

WCT'S MOVIE  
CRITIC TALKS  
JODIE FOSTER

PAGE 16

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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## FOUR MORE YEARS



COCKTAIL  
SHUTTERED  
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WCT PREVIEWS  
THE CHICAGO  
AUTO SHOW  
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WCT PROFILES  
'TEDDY FERRARA'  
PAGE 11



President Obama (with wife Michelle, and daughters Malia and Sasha) was privately sworn in to serve a second term on Sunday, with Chief Justice John Roberts administering the oath. Read more on page 4 and online. White House photo

## White here, White now



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Beloved icon Betty White dishes with Windy City Times about her sense of humor and turning 91. See page 15. Photos (including the one on right, with a pool boy from her show, Betty White's Off Their Rockers) courtesy of NBC

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Jodie Foster in *Carnage*; image of Cocktail sign by Tracy Baim; photo from the 2011 Chicago Auto Show by Andrew Davis; photo of Teddy Ferrara director Evan Cabnet by Liz Lauren



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### FEEL THE HEAT

Read about the Reconciling United Methodists Network's Winter Warming Conference in Elmhurst.

Photo of Rev. Bonnie Beckonchrist by Carrie Maxwell



British singer Olly Murs discusses gay fans and American Idol.

PR photo



Stephanie Herro talks about a new LGBT Alzheimers' support group.

Photo from Herro

### COP TO IT

Ask Lambda Legal looks at the trans community and police.

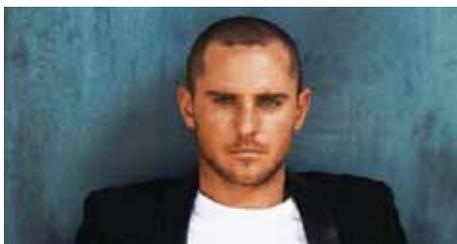
### EAT'S NEWS TO ME

Find out news about local restaurants, including upcoming special events.

### ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Find out the latest about Britney Spears, Chris Kluwe and Mike Ruiz.

### 'HIGH' ANXIETY



Actor Derek Magyar (*Boy Culture*) weighs in on *Flying High*, a movie starring Christine Lahti that he directed and produced.

Publicity photo

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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# Witnessing the inaugural festivities

BY SARAH TOCE

The crowd erupted in cheer as pro-LGBT President Barack H. Obama addressed the diverse crowd of waiting Americans at the United States Capitol and adjoining National Mall Jan. 21.

The majority of those present at the time-encapsulated building stood in line for more than seven hours for a chance to see the president deliver his second inaugural address. A sea of

for a second term, a silence filled the crowd. We were riveted—mesmerized—by the free-thinking man with the shiny, progressive ideas.

The Secret Service was everywhere, but the agents could not quiet the one group of protesters who felt it necessary to scream “Obama is a baby-killer” throughout the service. The music played louder.

Perhaps one of the most telling moments of Obama’s speech began: “We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all

ters can earn a living equal to their efforts,” Obama steadily proclaimed. “Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are

treated like anyone else under the law—for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.”

Choirs, musicians, famous singers and songwriters (James Taylor, Beyonce, Kelly Clarkson) took the stage to relay their support for the 57th Presidential Inauguration—and Obama’s second term.

Approximately 800,000 Americans, immigrants and visitors made the trek towards warmth following the prestigious ceremony. While the cold lessened over time, Obama’s promises to a new and united America remained.



The scene at the Jan. 21 inauguration festivities. Photo by Stephanie Brusig

800,000 estimated individuals braved the bone-chilling cold to bear witness to history ... and be counted. Windy City Times was there, claiming its stake among the masses.

The day started at 3:30 a.m. for this 29-year-old reporter. The train from Columbia Heights to Judiciary Square was a long one as each car filled to the brims. We huddled together with excitement, anticipation and, quite frankly, a bit of hesitance. Would it all go as planned? Would the president be safe since all of the anti-gun-control talk post-Sandy Hook? Would we get a good spot in the standing room only orange ticketed section? How many of us would get in? How many of us would be told to go home sans the experience of a lifetime for lack of space? All of these thoughts and more flooded my mind as my wife, photographer Stephanie Brusig, and I stepped into a moment of our lives we would not soon forget.

As we exited the train and ran into the already-bombarded streets at 4:30 a.m., we hopped into line to wait another three hours before our section opened. Then we stood another three hours. It was approximately 20 degrees. We weren’t going anywhere. No one else was either.

As the festivities officially began and members of Obama’s administration filtered down the steps of the Capitol building, the crowd shone in the new sun. This was what we had all waited for and we were ready to receive it. Whatever his message might be—we were ready.

As America swore in the returning president

of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.”

There was silence...and then, as Stonewall was referenced, a sea of applause and hollering—the good kind—reverberated throughout the barricades. We were noticed ... we were noticed.

Once again, there was applause: “We, the people, still believe that enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war. Our brave men and women in uniform, tempered by the flames of battle, are unmatched in skill and courage. Our citizens, seared by the memory of those we have lost, know too well the price that is paid for liberty,” said Obama. “The knowledge of their sacrifice will keep us forever vigilant against those who would do us harm. But we are also heirs to those who won the peace and not just the war, who turned sworn enemies into the surest of friends, and we must carry those lessons into this time as well.”

Another moment of note that hit home to our strikingly diverse community of people: “It is now our generation’s task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daugh-

## Obama delivers inclusive speech

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

President Obama, in his second inaugural address, emphasized the nation’s principle of equality for all and, in doing so, specifically included the struggles of LGBT Americans to achieve equality.

“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.

“It is now our generation’s task to carry on what [our nation’s] pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law—for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well,” said Obama.

Our generation’s task, he said, is to “make these words, these rights, these values—of Life, and Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—real for every American.”

LGBT groups issued statements praising Obama for including the gay-rights struggle in his remarks.

“By lifting up the lives of LGBT families for the very first time in an inaugural address, President Obama sent a clear message to LGBT young people from the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountains that this country’s leaders will fight for them until equality is the law of the land,” said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, said Obama, by including the gay-rights movement alongside the movements for the civil rights of Blacks and women, “rightly exalted the struggle for the freedom to marry as part of America’s moral commitment to equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

In his first inaugural address, Obama emphasized unity, and did not refer to LGBT citizens directly or indirectly. Some last-minute inclusion of gay people in various venues of the inaugural were generally unpublicized and unseen. Instead, the high-profile inclusion of California evangelist Rick Warren had shone attention on the support for a voter-passed Prop 8 in California just two months earlier, banning marriage for same-sex couples.

This time, however, there was positive and visible inclusion of LGBT people throughout the inaugural ceremony.

Delivering the benediction on the inaugu-

ral podium Jan. 21, the Rev. Luis Leon, the pastor of an Episcopal church near the White House that the Obama family attends, urged that “prejudice and rancor” not be allowed to rule our hearts but that, instead, all citizens hold each other in “mutual regard” no matter what their race or gender or immigrant status, and whether “gay or straight, rich or poor.”

Press reports prior to the inaugural ceremony characterized Leon as a “gay-affirming” clergyman at Saint John’s Church, which also celebrates marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples. Leon replaced Atlanta pastor Louie Giglio who was initially invited to deliver the benediction but who withdrew from the ceremony after criticism surfaced about remarks he made in a sermon in the 1990s. In that sermon, Giglio called homosexuality “probably the greatest addiction” and said that marriage between same-sex partners is “absolutely undermining the whole order of our society.”

An openly gay man, Richard Blanco of Bethel, Maine, presented a poem as part of the inaugural ceremony. Drawing from common images of Americans in all walks of life, Blanco’s poem spoke of the nation’s oneness.

“One sun rose on us today,” he noted. “... one light waking up rooftops, under each one a story...my face, your face, millions of faces in morning’s mirrors.” He spoke of sights common to all, of the rows of colorful fruits and vegetables at markets, as “rainbows begging our praise.” And he spoke of “carrying our lives without prejudice” and “giving thanks for a love that loves you back.”

Myrlie Evers-Williams, who delivered the invocation at the inaugural ceremony, did not mention LGBT people specifically, but repeatedly referred to the importance of diversity in the nation’s people and in the principle “everyone is included.” In an interview with Urban Christian News a few days before the event, she was asked how she felt about the Giglio controversy: “I’m simply delighted that I was not so controversial that I would step down,” said Evers-Williams, “or be asked to step down.”

If there was any mar to the historic inauguration day, it was a tiny display of hostile signs along the motorcade route to the U.S. Capitol Monday morning. According to a pool reporter for White House, a small number of people held up signs saying, “God hates fags” and “God hates Obama.” The messages were typical of a Kansas pastor and his follower who have acquired considerable media attention by displaying hate-filled messages at gays during various high-profile events.

During the inaugural parade Jan. 21, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association appeared in the third of five divisions of parade contingents, each division led by a different branch of the armed services. The Third Division was

Turn to page 5

# New report examines queer Midwest youth in foster care

BY KATE SOSIN

Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth transitioning out of foster care face greater career and nutritional challenges than their heterosexual peers.

That is according to a new report put out by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The report—"Economic Well-Being of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care"—looks at data on 591 young people in Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois who have aged out of foster care. The study shows that while LGB youth face many of the same obstacles as heterosexuals entering adulthood, they face added hurdles.

According to the report, differences in LGB foster care youth have not previously been studied. It is not known what percentage of foster care youth are LGB.

But those who are may face additional challenges as they head into adulthood.

The report notes harassment, discrimination and violence facing LGB youth. Studies have also found that queer youth in foster care experience more housing placement changes than their straight peers.

After leaving foster care, LGB youth who were interviewed made less money, had more economic struggles and experienced a greater scar-

city of food than their straight peers.

LGB and heterosexual adults reported similar employment numbers, but of those employed LGB respondents made significantly less money. LGB participants made \$7.82 an hour on average. Heterosexual respondents were paid \$9.04 on average.

Sixty-one percent of LGB adults reported trouble paying their rent or utility bills, compared with 47 percent among straight respondents.

Both groups reported similar numbers in homelessness and education, among other things.

But overall, the report concludes, the study raises questions about LGB people aging out of the system.

"This analysis suggests that LGB youth aging out of foster care may be at significant risk for not achieving self-sufficiency as they transition into adulthood," the report states.

The report looks at data from the "Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functions of Former Foster Youth." The report does not include transgender youth, it notes, because the evaluation only recently started asking if youth identified as transgender. The University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin and a group of Midwestern agencies put out the evaluation.

## SPEECH from page 4

led by the U.S. Navy. After the several Navy bands and marching units, a float about Martin Luther King Jr., and several other parade entries, the Lesbian and Gay Band marched behind the "Civil Rights Float" and in front of the "Native American Women Warriors" contingent from Colorado. This was the band's second appearance ever in an inaugural parade and, because its members are composed of 37 groups from around the world, its first rehearsal for this year's event took place Jan. 19. The Civil Rights Float is described by the Presidential Inaugural Committee as featuring "images representing historic struggles of many of the civil rights movements in our country," including the LGBT movement.

The night of Jan. 21, the Human Rights

Campaign's "LGBT Out for Equality Inaugural Ball" boasted a posh address just a few blocks from the White House: the Mayflower Hotel. Cyndi Lauper, Audra McDonald, and Will Swenson were among the entertainers.

On Jan. 22, the National Prayer Service was led by a moderate pastor from Kansas. Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, delivered the sermon, which President Obama and many of the nation's leaders attended at Washington's National Cathedral. Hamilton co-authored a motion last year to urge the United Methodist denomination to amend its policy statement that homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." The motion failed.

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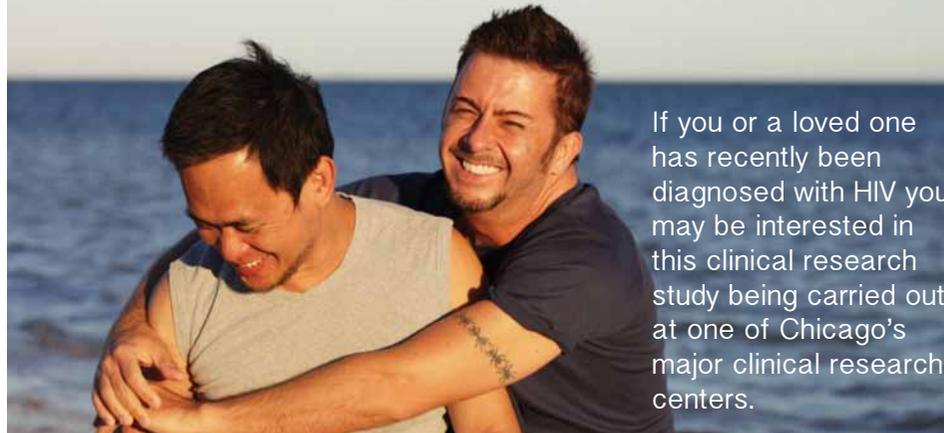
## GO Proud backs marriage equality

After not taking a position on the issue for years, the gay Republican organization GO Proud is coming out in support of same-sex marriage equality, according to Buzzfeed.com. "We support same-sex marriage, civil marriage," GO Proud Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia said. Since its founding in 2009, GO Proud has always opposed the federal Defense of Marriage Act but it reportedly avoided the underlying issue of equal marriage.



GO Proud head Jimmy LaSalvia. Photo by Rex Wockner

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National Runaway Safeline Executive Director Maureen Blaha poses beside with the National Runaway Switchboard motto. Photo by Erica Demarest

## Runaway hotline rebrands

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The National Runaway Switchboard marked its 42-year anniversary Jan. 15 with a big change: a new name.

Starting this month, the Chicago-based organization, which works to prevent youth homelessness, will operate as the National Runaway Safeline (NRS).

"The [original] name didn't resonate well with youth," NRS Executive Director Maureen Blaha said. "When asked what a switchboard is, teens of today said, 'Oh, maybe it's something to do with a computer? Or is it something that a DJ uses?' We realized that [switchboard] really was an outdated name."

Blaha said the new moniker better represents the agency's expanded services. In addition to a 24-hour hotline, at-risk youth can

access live chats, online bulletin boards and email assistance.

"Our challenge is to make sure that youth who need our help can find us," Blaha said. "We believe the new name will really help to build the breadth and depth of the services that we'll be able to provide."

The National Runaway Safeline marked its milestone with 24 hours of programming, including a lunchtime celebration and candlelight vigil.

Additionally, the Lakeview restaurant Bakin' & Eggs (3120 N. Lincoln Ave.) will sell cupcakes commemorating NRS through the end of January. Proceeds will support the organization's youth outreach.

For volunteer and donation inquiries, visit [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org).

# Cocktail property seized over rent debts

BY KATE SOSIN

Boystown bar Cocktail has been shuttered over alleged rent debts, the third and possibly final in a series of closings of the bar in the last two years.

The news broke after a picture of a "Distress for Rent" notice posted on the bar started circulating on Facebook Jan. 18.

Building owner Robert Brumbaugh confirmed that he had posted the notice and said that he has seized all property inside the bar except for the liquor.

"After more than a year of eviction litigation and over \$85,000 in unpaid rent, it should come as no surprise to John Zaharakis and his attorney Jacob Meister, that Cocktail's landlord would exercise his legal right for compensation under the Illinois Distress for Rent statute," Brumbaugh said.

The closing comes after Cocktail's petition for bankruptcy protection was rejected by the Northern District Court of Illinois over a failure to pay taxes.

According to Brumbaugh, Cocktail owes more than \$85,344 in rent.

Brumbaugh and Cocktail, owned by John "Geno" Zaharakis and Dustin Hoffman, have been ensnarled in a court battle for more than a year now.

Brumbaugh has been trying to evict Cocktail over unpaid rent, he said. Cocktail, on the other hand, is suing Brumbaugh and two former employees for alleged conspiracy to financially ruin the bar and take it over.

Brumbaugh said the bar has been accumulat-

ing rental debt since before he purchased the property two summers ago.

"If I thought this was going to keep dragging on, I would have done this a year ago," Brumbaugh said.

The legal maneuver of seizing a business tenant's property is an old common law practice rarely employed by landlords. And it is risky, according to an article published by Illinois Legal Aid, because it rarely covers the costs owed and sometimes can result in the landlord owing the tenant money.

It also means that Cocktail was not evicted. Rather, the seizure of its property will make business nearly impossible.

"Technically speaking, the guy [Zaharakis] could have a candlelight vigil and sell booze," said Brumbaugh.

Brumbaugh said that the property will likely be auctioned off to pay for part of the back rent owed.

The bar, a Boystown fixture since the mid '90s, has experienced a tumultuous few years. After filing suit against Brumbaugh, its management company and two former employees, Cocktail announced the sale of the bar. Shortly after, Zaharakis and Hoffman said that deal had fallen through.

Cocktail was involuntarily closed twice before in recent months, after the Department of Revenue revoked the bar's liquor license for a failure to pay sales taxes.

After the bar's first closure, Zaharakis and Hoffman told Windy City Times that Brumbaugh had gone out of his way to report Cocktail. But a Department of Revenue spokesperson said that the shuttering was due to the bar's failure to turn over sales taxes alone.

In August, With a Stick, Inc., the company over Cocktail, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

A court rejected that petition in late December, stating that the bar was operating off of owed sales taxes.

Jacob Meister, attorney for Cocktail, previously told Windy City Times that renovations to the bar had financially strained Zaharakis and Hoffman during a slow economy.

Meister said he believes that Brumbaugh wrongfully seized Cocktail's property using "Wild West" tactics.

"In 22 years, I have never seen anybody as mean and vindictive as Robert Brumbaugh," said Meister. "The amount that is owed is disputed. But to the extent that he is owed anything, it's the product of his own doing."

Meister said that Cocktail's position is that

Brumbaugh owes Cocktail, over the alleged conspiracy to destroy the bar.

Meister alleges that Brumbaugh took third party property not owned by Cocktail, including employee wages. He also alleges that Brumbaugh purposely left the bar in a state of disarray.

Brumbaugh said the money he is owed and the

money owed to the Department of Revenue are part of a pattern for Cocktail. He said the seizure should come as no surprise.

"Mr. Meister's personal attacks on my character, however amusing to him, do not alter the fact that Cocktail hasn't been paying its rent and has not been paying taxes he has been collecting on the state's behalf," said Brumbaugh.

## LGBT groups to hold protest outside Holy Name Cathedral

BY KATE SOSIN

LGBT groups will be protesting outside of Holy Name Cathedral next month, highlighting a longstanding rivalry between many LGBTs and Catholic Cardinal Francis George.

Gay Liberation Network (GLN) and LGBT Catholic organization the Rainbow Sash Movement, have announced a Valentine's Day themed demonstration on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. The protest will focus on George's stance against equal marriage.

The announcement comes at a time when LGBTs are pushing for the legalization of same-sex marriage in Illinois, while the Catholic hierarchy is opposing it.

But the protest has been a Valentine's tradition for years, typically targeting the Catholic Church or the Cook County Clerk's office, which issues marriage licenses (Clerk David Orr is a longtime LGBT ally).

This year's falls on the Sunday before Valentine's Day and will take place "as long as Cardinal George takes such a vociferous stance against our legal equality, he remains a target for political action," said Andy Thayer of GLN.

Joe Murray, executive director of Rainbow Sash Movement, said George's stance against equal marriage impacts Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

"Up here in Chicago, he really is meaningless in this debate," Murray said. "Across the state, he is not."

## Boeing reverses on marriage benefits

BY KATE SOSIN

Chicago-based aerospace company Boeing has agreed to extend equal pension benefits to married gay couples in Washington during union negotiations, after the union reported that the company said it would refuse to do so.

In November, the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), alleged that Boeing representatives declined to extend the benefits to same-sex couples, despite the recent passage of marriage equality in Washington.

Ray Goforth, executive director of SPEEA, said that the company clearly stated it was not required to extend the benefits because federal law does not recognize same-sex marriage.

Boeing would not confirm that report, but said it was studying the implications of the new law.

The Stranger, a Seattle-based newspaper that broke the initial story, reported that Boeing had recently changed tunes on the benefits.

Boeing Spokesperson Doug Alder confirmed that the benefits extension is in the new contracts.

Still, SPEEA and Boeing remain locked in a bitter fight over the new contracts, with SPEEA threatening to reject the contracts and strike.



Cocktail. Photo by Tracy Baim

## Windy City Times nominated for GLAAD award

For the second year in a row, Windy City Times, Chicago's weekly LGBT newspaper, has received a nomination from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Nominated in the same category this year are The New York Times and The Boston Globe.

The nomination was for the Windy City Times' "Generation Halsted" series, an exploration of at-risk LGBTQ youth in the city. The eight-week series was overseen by Publisher Tracy Baim and written and photographed by three primary reporters: Kate Sosin, Erica Demarest and Bill Healy. Art Director Kirk Williamson designed the series.

"I am very proud of Kate, Erica and Bill for their incredible work on this project," said Baim. "They spent overnights, weekends and long hours making sure to record the voices of a wide range of youth and adults, service providers and government officials."

The entire series is available as a free PDF download through this link: [www.windycitymediagroup.com/sign\\_up\\_to\\_rcv2.php](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/sign_up_to_rcv2.php).

Last year, Windy City Times' 13-month AIDS @ 30 series was also nominated for a GLAAD award, eventually losing to The Boston Globe.

The 24th annual GLAAD Awards will be handed out in three ceremonies over the coming weeks. The nominations are in a wide range of categories, including film, music, theater, broadcast and print media.

Other nominees include Frank Ocean, Adam

Lambert, Rufus Wainwright, Scissor Sisters, The Perks of Being a Wallflower, ParaNorman, Cloud Atlas, Keep the Lights On, The New Normal, Smash, Modern Family, True Blood, Glee, Happy Endings, The Amazing Race, Seventeen, Rolling Stone, Ebony.com, CNN's Anderson Cooper 360, MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry, Caso Cerrado and People en Español.

For TV movie and miniseries, Chely Wright: Wish Me Away, How to Survive a Plague and Codebreaker are among the nominees.

In the category of Outstanding Newspaper Article, which is for any print media, gay or straight, the following were the nominations: "Black Church Reaches Out to Gay, Transgender Teens" by Meghan E. Irons, The Boston Globe; "Game Changer" by Andy Mannix, City Pages, Minneapolis, Minn.; "Generation Halsted" (series), Windy City Times; "Most Local School Districts Ignore State's Anti-Gay Bullying Law" by Phillip Zonkel, Press-Telegram, Long Beach, Calif.; "Turned Away, He Turned to the Bible" by Douglas Quenqua, The New York Times.

Outstanding Blog nominations are: Autostraddle, blac(k)ademic, Chicagoan Rod McCullom's Rod 2.0, The New Civil Rights Movement and Towleroad.

GLAAD announced 120 nominees in 25 English-language categories, and 33 Spanish-language nominees in eight categories. In the English-language categories, cable networks earned 21 nominations, while broadcast networks garnered 17 nominations.

For a full list of nominees, visit [www.glaad.org/mediaawards/nominees](http://www.glaad.org/mediaawards/nominees).

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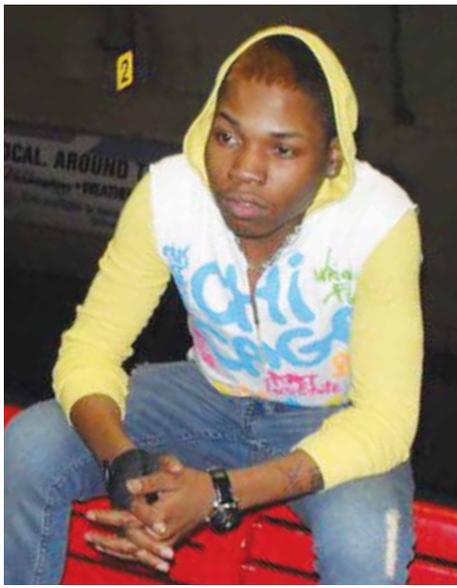
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Prince Edwards. Pic from NYPS

## PASSAGES

### Prince Edwards

BY KATE SOSIN

Prince Edwards, a popular young gay dancer who was active National Youth Pride Services (NYPS), died Jan. 16 after an illness. He was 25.

"This is really a shock to us, but I can say Prince lived his life to the fullest," said NYPS CEO Frank Walker in a statement. "I thank him for all the young people he introduced to YPS and how he continued to be involved with the NYPS family as an alumni."

The Chicago native was well known for his dance talents, performing at more than 100 events throughout the city, according to NYPS.

Robert "Kirk" Fondern, a board member of NYPS and a friend of Edwards, described Edwards as "very free-spirited, very open-minded."

"He was always in a great spirit, always willing to help," said Fondern.

According to Fondern, Edwards worked with homeless youth on Chicago's North Side, passing along his dance skills younger performers.

"He was just a good person in general," Fondern said.

Edwards participated in the NYPS dance team, Next Level.

His parents were also active in the organization, according to an NYPS statement.

In addition to working with NYPS, Edwards was a member of the Luv Family, a chosen gay family.

Fondern said that Edwards had been ill for some time.

## PASSAGES

### Frederick MacDonald

A longtime resident of Chicago's Lakeview community, Frederick MacDonald died peacefully in Northwestern Hospital on Jan. 4, after a brief illness. He was 86.

He was born in Northbridge, Mass., to Robert E. MacDonald and Hazel E. Scamman MacDonald. Fred was retired from Illinois Masonic Hospital where he had worked in the development office as well as medical records. He had worked at Theater in the Round in Washington, D.C., and lived in Texas before coming to Chicago.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents and a sister (Joanne Cook). He is survived by his siblings: Robert E. MacDonald, Jr. of Petaluma, Calif.; Carol Cox of Lewiston, Maine; Richard G. MacDonald of Dorchester, Mass.; and Ruth Fogg of Monmouth, Maine. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews as well as his friends in Chicago.

Fred will be remembered for his lifelong interests in the live theater, ceramics and international travel. Burial of his ashes will be in the family plot in Porter, Maine, later in the spring. His Chicago friends plan a celebration of his life at a gathering to be held in the next few weeks.

## PASSAGES

### Bobby Glaze

Bobby Glaze, dear friend and tireless volunteer, passed away suddenly on Jan. 8. He was 58.

Bobby was born Feb. 5, 1954 in North Carolina. He was a bartender in Atlanta and for many years at Chicago's Baton Lounge, followed by a hospitality career with a major catering company. More recently, Bobby gave back to the community through volunteering with various organizations, including SAGE at the Center on Halsted and his church, aChurch4Me MCC.

He is preceded in death by partner Jessie Dugan of Chicago, and his parents Joe Glaze and Francis Louise Pitchford Glaze of Mooresville, N.C. He is survived by siblings David, Joe Jr., Nicky and Dale, along with many nieces and nephews as well as a multitude of friends who miss him deeply.

A memorial service of gratitude and celebration of Bobby Glaze's life will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, at 1 p.m., at a Church4Me MCC, 1545 W. Morse Ave., Overdier Hall. All are invited to attend to celebrate and honor Bobby's life of triumph and spirit of giving to others.

For more information on the memorial service, call aChurch4Me MCC at 773-426-4268 or visit [www.achurch4me.org/events](http://www.achurch4me.org/events). This link includes a map and more detailed information about the location for the memorial service.

In the spirit of giving in which Bobby led his life and in lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted at the memorial service and distributed among a multiple non-profit organizations that Bobby supported in life.



Bobby Glaze.

Memorials in Fred's name may be made to the charity of your choice or to the Center on Halsted, where he had worked as a volunteer after his retirement.

Arrangements were made by Cremation Society of Illinois (773-281-5058).

## NLGJA president dies

Michael Triplett, the president of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA), has died of oral cancer related to the human papillomavirus at age 48, according to a press release. He passed away Jan. 17.

Triplett was president for a few months. Previously, he has been a member of the leadership team for several years—first as a Washington, D.C., chapter board member and president, and then as a national board member and vice president for print.

"Michael was truly a joy for all of us to work with, and his loss will be felt among our organization for years to come," the release read. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his partner, Jack and his family in Alabama."



Owen Daniel-McCarter. Photo by Kate Sosin

## TJLP talks trans legal disparities at Chicago Bar Association

BY KATE SOSIN

Attorneys on the Chicago Bar Association's LGBT Committee recently mulled over the many legal disparities facing transgender people.

The Transformative Justice Law Project (TJLP) of Illinois, an organization that provides free criminal legal services to transgender people, presented at the committee's downtown meeting Dec. 16.

TJLP attorneys Owen Daniel-McCarter and Elizabeth Ricks said that criminal legal system is particularly challenging for transgender people because they are not allowed to self-identify.

Ricks pointed out the variance in rules governing different identity documents from driver's licenses to passports to birth certificates.

"It's very hard to get everything matching," Ricks noted. "It increases surveillance and suspicion of trans people just because all of these documents don't match."

Those documents can determine where a person is placed in prisons and jails, Daniel-McCarter added.

The disparities transgender people face in changing identity documents has been discussed at length in Illinois over the last few years. The American Civil Liberties Union recently won a lawsuit on behalf of three trans-

gender people seeking to change their Illinois birth certificates. Under old rules, applicants had to show proof of genital surgery. Today, the mandate is for gender-related surgery of some kind. Advocates have yet to determine how the change will be interpreted.

But for transgender people who are married, Daniel-McCarter warned, identity documents can get even more complicated.

Daniel-McCarter cited cases in which marriages involving a transgender person have been ruled illegal, regardless of the trans person's legal identity.

"I certainly advise clients, for folks who do estate planning and family law, to have all the same type of... protection that we can have for gay and lesbian couples for a trans person, even if it appears that their marriage has been legally entered into, in whatever state they came from," Daniel-McCarter said.

Lastly, Daniel-McCarter noted that in much of the United States, it is still legal for transgender people to be discriminated against.

Transgender people are also unlikely to pursue legal remedies because they have trouble finding supportive attorneys and often do not know what legal protections they have.

## LGBTs among those opposing more police in schools

BY KATE SOSIN

A few Chicago groups are speaking out against President Obama's plan to put more police in schools, and LGBT advocates are among them.

School groups voiced that opposition at a press conference at the Chicago Public Schools Headquarters Jan. 21.

The groups want more school counselors, psychologists and other resources in place of increased police presence in CPS.

Among those speaking against the proposal was LGBT youth organization Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

Katya Mazon, a junior at Walter Payton College Prep and a member of the Alliance, said the choice is between more social workers or more policing in schools.

After the press conference, Mazon said that policing in schools is an LGBT issue because minority students often bear the brunt of bad policing.

"Usually, police in schools, when they see students fighting, they take the minority student or the 'less social' one of the group, and give that student the harsher punishment," Mazon said.

Voices of Youth in Chicago Education and POWER-PAC (Parents Organized to Win, Educate and Renew—Policy Action Council) co-hosted the press conference with the Alliance.

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# Gerber/Hart announces open meeting, vows revisions of bylaws

BY KATE SOSIN

Chicago's LGBT library will hold its first open meeting after more than a year of controversy, the organization has announced.

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives President Brad Tucker has confirmed a public meeting Wed., Feb. 13, 7-9 p.m. at the Berger Park Fieldhouse, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd.

It will be the first open forum held by Gerber/Hart since news broke last year that it was moving. The move prompted accusations that the library had shut out community participation. The library relocated to an unfinished building in Rogers Park last April. It has yet to reopen, as construction delays have repeatedly forced the library to bump back the anticipated date.

Gerber/Hart held its required annual meeting in December, but that meeting was open only to paid members, and Windy City Times was not allowed to stay. Approximately 10 attended the meeting.

Tucker said the open meeting is one of several new plans for the library.

Among others, he added, is a revision of the organization's bylaws. Last year, Gerber/Hart released a new set of bylaws that stripped member voting rights. Many were outraged over the rewrite, and some alleged it violated state law.

Asked if the board would revise the unpopular bylaws Tucker said, "Absolutely, like 110 percent."

Tucker said the revisions would be "top to bottom," but added that revision is unlikely to restore member voting rights in full. Members, for example, would not elect the board of directors.

"The model that I'm looking at, and this is just me and not the board, is there will be a board position that is elected as a members' rep.," he said.

The board is considering offering free memberships, said Tucker. In past years, members paid an annual fee to check out books. Tucker said the library wants to be more accessible by removing that cost. Members who have already paid will be offered refunds or the chance to donate the fee back to the library.

Tucker hopes that library itself will be accessible to the general public soon.

"The middle of March is probably realistic," he said. "It's really ridiculously close."

In December, Tucker said he hoped to re-open mid-February. Earlier estimates aimed for an October 2012 reopening.

But, Tucker said, the date is nearing. Board members are discussing programming, including a variety of book clubs and a gay history club.

The library is also expected to issue a call for additional board members. That effort will be headed up by a task force, Tucker said. Potential board members will be interviewed and approved by current board members.

Finally, Tucker stated that the library met its fall fundraising goal of approximately \$10,000.

One place where the library may have been less successful was in volunteer recruitment. Tucker recently failed to show for a speaking engagement before the Chicago Prime Timers club. He had previously stated that Gerber/Hart might recruit new volunteers from the club. His unexplained absence prompted a handful of Prime Timers members to write Windy City Times.

Tucker initially said he was not aware the engagement was confirmed, but later found an email confirmation. He was responsible for the unannounced absence, he said.

"I'm really kind of mortified that I missed it," he said.



## Equality Illinois holds trans social

Equality Illinois held its 2013 winter season transgender community social Jan. 19 at the Mayne Stage Theater. Highlights included cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, complimentary appetizers and raffle prizes. Photo by Katie Sikora; more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

## Chicago House's 'Wrapture' Jan. 24 at Willis Tower

Agency Chicago House & Social Service will hold "Absolut Wrapture 2013" Thursday, Jan. 24, on the 99th-floor SkyDeck at Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Dr.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Advance tickets are \$99; VIP passes are \$150. The latter cost includes exclusive early access at 5 p.m. to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, complimentary Absolut cocktails, a photo-op on the 103rd Floor SkyDeck Ledge and a VIP gift package of items. (Only 60 VIP tickets are available.)

Call 773-248-5200, ext. 303, or visit [www.ChicagoHouse.org](http://www.ChicagoHouse.org).

## SRO Chateau Hotel sold

BY KATE SOSIN

A contentious Lakeview single-room occupancy (SRO) hotel has been sold after city inspectors cited a laundry list of building code violations last year.

Chateau Hotel, 3820-3838 N. Broadway, has been purchased by a group of investors and is being held in a land trust, according to an announcement from 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman.

The announcement does not state who the investors are or what the sale means for the future of the Chateau.

According to Cappleman, that information will be released at a Jan. 29 court hearing. He said he does not know the fate of the hotel but added that new owners reached out to him.

Cappleman has been supportive of SROs and affordable housing. But he has expressed frustrations with former Chateau owner Jack Gore, who, he alleges, was unresponsive to concerns about resident safety.

"This sends a clear message to other building owners in the 46th Ward that we require a safe environment for their residents and the surrounding community," said Cappleman in the statement. "Everyone deserves a safe and secure home."

Chateau Hotel has long been a source of controversy for Lakeview residents.

Many have hailed SROs like the Chateau as one of a dwindling number of affordable options in the neighborhood. SRO residents can rent on a nightly, week-to-week or monthly. SROs tend to be cheaper than most studio and one-bedroom apartments, and they come furnished. For people who don't have money for security deposits or have criminal histories, they are sometimes the only option available.

But SRO housing has also earned a negative reputation over the years, as many SROs have been neglected by owners and fallen into disrepair.

Such is the case for Hotel Chateau, some area residents say.

A recent building inspection revealed a slew of violations that landed in the building in court and stirred rumors that it could be facing closure. Gore reportedly missed two court dates related to the building because he could not be served.

Cappleman ran his campaign on a promise of easing problems at the Chateau, and he said it was one of the first things he tackled in office.

According to Cappleman, he met with Gore

about problems at the building but that effort failed to fix many of the building's problems.

Gore's attorney Victor Ciardelli did not immediately respond to a request to comment. But in a letter released by Cappleman's office, Ciardelli accuses Cappleman of unfairly harassing Gore with multiple city inspections.

Ciardelli said that problems in the area around the Chateau stem from Gill Park, a public play lot located next to the hotel, and not from hotel itself. He said that the building is well run.

"The Chateau Hotel has always been considered as an example of a well run and being tenant friendly (sic)," the letter states. "It is unfortunate for the Chateau Hotel, who has been in business for sixty years, has (sic) seen a change of neighboring owners of property in the city who feel that anyone who is a tenant in a SRO is beneath the dignity of the present residents in the area surrounding the Chateau Hotel."

"At this point we feel that the Chateau Hotel is being singled out by you, Alderman Cappleman, to carry out the numerous threats that you made during your campaign to become the alderman that (sic) you would close down the Chateau Hotel."

Cappleman cites a lack of screens on the windows, electrical problems at the building and other violations. He said that residents have also been known to throw beer bottles at kids playing in Gill Park.

Residents have complained for years about building.

But for any tensions between some Chateau residents and other community members, Cappleman and others have said the goal was not to shutter to hotel.

"I am very supportive of SROs, and there are some examples of SROs that are run really well," Cappleman previously told Windy City Times. "Everyone deserves to feel safe no matter what their economic background may be."

Cappleman, a former social worker, said he will also be pushing for city policy that mandates better social services for those experiencing drug and alcohol addiction or mental illness, many of whom are housed in SROs.

And, he said, the neighborhood will no longer tolerate housing people in conditions like those reportedly at the Chateau.

"Never again will we see this type of embarrassment and disgrace in the 46th Ward," he said.

**Thursday, Jan. 24**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Eslanda**  
**by Barbara Ramsby**

**Sunday, Jan. 27**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**Olivia party**



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**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Maura Ross**  
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



**Age**  
23

**Neighborhood**  
Uptown

**Job title**  
Community and Cultural Program Manager, Center on Halsted

**Hobbies**  
Soccer, reading fantasies novels, and playing the guitar

**Body art**  
Has five tattoos, including a triskele on her left wrist, plus a nose- and rook-piercing

**Little-known fact**  
Has lived in Italy, Holland and Ireland—and Ireland was her favorite

While a student at Northwestern University, Maura Ross attended a barbecue on campus for a group called, College Feminists. She remained involved with the club for the rest of her career on the Evanston campus and, by the time she graduated, Ross was really interested in non-profit work.

However, she was an art-history major who dreamed of working at a major museum, perhaps the Art Institute of Chicago.

"While in college, I was trying to get internships at museums," Ross said.

Instead, she landed at the Center on Halsted in Lakeview for a fellowship in 2011. She went full-time at the Center this year.

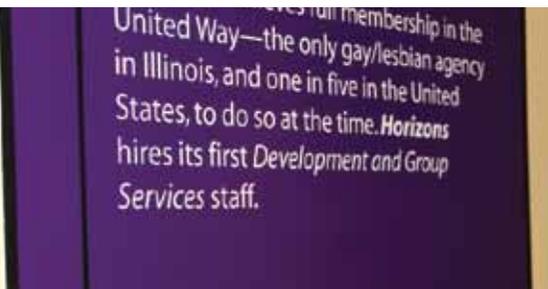
"I'm really happy here; everyone is amazing to work with—and the people who you work with really make a difference," Ross said. "Being younger and trying to appeal to that 25- to 35-year-old age bracket here at the Center is really important and vital for our programming since it's outside of the [age] range of the youth programming and way below the [age] range of the senior programming."

"The best part of my job is, I'm given so much freedom to decide what we should do here."

Ross focused in school on 18th- and 19th-century paintings, and she dreamed of a museum job that involved preservation and curating. "But there are other things that I'm passionate about, too, and I think people see that here at the Center," she said. "I'm really passionate about civil rights, so this is a real interesting [job] for that."

"I now get to do some of what I originally thought I would do when I went to school."

Ross said she eventually wants to go to graduate school, "but I'm learning a lot and having a great time here," she said.



# MAKING 50

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## VIEWPOINTS

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.  
IRENE  
MONROE

## MLK Day reflection on LGBTQ justice

This Monday, we marked 27 years of observing Martin Luther King Day. Some states began honoring King Jan. 20, 1986.

King would have been 84. He was gunned down on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tenn., by an assassin on April 4, 1968. If he were alive today, he'd see how much has changed in our nation.

Since King's death, every struggling civil-rights group has affixed itself to his passionate cause for justice.

The LGBTQ communities, in particular, have been reviled for not only naming our struggle as a civil-rights issue, but also for naming MLK as one of the civil-rights icons that would speak on our behalf.

But would King have spoken on our behalf?

As we celebrated MLK Day 2013, we no longer have to hold King up to a God-like standard. All the hagiographies written about King immediately following his assassination in the previous century have come under scrutiny as we come to understand all of King—his greatness as well as his flaws and human foibles.

As I comb through numerous books and essays learning more about King's philandering, sexist attitude about women at home and in the movement, and his relationship with Bayard Rustin, I am wondering, "Would King be a public advocate for LGBTQ rights?"

James Cone—father of Black Liberation Theology and author of a book and several articles on King—states that we must understand King within the historical context of the Black Church. And in so doing, I find it ironic that the public King we witnessed on a national stage talked vociferously about social justice and civil rights for all people yet his personal life did not reflect the same ethos concerning women and gays. Would the public King have spoken out on LGBTQ justice, risking his already waning popularity with the African-American community and President L.B. Johnson?

In an address to the Gill Foundation's National Outgiving Conference in 2007, I said, "If Dr. Martin Luther King were standing up for LGBTQ rights today, the Black community would drop him, too."

King understood the interconnections of struggles. An example of that understanding is when Martin Luther King said, "The revolution for human rights is opening up unhealthy areas in American life and permitting a new and wholesome healing to take place. Eventually the civil rights movement will have contributed infinitely more to the nation than the eradication of racial justice."

This statement clearly includes LGBTQ justice but would King have spoken on this subject at that time and even now?

King's late wife said yes.

In 1998, Coretta Scott King addressed the LGBT group Lambda Legal in Chicago. In her speech, she said queer rights and civil rights were the same. "I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King's dream to make room at the table of brother and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people," she said.

However, King's youngest and only living

daughter, Rev. Bernice King, thinks otherwise.

Standing at her father's grave site in 2004 with thousands of protesters denouncing marriage equality, Bernice and her aunt Alveda King participated in a march against same-sex marriage in Atlanta. On speculating about her father's viewpoint on marriage equality, Bernice said, "I know in my sanctified soul that he did not take a bullet for same-sex marriage."

In January 2005, Newsweek asked Alveda King—the niece of Martin Luther King who has aligned herself with the religious right, lending her family name and voice against LGBTQ rights—if Martin Luther King would be a champion on gay rights. "No, he would champion the word of God," she said. "If he would have championed gay rights today, he would have done it while he was here. There was ample opportunity for him to champion gay rights during his lifetime, and he did not do so."

And that might be true. On the national stage, he talked vociferously about social justice and civil rights for all people, yet his personal life did not reflect that ethos concerning women and gays.

Sadly, Bayard Rustin, the gay man who was chief organizer and strategist for the 1963 March on Washington that further catapulted Martin Luther King onto the world stage, was not the beneficiary of King's dream.

In the civil-rights movement, Rustin was always the man behind the scene—and a large part of that had to do with the fact that he was gay. Because of their own homophobia, many African-American ministers involved in the Civil Rights movement would have nothing to do with Rustin, and they intentionally rumored throughout the movement that King was gay because of his close friendship with Rustin.

In a spring 1987 interview with Rustin in "Open Hands," a resource for ministries affirming the diversity of human sexuality, he recalled that difficult period quite vividly. Rustin stated, "Martin Luther King, with whom I worked very closely, became very distressed when a number of the ministers working for him wanted him to dismiss me from his staff because of my homosexuality. Martin set up a committee to discover what he should do. They said that, despite the fact that I had contributed tremendously to the organization. ... They thought I should separate myself from Dr. King. This was the time when [Rev. Adam Clayton] Powell threatened to expose my so-called homosexual relationship with Dr. King."

When Rustin pushes him on the issue to speak up on his behalf, King did not. In John D'Emilio's book *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*, he wrote the following on the matter:

"Rustin offered to resign in the hope that his would force the issue. Much to his chagrin, King did not reject the offer. At the time, King was also involved in a major challenge to the conservative leadership of the National Baptist convention, and one of his ministerial lieutenants in the fight was also gay."

"Basically, King said I can't take on two queers at one time," one of Rustin's associates recollected later.

When Rustin was asked about MLK's views on gays in a March 1987 interview with Redvers' Jean Marie, he stated, "It is difficult for me to know what Dr. King felt about gayness...."

MLK's popularity was waning before his assassination. For example, many observers argued that the plight of Black America was not improving with King's the political ideology of integration. The rising Black Power movement thus challenged his movement of nonviolent direct action.

Followers of King felt he gave more attention to loving the enemy than doing something about the suffering of Black people. Young urban Black males in particular felt alienated from the civil rights leadership of King because his nonviolent ideology relied too heavily on the largesse of the

white establishment, concentrated too much on eliminating segregation and winning the right to vote in the South, and ignored the economic problems of Blacks in the northern urban ghettos.

King's interpretation of Black Power as "a nihilistic philosophy born out of the conviction that the Negro can't win" lost him these urban Black males as followers when race riots broke out across the country in 128 cities during the period of 1963 to 1968. Disaffected observers identified the causes for the riots as high unemployment, poor schools, inferior living conditions, the disproportionate drafting of Black men for the Vietnam War, and the assassination of civil rights activists, none of which they saw addressed by King's the political ideology of nonviolent direct action.

Given MLK's waning popularity, I am beginning to ponder now if MLK would have really raised his voice on our behalf.

Chatting on this subject with my friend Richard, an LGBTQ ally, online wrote:

"I agree that you have to wonder whether King would support LGBTQ rights today, even if he felt he couldn't in the '60s. You'd like to think he would give his courageous stands otherwise."

I now not only believe that King would not have supported LGBTQ rights, but his voice and importance on social issues would have continued to wane considerably. Coretta keeps King's words, theology and legacy alive by rightly attaching them to present-day contemporary social justice issues.

King's words resonate resoundingly to our cause, and we can take King's words to march along side us—but I'm not certain we could take the man.

### Letters: Wed case

Dear Editor,

The LGBT community of Illinois is on the verge of gaining the right to marry for same-sex couples. Many in our community and allies worked tirelessly to get us to this point. Without the fine political leadership we have representing us in Springfield, we would not be at this point.

This has been a bruising journey for many of us; for me, it was losing my lover to cancer before we could get this legislation passed. So I, like many others in our community, am personally invested in the passage of this legislation not so much for me and my lover anymore, but for our community's future, both young and old.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago has been the architect of homophobia when it came to same-sex marriage. He claimed first when the debate started to speak for not only the Church, but also for both natural law and God. Finding that position untenable for the majority of reasonable people, he attempted to change his horse midstream to religious freedom.

Now he is considering the possibility of denying Holy Communion to those Catholic politicians who support marriage equality, including Gov. Pat Quinn, through the Illinois Catholic Conference.

Extending marriage to LGBT people tests society to seek new ways to live out our differences within a state of equality, and an evolution of secular marriage law is always possible. It is time for Illinois to pass marriage equality.

Sincerely,  
 Joe Murray, Executive Director  
 Rainbow Sash Movement

# GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from the 2012 Chicago Auto Show by Andrew Davis

## YOU AUTO KNOW

Windy City Times talks with Chicago Auto Show chair Mike Ettleson about the February event. See page 17.

### DISH

A work of tarte.  
Page 18

Photo of Balsan's tarte flambe  
by Ed Negron



### THEATER

A 'Wine'-win situation.  
Page 12

Photo of Wine in the Wilderness from  
ETA Creative Arts Foundation



### SPORTS

Riding high.  
Page 22

Photo from 2012 Ride for AIDS  
from Ride for AIDS Chicago



### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Gay media martyr

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Playwright Christopher Shinn and director Evan Cabnet both went to New York University about the same time in the late 1990s. Yet the two never worked together until Cabnet worked as an assistant director on Shinn's Pulitzer-finalist off-Broadway drama *Dying City* in 2007.

Six years later, Cabnet is directing Shinn's world-premiere play *Teddy Ferrara* at the Goodman Theatre. It's a drama focusing on a college senior named Gabe who is head of the Queer Student Group on campus. Things are going well for Gabe until a campus tragedy involving the play's title character pulls him into a media frenzy where truth doesn't always win out.

"I was teaching undergraduates just as I was beginning to work on *Teddy Ferrara* and really observing them and measuring my own experiences against that," Shinn said in a statement. "It's an entirely different social world today as mediated through media and technology, and it's rare to see college students represented truthfully. I'll know I have achieved this if college-aged students respond to this play."

On one hand, Cabnet says *Teddy Ferrara* is partially inspired by the spate of high-profile LGBT suicides in the United States in recent years due to bullying and other factors. But Cabnet also says he and Shinn can draw upon their separate memories and shocked reactions of being at NYU when a number of students took their lives by leaping off of high-rise balconies in the Bobst Library on campus.

"A lot of what Chris is exploring in the play is basically how a lot of things have changed," said director Evan Cabnet. "The way in which young people communicate technologically speaking can heighten or exacerbate things like bullying,

like the spreading of rumors and how quickly information can be passed on to a huge amount of people in a very short amount of time. It's a big puzzle piece of this story."

Despite the emphasis on technology, Cabnet is not relying on multimedia imagery or TV screens to stage *Teddy Ferrara*. Instead, he's planning on keeping things decidedly low-tech, even though the play's characters will be practically glued to their mobile devices.

Actor Liam Benzvi is making his Goodman Theatre debut in the role of Gabe, and he's relishing the chance to play out his character's complexity in relation to the tragic events that unfold in the drama.

"This particular student group that Gabe runs is more of a social thing than really a political thing, which kind of presents a little rift when this tragedy does happen," Benzvi said. "What the play addresses is how (the title character) is turned into a martyr for gay causes and gay rights and Gabe starts questioning whether or not that is really the right thing to do—to associate homosexuality with something that is inferior and victimized versus just seeing him as a person who happened to be gay."

*Teddy Ferrara* plays from Saturday, Feb. 2, through Sunday, March 3, at the Goodman Theatre Owen Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Previews run through Feb. 10, with an official opening night on Monday, Feb. 11. Performances vary during the regular run, but are largely 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays with 2 p.m. matinees Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are slated at \$14-\$45 with special \$10 student tickets available. Call 312-443-3800 or visit [www.goodmantheatre.org](http://www.goodmantheatre.org) for more information.



Teddy Ferrara director Evan Cabnet. Photo by Liz Lauren

### Grants to go around

About Face Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater were both recently announced as recipients of Global Connections grants by Theatre Communications Group (TCG), a national organization for theater. These grants are meant to encourage new and existing international cultural theater exchanges.

About Face Theatre was one of six recipients of "ON the ROAD" travel grants of up to \$5,000. About Face Youth Theatre will head to Toronto

to work with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre to form the first international queer youth theater exchange and to create a dramatic piece that explores larger LGBTQ issues in North America.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater was one of three recipients of "IN the LAB" grants of up to \$10,000. The regional Tony Award-winning theater is to team up again with the artist collective known as "one step at a time like this" from Melbourne, Australia. The two groups are collaborating on a site-based, mobile technology-enhanced production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*.

### Hit the Wall hits New York

When I saw Ike Holter's *Hit the Wall* last year, I felt his Stonewall Riots-inspired drama would be perfect for New York's Barrow Street Theatre since it's literally just steps away from the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. So it's great news to hear that *Hit the Wall* will be playing the Barrow Street Theatre with previews beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 19 with tickets on sale through Sunday, July 7.

*Hit the Wall* is based upon the historic roots and mythologies that have developed around the Stonewall Riots, which is generally cited for kicking off the modern LGBTQ rights movement. The play will transfer with its original director, Eric Hoff, plus two cast members from the Chicago production that was originally staged by The Inconvenience as part of Steppenwolf Theatre's Garage Repertory series.

The Barrow Street Theatre already has a strong history with Chicago theater artists. It hosted director David Cromer's wildly acclaimed production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* that was originally produced in Chicago by The Hypocrites, plus Cromer directed the theater's recently closed hit *Tribes*.

For more information on the New York run of *Hit the Wall*, visit [www.barrowstreettheatre.com](http://www.barrowstreettheatre.com).



Beautiful Thing. Photo courtesy of David Zak

## THEATER REVIEW

### Beautiful Thing

Playwright: Jonathan Harvey

At: Pride Films and Plays at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

Tickets: 773-935-6875;

[www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); \$23-\$25

Runs through: Feb. 17

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The Thamesmead municipal housing projects, on London's easternmost fringe, in 1993 are a bleak collection of cinder-block high-rises lacking green space, commercial facilities (e.g., grocery stores) and public transportation. Its residents are those typically found in such isolated pockets of poverty, unemployment and substance abuse making for a thriving criminal culture. Who would imagine that out of this squalor could emerge neighbors bonding in quasi-kindred to forge an escape to a better life?

Playwright Jonathan Harvey, for one. His eighth-story corner-apartment residents are a sorry lot when we first meet them, to be sure. Single mother Sandra Gangel dallies with a succession of fancy men, neglecting her teenage son, Jamie, who is bullied at school for his anti-athletic proclivities. His comrades include the sexually precocious dropout Leah Russell, and the withdrawn Stephen "Ste" Pierce, himself the target for beatings by his alcoholic father and gang-banging brothers. Ah, but Mrs. Gangel perceives a future for herself and her offspring in her job as a barmaid. When fortune finally smiles upon them, she prepares to assume the role of responsible parent, not only to her own child, but to what has become a surrogate family.

For us Yanks, steeped in our Downton Abbey fantasies, nothing could be easier than to ridicule these working-class proles (as the U.S. premiere production in 1998 was inclined to do). Equally tempting—and biased—would have been to sentimentalize the same-sex affection

that grows between Jamie and Ste, while caricaturing the hets as clueless bumpkins. Director John Nasca is not interested in cheap laughs, however, and has drilled his cast in the nuances of subtextual authenticity. These are reflected in the almost-minuscule hesitations that allow us to watch the characters making decisions before proceeding—or not—according to their convictions. Even Leah's meltdown during a bad acid trip—usually an invitation to actorly excess—adheres accurately to the mechanics of the experience under scrutiny.

The results for this Pride Films and Plays 20th-anniversary production are a refreshingly balanced narrative with boundaries reaching far beyond those of generic "coming-out" romances. Charlie Wein and Robert Hilliard sidestep cloying mannerisms in their portrayals of Ste and Jamie, as do Michelle McKenzie-Voigt, Kiah McKirnan and Patrick Rybarczyk, conferring an inherent dignity on personalities too often reduced to comic relief. Dialect instructor Jeremiah Davis may provide a glossary to the regional vernacular in the playbill, but where accord, tolerance and compassion dwell, language is no barrier.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Letters**, Writers' Theatre, through March 3. An archivist faces down her brutish Soviet supervisor in John W. Lowell's tense cat-and-mouse drama that only gains from the extreme intimacy in director Kimberly Senior's gripping production. SCM

**The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through March 3. Not since American Buffalo have foul-mouthed street passions inspired as much hilarity and pathos as in Stephen Adly Guirgis' wry look at recovering addicts in love and rehab. MSB

**Pygmalion**, Bohemian Theatre Ensemble and Stage Left Theatre at Theater Wit, through Feb. 10. Fans of the musical *My Fair Lady* have no excuse to miss George Bernard Shaw's original play that inspired the Lerner and Loewe musical. Two esteemed off-Loop theater companies collaborate on a solid and intimate 100th-anniversary production. SCM

**When the Rain Stops Falling**, Circle Theatre at The Greenhouse, through Feb. 24. Are sins of the father visited upon the son? This elegiac, poetic Australian play by Andre Bovell examines three generations of two families across the Outback. A remount of Circle's spring 2012 hit. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## SPOTLIGHT



Former Chicago playwright Rebecca Gilman continued to solidify her esteemed reputation with her tense 2001 drama **Boy Gets Girl**, which shows what happens when a seemingly harmless blind date turns into a harrowing stalker situation for the character of Theresa Bedell. *Boy Gets Girl* continues through Saturday, March 2, at the Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. Sundays. A special "Out at Raven" event for the LGBTQ community is 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, with a pre-show wine and appetizer reception and a post-show discussion with director Cody Estle and members of the cast. Tickets are \$36; \$31 seniors and \$15 for students at select performances. Call 773-338-2177 or visit [www.raventheatre.com](http://www.raventheatre.com). Photo of Kristin Collins and John Stokvis in *Boy Gets Girl* by Dean LaPrairie

## THEATER REVIEW

### Wine in the Wilderness and Florence

Playwright: Alice Childress

At: ETA Creative Arts Foundation,

7558 S. South Chicago Ave.

Tickets: 773-752-3955;

[www.etacreativearts.org](http://www.etacreativearts.org); \$30

Runs through: March 3

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The average playgoer, asked to list successful African-American playwrights (pre-August Wilson), will likely name Lorraine Hansberry and then surrender the challenge. Alice Childress—a Southern-born high school dropout who found her home in Harlem's American Negro Theatre—wrote plays significant for their commentary on both racial and gender issues, but that are only now emerging from the shadow of her glamorous contemporary. Following Artistic Home's 2011 production of the Obie-winning *Trouble In Mind* (the first to be awarded a female writer), ETA presents a double bill of one-act Childress plays, *Florence* and *Wine In The Wilderness*.

*Florence* opens on Mrs. Whitney, waiting in the colored section of a railroad depot—this is 1949—for the train taking her to New York City for the purpose of persuading her daughter to abandon hopes of a career as an actress. Mrs. Carter, speaking from the other side of the room's literal racial divide, concurs heartily with the mother's pessimism regard-

ing her child's chances for success, even offering to find the latter employment—as a domestic servant.

*Wine in the Wilderness* locates us in the mid-1960s, where Afrocentric artist Bill Jameson is searching for a model to complete his triptych—a female embodying the slatternly dregs of his tribe. His likewise cosmopolitan chums, Cynthia and Sonny-Man, introduce him to a waif displaced by the recent riots who seems precisely the type of loser he seeks, but Miss Tommy Marie Fields turns out to be far more than she appears.

It would have been easy for this production to engage in hindsight mockery, endowing our white matron with a cornpone accent, or caricaturing the urban hipsters and their now-outdated ideas. Director Mignon McPherson Stewart rejects these stereotypes, however, instead adhering to the respective zeitgeists of the eras under scrutiny. Bill may pontificate about "the trouble with our women," or Cynthia support then-fashionable social theories exhorting "matriarchal" Black women to be more subservient (lest they emasculate their menfolk), but Tommy's sharp-tongued rebuke is not meant to humiliate, but to enlighten. Maybe you can't fix stupid, but you can fix ignorance.

That includes ours, too. Theatergoers (like me) who came up through academe during the years Childress depicts are justifiably appalled at the lack of recognition allotted this intelligent, insightful, articulate voice for so many decades. The trek to ETA's Arts Center in Grand Crossing is a small price to pay in service of alleviating this error.



Wine in the Wilderness. Photo from the ETA Creative Arts Foundation

### Malkovich in 'Infernal' Feb. 1-2

Actor and Steppenwolf Theatre Company founding member John Malkovich stars in *The Infernal Comedy: Confessions of a Serial Killer* for two performances at Symphony Center on Friday, Feb. 1, and Saturday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m.

The *Infernal Comedy* tells the true story of Austrian serial murderer and writer Jack Unterweger (Malkovich) through chapters of spoken dialogue, each concluded with arias by Gluck, Vivaldi, Beethoven and others.

Tickets are \$35-\$125; see [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org). (The subject matter may be inappropriate for children under 15.)

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American Wee-Pie. Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

## THEATER REVIEW

### American Wee-Pie

**Playwright:** Lisa Dillman  
**At:** Rivendell Theatre Ensemble,  
 5779 N. Ridge Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-334-7728;  
**www.RivendellTheatre.org;** \$30  
**Runs through:** Feb. 16

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

American Wee-Pie concerns a 40-ish brother and sister, somewhat estranged, who return to small-town Gardensend (take the name as you wish) for their mother's funeral. Both confront the fact that they are at social and professional dead-ends with unfulfilling and mediocre jobs. The hero is brother Tim (nicknamed Zed), who becomes apprentice to gourmet cupcake maker Pableu and his wife, Linz, a former high school classmate of Zed's.

This world premiere, by estimable Chicago-based playwright Lisa Dillman, receives an engaging production courtesy of sure-handed director Megan Carney, Regina Garcia's whimsical set and Joshua Horvath's creative soundscape which reinforces the play's magical realism (a ghost and mystical coincidences). Four of the five cast members are Rivendell veterans who contribute greatly to the show's qualified success—for instance, Mark Ulrich's irresistible exaggeration as the French cupcake genius—and newcomer Jennifer Pompa (Linz) is fully up to the veterans' game. However, as often happens with a world premiere, both the strengths and weaknesses of the play are revealed. American

Wee-Pie has a very strong Act I and not-as-strong an Act II, leading to the thought that it might be better without an intermission.

Dillman draws her characters very swiftly and boldly. For example, the first five minutes of the play—between the buoyant and colorful Linz and the drab and depressed Tim/Zed (Kurt Brocker)—sharply delineate these two characters and also amusingly lay out all the exposition you need. But Tim/Zed really *is* completely colorless compared to every other character in the piece. He's a not-unlikeable lump, but he never changes. Even by play's end, when he's made several life-altering decisions and inspired his sister (Jane Baxter Miller) to do the same, he's as pale as at the start, and the void of his social life is unchanged.

Now, to suggest that Dillman should introduce a romantic partner for Zed might be too drastic; it is, after all, her play and not mine. But it seems quite do-able that she could strengthen the rekindled bond between brother and sister and the mutual pay-offs thereof, and add a brief follow-up scene to the play's abrupt ending that would carry it just a wee bit further into the future. Also, the local postman (Keith Kupferer) reveals comments the mother made about her kids. It's a good device that might be extended with great benefits. If Dillman did that, and edited the slow spots in Act II, it just might be the equivalent of perfecting the recipe for a chocolate-pear-daikon radish cupcake which is so important to the story.

A new comedy by a Chicago author, a fine cast, an off-beat look at life and happiness: These make up the essence of off-Loop Theater and are worthy of attention.

## THEATER REVIEW

### Flare Path

**Playwright:** Terence Rattigan  
**At:** Griffin Theatre Company at  
 Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-975-8150 or  
**www.griffintheatre.com;** \$32  
**Runs through:** Feb. 24

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The late gay British playwright Sir Terence Rattigan (*The Winslow Boy*, *The Deep Blue Sea*) and his "well-made plays" were frequently written off as old fashioned and too conventional. But after several of Rattigan's lesser-known plays were revived in 2011 in honor of his centenary, many British critics re-evaluated their opinions and heralded the works' solid construction and emotional pulse.

One Rattigan play that got a chance to shine anew was his hit 1942 World War II drama *Flare Path*, focusing on Royal Air Force bomber squad airmen and their wives. A starry 2011 revival of *Flare Path* at London's Theatre Royal, Haymarket was showered with praise, and Chicago's Griffin Theatre Company altered its 2012-13 season to include this Rattigan rarity.

On one level, *Flare Path* is pure propaganda, stressing the importance of a nation pulling together to fight a common foe and to put personal matters aside. This is played out in the low-stakes love triangle between the actress Patricia Warren (Darci Nalepa); her husband, Lt. Teddy Graham (Joey deBettencourt); and her former lover, a British-born Hollywood star Peter Kyle (Paul Dunckel).

The play is set in 1940 at the Falcon Hotel

in Lincolnshire in eastern England, which is conveniently located next to the airbase for visiting wives. Rattigan drew from his own experience serving in the RAF for the drama, even including a Polish pilot called Count Skriczevinsky (Gabe Franken), who has married a cockney barmaid named Doris (Vanessa Greenway).

A sense of dread pervades the play, despite the forced "Keep Calm and Carry On" British reserve that many of the characters do their best to maintain. Yet on many touching occasions, the ever-present fear of death and loss cracks through to shake the characters' souls.

Yet there is also plenty of humor, too, be it from the acerbic landlady Mrs. Oakes (a masterful Mary Poole), the overeager barkeep Percy (Daniel Desmarais), or the husband-wife sparring between Sgt. Dusty Miller (Dylan Stuckey) and Maudie (Lauren Pizzi).

Director Robin Witt does a fine job marshalling the strong cast together, though I would have liked a touch more emotion in key scenes like when Doris needs to get a letter from her presumed-dead husband translated for her.

The production values are all top-notch, particularly Joe Schermoly's handsome lobby set, Izumi Inaba's period costumes and Christian Gero's sound design that features thunderous airplane effects overhead.

So even if *Flare Path* is a traditionally conventional drama that shows its age at times, it's still a work that sweeps you up into the characters' life-and-death decisions and feelings of duty for their country. Rattigan clearly knew what he was doing with *Flare Path*, and his personal military experience shines through.



Paul Dunckel and Darci Nalepa in *Flare Path*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

### Bailiwick fundraiser Feb. 8 at Uncommon

Bailiwick Chicago Theater Collective members are presenting a line-up of Chicago artists for "Hope for Joe," a benefit evening of musical performances on Friday, Feb., 8, 7-9 p.m., at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave.

Among the many slated performers are Danny Bernardo, Katherine Condit, Kevin Bishop and Lili-Anne Brown.

Tickets cost \$20 and are available at [www.bailiwickchicago.com](http://www.bailiwickchicago.com) or at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Joe Garassino Foundation, a fund that will be distributed to cancer research and The American Cancer Society, and will help offset Joe Garassino's medical costs.

### 'Golden Girls' spoof running Jan. 25-26

Miami Nice: A Golden Girls Musical—a spoof of the '80s TV show about four older women who live together—will run Jan. 25-26 at Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave.

In "Miami Nice," the other women discover that Rose's sweet-but-not-too-bright exterior actually a cover for a cocaine distribution mastermind, plunging the ladies "into a blood-soaked world of drugs, guns, and cheesecake," according to a press release.

Tickets are \$20; to purchase tickets, visit [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com) or call 773-598-4549.



### Ms. Fit launches

Ms. Fit editors celebrate the launch [www.msfitmag.com](http://www.msfitmag.com), at Women & Children First Bookstore Jan. 19. Pictured, from left: Marian Sherrell Haas, Kathie Bergquist, Jessica Young and Marcia Brenner. Photo by Tracy Baim

# Betty White: On her rocker



BY JERRY NUNN

Legendary Betty White has been entertaining the world with a career spanning more than seven decades.

Seven has been a luck number for her, as she

White's *Off Their Rockers*, which she hosts and produces.

There is no stopping our only living Golden Girl as she turns 91 years old this year.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Betty. Many of our readers at *Windy City Times* may not know you are actually from Oak Park, Ill.

Betty White: Yes, I was born across the street from Chicago. The Oak Park Hospital was on one side of the street and Chicago was on the other.

**WCT:** Is this where the spicy humor comes from?

BW: I was an only child. My mother and dad were great and good buddies. My dad was a salesman, and he would bring jokes home. He'd say, "Now, sweetheart, you can take that one to school, but I wouldn't take that one to school."

I always see more than one meaning to a word, so the double entendre kind of came naturally. But a double entendre is one thing, and then dirty humor is something else. I don't like dirty



Betty White. Photo courtesy of NBC

has won that many Emmys. Her television appearances are too many to mention but among them are *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* all the way up to *Hot in Cleveland*; the latter show has allowed her to win two consecutive Screen Actors Guild Awards. Also, she was the oldest person to guest-host *Saturday Night Live*, and has been a staple on game shows like *Password* and *Match Game*.

White's voiceover work, writing, love for animals and multiple movie roles have garnered her a legion of adoring fans over the years. Her latest endeavor is the practical-joke show *Betty*

jokes, but I do enjoy a double entendre.

**WCT:** Is the house used in *Off Their Rockers* your actual home?

BW: No, it isn't. I wouldn't use my house. I like a little more privacy than that, but it's fun. It feels like home I am there so much making the show.

**WCT:** "Gangnam Style" singer PSY dropped in to the house on *Rockers*. What did you think of him?

BW: Oh, he was very nice and so funny. I don't think he wanted to teach us the dance, but I

tried to copy him, anyway.

**WCT:** What was it like to have Ed Asner on the show?

BW: Oh, it was such fun. Ed and I stay very close. I don't think we've ever said a nice word to each other, but we adore each other. You know that kind of a friendship. He always yells at me and I yell at him lovingly. He did the show and when you work that closely together, you just somehow you fall into a pattern, and it's as though you saw each other yesterday, even if a little time has gone by.

**WCT:** What is the secret for longevity in a career?

BW: Honesty. You can fool everybody else maybe that you know, but you can't fool that camera. That camera will know when you're faking it every time.

**WCT:** Why do you keep going with this career?

BW: Why quit something that you enjoy so much? Who would ever expect at 91 to still get invited to do shows. I mean, that's unheard of, so if they don't want me to do it, don't ask me, because if they ask me I'll take it.

**WCT:** How are you celebrating your birthday this year?

BW: Well, I think NBC is taking care of that. Last year they did a Betty White's 90th-birthday party on television. We got nominated for an Emmy for it, and this year they're doing Betty White's second annual 90th birthday, so they're doing another one on camera, which should be fun.

**WCT:** Did you have a favorite moment from the first special?

BW: Being surprised with a number of friends—celebrity friends that showed up. Each one was such a lovely surprise. If I start naming them I'll leave somebody out and I don't want to do that, but it was just delightful. Each person that was there or said a few words that just knocked me out.

**WCT:** How do you think television has changed over the years?

BW: Well, I don't think the television has changed nearly as much as the audience has changed. When I started out, television was just starting out, and everything was that miracle on the box in the corner of the room where people were actually moving around, and over the years, as television got to be such a major part of our lives, the audience has heard every joke. They know every storyline. They know where you're going almost before the first line is out. That's a hard audience to surprise and a hard audience to entertain, and it gets more difficult all the time. That's why the real movers and shakers in the television business are the writers. They have a bigger challenge every day.

**WCT:** Is there anything left that you want to do?

BW: Robert Redford. [Both laugh.] No, no, no—it's been 65 years and I think in that time I've been the luckiest person on two feet, so I think I've done about as much as I can do. I'd just like to keep on doing the same thing.

**WCT:** Speaking of the love life, women are sometimes called cougars in the forties. Are you a cougar?

BW: Well, my problem is all my life I never was interested in younger men. He always had to be a little older than I, and my problem now at 90 is I can't find anybody older than I.

**WCT:** You have so many gay fans from the *Golden Girls* and several told me they wanted to campaign for more pool boys on *Off Their Rockers*.

BW: Well, I wouldn't mind that, either. Let's start a movement and get that to happen next year. I think there's nothing better than that. My only problem is I have the nicest pool boy at home, but he doesn't look like those other pool boys on the show. He sure can clean a pool, though.

**WCT:** Hilarious! Thank you for being a friend, Betty, and for your time today.

BW: Thank you so much.

Betty White's *Off Their Rockers* streaks by every Tuesday on NBC.

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Thoughts on Jodie Foster; film note

On Jan. 13, actor-director-producer Jodie Foster accepted the Cecil B. DeMille award for career achievement at the annual Golden Globes ceremony.

The Globes—handed out from a star-crazed, easily-pandered-to group with shaky media credentials—has always been the camp, ne'er do-well kin of the much more prestigious Academy Awards, which is its inspiration. As such, bizarre and often drunken behavior from stars who usually behave with a bit more decorum has come to be expected during the televised ceremony. For a show with such a checkered history—Jack Nicholson mooned the audience one year, Suzanne Somers “sang” a medley from her Vegas act another, etc.—it was no surprise that Foster’s rambling acceptance speech, clocking in at just under seven minutes, went off the weirdsville grid.

Or did it?

Reading a transcript of Foster’s remarks puts things in a more cohesive context and seems to reveal a woman struggling with a lot more than coming out and privacy issues. Just 50, Foster started by declaring that fact in a jokey but derisive manner, and kidded about leaving her walker at home because it didn’t go with her cleavage (which she wasn’t baring but, uh, never mind). There were other veiled remarks that seemed to imply that Foster is convinced that at her “advanced” age there’s nothing left to do but retire from acting, although she immediately retracted that idea as a misinterpretation when she hit the press room following her speech.

Likewise, Foster decried the struggle to maintain a private, “normal” life in a culture that no longer seems to know the meaning of the word. The conundrum, of course, is that Foster’s somewhat defensive remarks—which seemed to include a plea to leave her the hell alone—were made at the most public of occasions in front of millions. To further confuse the private-versus-public aspects of the celebrity existence, Foster then seemed to confirm the rumors of her long-whispered lesbian sexuality but never quite made it over the finish line by actually saying “Yep, I’m gay,” or words to that effect. Again, a transcript of her speech clarifies that Foster did indeed come out.

Foster herself seemed exasperated that being open about her sexuality would trump interest in her work (a fair complaint) although she again confused her audience and missed an opportunity to do just that herself by not spending much time talking about her movies—the reason she was there in the first place. Aside from singling out her ex-partner (whom she met on the set of her 1993 movie *Sommersby*); her mother (who acted as her agent when she began as a child); shout-outs to the crews on her films; and nods to Robert Downey, Jr. and Mel Gibson for guidance and support (hmm), Foster didn’t thank any of her other work colleagues by name



Jodie Foster in *Carnage*.

or mention one of her movies by name.

It’s tremendous news for Our People and the world at large that Foster, one of our long-adored movie stars and winner of two Best Actress Oscars, is out. The impact of this on her future career—whether it be as a director (which she movingly referenced in her closing), actor or producer—will certainly be interesting to watch. But for a brief moment I want to point out some of the highlights of Foster’s illustrious career. In the rush to judgment, pro and con, about her Golden Globes speech, the movies themselves and the unique person who made them have gotten lost in the shuffle. So, a brief, hopefully instructive overview:

Foster had been making commercials and had appeared on TV and in films since the age of 3 but it wasn’t until director Martin Scorsese’s 1974 *Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore* that she first really made her mark. Ellen Burstyn gives an Oscar-winning performance as Alice Hyatt, the widowed mother of a precocious tween who dreams of becoming a singer and ends up as a waitress in a diner in Tucson. Foster play Audrey, the sexually ambiguous, rather mature best friend of Alice’s son, Tommy, who gets him drunk on wine and whose repeated use of the word “weird” presages the canny actress in the making. Scorsese obviously agreed—and two

years later cast Foster in *Taxi Driver*.

The year 1976 was a banner one for the then-13-year-old Foster. Not only did she break through as the juvenile streetwalker in the controversial *Taxi Driver* (for which she was Oscar-nominated), she also took the lead in the obscure creepy classic *The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane*; matched comic wits with ditzzy Barbara Harris in the Disney comedy *Freaky Friday*; and headlined (along with newcomer Scott Baio) in *Bugsy Malone*, Alan Parker’s charmingly bizarre 1930s-era musical completely populated by children lip-syncing Paul Williams songs.

Foster won the hearts of teenage girls (of all persuasions) when she co-starred along with former *Runaways* lead singer Cherie Curie in 1980’s *Foxes*, a coming-of-age drama set during the disco era about four high school friends struggling with life’s Big Problems—boyfriends, drugs, drinking, partying, etc. Foster, naturally, plays the level-headed one of the quartet.

In 1984—following her stint at Yale and the media frenzy that ensued after she became the stalking object of John Hinckley, who attempted to assassinate President Reagan in 1981 in order to “impress” the young actress—Foster appeared in *The Hotel New Hampshire*, an off-beat film adaptation of the John Irving novel about the trials and tribulations of a colorful family who presides over a rundown hotel. Foster is memorable as tough Frannie, who survives a rape attempt, has a passionate affair with a woman (Nastassja Kinski) who dresses in a bear suit, becomes a movie star and ends up sleeping with one of her brothers (played by Rob Lowe).

Foster truly became a marquee name with 1988’s *The Accused*, in which she played a good-time party gal who survives a gang rape committed in a public bar. Foster’s gritty, no-holds-barred performance was matched by the cool, level-headed Kelly McGillis (who later came out) as her lawyer. The performance won Foster the first of her two Best Actress Oscars.

Foster had another banner year in 1991. With her portrayal of FBI agent-in-training Clarice Starling, Foster matched wits with Anthony Hopkins as the convicted serial killer Hannibal Lecter, who helps her catch another serial killer in Jonathan Demme’s truly creepy *Silence of the Lambs*. The movie won multiple Oscars—including a second Best Actress award for Foster. That same year she made her directorial debut with the charming, bittersweet *Little Man Tate*, which is about a budding genius and his not-so-bright but loving single mom (played by Foster).

Foster co-starred with Richard Gere in a romantic western mystery, *Sommersby*, in 1993. The film is memorable for the passionate perfor-

mances of its two stars—and for the fact that it’s the last time Foster has had onscreen love scenes with a leading man. (As noted, it’s also the movie where she met Cydney Bernhard, the woman who co-parents her two sons with her.)

In 1994, Foster received another Oscar nomination for her work in *Nell*, the story of a woman raised away from the rest of humanity who is discovered to have developed her own language after the death of her mother. That same year Foster co-starred with Mel Gibson (whom she would direct in 2011’s divisive indie *The Beaver*) in the comic western *Maverick*.

Foster wasn’t seen onscreen again until 1997’s sci-fi psychological special effects drama *Contact* (co-starring Matthew McConaughey). In 2002’s *Panic Room* and 2005’s *Flightplan* she played mothers under duress—fighting to protect her child from outside intruders in the former and fighting to discover the whereabouts of her missing daughter on a jumbo liner in the latter. Both were popular hits as was 2007’s *The Brave One*, with Foster as a vigilante trolling the streets of Manhattan, avenging the death of her murdered fiancée.

This August Foster will be seen in a big budget sci-fi blockbuster, *Elysium*, Neill Blomkamp’s oft-delayed follow-up to *District Nine* in which she co-stars with Matt Damon. After that—time will tell.

### Film note:

Before gay porn solidified into, well, gay porn, there was a brief period in which elements of underground cinema commingled with the budding genre. During this period—in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s—gay filmmaker Fred Halsted flourished. The merits of *LA Plays Itself*, his 1972 feature debut, have long been argued (William S. Burroughs hailed it) but there’s no arguing that the 55-minute movie features both artistic shots of Los Angeles and hardcore gay sex (as well as scenes of S&M). Halsted’s movie (in which he stars) has rarely been seen in its uncut version and now Patrick Friel’s *White Light Cinema* is bringing the movie to Chicago for two screenings—on Saturday, Jan. 26, at The Nightingale Cinema (1084 N. Milwaukee Ave.) at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 27, at Chicago Filmmakers (5243 N. Clark St.) at 7 p.m. The film has been given a high-definition transfer from Halsted’s original 16-mm version. [www.whitelightcinema.com](http://www.whitelightcinema.com)

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.



Artemis Singers.  
Photo by Tracy Baim

## Artemis Singers marks 30 years

Chicago’s lesbian-feminist chorus, Artemis Singers, marked its 30th anniversary in a special sold-out concert at the Ethical Humanist Society in Skokie Jan. 19.

Chorus members selected songs and poems that had special meaning for their lives, and the result was a concert with many women’s music classics, along with other wonderful music.

Holly Near’s “Something About the Women” appropriately started the program, which also featured Cris Williamson’s “Lullabye”; “Coming Into My Years” by Betsy Rose and Cathy Winter; “I Will Be Gentle with Myself” by Karen Drucker; “Testimony” by Ferron; “Wonderland,” a poem by Loraine Edwalds; and “Gamba Adisa,” with music by Joan Szymko, from an Audre Lorde poem.

More photos are online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).



## Mike Ettleson helps preview the Chicago Auto Show

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The 105th edition of the Chicago Auto Show will take place Feb. 8-18 at McCormick Place.

The "First Look for Charity" black-tie event will happen Feb. 8. The following day, the show will be open for general audiences—and will mark the first time since 1998 that the show will open to the public on a Saturday.

Auto show chair Mike Ettleson (principal of Ettleson Cadillac-Buick-GMC in Hodgkins, Ill., and Ettleson Hyundai in Countryside) talked with Windy City Times about trends, sales and the show.

**Windy City Times: I wanted to talk a little about sales. Would you agree that numbers have turned around for the better?**

Mike Ettleson: I would agree with that as far as numbers go. We saw total sales last year of about 14.5 million units in the United States, and we're predicting 15.5 million this year. We've definitely seen an upturn, although my brand (Cadillac-Buick-GMC) has seen a *little* increase in sales. [However,] my Hyundai store was hurt by the tsunami in 2011, and now they've bounced back. I do think that sales are on the upswing. There's definitely more activity, even in January—because of the mild weather.

**WCT: OK—let's talk about the show. When you and I spoke last year about trending vehicles, we talked about gas-electric hybrids and technology. Are we going to see more of the same this year?**

Ettleson: Yeah, I think we will, although the electric-gas combination has pretty much stayed the same; I don't think there's a whole lot of new technology there. But what I think you'll see is new technology with internal-combustion engines; it's gotten better, smaller and more efficient. There's also an increased use in turbochargers; they make smaller engines more efficient and more powerful when they need to be.

There's also a small luxury utility [vehicle] called the Buick Encore; it has a 1.6- or 1.8-li-



Mike Ettleson. Photo from Jennifer Morand

ter engine, and turbocharged is the only way it comes. So it gets pretty good mileage and it's powerful.

The other thing I think we're going to see is more technology that is going to help the driver avoid accidents because there's so much more to do: People are looking at their iPhones or iPods, and there are more accidents. So there are things are help with collision avoidance and there are some vehicles with blind-zone alerts.

**WCT: I want to get your thoughts on how far you think we are from cars that automatically drive people from place to place.**

Ettleson: Well, there are a couple schools of thought on that. I think that there is, right now, a driverless car by Google. But are we really going to get there [for everyone]? Some people

say 2020 or 2025—I'm not sure that's the case. I don't know if people are not going to want to drive, but they want more help. I don't know if we'll see masses of driverless cars, but we might. It might happen 50 years down the road, but it definitely would work for someone who's blind or [disabled].

**WCT: How does the Detroit show differ from Chicago's, generally speaking?**

Ettleson: Detroit's show is in what's known as Cobo Hall; it's a very marginal space to display cars while McCormick [Place] is such a wonderful [venue] to do so. With Cobo Hall, you have to go upstairs, downstairs, between buildings, and it's not nearly as large. But a lot of press do go to Detroit, and there are some strange and weirdo cars there that we won't even see here; Chicago is much more of a consumer-driven show. Detroit is for manufacturers, suppliers; I don't think the general public goes there that much.

**WCT: The Chicago Auto Show is doing more with social [networks]. Could you talk about that a little bit?**

Ettleson: Well, I can tell you that if you have an iPhone or iPad, there is an app. You can follow things on Facebook and Twitter, and if we're having a discussion about something, you can follow it more closely.

**WCT: Let's talk about First Look for Charity. Who's going to be performing this year? What's it going to be about?**

Ettleson: First Look for Charity is the Chicago Automobile Trade Association's preview night, and you have to wear a tuxedo. For \$250 a ticket, you get to be one of the first to see the Chicago Auto Show. We provide drinks and appetizers for [attendees]; we do it through funds and through volunteer restaurants, such as Lettuce Entertain You.

In addition, there are 18 different charities; you can select one or all of them. All but \$25 of your \$250 donation goes to the charities. The association keeps \$25 to provide for the entertainment. This year, at the end of the show, a group called American English (which is a Beatles cover band) will perform. There will also be the New York cast, I believe, of Million Dollar Quartet performing for an hour at the beginning of the show.

In addition to all that, there will be drawings for two vehicles. One is a 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe, which was graciously donated by Hyundai Motor America and Chicagoland Hyundai dealers. There will also be a 2013 Buick Encore, donated by the Buick division of General Motors and the Chicagoland and northwest Indiana Buick-GMC dealers.

**WCT: When it comes to the charities, how are they chosen?**

Ettleson: The trade association is made up of 15 independent dealer-directors. Once a charity is added on, it's [there] for nine years. When the nine-year stint is over, the next board member in line is allowed to pick a charity of his or her choosing. Also, all charities don't always stay on; there have been charities that have volun-

tarily dropped off in the past because they feel like it's too hard to sell tickets. Each charity is expected to sell about 325 tickets to the show to be part of the pool—when someone says, "I want my money to go to all of the charities." If you don't that for, like, two years in a row, you're kinda [told], "You're really not doing your job. You need to give someone else a chance."

**WCT: And this event is expected to raise about \$2 million this year?**

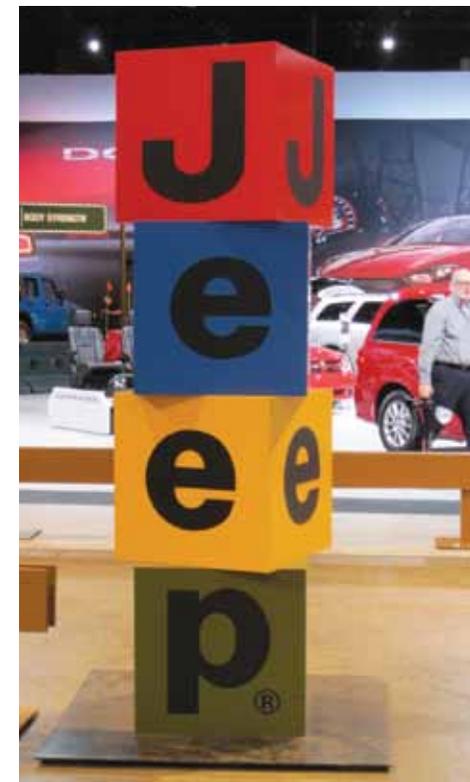
Ettleson: Yes; we're expecting approximately 10,000 people at \$225 a ticket. By moving it from a traditional Thursday night to Friday (with the show opening on Saturday), we're thinking it'll be easier for people to spend a weekend downtown.

**WCT: My last question is a hypothetical. With all of the very interesting vehicles at the show, which would you like to own if you could have any of them?**

Ettleson: Oh, that's a good question. I don't know all that's going to be there, of course. I'm really into antiques and I'm an old-fashioned car buff. One of my favorite cars over the years is a '65 Corvair, which was an introduction by Chevrolet into a small car but it was really unique because it was a rear-engine car. It was my mother's first new car. I used to have one but I never found time to drive it so I got rid of it.

The Volo Auto Museum brings some stuff but one car I'd like to have is the new Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. That's been getting a lot of press. I'm going to have to see what's at the show; every year, there's a surprise.

See [www.ChicagoAutoShow.com](http://www.ChicagoAutoShow.com) for more information.



Jeep blocks at the 2012 Chicago Auto Show. Photo by Andrew Davis



A driving range at the 2012 Chicago Auto Show. Photo by Andrew Davis

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

## Balsan; Fogo de Chao

BY ANDREW DAVIS

As far as hotels go, Waldorf Astoria has a reputation that's second to none. While this is good news for those who stay news, it understandably puts pressure on those who are responsible for maintaining that reputation—which includes everyone from the front desk to the staff at the men's atelier to the restaurant.

**Balsan** (11 E. Walton St.; <http://waldorfastoriachicago.com/explore-hotel/dining/balsan-restaurant>) has a lot to live up to—especially given that RIA, which was considered the more upscale eatery, closed last year.

A recent visit to Balsan confirmed what I thought: It's slightly more casual than RIA, but is nonetheless impressive. The interior is the essence of "sleek chic," complete with a private dining room next door for up to 30 people. The service is extremely professional and our server, Kelly, was more than happy to offer tips or to customize our orders.

The menu is varied—which may put off some, but actually delights patrons such as myself. Offerings range from a grilled burger with provolone, tomato jam, pickled onions and horseradish aioli to bucatini Bolognese to seared sea scallops.

The fruits de mer portion of the menu may entice some, and the offerings are plentiful. They range from oysters (as low as \$3 each) to lobster to the grand seafood platter, which consists of a whole lobster, king crab, nine prawns, 10 clams, 12 mussels and 18 oysters. (If that doesn't do the trick, nothing will.)

My friend and I decided to try the charcuterie and cheese, selecting items such as the Lincoln log (which contains goat cheese) and the duck terrine, which also contains fennel seed, coriander and golden raisin. The board Kelly brought out had several sublime items on it, including the aforementioned terrine and log, as well as an extremely tasty prosciutto. There was even honey present, complete with comb. My dining companion also ordered a bowl of olives marinated in orange and rosemary; he couldn't get enough of them.

By the way, among the other charcuterie, cheese and small-plate items Balsan offers are guinea hen terrine, house-smoked duck ham, green lentil soup and potted eggplant.

As for the large plates, I ordered the Amish



Charcuterie (above) and the Amish half chicken at Balsan. Photos by Ed Negron



chicken breast roulade with confit thigh, foie gras and maitake mushroom. Sous chef Mathew Wiltzius did a brilliant job with the dish, which he said is one of the restaurant's most popular. The flavors played off each other perfectly. I have to admit the dish was deceptive in terms of size; although it didn't look like half a chicken, I was pretty convinced it was by the time I was through eating it.

We also ordered the wood-oven-fired tarte flambe with bacon, creme fraiche and Uplands cheese. (It also comes with onion but my friend asked for that not to be included.) That dish was amazing as well.

Of course, one shouldn't leave without ordering dessert (at least, to go). While the place offers items such as Honeycrisp apple fritter and dark chocolate terrine, we both opted for the Paris-Brest, a concoction that looks like a bagel sandwich—but is, instead, filled with hazelnut cream and tastes like a dream.

Wiltzius described the cuisine as "casual elegance." That pretty much describes my experience at Balsan. I will be returning soon.

Note: Balsan is one of the many restaurants participating in Chicago Restaurant Week (Feb. 1-10), with a two-course lunch for \$22 and a three-course dinner for \$44.

Although Brazilian steakhouses are popular, I can see how they're not for everyone. For a set price, you can eat all the food you want—which can lead to either overindulgence or the feeling of being robbed if you tend to eat small portions. On the flip side, some can argue it's actually a bargain—especially compared to a place that may charge you double or even triple for a quarter the food.

Places such as **Fogo de Chao** (661 N. LaSalle St.; [www.fogodechao.com](http://www.fogodechao.com)) may inspire debates for some time to come but for those who love it, it's paradise. For \$32.50 for lunch (\$49.50 for dinner), men (mostly) come to your table with a variety of meats until you tell the extremely attentive servers to stop—which you do by flipping the card on your table from green to red, just like a traffic light.

On the night we went, the place was hopping, accommodating couples and groups of up to 20 people. Everyone seemed happy, with some (like myself) venturing to the extensive salad bar. To be fair, this bar is stocked with everything from

jumbo asparagus to shitake mushrooms to, well, prosciutto. (This place is pretty much a carnivore's dream, after all.)

By the way, this place also does a very good job with drinks. The Brazilian caipirinha is a house favorite, and it's understandable why that's the case; the lemon-blueberry-acai version I had was particularly refreshing.

However, this place is about the meats. This particular Fogo (there are almost 20 locations in the United States alone) offers 15 cuts of meat, including picahna, bacon-wrapped chicken, pork ribs, lamb and pork sausage. The highlight for my friend and me was the very last cut—the filet mignon; it practically fell apart when my fork touched it, and was extremely tender.

I was done after a few cuts, and my friend was more than sated after a few more. However, a woman next to me pretty much had a farm on her plate, and was more than happy. Fogo has a lot to offer (literally)—and some are more than willing to meet the challenge of sampling everything.



Images from Fogo de Chao, including the lemon blueberry acai caipirinha (below). Photos by Andrew Davis



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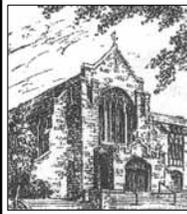
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## Original 'Batman' actors at Chicago comic expo

Noted actors Adam West and Burt Ward, who created the roles of Batman and Robin in the 1960s Batman TV series, will appear at this year's Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo (C2E2)—along with actress Julie Newmar, who famously appeared as Catwoman in the same series.

C2E2 is the largest pop culture event to take place annually in the Midwest and show officials are anticipating that this year's event will be the biggest since it was launched in 2010. C2E2 will be held April 26-28 in the West Building at McCormick Place Convention Center.

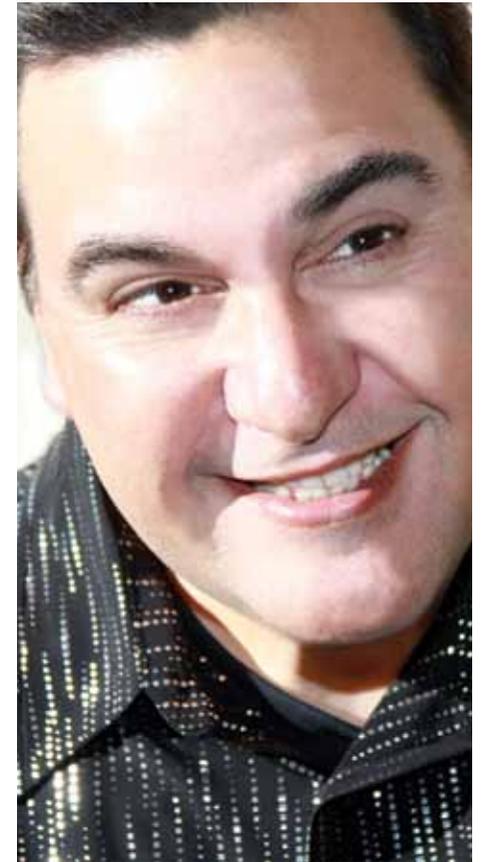
Tickets for C2E2 are currently on sale at [www.C2E2.com](http://www.C2E2.com).

## Khris Francis in Antioch Feb. 13-16

Fox's Lounge is presenting comedian, singer and songwriter Khris Francis for cabaret-style performances Feb. 13-16.

The lounge is located at 350 W. Highway 173 in Antioch, Ill.

Shows are from 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Feb. 13-14; and 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Feb. 15-16. There is no cover charge for the show, but reservations are recommended; call 847-395-3606.



Performer Khris Francis. Press photo

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## 'Normal Heart' on HBO in '14

HBO announced that it will adapt the Tony-winning Larry Kramer play *The Normal Heart*, according to Deadline.com. The movie will star Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo in the key roles, along with out actor Matt Bomer (*White Collar*).

Glee creator Ryan Murphy will direct the film, which will feature Roberts as Dr. Emma Brookner, the paraplegic physician who treats several of the earliest victims of the disease. Ruffalo portrays Ned Weeks; Bomer plays Felix Turner, a reporter who becomes Weeks' lover. *The Normal Heart* will run in 2014.

# calendar

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## Wed., Jan. 23

**40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade Celebration** Planned Parenthood Illinois Action will celebrate the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. 5:30pm VIP reception, hors d'oeuvres, open bar. 6:30pm event and program, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. 6:30pm-9:30pm, 217-522-6776, Carnivale Restaurant, 702 W Fulton Market, <http://gopride.com/z7uv>; Tickets: [www.ppiaction.org](http://www.ppiaction.org)

**Angelique Munro Fireside Chat** Hosted by Leatherman Douglas O'Keefe. Angelique Munro, featured in Chicago House's newly released TransLife Center video, will discuss her history, community involvement and Transgender-related issues before a live audience. Q&A follows. 7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Angela Koenig, author of Rebellion in Ulster** The Chicago author will read from and sign copies of her historical fiction book, centered on a Boston lesbian who gets caught up in the IRA (Irish Republican Army) of the 1980s. 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)

**Sidecar Bar Comedy Night** It's time for Sidecar Bar Comedy Night's first show of 2013. Comedians include Timmy Brochu, Mark Byrne, Marla Depew, Mike Johnson, Lynda Lanford, Monique Madrid and Emily Drews Westfall; Erin Weber hosts. Sidecar Bar, 6920 N. Glenwood Ave. 9pm-11pm, [www.sidecarbarchicago.com](http://www.sidecarbarchicago.com)

## Thursday, Jan. 24

**Open Gym Volleyball** Mondays and Thursdays. Co-ed, open court volleyball for

## HOLDING COURT Wed., Jan. 30

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor will speak at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St.

Photo by Elena Seibert



players of all levels. \$7/night; \$30/month; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Chicago House's Absolut Wrapture** Chicago House is changing their tune with a fresh new fusion of art, entertainment and stunning Windy City views. Advance \$99, VIP \$150. 6pm-11pm, 773-248-5200x303, Willis Tower, 99th Floor SkyDeck 233 S. Wacker Dr., [www.chicagohouse.org/event\\_absolut\\_wrapture.html](http://www.chicagohouse.org/event_absolut_wrapture.html)

**Jackie Evancho: Songs from the Silver Screen** Twelve year-old singing prodigy from America's Got Talent performs some of the greatest songs ever featured in films. \$40-\$150; 7:30pm, 312-294-3000, Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org)

**Sparkling Night of Classical Music Featuring Diamo** Chamber musical performances and a rare opportunity to walk away with a shimmering diamond. 7:30pm-9:30pm, 312-334-7777, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph St., [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org); Tickets: [www.harristheater.org](http://www.harristheater.org)

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

**Sunset Boulevard preview** Based on Billy Wilder's 1950 film about silent movie star Norma Desmond longing for a return to her glamorous heyday on the big screen, having been discarded by Tinseltown with the advent of "talkies." Scored with Lloyd Webber melodies. Opening Friday, Feb. 1, at 8:30 pm, and running through March 24. 8pm, 630-530-0111, Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, [www.drurylaneoakbrook.com](http://www.drurylaneoakbrook.com)

## Friday, Jan. 25

**Miami Nice: A Golden Girls Musical** Miami, 1986. Divorced and over 60, a substitute teacher is spending another lonely Friday night playing Scrabble with her mother and friends, but is suddenly plunged into a world of drugs, guns, and cheesecake. 7:30pm-8:30pm, 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com)

**Geeks Out - Windy City Mixer** Build the gay geek community in Chicago. Drink specials and raffle prizes galore. 7pm-10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <https://www.facebook.com/events/457683090946666/?fref=ts>

**Tamale Presents Brass Chuckles Comedy Showcase** Brass Chuckles is a comedy show that invites fascinating people to come out to play hosted by comedian and Femme(ce) Tamale Sepp. Explores comedy through stand-up, sketch, improv, videos, performance art, live readings of personal narrative work, and other creative methods. \$10. 10pm, Playground Theatre, 3341 N Lincoln Ave., [www.brasschucklescomedy.com](http://www.brasschucklescomedy.com)

**Jai Ho: Bollywood Bling** All queer, all Bollywood, all night! Trikone-Chicago presents bi-monthly fundraiser with a fabulously flashy theme. Dance in your gliziest couture DJ Mixin' J spins. Performances at midnight. \$5; 10pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan Rd., <http://goo.gl/tljjd>

**Mr. Chicago Leather 2013 weekend** Welcome party at 10 pm, followed by a roast of MCL12 Angel Velez at midnight. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, [www.touchechicago.com](http://www.touchechicago.com)

## Saturday, Jan. 26

**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)

**"Feminist Plays about Nothing"** Free staged reading of comedic short plays credited to queer feminist playwright Lucía Suviand and talk-back. Doors to conference room 6:45pm. [info@fullvoice.org](mailto:info@fullvoice.org);

6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://fullvoice.org>

**CMSA Women's Social Party** Date auction with The Force and the Chicago Women's Rugby Team, benefiting both teams. Everyone welcome. CMSA members free, non-members \$5. The Force 2013 calendar will be for sale and rugby players will have items for sale. Amy Kelly will MC, with singers Mindy Bartlett and Daphne Willis and comedian Judy Fabjance performing "Are you there, Judy. It's me. Cancer." Amy Kelly & The Bill Ande Band perform. 7pm-10pm, Joe's Bar, 940 W. Weed St.

**A New Kind of Bathroom: The At-Home Spa Experience** The bathroom is where you begin and end your day, shouldn't it enhance your peace of mind as well? Register online for this free seminar. 10:30am-12:30pm, 630-455-5600, Normandy Remodeling 440 E Ogden Ave., Hinsdale, [www.normandyremodeling.com/seminars.aspx](http://www.normandyremodeling.com/seminars.aspx)

## Sunday, Jan. 27

**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/)

**Urban Village Church: Andersonville service** Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be involved in the community! 10:30am-11:45am, Bethany Retirement Center, 1602 W. Ainslie St. (at Ashland), [www.newchicagochurch.com](http://www.newchicagochurch.com)

**Making 50** Come mark the 50th birthday of Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. A benefit for the Windy City Times Investigative Reporting Fund. Contributions accepted at the door, any number that has a 5 and an 0 in it (50 cents, \$5.00, \$25.00, \$50.00 ... you get the idea). Music, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Movie, book and music prizes. 4pm-8pm, 3160, 3160 N. Clark St.

**AIDS Legal Council of Chicago's "The Gershwins in Love"** Chicago musician Justin Hayford hosts "The Gershwins in Love," an evening of classic Gershwin for the fourth annual benefit for AIDS Legal Council of Chicago at Davenport's Piano Bar in Wicker Park. 7pm-11pm, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave., [www.aidslegal.com](http://www.aidslegal.com)

**Voice of Champions with Kelly Porter & Kenya Renee** Pioneers tell their stories. Join us in this to break the cycle of various abuses in our communities. 3pm-8pm, 7734193070, Dan's bakery, 2523 W. 79th St., [www.youtu.be/prcruevcd7q](http://www.youtu.be/prcruevcd7q)

## Monday, Jan. 28

**Harry Belafonte** The actor, singer, and humanitarian will deliver the keynote address commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. 6pm, Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Dr., Evanston

**CCPA Faculty Recital: Matthew Chellis, voice** Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts presents a Faculty Recital: Matthew Chellis, voice and Dana Brown, piano. Tickets are not required; seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 7:30pm-9pm, 3123412352, Ganz Hall at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. <http://roosevelt.edu/ccpa>

**RuPaul's Drag Race Season 5 Premiere Party** Shantay, you stay 9-10 pm for the first episode of season 5, followed by Untucked, hosted by DiDa Ritz and The Princess, and Dragzilla amateur drag contest at 11. \$4.50 Absolut cocktails and \$4 Miller Lite & Coors Light. 9pm, Spin, 800 W. Belmont Ave, [www.spin-nightclub.com](http://www.spin-nightclub.com)

## Tuesday, Jan. 29

**CCPA Symphony Orchestra** Led by guest conductor Markand Thakar, the Orchestra



## MUNRO DOCTRINE

Wed., Jan. 23

Angelique Munro will be the featured guest in the Fireside Chat series at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

will perform Academic Festival Overture by Brahms, Three-Cornered Hat Suite No. 2 by de Falla, Symphony No. 8 in G major, B. 163, op. 88 by Dvorák. Tickets are not required; seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 7:30pm-9pm, 3123412352, Benito Juarez Community Academy Performing Arts Center, 1450-1510 W. Cermak Rd., [www.roosevelt.edu/ccpa](http://www.roosevelt.edu/ccpa)

**Queer Comedy at Zanies** Season 3 opens with headliner Liza Treyger hosted by Adam Guerino, featuring Carey Callahan, Ali Clayton and Archer Coe. \$10 in advance or \$15 or at the door. 21 or over. Two item minimum. 8:30pm, Zanies Comedy Club, 1548 N Wells, Chicago, Tickets: <http://www.zanies.com>

## Wed., Jan. 30

**Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor** Discussion of her memoir My Beloved World about her transition from early life growing up in a Bronx housing project to the country's highest federal bench. Free. 6pm, 312-747-4050, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State St., [www.chicagopubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicagopubliclibrary.org)

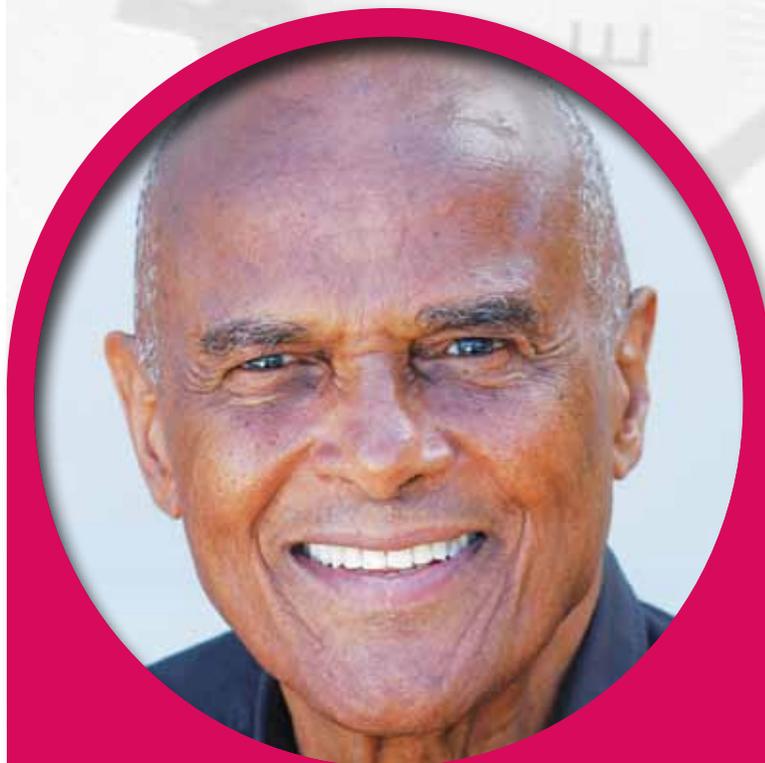
**Mx. Queer (U)SA Pageant** Subject to Change presents the Mx. Queer (U)SA Pageant, benefiting the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Queers, community, no shame jams and a zine; 9pm-11pm, The Burlington, 3425 W. Fullerton, <http://www.facebook.com/groups/subjecttochangechi/>

## Thursday, Jan. 31

**50 Shades of Blues** 5:30 complimentary cocktail party; \$15 program at 7pm. Blue vocalists brought gender fluidity to their music through suggestive lyrics and tongue-in-cheek performances. Sharon Bridgeforth and Dr. Omi Osun Joni L. Jones will use conversation and live performance to explore how the complex musical movement expressed social and sexual taboos and called for greater freedoms in the 1920s and 1930s. Katherine Davis and her trio sing the Blues at the cocktail party. 5:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark St., [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)

## Saturday, Feb. 2

**LittleQFilmFest: Call Me Kuchu** Documentary, 87 min. In an office on the outskirts of Kampala, veteran activist David Kato labors to repeal Uganda's homophobic laws and liberate his fellow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender men and women, or "kuchus." \$9 online; \$14 at the door; 11am-1pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.littlequeerfilmfest.org](http://www.littlequeerfilmfest.org); Tickets: <http://callmekuchu.brownpapertickets.com>



## HARRY SITUATION

Monday, Jan. 28

Singer/actor/activist Harry Belafonte will deliver an address commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. at Northwestern University.

Photo from Judy Moore

# BILLY MASTERS

"In truth, no one wants to see my pale little chicken legs sprawled out on some shag carpet."—Anderson Cooper shoots down reports that he was asked to pose nude for Playgirl. The only thing that surprises me about this quote is the thought that Anderson has a shag carpet. (I always pictured it to be more of a snow-white Berber—to match the drapes, naturally.)

In last week's column, I only squeezed in a brief bit about the Golden Globes. So this week, I want to address a few other little tidbits about the awards that one winner called "not worth a damn." While Jodie Foster's speech got the most attention, someone came out that night who actually is still working. The dashing Victor Garber has long been out to his friends, but he's never made any public declarations about it, and he says nobody's ever asked. I can kinda understand that. I've been out with Victor socially and never once asked him for a quote on the subject (probably because I want to continue to see him socially). My colleague Greg



Zac Efron (above) had a little scandal to deal with, according to Billy Masters.

Hernandez had no such trepidation. He read on Wikipedia (which we know is NEVER wrong) that Victor lives with longtime boyfriend Rainer Andreesen, so he asked Garber about it. "I don't really talk about it but everybody knows," Garber said. "He's going to be out here with me for the SAG Awards." See? No big deal.

Why did Lena Dunham thank Chad Lowe when Girls won Best TV Comedy/Musical Series? Backstage she explained: "Because Hilary Swank forgot! And because I'm an a--hole!" But that wasn't the full story. Back in August, Lowe tweeted that he was a big fan of the show. Lena responded, "FYI I will probably mention you if I ever receive any awards at all in my lifetime (and I too am a fan)." Except she didn't keep her end of the bargain. Earlier in the night, she won Best Actress in a TV Comedy/Musical Series and neglected to mention Lowe. He tweeted, "Congrats to @lenadunham on your Golden Globe win. But, seriously? You forgot to thank me?! After all we've been through? I'm shocked." When Lena began her second speech by thanking Chad, he tweeted, "Dearest @lenadunham YOU COMPLETE ME."

In a story that fascinates me, a former girlfriend of Glee's Mark Salling is suing him for sex-

ual battery. The crux of the case is that Roxanne Gorzela (the plaintiff) claims that she consented to have sex with Mark only if he wore a condom, but he repeatedly had sex without a condom—against her wishes. When she went to his house to express her concern about getting a possible STD from their unprotected trysts, she found him in bed with another woman! She filed a police report after he allegedly grabbed her and pushed her to the ground. And I bet when he did so, he was still not wearing a condom!

Zac Efron is in the middle of a sex scandal of his own. It all started in NYC where he's shooting a new movie called Are We Officially Dating—and if you have to ask, you're not. A scene was being shot at Fantasy World, a sex shop in the Village. A shadowing paparazzo snapped Zac admiring various dildos. When Efron realized what happened, he allegedly yelled "Cut" and made a mad dash to beg the pap to delete the photos, claiming it would ruin his image. I think he crossed that line when Nicole Kidman peed on him!

I am taking full responsibility for the success of Lucky Guy on Broadway before it even opens. Why? Because right after I told you that Nora Ephron's play would star both Tom Hanks and Peter Scolari, the box office went through the roof. While the show is still opening April 1, its limited run has now been extended to June 16.

This is a perfect segue to our "Ask Billy" question from Larry in Chicago: "I heard that Peter Scolari showed his penis on an episode of 'Girls'. Do you have the scoop on that? I've had a crush on him since Bosom Buddies."

I have the scoop and the penis ... 'cause that's what I do. Scolari plays the dad of the aforementioned Lena Dunham, who has come home to celebrate her parents' anniversary. While she's out having sex with a boy she knew in school (and annoying him by sticking her finger in his ass to get him aroused—apparently she's only had sex with gay men), her parents are getting amorous in the shower. Scolari slips, falls on the bathroom floor and is knocked out. And when Dunham gets home, she sees her naked father lying on the bathroom floor. And that, kiddies, is what we in showbiz call a comedy! For more laughs, check out the penis on BillyMasters.com.

Because I'm in a jocular mood, I'm gonna slip in another penis. You may remember Thierre Di Castro, the hot guy in the commercial for the dating site Zoosk. He also wielded a leaf blower while shirtless for Old Navy, but he's so much more than that. The sexy Brazilian has also modeled for Calvin Klein and competed in the Mister World and Model Universe pageants. I bring up these credits because I firmly believe that some men should be judged solely on their physical beauty. But I knew that a thong would not be able to contain his massive talents for long. Enter Showtime's Shameless—which has already given us the pendulous penis of Zach McGowan. Last year, Thierre showed up and showed off his ass. Thank God someone had the good sense to get him out of his clothing—at least for his final scene. The results were as explosive, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm slipping in two penises, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Now I ask you, who else could bring you penises in both a comedy and a drama? I'm like the Golden Globes of columnists. That's the kinda in-depth coverage you'll find every week on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that is also multilingual. If you'd like some personal contact with my foreign tongue, send a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Hilary Swank reveals to Lena that she, too, is a big fan. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Opera soprano Patricia Racette. Photo by Devon Cass

## Opera's Racette has cabaret CD

Opera soprano Patricia Racette has released her first crossover CD, *Diva On Detour*, on GPR Records.

The CD—which is available for sale nationwide, download from iTunes and the Android market and at [www.GPRRecords.com](http://www.GPRRecords.com)—marks Racette's first venture into the world of cabaret. She sings such classics as "I Got Rhythm" and "The Man That Got Away."

Racette has appeared in the most acclaimed opera houses of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera House, La Scala, Paris Opera and the Bayerische Staatsoper.

## Queer Fest America benefit for BYC Feb. 15

Queer Fest America is presenting a benefit for Broadway Youth Center Friday, Feb. 15, at 9 p.m. at The Mutiny Chicago, 2428 N. Western Ave.

Among the scheduled performers are international queer hip-hop artist/rapper Ripparachie, Kara O'Connor, Cold Country, Salty Peters, Kez Ban and others.

Attendees must be 21. See "Queer Fest America Benefits Broadway Youth Center (Education Dept.)" on Facebook.



Rapper Ripparachie will perform at the BYC benefit, Feb. 15. Press photo

## Chicago Gay Men's Chorus has 'Deep Love' Feb. 7

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will present "Deep Love"—a night of the best of Broadway, the American songbook and cabaret—Thursday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m. at The Drake's Palm Court, 140 E. Walton St.

The performance will feature 18 members of the chorus under the musical direction of Jeff-nominated musical director James Morehead.

Signature drinks feature Halsted Vodka, who support LGBT causes by giving back 15 percent of its profits to organizations such as Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

Tickets to the event are \$35-\$45; see [www.cgmc.org](http://www.cgmc.org).

# Ride for AIDS Chicago seeks record numbers

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC) celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2013—with lofty goals for participating riders, crew members and fundraising.

Richard Cordova, director of athletic events at the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), which produces the annual 200-mile bicycle ride, said organizers are hoping to raise \$751,000, with 316 riders and 102 crew members.



Richard Cordova at the 2012 Ride for AIDS. Photo by Ross Forman

The 2012 event, held in July, generated \$638,000 with 275 riders and 72 crew.

"We are excited to continue expanding both our fundraising and training programs," Cordova said. "We will be adding new content for fundraising, going digital with YouTube videos on how to fundraise, and adding fundraising incentives. Our training program is expanding with the addition of longer indoor training sessions, a training ride leader training program, and we have a certified U.S. Cycling coach on our executive committee helping to coordinate our training program."

To date, the RFAC has raised about \$1.5 million to support HIV services in Chicago.

"We've raised over half of that amount in the past three years," Cordova said. "I think this event is just starting to hit its stride. We'll see this event hit \$1 million [raised] in one year very soon."

Cordova, 34, who lives in Andersonville, has been aligned with the Ride for six years. He also has run marathons in the past for local charities.

For the second year in a row, James Sumers was the top RFAC fund-raiser. He raised more than \$25,000, and another \$25,000 for the annual AIDS LifeCycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

"The biggest surprise was the sense of community that really developed in 2012," Cordova said. "It started in 2011, but really cemented itself [in 2012]. We became one large extended, quirky, crazy, and loving family. Just like a true family—sometimes you love 'em, sometimes you hate 'em, but in the end, you couldn't bear to live without them."

Registration for the 2013 RFAC started last September, and the group's marketing push kicks



Last year's Ride for AIDS. Photo from Ride for AIDS Chicago

into full gear in January.

"This year, we are excited to add a fundraising incentive program," Cordova said. "Most of our participants do RFAC for the cause and the challenge. They certainly don't expect incentives, but we think it will be a nice way to show our

thanks for all of their efforts."

The kickoff party for the 2013 Ride is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 27, 4-7 p.m. at Diversey River Bowl, 2211 W. Diversey Ave.

For more information on the Ride For AIDS Chicago, go to [www.rideforaids.org](http://www.rideforaids.org).

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## LIVING TRUSTS - A SMART WAY TO PROTECT YOUR ASSETS

More and more LGBT couples, even those in a civil union, are using revocable living trusts as a way to efficiently pass on their assets to their partners and to ensure that their partners will handle their personal affairs if they ever become incapacitated.

A revocable living trust is a legal arrangement where a person executes a written trust document naming themselves as the trustee of their own trust and, while alive, they transfer their property to their trust so that the trust holds legal title to all their assets.

The document creating the trust allows the person making the trust (maker) to at any time dissolve the trust, change the trust, or take assets from the trust; always retaining complete control of their property.

The trust document can provide for the appointment of a successor trustee (surviving LGBT lover/spouse) who would only act upon the death or disability of the maker of the trust.

A living trust offers the following advantages:

\* **Keeping control.** While the maker is alive he or she has the right to the income generated by the trust and sole use of the trust property, such as the house and bank accounts. Upon his or her death the assets of the trust could then be distributed.

\* **Providing for Disability.** Should the maker of the trust become physically or mentally incompetent the living trust can serve as the framework for the management of the maker's assets and property.

\* **Reducing delay and cost.** The living trust can act like a will and dispose of the maker's property upon death. The property of the trust is not subject to probate proceedings, thus avoiding court supervision.

\* **Preserving Privacy.** Trusts can also serve individuals who don't want an inheritance to be made public. It avoids problems of friends and family from going into the Probate Clerk's office to look at the file on their estate and see who got what.

\* **Avoiding ancillary probate.** Someone who owned a vacation house in Lakeside, Michigan, and a condominium in Chicago could have probate in both those states unless they used a living trust. When a living trust is combined with a durable power of attorney, a non-disabled LGBT partner can transfer all of the disabled person's property to that person's living trust to avoid probate at death.

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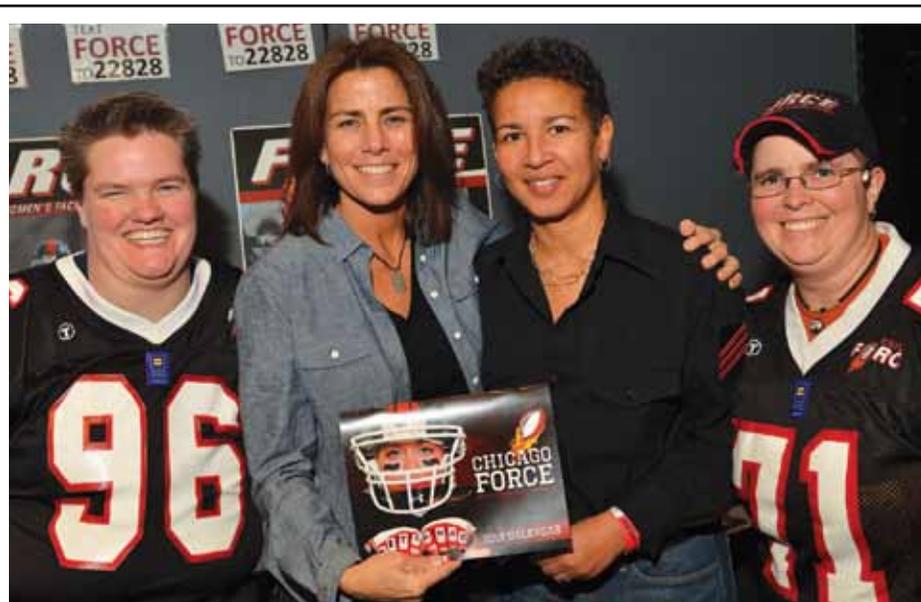
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Chicago Force members at last year's CMSA women's social. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald/Mystic Images Photography

## CMSA women's social party Jan. 26 at Joe's Bar

The third annual CMSA women's social party will take place Saturday, Jan. 26, 7-10 p.m., at Joe's Bar, 940 W. Weed St.

Among the slated performers are singer Mindy Bartlett, comedian Judy Fabjance, singer Daphne Willis, and Amy Kelly & The bill Ande Band. There will also be a date auction with members of the Chicago Force women's football team and the Chicago Women's Rugby Football Club.

CMSA members are admitted for free (and get free pizza and two drink tickets); non-CMSA individuals pay \$5. All of the door charges will go to benefit The Chicago Force and Fabjance.

See [www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa\\_new](http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa_new).

## Sports shorts

In an interview with Fox Sports, professional football player **Brendon Ayanbadejo** said there are definitely gay men in the NFL, according to Queerty.com. However, the marriage-equality advocate added that the percentage is probably lower than in the general population: "Eventually, I think there will be someone [who comes out]. But the number [of gay players] is so minute. If they say the regular population is 7 to 9 percent [gay], in the NFL it might be 3 percent. I could be completely wrong, but I've played for so long and so many others have."

In the area of soccer, **Elton John**—a big fan of the game—reportedly called the Celtics, a Scottish team, after it beat Barcelona, widely regarded as the best in the world, according to Fox Sports. John, 65, was once chairman of the Watford team in the 1970s and '80s. Another fan, Rod Stewart, was spotted crying after this historic victory.

# Uncle Poodle and the criminalization of HIV

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

On Jan. 15, The Wrap and other entertainment media outlets reported that Lee Thompson—better known as “Uncle Poodle” on the TLC reality series *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*—had tested positive for HIV. Thompson claims to have pressed charges against his former boyfriend for giving him the virus. The ex, who has not been named, is allegedly serving a five-year prison sentence.

In an interview with Atlanta’s *Fenuxe Magazine*, the openly gay Thompson said he hoped to use his newfound star power to teach kids about safe sex. He has also stated, in a video, that he hopes to produce his own reality series.

“I would have been cool with his HIV status if he had been honest,” Thompson was quoted as having said in the *Fenuxe* interview. “I don’t have an issue with the disease. I would have known how to protect myself.”

Reactions to Thompson’s announcement have been mixed, with some applauding his openness and honesty. Others questioned if the story was even true, due to the quick turnaround (a few months) from accusation to conviction.

Sean Strub, founder of *Poz Magazine*, took a decidedly different view. In a *Poz* blog titled “Uncle Poodle Presses Charges, Partner Sentenced to Five Years,” Strub responded directly to the Thompson quote: “No, Lee, you already knew how to protect yourself. You chose not to and now you’re making it someone else’s fault.”

Criminalizing people with HIV has become a



Uncle Poodle from *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*. Image from Spirit Day Facebook page

serious problem, according to Strub. “Years ago, when a gay man tested positive, he didn’t immediately look for someone to blame,” Strub said in an email to *Windy City Times*. “The LGBT community has ‘moved on’ from HIV and AIDS to other issues. There is no sense of community responsibility and very little sense of community support. There is also the need to defend oneself against the accusations that come with testing positive: ‘What, were you doing crystal or something? How stupid could you be?’”

Strub admitted he doesn’t know the complete story regarding Thompson’s relationship with his ex, or what moved him to press charges. WCT contacted TLC requesting an interview with Thompson. The network has not responded.

“If Thompson comes to the conclusion that he

might have been coerced or rushed into making a decision about prosecution that he is now questioning, I hope he’ll get in touch,” Strub said. “It would be amazing and powerful if he were to become an advocate to educate people about why HIV criminalization is hurting public health, an injustice and a grave danger to all who value the freedom of consenting adults to engage in sexual behaviors with each other as they choose.”

Strub urges people to support Sero Project, a non-profit with the goal of destigmatizing people with HIV. “HIV Is Not a Crime,” a video Strub produced, can be viewed at the site [www.seroproject.com](http://www.seroproject.com) along with other videos and additional information on this issue.

## One More Lesbian merges with tello

One More Lesbian (OML), the largest online distributor of LGBT film/TV content, announced a successful merger with Chicago-based tello Films, a provider of original online lesbian video content, according to a press release. While tello Films will retain its brand and identity, its entire catalog will now migrate and solely exist under the OML marquee.

Viewers will be able to enjoy the content of the site’s new premium section for the minimal fee of \$3.99 a month. In addition, OML will now co-produce new tello Films projects.

## Tegan and Sara’s new CD out Jan. 29

Lesbian sister duo Tegan and Sara will release their latest studio album, *Heartthrob*,

Jan. 29 on Warner Bros., according to a press release. Also, fresh off performances on both *The Late Show With David Letterman* and *Conan*, Tegan and Sara will be performing on ABC’s *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* Jan. 31.

People can pre-order *Heartthrob* at <http://teganandsara.warnerbrosrecords.com>.

## Gershwin show to benefit AIDS Legal Council

On Jan. 27 at 7 p.m., Chicago musician Justin Hayford will host “The Gershwins in Love,” an evening of classic Gershwin love songs, at Davenport’s, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave.

All proceeds raised from “The Gershwins in Love” shows go directly to AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. Attendees simply pay whatever they like at the end of the show.

# CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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

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