community, but I also want to get other [local transgender men and women] involved [with CMSA]. In fact, when I talk to many of my transgender male friends about the league, many don't even know about it."

Fallik said he plans to expand his sporting resume within the CMSA in the future, likely adding the predominantly-male CMSA Open Division Softball League next spring.

However, his college career wasn't as smooth as his ride in the CMSA.

Fallik came out as lesbian as a second-semester freshman after being outed by his roommate at the time. The roommate moved out shortly thereafter as the friendship ended abruptly and unpleasantly.

Fallik's soccer coach at the time, when hearing about his sexual orientation, required that Fallik



Cassidy Fallik and partner Jessica Gonzalez. Photo courtesy of Fallik

attend counseling sessions.

As a college sophomore, the team got a new male coach—and his rules for the lesbian Fallik expanded. For instance, the coach never allowed Fallik to room with anyone but a senior on road trips, definitely not a freshman, "because [the coach] didn't want a freshman recruit to go home and tell their parents that they were rooming with a lesbian," Fallik said.

"I also was told to not bring my lifestyle on the field."

Fallik left the team after his sophomore season.

"I just got tired of the [negative] comments and got burned out on everything," Fallik said. Still, he added, "I feel like I kind of opened the

ple and establishing a community."

They moved together to Philadelphia to work for AmeriCorps, living in a six-bedroom house with eight other AmeriCorps workers.

That also was when and where Fallik met his first transgender male friend—the one who ultimately made Fallik feel that it would be OK to come out as a transgender male.

"It was nice to have someone, a face to tag to the [transgender] community," Fallik said.

After pondering the life-changing decision, Fallik told Gonzalez about it, "and she was totally supportive, very helpful and made me feel good about my decision."

The two moved to Kansas City in 2007, and Fallik took the first steps in his transition in 2008.

Also in 2008, Fallik was asked to testify to add gender identity to the state's non-discrimination policy. It passed unanimously.

"When you meet Cassidy for the first time, you immediately realize that he is a very humble man with a great sense of humor," said Felipe Rojas, of Chicago, who is gay and is flag-football teammates with Fallik. "After you've played with or against him, you see an athlete that always tries his hardest even when the team is down. His laughter and encouragement lifts my spirit even if I am having a bad game or committed an error. For me, Cassidy personifies the spirit of CMSA: play sports, have fun, and be a good person even if the call doesn't come your way."

Fallik said he and Gonzalez have talked about starting a family together, probably within the next two years.

He told his dad about living his life as male and his transition years ago, and he has always been accepting. He hasn't yet officially or formally told his mom though he knows that she knows. Still, the subject no doubt will be discussed this fall when Fallik's parents come to Chicago and watch him play flag football—in the men's league.



Cassidy Fallik. Photo by Ross Forman

door for the next group of [gay] athletes to come out [at the school]. The following year, other women soccer players started coming out.

"I wish my coming-out would have happened differently, that it would have happened by my choice, instead of my roommate telling all our mutual friends."

Fallik even had to call his parents and tell them why his roommate was moving out. "That was a tough phone call," he said.

Fallik and Gonzalez got back together during Fallik's senior year. After coming out, Fallik said he spent his time, "finding myself, meeting peo-

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A. First, you can use a Health Care Power of Attorney to authorize your boyfriend to make any and all decisions concerning the personal care, medical treatment, hospitalization and health care of each child who has not attained age 18.

Second, in Illinois, you may also appoint a short-term guardian to act on behalf of your minor child for a period not longer than 365 days. This procedure gives parents a mechanism to convey to another adult the necessary authority to care for minors during short periods of parental absence or illness.

A parent appoints a short-term guardian in a dated document that identifies the appointing parent, the minor and the person appointed the short-term guardian. The writing must be signed by, or at the direction of, the appointing parent in the presence of two credible witnesses who are at least 18 years old. Neither witness can be the short-term guardian.

If there is another living parent, that parent must also sign the form. This non-appointing parental signature is not required if the whereabouts of the other parent are unknown, if the other parent is unwilling or unable to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions, or if the child's parents were never married and no court has issued an order establishing parentage.

Finally, the person appointed as the short-term guardian must also sign the document, ensuring his acceptance of the duties. The appointment of the short-term guardian becomes effective immediately upon the date the written document is executed unless the document provides for a later specified effective date or event. The appointment remains effective for up to 365 days unless the written instrument provides for termination upon an earlier specified date such as the parent's return to the country.

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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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