

YVONNE
WELBON
ON HER
RUTH ELLIS
FILM

PAGE 17

WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
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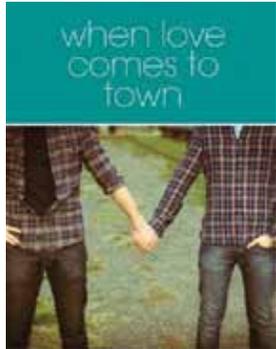


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Going to the chapel...

Check out our special Gay and Lesbian Weddings section, including editorial, book reviews, opinion, statistics, and business listings. Photo by Dawn E. Roscoe from the book Capturing Love: The Art of Lesbian & Gay Wedding Photography.

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when love
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Image of Yvonne Welbon from Welbon; photo of Mary-Louise Parker by Jerry Nunn; cover of When Loves Comes To Town; photo of Steve Van Kuiken from Jacqueline J. Sloane



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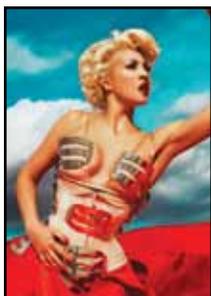
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ROAD TO RECOVERY

Read the emotional tale of Terry Neal (left), who is dealing with a nightmarish incident from his time with the U.S. Navy.

Photo from Neal



Russian singer Sasha Gradiva weighs in on gay fans and LGBT rights.

PR photo



Bent Nights looks at concerts by Ezra Furman (above) and Imagine Dragons.

Photo by Vern Hester

FLOWER POWER



See photos from the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, which runs through March 17 at Navy Pier.

Photo by Andrew Davis

COMMON SENSE

Common Threads held its 10th-anniversary fundraiser at Soldier Field.

UNDER WRAPS

Titillation was the name of the game at Her HRC Chicago's burlesque event.

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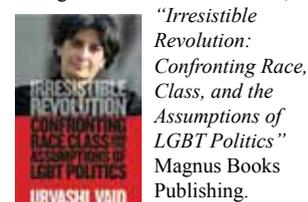
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History in the high court

Part 2: The presidential punch

How strong a position did the Obama administration take in its briefs on the Supreme Court marriage cases—and can it make a difference?

The following is part of a series to prepare readers for what to expect March 26-27 when the U.S. Supreme Court takes up the marriage-equality cases.

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

LGBT legal activists and their allies have nothing but praise for the Obama administration's decision to submit briefs in both marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this month. The administration was obliged to file only in *U.S. v. Windsor*, the case testing the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). That's because the U.S. is a party to that case, defending the administration's obligation to enforce DOMA.

But the administration's brief in the DOMA case made clear it wants DOMA ruled unconstitutional and—in a brief it did not have to submit—it also made clear it thinks Proposition 8 should be declared unconstitutional.

The Proposition 8 brief came in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the case testing the constitutionality of California's 2008 voter-approved ban on marriage licenses for same-sex couples. The U.S. is not a party to the lawsuit that challenged that law. The fact the administration chose to submit a brief anyway is being hailed by many as an important political gesture, backing up President Obama's commitment to equality for LGBT people with the power of his position.

But did the briefs go as far as they could to support marriage equality? And, could the briefs have any real likelihood of influencing any justice on the court?

What the briefs said

As is custom, Solicitor General Donald Verrilli filed the administration's briefs in both cases, and he did so with several of his staff, including Stuart Delery, the openly gay head the DOJ's civil division.

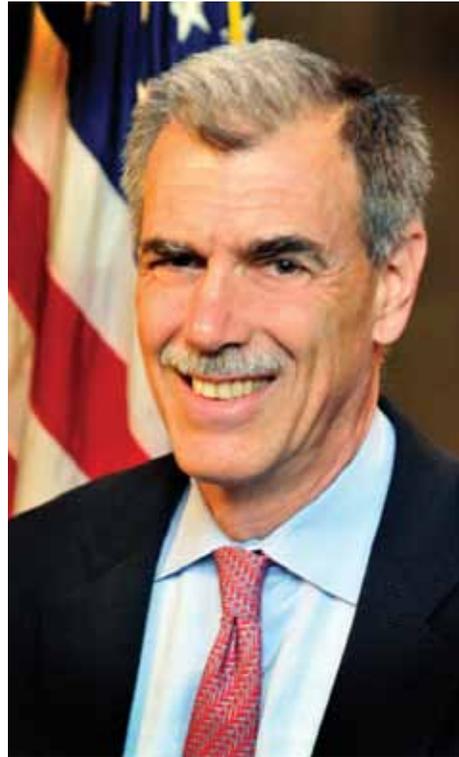
In the DOMA case, the DOJ argued that Section 3 of DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the constitution. Section 3 prohibits the federal government from recognizing marriage licenses of same-sex couples for the purpose of any federal benefit.

DOJ also argued, as the Second Circuit appeals court ruled in its decision in *Windsor*, that courts should subject laws which disadvantage citizens because of their sexual orientation to a "heightened scrutiny," a much more stringent level of review than has ever been applied to such laws before. And it argued that DOMA fails to pass muster under heightened scrutiny, a point first raised by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's famous letter advising House Speaker John Boehner that the administration would enforce but no longer defend DOMA as constitutional.

The brief in the Prop 8 case takes essentially the same positions—Prop 8 violates equal protection, it should be subjected to heightened scrutiny, and it fails to pass heightened scrutiny. And much has been made of the fact that the brief also noted that seven other states have laws similar to that of California, making civil unions or domestic partnerships possible for gay couples, but not marriage. (Those states are Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, and Rhode Island.)

What the briefs didn't say

DOJ did not argue for strict scrutiny—the



Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. Photo from the Department of Justice

toughest level of judicial review. And it did not argue that DOMA is unconstitutional if judged under the most basic level of scrutiny, rational basis.

The level of scrutiny matters.

Generally speaking, there are three levels: rational, heightened, and strict. Until the Second Circuit decision in *Windsor*, most courts, including the Supreme Court, have examined laws that disfavor LGBT people against the easy rational basis standard. To pass rational basis, a law must simply be rationally related to achieving a legitimate governmental interest. The intermediate level of scrutiny—heightened scrutiny—requires that a law must be "substantially related" to achieving an "important" governmental interest. And strict scrutiny requires that a law be "narrowly tailored" to achieve a "compelling" governmental interest.

Laws affecting people based on race and national origin are examined under strict scrutiny and have very rarely passed this test. (A notable exception being an executive order requiring internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II, with the compelling reason being identified as national security.)

As the solicitor general's briefs noted, the Supreme Court has yet to identify what level of scrutiny should apply to laws that disfavor citizens based on sexual orientation. In recent cases (overturning an anti-gay ballot initiative in *Romer v. Evans* and striking down sodomy laws in *Lawrence v. Texas*), he noted, the court applied rational basis and said the laws did not pass.

Verrilli's brief in the DOMA case states explicitly, "The government does not challenge the constitutionality of DOMA Section 3 under deferential rational-basis review...." And it noted that the government has previously defended Section 3 under rational basis review.

"The Justice Department argues in its brief that DOMA is unconstitutional if heightened scrutiny is applied, but valid if rational basis review is used," explained long-time gay legal activist and scholar Nan Hunter in a March 4 blogpost at TheNation.com, "unless the Court uses heightened rational basis, in which case DOMA is unconstitutional after all."

So, the solicitor general's DOMA brief doesn't

concede on rational basis. It just tries to focus the court's attention on the worthiness of applying a more stringent form of review. And it gives credit for the idea to a former U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Reagan appointee Sandra Day O'Connor. In *Lawrence*, concurring Justice O'Connor suggested the court consider a "more searching form" of rational basis review when a law is "directed toward gay persons as a class." The Solicitor General's *Windsor* brief said DOMA, "would fail" such an analysis. And his *Hollingsworth* brief sticks with the mantra that Prop 8 fails heightened scrutiny.

The bottom line:

"The most important outcome of the DOMA case for the future of gay rights law," says Hunter, "is that the Court is likely to declare itself on which standard should be applied to any law that discriminates based on sexual orientation." The administration is arguing for a middle ground that could have huge consequences for LGBT people, making any laws aimed at disadvantaging them much harder to survive.

Expert and activist reaction

Ted Boutros, one of the lead attorneys for the same-sex couples challenging Prop 8, told reporters in a telephone conference call February 28 that he was "extremely pleased" with the Obama administration's brief in that case. He said the brief is "powerful" and places the "full weight" of the government behind their arguments against the ban. The administration's urging heightened scrutiny for laws treating people differently based on sexual orientation, he said, is a "clear path toward marriage equality across the United States," even beyond the seven states similarly situated as California.

Heightened scrutiny, said Boutros, "is extremely important in other contexts where gay and lesbian Americans are discriminated against."

"And the United States government has said in its brief to the U.S. Supreme Court that this discrimination cannot be tolerated," said Boutros. "It's extremely important."

Boutros acknowledged that the solicitor general's brief did not, as the Prop 8 challengers' brief does, argue that there is a "fundamental right" to marriage. Laws that infringe upon a fundamental right must also be reviewed using strict scrutiny. But he reiterated that he could say only positive things about the administration's brief and added, "it can only make our case that much stronger."

Mary Bonauto, civil-rights director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), said LGBT legal activists have "all sought strict scrutiny, starting with *Gill*." GLAD's *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*, coupled with the *Massachusetts v. Health and Human Services* case by the Commonwealth, were the first to take on DOMA; and the first to succeed all the way through the federal appeals court. GLAD also had *Pedersen v. OPM* in the Second Circuit and Lambda Legal had *Golinski v. OPM* in the Ninth Circuit.

"Golinski and Pedersen made headway on this," noted Bonauto, "and the Second Circuit in *Windsor* became the first appellate court to find heightened scrutiny for sexual orientation classifications."

However, Bonauto and others pushing for the end to DOMA and Prop 8 are not critical of the administration for seeking heightened scrutiny, rather than strict scrutiny.

"They could obviously have been more ambitious and far-reaching, but that doesn't mean they hedged," said Laurence Tribe, the widely respected Harvard constitutional law expert. Tribe argued against sodomy laws in the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* case and filed what many consider the most influential brief against sodomy laws in the *Lawrence* case. He called the Obama administration's briefs "excellent" and said they "took reality into account, as I think they should have."

At least one former Supreme Court insider suggested it's actually a good thing the administration took a middle road. Rather than facing the

options in Prop 8, for instance, of "marriage for all" or "marriage for just California," said the source, the administration brief in Prop 8 offers the court a third option—marriage for eight states.

And Bonauto is quick to point out that the solicitor general's brief on Prop 8 represented the first time DOJ officials have submitted a legal brief seeking "the right to marry." In other cases, she noted, the DOJ has sought the right for equal treatment of same-sex couples who were already married. And its discussion in the Prop 8 brief, said Bonauto, "clearly" addresses the California ban "in ways that could affect the legal debate beyond California."

Beyond the briefs

As much as legal experts like to focus on the language of the law and on finely tuned arguments on scrutiny, legal standing, and the constitution itself, the justices do not hear cases such as *Hollingsworth* and *Windsor* in a vacuum. Justices read, they speak in public and engage in Q&As, they submit to interviews, and they are aware of public opinion. They are obviously aware of the extraordinary mound of friend-of-the-court briefs piled up on either side in both cases. They almost certainly read former President Bill Clinton's op-ed in the *Washington Post* March 7, explaining his regret for having signed DOMA into law in 1996.

"I know now that, even worse than providing an excuse for discrimination, the law is itself discriminatory. It should be overturned," wrote Clinton.

It would also be hard to imagine that any of the justices missed the splash of news four months ago when three states adopted marriage equality and one rejected a ban on it. There was considerable publicity last May, too, when President Obama said he supports the right of gay couples to marry. So, to some extent, the Solicitor General's briefs just make the president's already known support for marriage equality formal and particular to the two legal battles here.

But these two cases also come to the Supreme Court at an especially volatile juncture. The justices must issue a decision soon in a case challenging the constitutionality of college admission policies tailored to achieve a racially diverse student population. They have been asked to review a case concerning state regulation of medications to induce abortion. And many believe a conservative majority might be on the verge of issuing a decision that could trigger a civil rights backlash—by striking down a section the Voting Rights Act, a 48-year-old law to prohibit discriminatory practices against racial minorities at the voting booth. The section in question, akin to the Prop 8 case, considers whether states have a right to determine their own laws.

"The Roberts court stands on the brink of making an error of historic proportions" in that regard, predicted New York Times veteran Supreme Court reporter Linda Greenhouse.

If she's right, it will be a big conservative push, with a key swing voter—Justice Anthony Kennedy (who led the majority in *Romer* and *Lawrence*)—pushing once again with the conservatives. In 2010, Kennedy led them with the controversial *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* decision, allowing unrestricted independent campaign expenditures by corporations and unions. And last year, Kennedy led the dissent against the Affordable Care Act case.

On the other hand, Justice Kennedy joined an 8-1 majority in 2010 that said a Washington State law requiring the names and addresses of petition signers be made public does not violate the First Amendment. And he joined a 5-4 majority that same year in *Christian Legal v. Martinez*, ruling that religious beliefs may not always trump policies seeking to ban discrimination.

Read this entire article at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Marriage-cases-History-in-the-high-court-part-two/41881.html.

Part one of the series is at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Marriage-cases-History-in-the-high-court-/41776.html.

Obama signs VAWA, singles out gay center

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In signing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) March 7, President Obama singled out a number of activists on the issue, including the head of an LGBT anti-violence group.

"Today is about all the Americans who face discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity when they seek help," said Obama, pointing out Sharon Stapel, executive director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project, in the audience of people attending the bill signing ceremony at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C.

A White House press release on the ceremony included Stapel's biography among those of six key participants on stage for the signing. The bio noted that Stapel also sits on the LGBT advisory committees to the New York Police Department and the New York City Family Court.

The bill reauthorizes and expands the federal VAWA, a program that was first established in 1994 to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. The bill to reauthorize the program prohibits recipients of funding under the program from discriminating against victims because of their sexual orientation.

It also includes funding for "underserved" populations "who face barriers in accessing and using victim services because of various reasons, including because of sexual orientation and gender identity." And it provides that certain grants under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act can be used for "developing,

enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence ... whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Opposition to the inclusion of sexual orientation language and to language expanded protections for women on tribal land and women immigrants developed in the Republican-controlled House last year, delaying the bill. The House leadership offered a bill excluding the expanded provisions.

The White House issued a statement last May, identifying Obama's objections to the House bill, including that it failed to include "language that would prohibit discrimination against LGBT victims in VAWA grant programs." The statement indicated that, if Congress sends President Obama the House version of the legislation, his senior advisors "would recommend that he veto the bill."

With the start of a new session of Congress, House Republicans again tried to thwart an inclusive reauthorization bill. But supporters of the expanded legislation eventually prevailed and cleared the new bill, reauthorizing the program for another five years, with funding at \$659 million per year.

A report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs found that almost 45 percent of LGBT people and people with HIV who sought help from domestic violence shelters in 2010 were turned away because of "institutionalized anti-LGBTQH discrimination." The report indi-

cated it had received 5,052 reports of "intimate partner violence" in 2010, representing a 38 percent increase over 2009. (The report also attributed much of this increase in reporting was due to the LA Gay & Lesbian Center having received funding for its program against domestic violence program.)

Forty-six percent of the LGBT intimate partner violence reports came from women, 37 percent from men, and 4 percent from transgender individuals. Eleven percent of those reporting to a National Coalition center did not identify their gender or gender identity and two percent fit other categories.

Thirty-two percent identified as gay, 28 percent as lesbian, 9 percent as bisexual, and 8 percent as heterosexual. The remaining 23 percent did not identify their sexual orientation or chose other categories.

Only 7 percent of the victims, male and female, called for police support, a dramatic drop from 2009, when nearly 22 percent called for police support. Nearly 55 percent of LGBT victims who sought a court order of protection were denied.

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Study: 900,000 LGBT immigrants

A new study estimates that there are approximately 267,000 LGBT-identified individuals among the adult undocumented immigrant population and an estimated 637,000 LGBT-identified individuals among the adult documented immigrant population, according to a press release. The report also finds that approximately 71 percent of undocumented LGBT adults are Hispanic and 15 percent of undocumented LGBT adults are Asian or Pacific Islander. The study is at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBTImmigrants-Gates-Mar-2013.pdf>.

Queen Elizabeth II backing LGBT rights

Queen Elizabeth II has signed an historic pledge to promote gay rights and gender equality, according to the Daily Mail.

She signed the Commonwealth Charter, which lays out the core values of the 54 member states. One particular line in this document is making headlines because some

people have interpreted it as the first time the monarch will openly support gay rights in her 61-year reign.

The line is "We are implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination, whether rooted in gender, race, colour, creed, political belief or other grounds." The "other grounds" is intended to refer to sexuality.

However, others have wondered if this interpretation is a stretch.

The queen missed a daytime Commonwealth Day event as she continued her recovery from a bout of gastroenteritis, according to the New York Daily News.

FBI in McMillian case

The FBI will investigate the homicide of Black openly gay Clarksdale, Miss., mayoral candidate Marco McMillian as a possible hate crime, according to USA Today. On Feb. 27, his body was found naked, bruised, swollen and burned near the Mississippi River; the Coahoma County Sheriff's Department subsequently charged 22-year-old Lawrence Reed with murder. Mississippi has a hate-crime law that covers race, religion and gender; however, it doesn't extend to sexual orientation.

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Protesters outside state Rep. La Shawn Ford's office in Oak Park. Photo from Equality Illinois

Pressure builds on lawmakers with marriage vote imminent

BY KATE SOSIN

With a final vote on legalizing same-sex marriage possible any day now, activists on both sides of the issue are turning up pressure on undecided lawmakers.

An Illinois House vote on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act has been predicted as early as this week, with advocates stating that a mid-week vote appeared most likely. Next week is also possible, although LGBT leaders said they want to see a vote as soon as possible.

The constituents of undecided lawmakers have been inundated with calls in recent days, and prominent supporters for the bill have been turning up pressure.

If the bill passes in the House, it is expected to become law. Gov. Pat Quinn strongly supports the measure and has vowed to sign it into law. He drove home that message in a statement released to supporters March 11.

"Marriage equality is coming to Illinois—and if we all do our part, we can pass this historic legislation as soon as this week," Quinn wrote.

Quinn noted that four years ago, passing civil unions seemed like a long shot, only to later become law.

"But that was just the first step in our journey toward treating all families equally under the law in Illinois," Quinn said. "It's clear that Illinois is ready to take the next step forward and secure marriage equality for all."

Lawmakers who appeared on the fence have received most of the attention over the past few days.

Rep. La Shawn Ford was the target of a March 11 rally outside his 8th District office in Oak Park. Demonstrators called on Ford to vote in favor of equal marriage. Ford voted for civil unions

and was endorsed by Equality Illinois but has not made public statements on the measure.

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, said that the overwhelming sense in past weeks is that the time for equal marriage has come.

"People—including many who have previously stayed quiet in their support for marriage—are coming out and demanding that the lawmakers do the right thing and do it now: it's time to recognize the freedom to marry," said Cherkasov, in a statement to Windy City Times.

But pressure in Ford's district has come from both sides. Oak Park residents have reported receiving robocalls from James Meeks, a former Ill. Senator long opposed to same-sex marriage. On Meeks' Facebook page, a handful of people disparaged the calls.

State Rep. Greg Harris, sponsor of the bill, said LGBT advocates need counter the onslaught of anti-gay calls ringing throughout the state.

"Our opponents are pulling out all the stops," Harris said. "You can see it in the rhetoric, it's getting very heated."

Harris urged supporters not to assume their lawmakers will support the bill, and to call them and ask them to vote yes, even if they feel confident in where their lawmaker stands.

Asked if sponsors were close to securing the 60 "yes" votes needed to pass the bill, Harris simply said, "very."

Steve Brown, a spokesperson for House speaker Michael Madigan declined to offer a timeline on the vote, stating that would be up to Harris who was still working to secure the needed 60 votes.

He said that Madigan could reach out to lawmakers to ask for their vote on the bill but said, "I'm not sure they're at that point."

HIV/AIDS scholars stage protest workshop at media conference

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

Alexandra Juhasz, a professor of media studies at Pitzer College, began her panel presentation at the Society for Media and Cinema Studies (SCMS) 2013 conference by citing many of the recent AIDS documentaries that have been released over the past two years.

Prominent films, such as *Vito*, *How to Survive a Plague* and *We Were Here* all explore the LGBT community's various responses to the first decade of the AIDS epidemic. These stories, made primarily by a generation reflecting on itself, were being shared and heard, she said.

However, Juhasz had to shout to be heard—because the workshop was being held in the conference's registration room, an annex to a larger banquet hall within the Drake Hotel, where the conference is being hosted.

On March 8, panelists presented a protest workshop, "Undetectable: An Unauthorized Conversation about HIV/AIDS and Media Studies," after their initial proposal for a workshop at the conference had been rejected.

"I think the real thing is about wanting to have a conversation even if it wasn't in the official program," said Marty Fink, a professor of women's studies at Concordia University. "We're wanting to draw attention into the ways in which we're not talking about [HIV/AIDS], and then not getting accepted proved our initial thesis."

Fink said that if their proposal had been accepted, then institutional funding channels such as the colleges and universities—where many of the participants of the conference work—would have been available for travel and accommodation.

Juhasz spoke about the historical connection between AIDS/HIV activism and silence.

"I understood this [rejection] as a direct attack on me, my friends and colleagues, the dead, our history, and the very media movements and studies that we make and made in response," she said.

"They silenced us because they didn't know that AIDS, that our analysis of it mattered to us, to them or to SCMS," she added. "Are we looking at different barometers?"

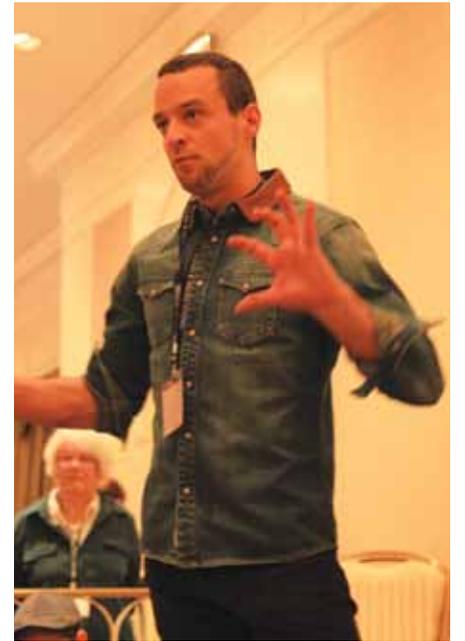
The panelists often discussed the generational divide between those who were impacted by HIV/AIDS in the '80s and '90s, and those who are impacted by it today.

"We need to stop seeing HIV/AIDS as something that happened in the past," said Fink, whose work examines art and social media of queer, trans youth communities. Fink said that the work is not just about bridging different generation or communities, but also about realizing where those communities are even located. She cited people who are coming of age having always grown up with HIV for the first time.

Filmmaker and media scholar David Oscar Harvey urged participants of the workshop to not just think of HIV/AIDS as an issue of the past but one of the present.

"What it means to be an HIV-positive person now is a lot different from what it used to be," he said.

Harvey cited the criminalization law in Iowa that requires HIV-positive people to disclose their status with anyone they have a sexual encounter with, as well as the lack of representation of HIV-positive people in the media.



David Oscar Harvey at the workshop. Photo by Matthew C. Clark

"In a certain way it needs to be normalized," he added.

After the three panelists spoke, the floor was opened to attendees to talk about these issues as a group. Parties then broke into smaller groups and filmed their conversations as a way to document the experience, and create some of the representations in media they'd like to see.

The original workshop proposal included scholars and artists who are experts in their fields, including Bishu Gosh, Gregg Bordowitz and Tom Waugh.

While SCMS had rejected the proposal, it was supportive of the efforts of the panelists, and respectful of the action as a form of activism. According to Juhasz the unofficial event was offered a space to meet, but chose to carry on as an action.

When reached for comment, SCMS President Christine Holmlund told Windy City Times that the society has been actively involved in LGBT-related causes, including HIV/AIDS, since at least 1984.

"I was pleased to be able to plug 'Undetectable' at an official SCMS event, the memorial for Alex Doty, renowned queer scholar and all-around great guy, on Wednesday, as something folks could immediately do as scholars and as activists. I'm thrilled there was such great turnout," said Holmlund, who is also one of the founding members of the queer caucus.

HBHC renames health practice

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) has announced that its Triad Health Practice will be renamed Aris Health, effective March 25. The facility will be moving to 3245 N. Halsted St. Aris Health will provide pediatric and family medicine in addition to adult medical care, according to a press release.

There will be an opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Aris Health March 25 at 8 a.m. at its new location. Those in need of more info about Aris can call 773-296-8400.

This announcement follows HBHC's stated intentions to relocate Triad, announced last year.

Journalist Jose Antonio Vargas speaks at Elmhurst College

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Life as an undocumented immigrant was the theme of a lecture by openly gay journalist/activist Jose Antonio Vargas March 7 at Elmhurst College's Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel.

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for his coverage (he shared the award with other journalists) of the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech, Ternus revealed that he was an undocumented immigrant in a New York Times Magazine essay, "My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant," in summer 2011.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Vargas came to the United States in 1993 when he was 12 years old. His mother—whom he hasn't seen in 20 years—sent him to live with his grandparents in California to give him a better life. Vargas didn't discover that his green card was fake until he tried to get his learner's permit at the DMV when he was 16 years old. He was turned away for having false documents. From that point, Vargas had to hide his true identity to avoid being deported.

Vargas finished high school and graduated from San Francisco State University—he attended college with the help of a private scholarship—majoring in political science and Black studies. Since graduating from college, Vargas has written for a number of publications, including The Washington Post, Rolling Stone and The New Yorker. The daily journal Politico named him one of the "50 Politicos to Watch" in 2007. Currently, Vargas runs Define American, a nonprofit organization that brings new voices to the immigration conversation.

Following words of welcome and an introduction by Venkatesh Gopal, assistant professor of physics at Elmhurst College, Vargas told the approximately 300 attendees that he couldn't believe his name was on the same pamphlet as former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. (Vargas and O'Connor are Elmhurst College's Rudolf G. Schade Lecture series speakers this spring.)

Vargas said that he doesn't see himself as an activist or an advocate or a leader because he hasn't earned those distinctions. He does define himself as a storyteller, filmmaker and writer.

"I think that remembering history is so important when we talk about immigration," said Vargas. He said that between 1892 and 1954 about 12 million undocumented white people

came to the United States across the Atlantic Ocean. These individuals, Vargas added, were treated with respect and welcomed into the United States.

Nearly 60 years later, another group of about 12 million undocumented immigrants are being treated in an entirely different manner, Vargas said, adding, "We are dealing with two cornerstone questions. What does U.S. foreign policy and trade agreements such as NAFTA have to do with immigration, and why do we frame immigration as a problem and not an opportunity?"

Since speaking out about his undocumented status Vargas said he receives about 15 to 20 pieces of hate mail every day.

He then told his story beginning with his first impressions of the United States, which included the Nancy Kerrigan incident and the O.J. Simpson trial. Vargas said that was very confusing since he thought of this country in terms of Michael Jackson and Baywatch.

Vargas talked about his attempt to get a learner's permit at the DMV and his grandfather's angry reaction when Vargas went home and asked his grandfather about his documents. During that conversation, Vargas' grandfather told him he was an undocumented immigrant and that he would have to live in the shadows and earn a living through under the table jobs.

When Vargas was 18, he revealed that he was gay to his entire U.S. history class after watching a documentary that included Harvey Milk saying, "If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door." Vargas said that living with two secrets was difficult and since he couldn't reveal that he was undocumented he had to tell people about his sexual orientation.

In order to get hired as a writer, Vargas used a fake Social Security card. He also noted that he got a driver's license after he researched the laws in each state to determine the best place for someone like him to obtain a license.

Over the years, Vargas thought that if he worked hard enough and achieved enough he would be rewarded with citizenship. Throughout his 20s, Vargas continued to write, interviewing many notable people, while still hiding that he was an undocumented immigrant from all but a few people he trusted.

Vargas said the turning point was when he interviewed Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg in 2010 for the New Yorker Magazine. During their conversation, Zuckerberg asked Vargas where he was from. For Vargas, this question brought up many issues. A year later, Vargas



Jose Antonio Vargas and Annie Werly. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

decided to tell his story as an undocumented immigrant in the same publication. Since the article was published, Vargas said he is always wondering when he will get deported, however, he is unafraid of what might happen to him.

The United States is changing, Vargas said. "In 21st-century politics diversity is destiny," said Vargas. "I hope you don't take for granted what you have" as legal citizens of the United States, said Vargas.

During the Q&A session, two young women said they were also undocumented immigrants. Vargas thanked the women and said that it is important for allies to advocate on behalf of undocumented immigrants. Responding to other questions, Vargas said that he is more afraid of not seeing this through and that inclusivity and empathy are important when considering the immigration policies of the United States.

In her emotional closing remarks, Annie Werly—editor-in-chief of *El Arrendajo Azul*, Elmhurst College's multilingual student newspaper—thanked Vargas for speaking at the college. She then revealed that her husband is also an undocumented immigrant.

See www.joseantoniovargas.com and www.defineamerican.com for more information on Vargas and his organization.

Local groups sign immigration letter

Local organizations AIDS Foundation of Chicago, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Illinois Conference UCC Immigration Task Force were among 360 organizations from 28 states signing a letter to President Obama and members of Congress urging that programs and public services that meet basic human needs be included in immigration reform.

"The organizations have asked Congress to create immigration policy that mirrors America's values and promotes economic security for all low-income families," a press release stated.

The full letter is at <https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/371/images/an-open-letter-2013-03-06.pdf>.



The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Suicide Prevention Symposium will be held on:

Saturday, April 20th, 9am

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Basta leads American Society on Aging's LGBT council

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Longtime elder-rights advocate Paula Basta has been selected to a two-year term as chair of the American Society on Aging's (ASA) LGBT Aging Issues Network (LAIN).

Basta has made elderly issues her career for more than 30 years. She is currently the regional director for the Northeast Levy Senior Center, which is a branch of the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services. She has also been involved with LAIN for at least 10 years, and her partner, Terri Worman, the associate state director with AARP in community organizing, served as the previous chair of LAIN.

She said that on top of that she is part of the aging LGBT baby boomer population so part of her interest lies with the fact that these issues will affect her and her partner directly in the coming years.

"We want to age well," she said of all LGBT elders and elders to be.

The American Society on Aging is a national organization that focuses on the breadth of aging issues, including issues specific to minority groups, such as the LGBT population.

"What LAIN does, is works on raising awareness and tries to talk more about the concerns specifically of LGBT elders," Basta said. "About the unique barriers that we face as we try to access mainstream services such as housing, healthcare, long term care, nursing home care, home delivered meals, all the things that help sustain an elderly person as they age."

Basta said that the approach to aging issues is twofold, because there are the current LGBT

elders and the next generation of LGBT elders to consider.

"You have LGBT elders right now, and those are folks who have grown up pre-Stonewall," she explained. "People who have not come out easily, or many times were not out in their work, in their lives or with their families. Or, if they were, they were ostracized. So, that is a population that is not as used to accessing services saying who they are, because it's not been something that's been comfortable in how they grew up."

Basta wants to make sure that the current elders are able to access the services that they need right now, both mainstream serves as well as services specifically available to the LGBT aging population, and at the same time improving access to those services for the next generation.

"We are not going to go back in the closet," she said. "We are going to really want to access senior services and aging services as who we are, whether that be trans, lesbian, bisexual or gay, we are not going to go back."

"We are trying to do education, trying to make sure that we have training, to make sure that we have all the best professionals possible to help us with accessing our services."

Basta believes that the key priorities right now do need to be awareness, education and training.

"We are going to be who we are, and we want to access those services without barriers, without having to explain our relationships, without having to hide anything anymore," she said.

She believes that sensitivity and cultural competency training will go a long way in helping staff members be more comfortable and capable



Paula Basta. Photo courtesy of Basta

of assisting LGBT seniors.

Accessing mainstream services without barriers is a big concern. Despite some cities offering LGBT specific programs and services, many more cities do not have these options.

"I would say, for the most part, mainstream agencies are open to it," she said. "I think at some point there is an awareness ... I think what happens is they try to understand, but if there is not support at the management level then they

aren't going to be able to access the training that is necessary and needed. Some agencies are proactive, already doing LGBT sensitivity training and they are really above the game here, but there are other agencies that it's not on their radar at all."

Basta is particularly hopeful given the Obama Administration's efforts thus far on LGBT aging issues. She points out that there are now national level funding streams available specifically targeted at LGBT elders as well as a national resource center.

At the local level, Chicago has also made strong efforts in aiding LGBT elders. Specifically the SAGE center located at the Center on Halsted, provides services to the community and an LGBT senior housing project is under construction.

She would like to see Illinois adopt legislation similar to California's Older American's Act, which requires training around LGBT senior issues.

"We don't have that in Illinois yet, but I would like to try and work with our legislative leaders to see if we could try and do something like that here," she said.

Basta said that another huge obstacle is the Defense of Marriage Act.

"Since we cannot be married federally, that means social security cannot be shared. ... When LGBT elders end up growing older we are lower as far as the income level goes so we are more susceptible to poverty. I think that you need to look at that as an economic justice issue. We need to see DOMA repealed."

"We want to age well, but we need financial resources in order to do it. Our older straight allies, they are able to get married, they can share their retirements, their social security, all the things that we cannot do yet."

Basta is particularly excited about the 2013 Aging in America Conference, which is being held in Chicago from March 12-16 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Dr.

Basta's officially takes over as chair of LAIN on March 16 and will serve a two-year term.

Activists, Chateau residents protest SRO closure

BY KATE SOSIN

To some city officials the Chateau Hotel has been a nightmare of building code violations and crime, but to a handful of residents protesting its closure, the Chateau is one of the last affordable options in Lakeview.

Residents of the building, 3838 N. Broadway, took to the streets March 7 to protest the closure of the single-room occupancy (SRO) hotel.

The Chateau was purchased after a slew of building-code violations landed the building court. The new owner remains unknown, but 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman previously said the building will be closed and rehabbed into apartments.

Approximately 30 people—representing residents, area clergy and neighborhood organization Lakeview Action Coalition—demonstrated outside the Chateau, asking Cappleman to use his power to stop the closure and keep the building affordable.

Robert Rohdenburg is a gay man who moved to Lakeview in search of a welcoming and diverse neighborhood, he said. He has lived in the Chateau for a year and a half.

"If not Lakeview, then where should I and the others go?" he asked. "Not only is our housing being taken away, but our freedom of choice to live is also being taken away."

The Chateau is the latest in a string of SRO closing to hit Chicago's North Side. Many of them have been in Lakeview.

SROs have long been one of few affordable op-

tions for low-income Chicagoans, especially those whose credit histories might make securing an apartment difficult.

But the Chateau has been a source of controversy in Lakeview for years, with some residents complaining the building attracts crime.

Now, Lakeview Action Coalition and other housing advocates want Cappleman to fight to keep the building open and affordable for residents, who face fewer housing options as SROs are bought up and turned into market rate apartments.

Cappleman said he supports affordable housing but that his position as alderman does not give him a legal right to make demands of a private building owner.

"I can't operate outside the law," he said. "I'm not allowed to do that."

He has been trying to work with the new owner to maintain some low-cost units in the building. And he said that the building would maintain an SRO license, although units would be more expensive and contain kitchens.

Still, the building has fallen beyond repair, Cappleman said. It will need to close for renovations. Among its problems, said Cappleman, is an outdated electrical system that poses a fire hazard.

Erin Ryan, president of Lakeview Action Coalition, said that the greater threat facing Chateau residents is that of homelessness.

"Living at the Chateau is not more dangerous than living in the street in the middle of winter," Ryan said.

Cappleman said the new owner wants to work with residents to help them relocate.

"As long as they are willing to work with the building owner, I have been assured that they will find safer housing that's affordable," he said.

The demonstration was the second protest against Cappleman in two days.

A group of more than 200 protested outside his ward office the day before, after the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Cappleman wanted a Salvation Army charitable food truck to leave the ward. Cappleman said he never asked the truck to leave. Both sides have since agreed to keep the truck in the neighborhood and work together.

Queer youth not impressed with CPD trans policy

BY KATE SOSIN

A transgender policy quietly adopted by the Chicago Police Department last August has been a sore spot for activists because the policy fell short of their hopes.

A March 9 discussion on the policy showed they are not alone in their concerns.

A group of about 30 young people attended a discussion on the policy at Center on Halsted, hosted by The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA).

Overwhelmingly, youth in room appeared unimpressed with the new general order.

Anthony Martinez, TCRA executive director, summarized the policy and talked about its shortcomings.

The general order puts forth guidelines for officers dealing with transgender people. Among other things, it mandates that transgender identity not to be seen as cause for suspicion of a crime and that police use preferred names and pronouns with transgender detainees.

However, the general order largely fell short

of activist expectations, after more than two years of work on it with CPD.

Activists have lamented that the order lacks oversight and is overly-reliant on government-issued identification and genitalia in determining gender.

"There's no accountability for this policy," Martinez explained.

Among its most troubling aspects, said Martinez, is that the policy orders that all transgender arrestees be transported from local stations to Central booking at 18th and State.

"They take all wigs, any high heels," said Martinez. "They take all of your jewelry and any personal items that you have on you."

Martinez noted that when transgender people are released at 18th and State, it is without money or personal items, sometimes including shoes. They must return to where they were arrested to collect those items.

Young people in the audience took issue with that reality. Other young people questioned what assurance Martinez had that the policy would be obeyed by officers. Martinez said he had no assurance.

But, he said, he plans to address those concerns and others in upcoming meetings with CPD.

But some young people also disparaged the route taken by activists, questioning Martinez on why youth were not included in those meetings.

One young person said that youth regularly attend informational meetings, but that youth seldom get a voice in policies that most-directly impact them.

Martinez said that meetings in the future could include youth.

Precious Davis of Center on Halsted moderated a Q&A session following the presentation.

Rudy de la Mor passes away

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Rudy de la Mor, a cabaret entertainer who performed in Chicago for decades before working on boat cruises and in venues in California, died at Kaiser Permanente Irvine Medical Center in Irvine, Calif., of complications from surgery. He was 73, according to friend Craig D. Goldsmith.

Word spread of de la Mor's death March 5.

de la Mor, a classically trained pianist, entertained the LGBT community for decades. Growing up, he was part of the the Orange County Symphony Orchestra and the Denver Symphony Orchestra, according to his official website.

He was well-known in Chicago, where he performed for at least 20 years and was a favorite at the gay bar Gentry on State. Outrageous hats became his trademark, thanks to the late comedian Martha Raye: After catching one of de la Mor's early sets, she first told him that he had more of a comedic voice than a singing voice. "What's more, she suggested that I wear some of the curtains my mother might have had and change hats all night long," says de la Mor on the website.

He was set to take part on a cruise March 9.

On Feb. 5, he posted on his official Facebook page, "To all my dear friends: Thank you



Rudy de la Mor.

all so much for your kindness and support as I slowly recover from my illness. Your thoughts and prayers have given me strength and encouragement. I shall see you soon!! Wooosh! Love Rudy."

Goldsmith, a fellow entertainer, posted on Facebook, "A great many tears will be shed for the loss that we feel right now. A great amount of joy must also be spread to have know someone so special! Also to know that his was a life well lived and lived well!"

"Farewell for now my sweet friend. Till we meet again at the big lounge in heaven. Please say hello hello hello to my Mom as well, she was also a big fan! I miss you both very much!"

Brett Schoenhals—who managed Ozz, a now-closed California club where de la Mor sometimes performed—told Windy City Times, "Rudy's shows were different in that he cared about everybody who was in there, and he cared about what he did. He was one of a kind."

Among de la Mor's works was the album I'm Just Kidding, with songs such as "Send in the Clowns" and "Noche de Ronda."

A local memorial for de la Mor will be held Sun., April 7, 3 p.m., at 3160 Chicago, 3160 N. Clark St. Call 773-327-5969 for more information.

PASSAGES

Rex N. Olsen

Rex N. Olsen passed away March 5 at St. Joseph Hospital. He was 87.

After earning degrees in journalism and history from the University of Missouri, Olsen went on to enjoy a long career as managing editor of Hospitals, the magazine of the American Hospital Association.

Olsen was the beloved partner of 57 years of Donald E. Seibert, and was the uncle of many.

He was preceded in death by 11 siblings.

A private inurnment was held at Grace-land Cemetery. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com



Rex N. Olsen.

Friends, family want info in murder of ally

BY KATE SOSIN

Friends and family of an artist well-known to LGBTQ Chicagoans are looking for information about her murder.

Lisa Koziol-Ellis, also known as "Foxy Goat," was found stabbed to death her in Elgin home March 2. She was 33.

Koziol-Ellis was an active LGBTQ ally and community member. She rode in Chicago's Gay Pride Parade with Chicago Dykes on Bikes. She also hosted the queer burlesque variety show "Ties & Tassels" from time to time and donated her work to fundraising efforts in the LGBTQ community.

Koziol-Ellis worked as a performer, artist and jewelry maker.

"She was an amazing, giving and genuine soul," read a statement put out by her family.

Koziol-Ellis recently moved from Chicago to Elgin with her husband. Three days after their move, her husband returned from his night shift at work and found her..

According to a statement put out by her family, police have not established a motive or a suspect in the murder.

Family members are seeking information that leads to an arrest and conviction. They are fundraising towards a \$15,000 reward for that information.

Those with information are being asked to contact the Elgin Police Department at 847-695-4195 or 847-289-2700.

Donations are being taken at <http://fundly.com/information>. More information on Koziol-Ellis is at fightforfoxy.com.

Van Stephens sentenced for murder

BY KATE SOSIN

Herbert Van Stephens, a Chicago fashion designer, has been sentenced to 39 years in prison for the murder of his boyfriend, John Atkinson.

Van Stephens was found guilty of first-degree murder Jan. 25.

According to police, both Atkinson and Van Stephens suffered multiple stab wounds in a domestic attack last March on the 600 block of West Stratford Place.

Van Stephens was well-known for clothing celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey.



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Controversial Evanston minister talks about growth, LGBT rights

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Recently, Lake Street Church in Evanston welcomed a heretic as its new minister.

Rev. Steve Van Kuiken received national attention about 10 years ago when he was accused of heresy and defrocked for marrying same-sex couples at Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. Van Kuiken agreed to become the church's pastor in 1999 knowing full well that the congregation intended to push the boundaries of church doctrine by engaging in open disobedience. He was subsequently featured in the 2004 CNN documentary *Fight Over Faith*.

After spending a number of years at Rincon United Church of Christ in Tuscon, Ariz., Van Kuiken, a Michigan native, returns to the Midwest looking to bring the same progressive mentality and leadership to Lake Street Church.

Van Kuiken (who recently praised the passage of the marriage-equality law in the Illinois Senate) spoke with *Windy City Times* about his 27-year journey as minister, what he learned from the controversy in Cincinnati and his plans for Lake Street Church.

Windy City Times: What about this church and this opening appealed to you?

Steve Van Kuiken: The previous minister was very much into the same kind of thing I am—how other religious traditions can really inform Christianity—because I kind of consider myself to be a Buddhist Christian (how the Buddhist practice really helps me recover what I think is the best of the Christian tradition). I come from the perspective that these traditions are not in competition but really complement one another and this church is in that tradition, too. ... [Lake Street Church] understands this whole inward journey thing, of mysticism and contemplation and meditation.

WCT: What did you learn from the controversy in Cincinnati and how did it impact and change you?

SVK: So often the real moments of spiritual growth are through pain and struggle, through suffering. ... One thing I've really learned from my gay and lesbian friends is how corrosive the closet is, how psychologically damaging being



Rev. Steve Van Kuiken. Photo from Jacqueline J. Sloane

forced to hide who you are can be, how pathological that is and how that kind of manifests itself within the gay and lesbian community where you've got this cannibalism going on in a lot of ways, this self-loathing and self-hatred comes out.

For me, it was a real lesson in the importance of authenticity, in the struggle to be authentic and that's for everybody. On so many different levels, institutional church has discouraged authenticity. They discourage people from being themselves, from being honest. And that's one thing I've learned that I'm not gonna do, so on a lot of different issues it's helped me "come out of the closet." This is who I am as a unique individual, as a person.

WCT: How did you first become passionate about LGBT rights and feel attached to the issue?

SVK: It started as a natural expression of fairness. If I had been living in the 1900s I would be working for women's equality and if I were in the '60s it would have been racial equality, so for me it was this natural impetus to treat people fairly and equally. It did become more personal because I made so many friends—my best friend in high school was gay. He had gone to Princeton and Columbia law school; he was just brilliant, but he had contracted AIDS. When I knew him in high school we never really talked about it, but during a lot of the work I was doing, being with a lot of gay and lesbian folks on a regular basis working and being together and having friendships, that changed the whole thing. It was more than an abstract cause—it was personal.

WCT: This could go for any issue including LGBT rights, but how do you mobilize a community such as Lake Street Church and take it from thinking and believing to a state of action and making a difference?

SVK: That's the key. In a lot of ways that's what a good minister does, is like a community organizer, gets people's bodies in action. There's a lot of suggesting, convincing, cajoling, but also by example. I'll just go out and say, "hey, anyone wanna join me? This is where I'll be, this

is what I'm gonna be doing."

A lot of people will come along for something like that. It might be a small core, but the core gets bigger and bigger. Another thing to do is listen and find out where their passions are and let it almost bubble up from within the congregation. Part of it is not to impose my understanding or my agenda on the congregation, but really help them discover its own agenda, help them live into it, remind them. Someone asked what my hopes are for Lake Street Church and the short answer is help them become who they are, help them live into what their aspirations are.

WCT: Do you have anything in mind that you want to accomplish at Lake Street Church both inside the church or outside the community?

SVK: Part of what I do is try and figure out where the natural energy is and fan that a little bit, stuff that I'm interested in but that people

in the congregation are interested too. I think the area of gun violence and gun control ... we seem to have this fetish with guns in this country and this ridiculous understanding of a Second Amendment we've enshrined as some kind of holy text we can't change or reinterpret. I think that has to be addressed and living in a major city we're just so close to it, we see the violence every day.

WCT: How do you push a congregation that's already so open-minded and progressive?

SVK: I will find ways. I'm sure I will butt up against that; I always do. It's not much trouble for me. If I don't have that tension of being myself, saying what I need to say and feeling a little bit of a pushing away—if I don't feel that, then something's wrong. Too often religious leaders are all about wanting to be liked or being successful or popular and I have a different view. I don't know where those issues will be, but I'll find them.

Friends, family of gender-variant youth want homicide investigation

BY KATE SOSIN

New information about the death of a gender-variant youth last month has cast doubt on reports that the death was accidental.

Friends and family of Michael/Makayla Gwinn want police to investigate a homicide, after a mortician reported that she found signs of trauma on Gwinn's body.

Gwinn, a youth advocate and cosmetologist, was found dead Feb. 16 outside a residence in Ravenswood. Gwinn was 23.

Initial reports suggested that the cause of death might be related to drug overdose, but new information has made DaMina Ross, Gwinn's foster parent, suspicious about the cause of death.

Kareshuna Brooks, the mortician who prepared Gwinn's body, said she found bright red bruises and unhealed scrapes on Gwinn.

"There's been some abuse in terms of battery," Brooks said. "There definitely was some kind of altercation before death."

Brooks said she is not speculating on the cause of death and could not determine how old the wounds were. But she said, scrapes on Gwinn's hands had not healed into scabs yet, suggesting that they could have been recent. Brooks also found bruises on Gwinn's lower body.

"Something has happened here," she said. "[I] don't want to speculate, but something has happened. There has been trauma."

Ross said hypothermia had been reported as one possible cause of death, in addition to drug overdose.

According to Ross, Gwinn's boyfriend received a mid-morning call Feb. 16. The call was made from Gwinn's phone, but all that could be heard was a television in the background.

"I find that very suspicious," said Ross. "This needs to be investigated. It really does...Something occurred that was out of his control."

Chicago Police News Affairs Officer John Mirabelli said that the investigation is ongoing pending a toxicology report. He said a preliminary time of death was 4 a.m.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office confirmed the pending toxicology report, but said that Gwinn was pronounced deceased at 10:44 a.m.

Ross said that a detective told her Gwinn was found at noon Feb. 16.

Those conflicting reports have given Ross and Gwinn's biological family pause, Ross said. She is hoping that those who might know what happened to Gwinn will come forward.

Gwinn had been involved in Chicago's LGBT community, working with young people. For a time, Gwinn went by the name "Makayla" and identified as transgender. More recently, said Ross, Gwinn used his birth name, "Michael" and usually presented as male.

AIDS advocates discourage state funding cuts

BY KATE SOSIN

For the third year in a row, HIV/AIDS groups are staring down budget cuts to funding in Illinois.

Gov. Pat Quinn released his proposed budget March 6, which would slash HIV/AIDS funding by 16 percent.

Quinn called it "the most difficult budget I have ever submitted," according to a Chicago Sun-Times report.

In a statement, AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) noted that funding cuts to HIV/AIDS services total \$4.27 million. Most of that funding would be taken from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), AFC says.

The advent of the Affordable Care Act will ease much of that burden on ADAP, AFC said. But advocates still oppose the funding cuts, stating that the Affordable Care Act could provide an opportunity to fill in current service gaps and reduce the number of new HIV cases.

"Illinois has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reinvest ADAP savings to fund HIV prevention and service programs that will reduce new HIV cases and improve health outcomes," said AFC President David Ernest Munar, in the statement.

Ramon Gardenhire, AFC's director of government relations, said that half of HIV-positive people don't have HIV drugs or medical care. He said that Illinois should reinvest money from the affordable care act into outreach workers, substance abuse and mental health services.

"HIV funding cuts have resulted in dramatic decreases in the availability of HIV prevention, housing and supportive services across the state," said Gardenhire, in the statement. "It's time for Illinois to stop this trend and fund targeted investments that will help lower the burden and cost of HIV upon the state."

However, the state is likely to see deep cuts in several areas, as the pension crisis looms large in Illinois.

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GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Anthony Miceli
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICELI



Age
47

Neighborhood
East Lakeview

Job title
Dentist

Hobbies
Playing sports, working out, and traveling

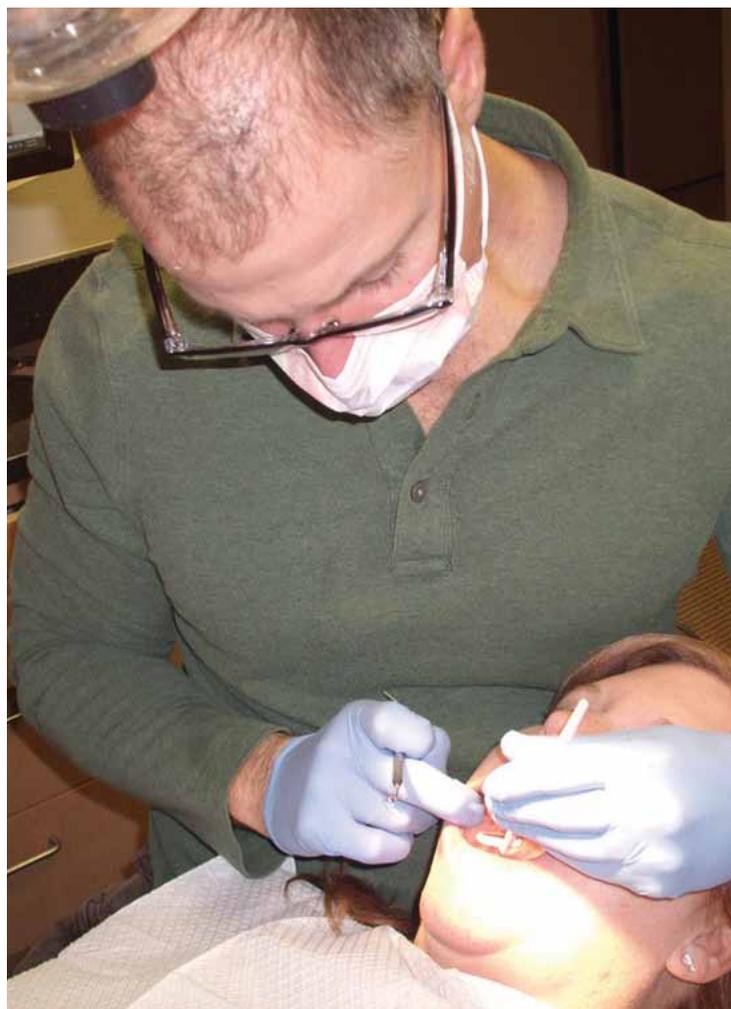
Favorite local restaurant
Calo's in Andersonville—"I never get tired of going there."

Favorite TV shows
Modern Family, Big Bang Theory and the Housewives shows

Little-known fact
"I am a total neat freak; everything has to be in order."

Thanks to his passion for sports, Anthony Miceli has been able to expand his dental business. He also has answered countless dental questions over the years from teammates and players on opposing teams before, during and after softball, flag football and volleyball games he has played in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

"I have never had to tend to a dental emergency during a CMSA event; however, I get asked a lot of dental questions. CMSA has been very good to me; I have acquired many patients from the league. Thank you, CMSA."



Miceli works three days a week at his dental office in south suburban Olympia Fields. It truly is the profession he long wanted to work in.

"As a child, I always said I wanted to be a dentist," Miceli said. "My ex-business partner grew up in Olympia Fields, so that's how I wound up here. I started in Olympia Fields in 1995, and have never looked back. I really love the community."

Miceli said the best part of his job is caring for senior citizens. "Their stories and wisdom are the best," he said. "The worst part of my job is handling the staff. It's hard enough to be a care provider, but then throw HR into the mix; that makes it tough."

So, have you been bitten?

Yes, he said, laughing, "and it hurts, it really hurts."

Miceli said his favorite gay sports moment came in 2006, just the simple walk with thousands of others from around the world, and many close, personal friends, into Soldier Field for the Opening Ceremony of the Gay Games.

"I always will remember all of the people cheering the athletes [entering the stadium,]" he said. "That moment is right up there with when I completed my first AIDS Ride and we rode into Grant Park, and were greeted by so many wonderful supporters."

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VIEWPOINTS

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TIMES

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.
IRENE
MONROE

Was McMillian killed because he was Black or gay?

Marco McMillian was a trailblazer, and the pride of the Mississippi Delta.

In his twenties, *Ebony* magazine (in 2004) hailed him as on the nation's 30 leaders under the age of 30. And in his thirties the *Mississippi Business Journal* hailed him as one of the "Top 40 Leaders under 40."

But at age 34, McMillian's life was mysteriously cut short.

As an openly gay African-American candidate running for the mayoral seat in Clarksdale, Miss., McMillian was quietly signaling that neither his race nor his sexual orientation would abort his aspirations. On McMillian's campaign's Facebook page is a photo of him posing with President Obama. His campaign motto: "Moving Clarksdale forward."

If there were anyplace to challenge the intolerant conventions of Clarksdale, the Delta's gem—known as "a place where openness and hospitality transcend all barriers and visitors are embraced as family" and the birthplace of the blues—would be that place.

Police discovered McMillian's body near a levee just a 15-minute drive outside of Clarksdale. Mississippi's unforgettable sordid history of lynching immediately rose up when his family reported that Marco's body was beaten, dragged and "set afire." And the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till came roaring back, reminding me of Mississippi's native son William Faulkner who wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Till was a 14-year-old African-American child from Chicago who was visiting relatives down in the Mississippi Delta. He was brutally murdered and tortured for allegedly flirting with a white woman. When his body was discovered it was reported that Till was severely beaten, nude,

shot in the right ear, had an eye gouged out from its socket, and a cotton gin fan tied around his neck with a barbed wire before his body was dumped into the Tallahatchie River.

While thoughts of racial hatred first erupted as the probable motive for McMillian's murder, they were quickly erased when McMillian's assailant, Lawrence Reed, 22, an African-American male, was found and apprehended in McMillian's wrecked SUV.

Did Reed murder McMillian or did he just steal his car? Or might there be another tale here, one of a "down low" tryst gone awry?

Being openly LGBTQ is no easy feat for African-Americans, even in 2013 with a LGBTQ-friendly



Marco McMillian.

president like Obama having your back. Being from the South just complicates the matter. For McMillian, his family might also be one of the complications in ascertaining the truth behind his death.

Case in point: It is unfathomable to McMillian's family to think that the motive for his murder was his sexual orientation. His mother,

Patricia McMillian, told CNN that only family and friends knew of her son's sexual orientation. "He did not announce in public that he was gay," she said, adding, "I don't think he was attacked because he was gay." McMillian's sexual orientation, however, was an open secret.

According to state investigators, little is known about Reed or how, if at all, he knew McMillian. To the McMillian family Reed is an enigma. McMillian's mother stated she never knew him, and McMillian's stepfather, Amos Unger, speaking for the family, told CNN that "We never heard of him."

Although the family states that the cause of McMillian's death was because he was "beaten, dragged and burned," the Coahoma County Medical Examiner Scotty Meredith stated otherwise.

But just as McMillian's family might be one of the complications in ascertaining the truth behind his death so too might be the state that's investigating the case.

In Mississippi LGBTQ couples cannot marry and they cannot jointly adopt. There is no hate-crime bill protecting a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The state does not address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In other words, an assault on a LGBTQ Mississippian might very well be ignored as a personal matter.

Meredith told CNN the following about his findings:

"There were signs of an altercation but that didn't kill him...Beating is not the cause of death. He was beaten, but not badly. This was not a targeted attack. This was more of a personal dispute."

According to the Associated Press, The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute, which supports gay and lesbian candidates for political office, tweeted, "Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Marco McMillian, one of the 1st viable openly #LGBT candidates in Mississippi."

And according to Denis Dison, VP of Communications of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, in a HuffPo Live interview there are "approximately 600 openly LGBTQ elected officials at every level of U.S. government, with about 80 openly elected officials in the entire South."

Had McMillian won his mayoral challenge he would have been Mississippi's first—the pride not only of the Mississippi Delta, but also of the entire state.

LETTERS

Wed case

(Note: This letter was originally addressed to state Rep. LaShawn Ford.)

Dear Rep. Ford:

You know me because of my leadership position with the South East Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO). You've attended the annual Barrie Fest that SEOPCO sponsors in Barrie Park.

I am also a gay man. In April, my partner Bruce Broerman and I will celebrate 25 years of life together. I've helped raise his two kids who are now 40 and 35. They've given us four grandchildren. We are deeply involved in the civic life of Oak Park.

Marriage is first, foremost and always a civil contract. By all accounts, our relationship epitomizes all the characteristics of how marriage is defined in terms of its stabilizing influence on, and contributory benefits to our civil society. Without a universal right to enter into this contract, we are unconstitutionally denied a portion of our civil rights. In the same way that government does not require people to fall in love and get married, nor should it deny marriage to

those who fall in love and do desire marriage.

Undoubtedly, you are getting pressure from those religious groups who believe homosexuality is a sin and that allowing same-sex marriage will destroy or cheapen the institution. (Please note that heterosexuals, to date, have not needed any help from us to cheapen the institution.) These groups have NO standing in this case because their own beliefs, practices and policies are unaffected by this bill. The only things opponents lose are the imposition of their particular beliefs on civil issues and their unconstitutional attempt to weaken the barrier between church and state. All of us are guaranteed not only freedom OF religion, but also freedom FROM religion. This bill honors that guarantee.

It's too late for Illinois to be a leader in marriage equality. Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Iowa, Washington and the District of Columbia provided that leadership. (Nine other states have passed civil-union or domestic-partnership legislation before Illinois did.) Your only choice now is to join those who already stand on the right side of history or be remembered as one who caved in to bigotry and intolerance while ignoring the conclusions of every national poll

that the majority of Americans are ready for marriage equality.

Jim Kelly
Oak Park

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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from Disney Enterprises, Inc.

BEWITCHING

Rachel Weisz portrays the witch Evanora in the movie *Oz the Great and Powerful*. See page 16.

DISH

Doing the WAVE.
Page 30

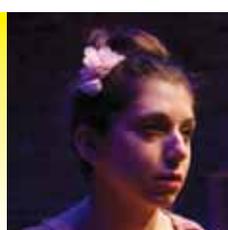
Photo of fried chicken sandwich at WAVE by Andrew Davis



THEATER

Hey, 'Brewed.'
Page 14

Photo from Brewed by Gerard Van Halseta



SPORTS

The wheel thing.
Page 34

Photo of Le'Mikas Lavender by Ross Forman



DANCIN' FEATS

Joshua Blake Carter on jazz dance, milestones

BY VICKI CRAIN

The name Gus Giordano, especially in Chicago, is synonymous with jazz dance.

His namesake company, now run by daughter Nan Giordano, celebrates its 50th-anniversary engagement at the Harris Theater later this month. A few tweaks and changes—it officially dropped the “jazz” from its title and now goes by Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC); a new logo; and a move from Evanston downtown to the Fine Arts Building on Michigan Avenue—and 50 has never looked so good.

The company has already had a busy 2013 with tours to Missouri, Wisconsin, New York and Hawaii. Right after the Chicago performances, the dancers leave again, this time for performances in Istanbul, Turkey. Dancer Joshua Blake Carter, 26, is excited to be a part of such a milestone: “It’s going to be epic.”

The three March performances include works from GDC artistic associate Autumn Eckman; former Hubbard Street Dance Chicago dancer Ron de Jesus; former GDC dancer and BeMoved founder Sherry Zunker; and one of Chicago’s favorite choreographers, Randy Duncan. A world premiere by L.A. choreographer to the stars Liz Imperio (Jennifer Lopez, Madonna) is also on the bill.

The show opens with Giordano Moves, a tribute to the company’s founder by his daughter and former GDC dancer John Lehrer. “Even though it was created recently (2005), the movement was generated over the last 50 years,” Carter said. “It’s timeless and it’s something no one else gets to do.”

Buena Park resident Carter said his first jazz

dance was to Destiny’s Child’s “Bootylicious,” but he later found a solid foundation and a successful career path in the Giordano style. Always a choreographer, he recalled putting on his mom’s bathrobe and putting on a show for his family in front of the fireplace as a child. “I was clearly different,” said Carter. “I was wearing crazy plaid outfits in eighth grade.”

At a parent-teacher conference, his teacher suggested to his father that he audition for the local performing arts school for theater, but to be good at musical theater, she said he needed to learn how to dance. “I was shocked when my Dad said, ‘OK, let’s get you into dance class.’ I think he just wanted me to be interested in something.” He was accepted to the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts and quickly learned that his real passion was for dance, not theater. By his senior year, he was dancing in the school’s company, performing all over Georgia and taking classes in New York.

One of his high school teachers danced with GDC’s second company and encouraged him to audition at her alma mater, the University of Arizona, where the entire jazz faculty was composed of former GDC dancers. Each year a scholarship to GDC was awarded through a West Coast dance conference, and although Carter never received one, he attended twice when other dancers couldn’t go. “The first year, I had jet black hair with a red stripe in front and wore a red unitard,” he said. “I guess that look didn’t work for Nan. When I went again two years later, I had cleaned up my look by shaving my head and wearing all black.” Two weeks after graduation, Carter moved to Chicago and joined GDC’s second company for one season. He’s now dancing



Joshua Blake Carter. Image by KJ Heath Photography

in his third season with the main company.

Carter came out at age 16. “I came out by accident,” he said. “I was riding to school with a friend and I ‘butt dialed’ my house. I can’t remember what the conversation was, but it was enough to out me! Later that night I had a tear-filled conversation with my mom—her tears, not mine. I was relieved to get this secret out! When she said, ‘Don’t you know you can get AIDS?’ I responded, ‘Don’t you know YOU can get AIDS?’ This exchange of words stuck with me. I wanted to be part of educating people about HIV/AIDS. Not only is prevention important, but people knowing the truth and facts about the virus is equally important to me.”

Carter’s senior project in college, Dance in the RED, was inspired by Chicago’s Dance For Life. He also loves performing in charity performances, most recently in TPAN’s Chicago Takes Off burlesque show earlier this month and last

weekend at Dance For Life in Palm Springs.

Giordano Dance Chicago presents its 50th-anniversary engagement at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St., Thursday-Saturday, March 21-23, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

More March performances:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Wednesday-Sunday, March 13-17. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$32-\$92; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago + Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet perform at The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Thursday-Sunday, March 14-17. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$25-\$99; visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com.

Megan Adams Dance and Through the Body present *Surface Stained* at the Fasseas Whitebox Theater at The Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St., Friday-Saturday, March 15-16, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (Students and Seniors \$10); visit www.fanfueled.com/venue/details/509-fasseas-whitebox-theater.

The Chicago Moving Company celebrates its 40th-anniversary season at The Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, March 21-23, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$21-\$30; call 312-369-8300 or visit www.columbia.edu/Dance_Center.

Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard** presents *The Rite of Spring* and *Henri Michaux: Mouvements* at the MCA Stage, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Thursday-Saturday, March 21-23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35; call 312-397-4010 or visit www.boxoffice.mcachicago.org.

LinkUp artist **Thom Pasculli** presents *Core of the PUDEL* at Links Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield Ave., Saturday-Monday, March 23-25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 online); call 773-281-0824 or visit www.linkshall.org.



She Kills Monsters. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW Steppenwolf Garage Rep

Playwrights: Christina Anderson, Qui Nguyen, Michael John LaChiusa
At: Steppenwolf Garage, 1624 N. Halsted
Tickets: 1-312-335-1650;
www.steppenwolf.org; \$20
(three-show pass \$45)
Runs through: April 21

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

For the fourth year, Steppenwolf Theatre Company has invited three much smaller, younger off-Loop companies to perform at the Steppenwolf Garage in 10 weeks of rotating repertory. The Garage Rep, as it's called, frequently has offered science-fiction, multimedia, magic-realism and fantasy productions in sharp contrast to Steppenwolf's signature realism. One show featured seven robots. Such is not the case this year, and I admit I'm disappointed that all three productions are mainstream. They are well executed to be sure, with rewards and surprises to be found, but I'm unimpressed with the vehicles themselves.

Theatre Seven of Chicago has staged *BlackTop Sky* (sic), by Christina Anderson, set in the projects of an unnamed city. Ida, soon to graduate high school, has a boyfriend who is steady, reliable and possessive—a guy who thinks being a good provider is being a man. By chance, Ida meets Klass, a young street person with a poetic soul and unmistakable puppy-dog allure. In effect, Ida must choose between Apollonian and Dionysian impulses. Over this, Anderson layers a social justice story as well, but in a play of less than 90 minutes she cannot fully develop either plot line. The play's language is good but the stories remain basic, even sketchy. The strength here is in the performances of Kristin E. Ellis (Ida), Eric Lynch (the underwritten boyfriend) and especially Julian Parker (Klass), whose skill and charisma clearly extend beyond the fact that Klass is the showiest role. Mr. Parker is gonna' go places.

Next, Buzz22 Chicago offers *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen, in which a young woman uses *Dungeons and Dragons* to learn about her nerdy kid sister, recently killed in an auto accident (along with their parents, which doesn't seem to matter), and something about herself, too. I enjoy a sci-fi show in which the audience totally buys into the fantasy world (think House Theatre of Chicago or the original Organic Theater Company), but this play doesn't do that. The elaborate D&D saga is told in segments within an otherwise-normal reality. In other words, it's not an alternate world but only a game used as psychodrama. A little bit goes a very long way and I found my interest waning well before the play was over. There's bravura energy on display and amusing puppetry and projection effects, but the whole seems less than the sum of its parts.

The third show is *See What I Wanna See*, a sung-through musical by Michael John LaChiusa presented by Bailiwick Chicago. It's inspired by *Rashomon*, the iconic Akira Kurosawa film in which a samurai, his wife and a thief offer different versions of their meeting which results in rape and death. LaChiusa makes it his Act I, updated to 1950 New York. In the film, a priest hearing the narratives undergoes a crisis of faith. LaChiusa makes the priest the central focus of Act II, set in New York in 2002.

The connection isn't obvious unless you know *Rashomon*. LaChiusa begins both acts with brief songs by adulterous lovers in feudal Japan, for reasons he alone knows. The cast is excellent, with fine singing actors, and James Morehead's musical direction is first-rate (as is his orchestra of flute, bass clarinet, sax, percussion, vibes and piano). LaChiusa's words are sharp and his not-easy music is lush, especially the jazzy, noirish Act I. He's a gifted composer who adamantly refuses to write a score that's easily accessible or offers standard audience appeal. *See What I Wanna See* is an exercise in style that is artistically satisfying but aloof.

CRITICS' PICKS

City of Dreadful Night, The Den, through March 16. Whether viewed as poker-faced parody or hard-boiled romance, this homage to the golden age of film noir is replicated with museum-grade accuracy by a deftly laconic cast under the direction of Ron Wells. MSB

How Long Will I Cry?: Voices of Youth Violence, Steppenwolf for Young Adults, through March 20. Playwright Miles Harvey and DePaul University creative-writing students have pieced together a powerful dramatic documentary smartly inspired by The Laramie Project to focus on Chicago's shocking recent history of deadly youth violence. SCM

Improbable Frequency, Strawdog Theatre, through March 31. Celebrate St. Pat's with a bit o' Irish whimsy in this soufflé-light musical about an English spy, a fare Colleen and a Nazi scientist in WWII Dublin. There's love, absurdity, a touch of fact and tuneful song-and-dance. JA

A Soldier's Play, Raven Theatre, through March 30. Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play rejects history's simplistic version of racial divisions to expose the internal prejudices associated with the 1944 desegregation of the U.S. military forces in this hard-hitting drama of men in uniform. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Brewed

Playwright: Scott T. Barsotti
At: Ruckus Theatre/Tympanic Theatre Companies at Theatre Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-975-8150;
www.theaterwit.org; \$17
Runs through: March 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A typical Scott Barsotti play poses an unlikely dynamic in a prosaic setting—zombies held captive in the garage by their spouses, say, or a woman trying unsuccessfully to die—then skews the premises in unexpected directions, the characters behaving in ways contradicting their genre. Then, just when we despair of comprehending the author's purpose, a chance remark triggers a flash of insight—“Oh, *that's* what it's about!”

Barsotti's framing device this time is drawn from fairy tales, the setting a cottage in the woods, its basement housing both a modern washer-dryer and a medieval cauldron bubbling over a fire, wherein dwell five of seven sisters—motherly Juliette, tomboy Collette, mechanic-adept Roxette, grumpy Paulette and crippled Babette. Absent are Nannette, who left home to pursue a career, and Mariette, who may be deceased. The siblings' waking hours are devoted to stirring the contents of the aforementioned cauldron, in the belief

that if this task is neglected for even a moment, fragile Babette will die. Ah, but today Roxette has called the surviving clan together to meet her significant other—a cheerfully robust young woman who hints that maybe Babette no longer requires her family's all-too-literal life support.

Life support—get it? Suddenly, the pieces fall into place—the guilt, the resentments, the hidden agendas. Even as we struggle to come up with a solution to alleviating the unhappiness of this household, we recognize the source of the hostile envy directed at Nannette (who ran away from it all), the manipulative stratagems perpetrated by Babette (who must ensure her nurses' undivided attention) and the threat posed by a stranger bearing alternative approaches to invalid care. As one macabre injury after another thwarts every attempt to reduce Babette's parasitic dependency, the question of who will, literally, pull the plug looms ever larger.

This co-production of the Ruckus and Tympanic Theatre companies dresses up its gloomy dilemma in vivid images—the sisters settle quarrels by means of hand-to-hand combat, courtesy of Richard Gilbert and Victor Bayona's fight choreography, and Roxette's tinkery skills introduces some nifty quasi-Steam-punk prosthetics created by Ruth McCormack. The cast, recruited from the two producing companies under Anna C. Bahow's direction, likewise generates a sororal dynamic of sufficient intensity to keep our curiosity piqued until the light goes on.

THEATER REVIEW The Bear Suit of Happiness

Playwright: Evan Linder
At: The New Colony at Dank Haus, 4740 N. Western Ave.
Tickets: 773-413-0862;
www.thenewcolony.org; \$20
Runs through: March 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Yes, the show-within-a-show in Evan Linder's play features a drag act and a guy wearing a furry mask in a playhouse located on a military base, but there's nothing “camp” about entertainment during wartime in an army depot where soldiers prepare to ship overseas. The sobering knowledge that their vaudeville might be “the last laugh these men will ever have” spurs the four enlistees assigned the task of delivering it—meek Pvt. Norman, brainy Cpl. Frank, gloomy Pvt. Woody and cheerful Cpl. Tom—to risk their safety, their careers, and their futures in the pursuit of their mission.

In 1943, homosexuality not only led to less-than-honorable discharges impairing the recipients' re-entry into civilian life, but could also result in imprisonment or hospitalization. Ironically, men dressing as women for theatrical purposes—a practice dating from ancient Rome (where Caesar's legions likely guffawed as loudly as GIs watching Jerry Lewis cavort with a mop-wig in countless Fort Dix comedies)—was encouraged as a means of affirming the collective masculinity necessary to male bonding. Whatever the source of their opportunity, the four comrades bolster their resolve with the consolation that, “As long as they're laughing, we won't get into trouble.”

These circumstances put a different spin on the traditional backstage drama, however: as the players become increasingly immersed in Woody's fanciful tale of princesses, magic animals and tragic romance, they also grow more comfortable in their identities as what Frank calls “divine mutants” destined for an “impossibly hospitable” world. The dream comes to encompass even het Tom, whose love of musical fantasy renders him accepting of his co-artists' sexual orientation—up to a point.



The Bear Suit of Happiness. Photo by Anne Petersen

THEATER REVIEW

Straight Camp

Playwright: Rob Anderson;

Score: Mike Malarkey

At: iO Chicago Theater, 3541 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-880-0199 or

www.ioimprov.com/chicago; \$12

Runs through: April 11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The opening night of Straight Camp, a new musical by performer/writer/director Rob Anderson (Steamwerkz the Musical) and composer Michael Malarkey, was marred by noticeable sound, lighting and video projection miscues. At the curtain call, Anderson made it a point to let the audience know that the opening performance was only the company's second chance to fully run through its show in the upstairs space of the iO Chicago Theater.

Now a glitch-free performance of Straight Camp certainly would have been nicer to see. Yet it wouldn't have improved the dramatic or motivational holes in this comedy about a group of teenagers who have been sent to a gay-to-straight conversion therapy camp.

Part of the problem is in the leading character. Whit Whitaker (Anderson) is a Broadway-loving teenager who gets sent to Mount Saint Cleanliness in Texas after he is caught kissing another guy in the dressing room after a triumphant turn in his high school musical. Whit's motivational journey isn't fully fleshed out as he goes from budding awareness of his sexuality and the hope that it will go away to assuming leadership to rescue his peers and plan an escape.

Instead, Whit takes a comedic backseat to the show's more wacky and quirky supporting characters. Leading the pack are the villains: the creepy and effeminate camp leader Pastor Father (Drew Anderson) and his enforcement flunky, a rather butch Deputy Ann (Katie Klein).

The fellow campers include Boy Scout Columbus Bumblebrook (Alex Garday), wannabe Latina Ferrera America (Amber Gerencher), Christina Ricci-obsessed nerd Jody (Jennifer Mills), a granola-loving character played by Andi Woody and the dim Guy Masterson (Andrew Knox), a straight guy who thought he was at Space Camp.

These supporting characters get more laughs from their personal quirks than the strange straight-to-gay exercises that are supposedly going to change their orientations. Also, the drama is lessened since both Pastor Father and Deputy Ann are so obviously closet cases from the outset.

In terms of the songs, there are some clever parodies of numbers from musicals like Chicago and Aida. But some of the original establishing numbers go on too long ("Texas: Land of God and Carbohydrates") or don't feel properly built up to ("Boners Over Butterflies" as the "you'll do" romantic duet between Whit and Columbus).

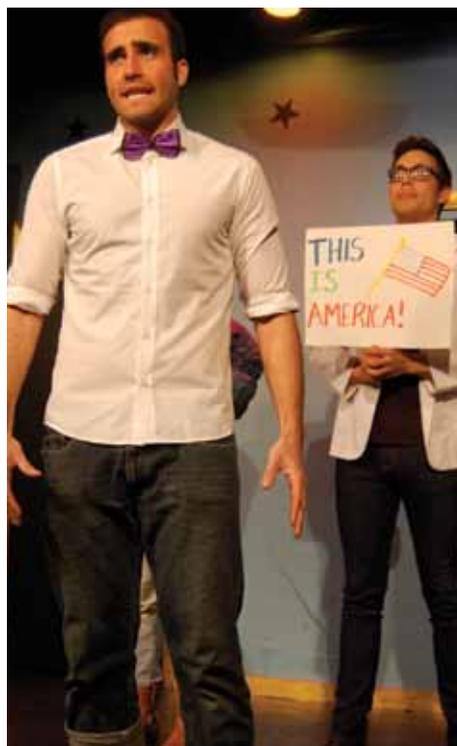
But perhaps I'm being too hard on a show that only charges \$12 admission and has such a skilled ensemble that sings well and delivers plenty of great gross-out-humor laughs. It's just that the show's subject matter could have been made more of the butt of jokes rather than the not-so-bright teenage characters. Straight Camp is undeniably funny, but its comedy and story through-line come off as off-target.

'SEX' at Chemically Imbalanced May 2

Chemically Imbalanced Comedy, 1422 W. Irving Park Rd., is hosting the Chicago premiere of SEX a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. May 2-June 8.

The show features Kevin Mullaney, Matt Fox, Paul Whitehouse, Leslie Nesbit, Angie McMahon, Greg Callozzo, Peter Robards, Ross Compton and Pat Kiely.

Tickets are \$15; see www.cicomedy.com.



Straight Camp. Photo from Charna Halpern

SPOTLIGHT



After focusing on composers like Gershwin, Chopin and Bernstein, pianist/performer/playwright Hershey Felder brings his latest music-filled drama, **An American Story**, to Chicago. Featuring a full orchestra largely playing the music of Stephen Foster, An American Story tells the true life tale of a 23-year-old Union Army medic who was the first person to attend to President Abraham Lincoln after he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. An American Story continues in a limited engagement at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$60-\$65; call 312-988-9000 or visit www.theroyalgeorgetheatre.com. Photo of Felder courtesy of Eighty-Eight Entertainment

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Beyond the Hills; Oz the Great and Powerful; film notes

A look at the trailer for the Romanian drama **Beyond the Hills**—the latest from acclaimed 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days writer-director Cristian Mungui—might give viewers the mistaken impression that it's a horror film: A young woman arrives at a remote convent in order to convince her best friend to leave with her. The friend, now a devout nun, refuses and after a series of attempts to change her mind, the young woman seemingly goes berserk, becomes possessed by the devil and is given an exorcism. And though these events do occur, the only horror here is what is done to Alina (Christina Flutur), the outsider, in the name of religion.

Mungui's movie is slow-moving and repetitive as he captures the austere lives of the nuns who cluster around the dour, take-no-prisoners priest who brooks no intrusions into the regimen of life at the convent—and certainly isn't about to loosen his grip on Voichita (Cosmina Stratan), the newest nun in the orthodox order, when her friend Alina arrives. Alina, blond and quiet, grew up in an orphanage with the dark-haired Voichita, her best friend and lover. Upon her arrival she's taken aback that her heartfelt reminders about the love she and Voichita shared aren't enough to convince her to pack her things and head to a new life via the promise of new jobs "on a boat" (which one presumes, might be a cruise ship).

Nor do her attempts at seduction work. Voichita has found something in religion or the simplistic, task-driven lifestyle at the convent that Alina—try as she might—can't seem to break through. And herein lay the seeds of a tremendous tragedy—one that Mungui slowly records. As Alina goes into emotional freefall over



James Franco and Michelle Williams in *Oz the Great and Powerful*. Photo from Disney Enterprises, Inc.

Voichita's refusal, the other nuns, egged on by the priest and led by the woman they address as "mother," attempt to use their religious training to forestall Alina's breakdown. When that fails, they resort to measures that seem reasonable to them but, when discovered, naturally horrify the outside world.

The two young actresses immerse themselves in their roles (both shared the best actress prize when the film premiered at Cannes), and Mungui's methodical pacing; the desolate, wintry location of the convent; and the hardscrabble lives of the women allow for a great deal of detail and shading within the scenes. At the heart of the film is the conflict between orthodox religion and the secular world—each represented in the two leading characters—and the incredible damage that unerring faith in one's viewpoint can wreak. The final sequence in which the two worlds intersect is masterful. *Beyond the Hills* is a subtle, heartbreaking film that rewards the patient viewer.

Kinda related: **Strange Frame**, just out on DVD from Wolfe Video, also focuses on a lesbian couple fighting against some pretty tough constraints. Let's just say that Naia and Parker, who share similar musical tastes as they fall passionately in love and form a band, have a lot to contend with in G.B. Hajim's critically acclaimed animated science-fiction rock musical. Set 500

years in the future on a moon of Jupiter, the film is a delightful, original hybrid. Tim Curry, George Takai, Claudia Black, Ron Glass and Juliet Landau are among the actors providing the voices.

Oz the Great and Powerful is the first cinematic attempt to cash in on the recent resurgence of Ozmania brought about by the phenomenal popularity of the stage musical *Wicked*. Disney, journeying back to the Land of Oz for the first time since 1985's offbeat and winning (but underperforming) *Return to Oz*, has spent close to \$200 million on the film. The movie substitutes young con man Professor Marvel (called Oscar Diggs here) for the dewy-eyed innocent Dorothy Gale of Kansas, but essentially their trajectory is the same. Trapped in the black-and-white "real world," Oscar—a flop magician in a two-bit circus and a bit of a womanizer—flies in his big balloon to Oz (via a handy tornado, of course). Immediately, there's a transformation into vivid color, amid a host of eye-popping digital effects. On the way to killing the baddest of the three witches, who are sisters he romances on their first encounters (Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams), Oscar takes along some strange new friends, makes a stop in Munchkinland and learns to grow a heart.

The basic trouble with this family-friendly film, which Sam Raimi directs, is that it takes just as long to grow a heart as Oscar does. Visually dazzling and sumptuously appointed (although the negligible 3D, again, is merely headache-producing), Franco is dead wrong for the part of an irresistible con man. Handsome he is; irresistible and charming, no. And there is an inescapable feeling of condescension in almost every line he utters. As any Ozmaniac will tell you—without heart and innocence as a starting point, there's no point in starting. Franco could have taken a lesson from Williams, who elevates every scene in the movie with her delicately delivered performance.

While the movie, as noted, looks great and kicks into satisfying high gear as it heads toward the last act, with Franco and his allies in league to destroy the witch and her minions, the tinhorn feeling of the bulk of *Oz the Great and Powerful* leaves one yearning for another trip down the yellow brick road—the one first glimpsed by audiences in 1939.

Film notes:

—It's certainly going to be some enchanted evening when TCM's "Road to Hollywood" tour brings the Rodgers and Hammerstein 1959 musical **South Pacific** to the Music Box Theatre, 3733

N. Southport Ave., on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. Film historian and author Leonard Maltin will host, with an onstage appearance by none other than the film's perky, seemingly ageless star, Mitzi Gaynor.

South Pacific, which Joshua Logan directed, has forever been critically maligned because of his decision to shoot the musical numbers through various colored filters (a creative mistake that Logan humorously owned up to in his memoirs). But Gaynor's best screen performance, the unbridled romantic appeal of co-star Rossano Brazzi, handsome John Kerr, lovely South Sea locations and acres of hunky, shirtless sailors—not to mention all those sing-a-long ready tunes—definitely put South Pacific in the plus column. Tickets are free but must be ordered in advance; see www.tcm.com/2013/roadtohollywood.

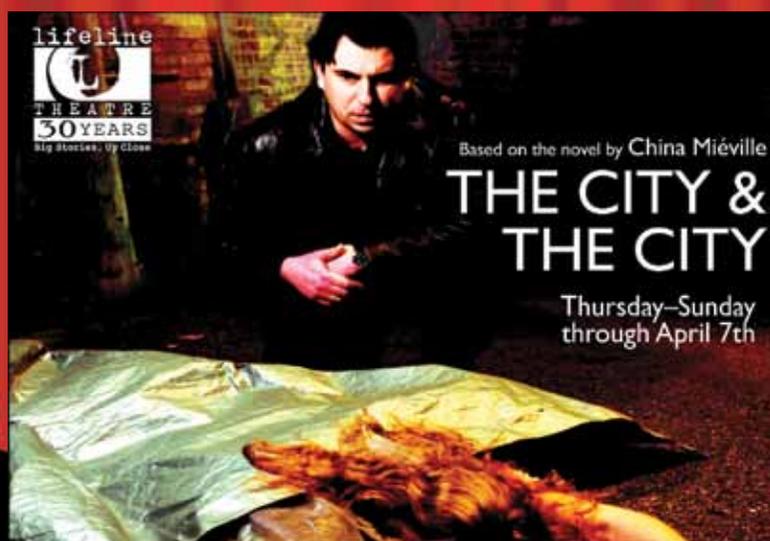
—**Cinema Q III**, the annual Cultural Center LGBT film series, continues Wed., March 13, with 2009's gritty *To Die Like a Man*, a fascinating portrait of an aging Portuguese drag queen from writer-director Joao Pedro Rodrigues. The series—which The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, The Legacy Project, Queer Film Society and Reeling are co-sponsoring—takes place in the Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. A discussion follows each of the movies. Windy City Times, Time Out Chicago and ChicagoPride.com are media co-sponsors for Cinema Q III. http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/cinema_q.html

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



Cristina Flutur in *Beyond the Hills*. Image from IFC Films

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Reeling seeks new director

Chicago Filmmakers is seeking a new director of Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival.

Founded in 1981, Reeling is the second-oldest LGBTQ film festival in the world.

The director plans, oversees, programs, and manages all aspects of the annual Reeling Film Festival, as well as other Reeling events throughout the year. The person would be involved in many aspects, including supervision, box office/accreditation, venue/house management, fundraising and hospitality/travel.

Email resume and cover letter (as PDF documents only) by March 15 to jobs@chicagofilmmakers.org or mail to Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill., 60640.

MOVIES

Out filmmaker Yvonne Welbon on Ruth Ellis' legacy

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

About 14 years ago, filmmaker Yvonne Welbon introduced the world to an LGBT matriarch, 100-year-old Ruth Ellis. Welbon's documentary, *Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100* won 10 Best Documentary awards at lesbian and gay film festivals and also the 2001 GLAAD Media Award for Best Documentary.

Living with Pride will screen for free at as part of the Cinema Q III Series at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., in the Claudia Cassidy Theater on Wed., March 20, at 6:30 p.m. Ellis was a Black lesbian who came out in 1915 and became an activist for opening her Detroit home to queer youth as well as hosting African-Americans migrating from the South.

Welbon, also a Black lesbian film historian, reflected on her film, Ellis and the legacy of both in an interview with *Windy City Times*. She also discussed her current project devoted to chronicling past and supporting future films from Black lesbian filmmakers.

Windy City Times: It's been nearly 15 years since *Ruth Ellis @ 100*. How has that film and that experience continued to be important?

Yvonne Welbon: It's probably one of the most important films I've made in my career. It is amazing that it is very evergreen and that it remains one of the only films of its kind. There are more films now on older LGBT folks or older LGBT communities, but at the time I made it there were very few.

WCT: How does the film continue to resonate with audiences?

YW: The way the film was used here in the States, when it first premiered, was intergenerationally. One of the things that was done was a lot of the youth groups were brought together with senior LGBT groups. Panels were put together, workshops were put together to bring people together and share their stories, for the older folks to pass on their wisdom and share with the younger community, which was really one of the things Ruth wanted the film to do, and it continues to be used that way.

WCT: There are so many more LGBT role models now than ever. What makes Ruth in particular relevant today and into the future?

YW: The thing that will always make her story relevant is she really was 100 years old. She lived through 100 years of American history. That's a very rare thing. The fact that she's Black, a woman, a lesbian just really adds a lot of depth and



Yvonne Welbon. Photo courtesy of Welbon

dimension to that story. It will probably always resonate with people because it's a particular view of America—a very unique view of America that we will never have again. There is no other story of a Black lesbian who lived from 1899 to 2000. It's a truly unique story.

WCT: What can LGBTs learn from her experience as an out and proud lesbian?

YW: For a young person to see the film, or anyone under 100, it's really inspirational because you get to see that you're not the only one, you're not alone. Here's somebody who lived over 100 years ago who had similar experiences with coming out, similar experiences trying to understand who she was in the world as a gay person, similar experiences just growing up in a family and being gay.

WCT: Your *Sisters in Cinema* project is now 10 years old. How is that evolving?

YW: One of the things that was created from

that project was a huge archive of African-American women film work. So one of the projects I'm working on is an archive project related to all the materials that have been collected over a 20-year period at this point. Also, I'm working on an offshoot of that project called *Sisters in the Life*, which focuses on Black lesbian work. The first "out" film from a Black lesbian filmmaker was from 1986 and it was shown at the Outfest film festival in L.A. in 1987 and that kind of marks the moment where we have out Black lesbian filmmaking, so we're about 25-26 years at this point. The project I'm working on now looks at that first quarter century of out Black lesbian filmmaking.

WCT: Do you feel you've taken on this responsibility to make sure there's a history of films from African-American women and Black lesbians and also a future?

YW: Yes, that's exactly who I am. When I went to film school in 1991, I only knew of one Black woman filmmaker and that experience propelled me forward into trying to find what I call my sisters in cinema. I didn't want my experience to be anybody else's experience. I have worked on making sure there are materials you can use

to teach about Black women film history and that people know the names of more than one person like I did when I started school. What's really nice about the *Sisters in the Life* project is it's really compact, it's a way to get at history now, it's only 25 years, it's manageable. That's the project I am trying to get to win the Tribeca Affinity Award.

WCT: What are today's most significant challenges and barriers for Black women filmmakers?

YW: The biggest challenge is really being a woman—it's not so much being Black. That was an interesting thing I learned working on my dissertation is that a lot of the issue is around being female, and not so much around race.

Actually, being lesbian really helps. If you look at feature films made by Black women, over a third of them were produced by Black lesbians. Part of the reason why is that the LGBT community is super-supportive, it's an incredible infrastructure. There's this rich festival circuit—all of this support in place for us. The industry is really incredibly sexist. Women are 51 percent of the population, but we are 6-7 percent of the filmmakers.

Patio, Chicago Cinema announce partnership

The newly reopened and restored Patio Theater and The Chicago Cinema Society have announced their new partnership, which will bring unique independent film programming to the Patio.

This programming ranges from Chicago premieres of new films such as *Vanishing Waves*, a critically acclaimed science-fiction film that will take place March 29-April 1 to exclusive runs of family favorites (such as the newly remastered DCP of *Willow* created for the film's 25th anniversary, which ran March 1-4) and cult/genre classics presented in special 35mm screenings (*The Warriors*, *Shogun Assassin*, *Sartana*, etc.).

Patio Theater is at 6008 W. Irving Park Rd.; see www.facebook.com/PatioTheater.

Burlesque benefit March 16

Various performers will take part in "Vaudezilla Presents: A Burlesque Hall of Fame Legends Benefit" March 16 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., at 10:30 p.m.

The event is part of an international fundraising drive to bring the stars of burlesque's heyday to the 2013 Burlesque Hall of Fame Weekend in Las Vegas May 30-June 2.

Red Hot Annie, Trixie Sparx, Po'Chop, Mister Junior, Vanna Tease and Lilly Rascal will perform, among others. Tickets are \$18; see <http://vaudezilla.com/events.html>.



Michael Feinstein. PR photo

'Michael Feinstein' returns April 5 on PBS

Stephen Sondheim, Liza Minnelli, Angela Lansbury, Christine Ebersole and other stars of music and musical theater are featured in a new three-part season of Michael Feinstein's *American Songbook*, which returns to PBS April 5 at 9 p.m. ET.

The first two parts will air April 5, with the third on April 12.

Season three finds Feinstein exploring the enduring popularity of show tunes, the interaction between music and choreography on stage and the big screen, and the indelible impact that radio—in its star-making heyday—had on the American musical canon.

The season three DVD set of the series is available at shopPBS.org or 1-800-Play-PBS. The set includes three one-hour episodes and more than 90 minutes of bonus material.

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MOVIES

'Alfredo's Fire' looks at religious intolerance

BY CHUCK COLBERT

What's it going to take for the Vatican to change its hardline doctrine against homosexuality?

Whoever the College of Cardinals selects as pope to succeed Benedict XVI, the new Holy Father would do well to consider the case of a 39-year old Italian writer and ex-seminarian from a small town in Sicily, who set himself on fire in St. Peter's Square.

Alfredo Orlando's suicide in January 1998 was purposeful, as his correspondence made clear. "I hope they'll understand the message I want to leave," he wrote to a friend beforehand. "It's a protest against the Church that demonizes homosexuality, and at the same time all of nature, because homosexuality is her offspring."

And yet the Vatican was emphatic in its denial that Orlando's suicide had anything to do with the Church's harsh condemnation of homosexuality.

"In the letter found on Alfredo Orlando," a Vatican spokesperson said, "he doesn't affirm in any way that his actions were prompted by his presumed homosexuality or as a protest against the Church," adding, "He tried to kill himself for no better explanation than family motives."

Not to be forgotten, however, Orlando's heroic act or mad gesture, his self-immolation on Jan. 13, 1998, is now the subject of a soon-to-be-released documentary, *Alfredo's Fire*, by Andy Abrahams Wilson, founder and president of Sausalito, California-based Open Eye Pictures.

The film explores the clash between faith and homosexuality and a struggle common among many gay people—reconciling sexuality and faith or spirituality.

The documentary, mostly in Italian with English subtitles, opens a window into the interior life of Alfredo, relying on unpublished writings, correspondence, and interviews with family members, friends, and an intimate companion.

Wilson speaks Italian, lived in Italy for a short period of time and is quite familiar with the Catholic tradition there.

In the midst of a crowd funding campaign to finish the film, Wilson discussed his motivation for producing the documentary and the importance of its message.

"Really, it was the fire that I was drawn to," said Wilson over the telephone. "The symbolism of fire as it relates to LGBT people. Fire represents self-annihilation and annihilation by others, recalling the burnings at the stakes of homosexuals during the Middle Ages."

"Fire," he went on to say, "is an expression of pent up passion and rage, communion with God, purification, liberation, and a dramatic coming out. Self-immolation, historically, is a powerful protest, specifically as it relates to the LGBT

Mel White in *Alfredo's Fire*.

population.

"What I like about [the fire] is that it's not just one thing. It doesn't just represent an expression of a life force, it's also the expression of the extinguishing of a life force. As gay people, we have these two divergent paths that face us. As Alfredo said: 'You either accept being gay or you kill yourself.'"

The suicide by fire of Alfredo Orlando defies easy explanation. "You cannot say anyone does what he does for any one reason," said Wilson, raising key questions about Alfredo's desperate act: "Was Alfredo a little off balance? Yes. Why was he off balance? Can you blame just the Church? Probably not.

"Clearly, he's an extreme example of what people endure everyday all over the world by an anti-gay Church and an anti-gay society.

"Even in becoming a human torch, he wasn't seen. There's a terrible injustice there."

Indeed Catholic hostility to gays dates back centuries, when during the Inquisition the Church executed gay men—or sodomites—by burning at the stake and other dreadful means.

Modern-day animus towards gays persists as official church teaching speaks of "objective disordered" to describe the "homosexual inclination" and "intrinsic moral evil" to explain "homosexual acts."

In fact, two years after Alfredo's suicide, overlooking the spot where Alfredo set himself on fire, then Pope John Paul II, said, "Homosexual

acts are against the laws of nature."

More recently, Benedict XVI, now Pope Emeritus said, "[Homosexuality] is a concept of human nature that has proven defective."

Increasingly, Catholic hierarchical leadership stateside and globally has stepped up its rhetoric in the secular, political arena, too. One of the major forces, if not the major force against civil rights or equal rights for LGBT people, is the Church, especially its adamant opposition to same-sex marriage.

While Wilson hesitates to draw a straight line between Alfredo's suicide and Vatican anti-gay rhetoric and politics, the documentary highlights a trickle-down effect from Church pronouncements to society and family life.

One of eight children from a poor family in Palermo, Alfredo's homosexuality was not well received by the two bothers to whom he came out, one of whom physically assaulted him.

Alfredo felt societal pressure to keep his gayness secret in order to protect family honor, a strong Sicilian value.

"Think about that in the context of a gay person," said Wilson, "the need to honor the family. You don't want to hurt the family, and yet you resent it at the same time.

"The Church is the ultimate family, and the Pope is the patriarch of the family. That's strongly ingrained in many Italians."

Alfredo's struggle, then, is a common thread and tension in the life experience of many gay people: How to come terms and find peace when religious authority, Catholic or otherwise, says

being gay and living openly is outside the natural order devoid of any true spiritual life or sanctified relationships.

"You cannot say that Alfredo was not religious, that he did not care about God or his Church," said Wilson. Still, "he had conflicted feelings."

Wilson readily acknowledged LGBT people have every reason to reject any kind of religious tradition, given its vehement anti-gay teachings. But outright rejection, he said, "is problematic," adding, "I think we're just hurting ourselves further. While orthodox religious traditions may deny us access to the divine, we can claim a full spiritual life. We don't need to buy into our own marginalization."

Although Jewish, Wilson hopes "for a more open and inclusive Church. I want the film to be part of that change," he said. "Alfredo is just one example of a life destroyed in large part by teachings of the Catholic Church."

To facilitate dialogue and change, Wilson said the documentary's engagement campaign includes outreach to faith-based organizations and LGBT groups around the world.

Alfredo's Fire's engagement campaign also features an open and interactive "Sparks of Fire" transmedia project, which includes a new map-based app that allows users worldwide to share their personal stories at "the combustible place where faith and homosexuality clash."

Learn more about the film and contribute to its crowd funding campaign to raise finishing funds: www.kickstarter.com/projects/openeyepictures/alfredos-fire.

UChicago screens Angela Davis film

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Chicago premiere of the film *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners* was held at the University of Chicago's (UChicago's) Logan Center for the Arts March 6.

The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Joy Davis, professor at Williams College; Mariame Kaba, founder director of Chicago's Project Nia; and local human-rights attorney Standish Willis. Tracy Matthews, associate director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, moderated.

Free Angela and All Political Prisoners focuses on the storied activist and academic's turbulent period when she felt compelled to go underground after police charged that she was directly involved in an attempted 1970 prison break which resulted in several deaths, including a white judge and three Black men. The hunt for Davis went nationwide and her trial remains one of the best-known in contemporary history.

As demonstrated in the film, the long trial resulted in a massive campaign to "free Angela," drawing supporters from around the world in a powerful global effort. Thousands of letters and testimonials flowed in support of Davis, from 6-year-olds in Germany to the French philosopher Jean Genet. It was Davis who insisted that the slogan "Free Angela" should be expanded with "and all political prisoners," reflecting her political views on the prison industrial complex (PIC). Davis is best-known for her work on prison abolition and her analysis and critique of a system that she—along with many other prison abolitionists—believes is not only unjust and harsh but systematically racist in its targeting and killing of African-Americans.

Period film clips and photos trace Davis' childhood in Birmingham, Ala., her university education in Europe and the United States, and her early career, but the film's focus is on reconstructing the events that led up to the trial, its duration and its aftermath.

Following her release, Davis became even more of an iconic figure, making invited appearances all around the world and even showing up to a jam-packed Madison Square Garden, perhaps the first and last time that

an ex-political prisoner in the United States has been treated like a rock star.

The panel discussion afterwards dwelt upon such issues of fame and iconicity, as well as questions about feminism in relation to matters of race, and the complicated and ongoing legacy of Davis, who retired from her position as professor in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California-Santa Cruz in 2008. (She came out as lesbian in 2005.)

With regard to Davis and her ongoing work and influence on feminist thought, panelists spoke to the way she is often conceived or reduced in terms of gender and appearance—famous for her hair, Davis herself has been critical of such fetishization. Kaba pointed out that Davis' insistence upon asking for all political prisoners reflected a feminist impulse that "it wasn't just about her and understanding that 'it wasn't just about me all the time.'" Kaba also addressed the importance of Davis's work on the PIC, and stressed the need for creating alternatives to incarceration.

Speaking about the current and growing conversation around prisons, Joy Davis pointed out that it's easier to mobilize around mass incarceration than against repression in a democracy, and pointed out that Ruchell Magee, Angela Davis' co-defendant, is still in jail; Magee has referred to what happened in 1970 as akin to a slave rebellion. He has been in jail for more than 45 years.

The event's location became part of the the discussion, given that four activists, students amongst them, had recently been arrested for protesting the lack of an adult trauma-care facility at UChicago's medical center. Panelists reflected upon the larger implications of the PIC in the context of a system that incarcerates vast numbers of people, particularly people of color, while simultaneously whittling away at or simply not providing basic community resources. Standish Willis contextualized the events of the past and Davis' trial alongside such contemporary events, pointing out that it has become more difficult to contest false charges and that the the rights of protesters and political prisoners have sharply deteriorated since 9/11.

Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners begins its nationwide run April 5. Angela Davis will appear at UChicago in May.

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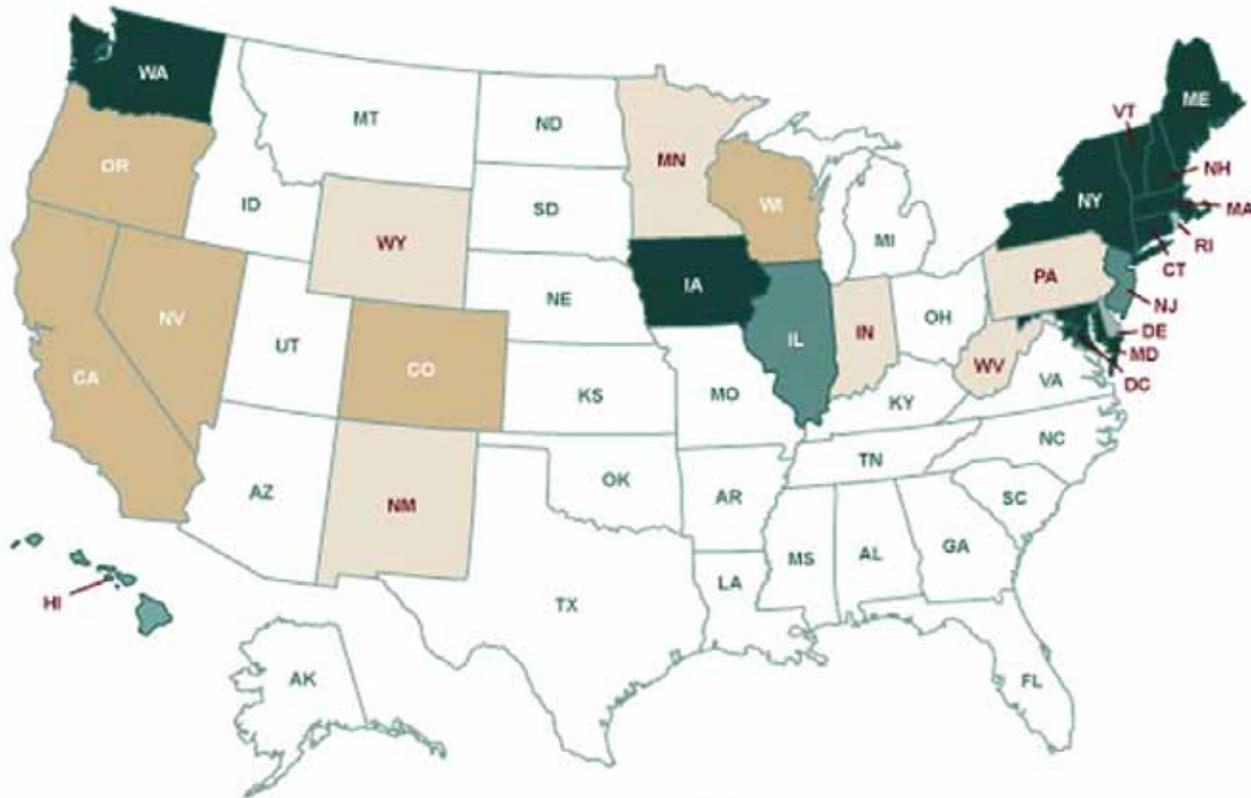
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How marriage equality shapes up in the U.S.



- Marriage
- Broad Domestic Partnership / Civil Union
- Some Protections for Same-Sex Couples
- Broad Domestic Partnership / Civil Union and Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment
- Neither Relationship Recognition nor Constitutional Amendment
- Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment

Last Updated November 8, 2012

Nine states (Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Washington and Vermont) and Washington, D.C., permit marriage for same-sex couples. In 2012, the legislature in New Jersey passed a marriage-equality bill, and work is now underway to override the governor's veto.

New Mexico and Rhode Island explicitly respect out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples, while eight states now offer broad protections short of marriage. Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island allow civil unions, while California, Oregon and Nevada offer broad domestic partnership. Two other states (Colorado and Wisconsin) have more limited domestic partnerships.

With these advances, a record number of residents live in states that recognize relationships between same-sex couples:

Nearly 17 percent of the U.S. population lives in a state that either has the freedom to marry or honors out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples.

Nearly 39 percent of the U.S. population lives in a state with either marriage or a broad legal status such as civil union or domestic partnership.

Over 42 percent of the U.S. population lives in a state that provides some form of protections for gay couples.

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Civil Unions: Separate and Unequal to Marriage

BY MEGHAN STREIT



Meghan Streit (left) with wife Shira Kollins. Photos by Erin Drewitz (erindrewitz.com).



I have a 40-pound ivory tulle ball gown hanging in my dressing room waiting to be cleaned and preserved. My dining room looks like a Crate & Barrel outlet, with gift boxes stacked in every corner. I have a shiny new diamond eternity band on my left hand. I'm still sunburned from the 12 days I recently spent relaxing in the Caribbean with my lover. If you didn't know better, you'd think I just got married.

But, I didn't—at least not in the eyes of the Illinois government. I'm gay, so the best I could do was get a civil union. I could spend all the money I wanted on a fancy wedding—a three-course meal for my 160 guests, \$400 designer shoes that I just had to have, the perfect shade of pale pink roses—and I did. But, sadly, no amount of money could buy me equality in the state where I live.

My now-wife and I waited as long as we could to get our civil union license, hoping against hope that the Illinois legislature would legalize same-sex marriage before our wedding. A few days before our Jan. 26, 2013 ceremony, we finally accepted the fact that gay marriage would not be the law of the land on our wedding day. So, we bundled up and headed downtown to the Cook County Bureau of Vital Records to get a civil union license.

That day was so bittersweet. On one hand, it was exciting to formalize our commitment to each other in a way we'd been planning for the last 15 months. It was fun to sign on the dotted line and claim responsibility for one another. But, at the same time, being relegated to civil union status instead of being allowed to get a marriage license (like the ones all of my straight friends have) felt, for lack of a better word, gross.

In our day-to-day life, being gay is nearly a non-issue for my wife and me. We can safely walk down any street in Chicago holding hands. Our families both embrace our relationship and are excited for grandkids. We have a vibrant social circle that includes straight, gay and bisexual people who all have a great time together. I am fortunate that in the world I inhabit, being gay is kind of old news. As a result, I spend most of my days feeling astonishingly normal. I don't think of my relationship as different from or less than my straight friends' marriages—and neither does anyone else who I know.

So, when my then-fiancée and I took the escalator down to the Vital Records office on that cold January afternoon, it felt like we had traveled back in time to 1952, when separate-but-equal was perfectly acceptable. I got a knot in my stomach while we waited in line. My eyes darted around the room, looking at the different signs with information about marriage and civil union licenses. The simple fact that there are two different options and that one of them is not available to gay people sends a subtle but clear message: You are different and you don't deserve the same treatment as the majority.

In my head, I was secretly plotting some sort of protest. I am not the kind of girl who sits in the back of the bus or goes down without a fight. My fiancée knows it, too. She looked at me, silently pleading for me not to make a scene.

When we got up to the desk, we were greeted by a tired-looking African American woman who appeared to be in her mid-50s. I said, "We're getting married, but we're gay, so I guess we have to get a civil union license." That was my

silently negotiated compromise with my fiancée: I didn't want to get arrested and spend my wedding day in jail, but there was no way I was leaving that office without making at least one political remark.

The lady behind the desk responded with the unique brand of irritated ambivalence that only government workers can muster: "Driver's license and date of birth." We came prepared with every piece of documentation we might need and handed it over to her. As the Vital Records lady clicked away at her computer and asked us a series of basic questions like our parents' names and where we were born, she looked up at us over her glasses and said: "You know you have to have a ceremony for this to be official, right?"

She was talking to a girl who had visited 12 venues before choosing the perfect one for her wedding, who tried on 28 wedding gowns, who was forcing her five best friends to wear matching pink dresses as bridesmaids, who sent out miniature snow globes as save-the-dates. I had micromanaged every detail of this wedding down to the pale pink welcome cocktail guests would receive when they arrived and the exact tempo at which the string quartet would play as I walked down the aisle. I wanted to shout at this poor woman about the hours I spent choosing passed hors d'oeuvres and the number of bridal magazines I'd read cover to cover. "Do I look like the kind of girl who gets married without a wedding???" is what I wanted to scream at her.

Instead, I just glared and said through clenched teeth, "Oh yes, there will be a ceremony."

My anger, while misdirected at a government employee, was valid. I shouldn't have had to suffer the indignity of separate-but-equal treatment. Not in a blue state in 2013. We all know that separate but equal means not equal, and it's a shame that history lesson is lost on so many people.

It stung a little bit to bring a civil union license rather than an honest-to-goodness marriage license to my wedding. But, my wedding was an elegant evening filled with delicious food, good champagne, stunning flowers, soft lighting and beautiful music from a live band. It was a night I know my family and friends will remember forever. When I woke up on Jan. 27, groggy from dancing into the wee hours, with my one true love asleep next to me, I felt married—not civil unioned, not domestic partnered—married.

As I write this, the Illinois Senate just passed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. I am hopeful and confident the Illinois House will follow suit and that Gov. Quinn will sign that bill into law in very short order. For my sake, I wish they had passed the bill a month ago, but I will graciously accept the Valentine's Day gift the Senate has given to the LGBT community in Illinois.

I am married in my heart, and no government can take that away from me, but I sincerely hope that my wife and I are one of the last couples to be treated, however politely, like second-class citizens at the Cook County Bureau of Vital Records. I look forward to the day when two gay people in love can just stroll into that Washington Street basement office and ask for a plain old marriage license—not separate, just equal.

Meghan Streit is a Chicago-based journalist.





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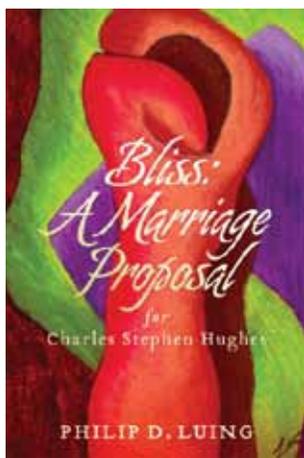
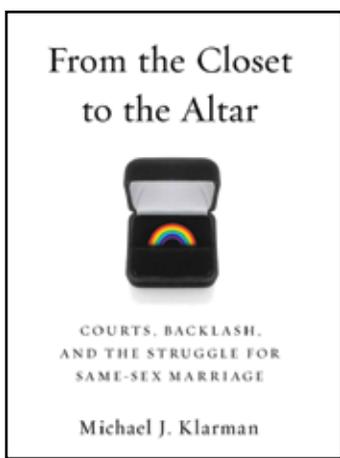
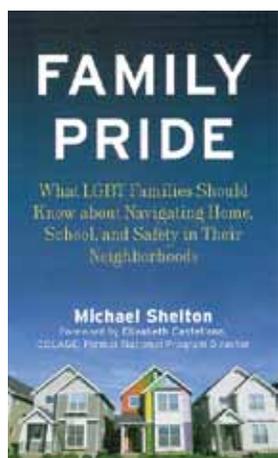
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Good reads: Books for couples and families

BY TRACY BAIM

Family Pride: What LGBT Families Should Know about Navigating Home, School, and Safety in Their Neighborhoods is a new book by Michael Shelton (Beacon Press). Shelton spoke to families from urban and rural areas to look at how they struggle against homophobia and everyday problems. He looks at how some families live “in the closet” in hostile areas of the country, a kind of “passing” that has a cost. Trying to be a “perfect” example as an LGBT family also comes with a price, he writes. Shelton also has recommendations relating to parent-child relationships, government benefits access and fostering tolerance and inclusion in communities.

From the Closet to the Altar: Courts, Backlash, and the Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage, by Michael J. Klarman, explores the landmark cases defining this issue as well as wide-ranging and often unintended consequences. The author predicts that gay marriage is probably inevitable in the U.S. and fairly soon. “However, marriage legislation has also impeded other objectives of the gay-rights movement and comes

at significant cost, such as sympathetic Senate candidates losing their bids and state judges having lost their jobs,” according to the book. “The lives of millions of Americans have been impacted by these cases and millions more will be fundamentally changed by how we proceed over the next decade. Every American, on either side of the debate, should know how we came to such a turning point in our history.”

Chicago author and artist Philip D. Luong made a public proposal of marriage to singer/songwriter Charles Stephen Hughes, his domestic companion of nearly 14 years, by publishing a collection of poetry and prose he’s written for Hughes from 1998 to 2012. The book is illustrated with Luong’s paintings. Published by BookBaby.com as an e-book, the collection is entitled **Bliss: A Marriage Proposal for Charles Stephen Hughes**. The book’s inscription reads “a collection of poetry, prose and paintings that culminates in a marriage proposal, private in nature, but made public here for all to read because the personal is still political.” Luong was an active member of NewTown Writers, Chicago’s oldest LGBT writing group, for almost 20 years. See www.philipdluong.com.

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Photo by Jen Lynne Photography.



Photo by Maggie Rife.



Photo by Dawn E. Roscoe.

How to 'capture' the love: Book gives advice on wedding photography

BY TRACY BAIM

Are there different challenges for photographers of same-sex weddings? That's the premise of a new book by Thea Dodds and Kathryn Hamm. *Capturing Love: The Art of Lesbian & Gay Wedding Photography* (Authentic Weddings, \$32.95) shows ways for photographers to innovate how they approach same-sex weddings, to make sure to capture the true essence of the celebrations.

Something as benign as wedding photography can indeed be groundbreaking. Ask the folks from *Weddings Unveiled Magazine*. They had refused to run an ad for photographer Anne Almasy because it featured a lesbian couple. Well, after intense pressure, they caved. Publisher Terri Ireland and Brooke Thomas wrote this letter of apology:

"We are incredibly sad that same sex marriage is still an issue in our society. When we were faced with the decision of whether or not to publish Anne Almasy's advertisement, we acted in a manner that does not reflect our personal

beliefs. We truly believe that all love is beautiful and that all people have the right to marry. You might ask that if we feel that way, then why did we make this decision? Honestly, we knew that everyone would not share our belief that all people have the right to marry. The issue is very sensitive and it is also very divided. We knew that it was possible that people would be offended if we published the ad and we knew that it was possible that people would be offended if we did not. We are so sorry that we acted out of fear and uncertainty. We had never been faced with such a decision and we should have acted with our hearts. ...

"We love all weddings. We love all people and would never want to anger, offend or disappoint anyone. We are deeply moved by the outpouring of love and support for Anne. We are so sorry that we have disappointed you and we ask for your forgiveness. If Anne would still like to run her ad in *Weddings Unveiled*, then we would be proud to publish it."

But even though they are just weddings,

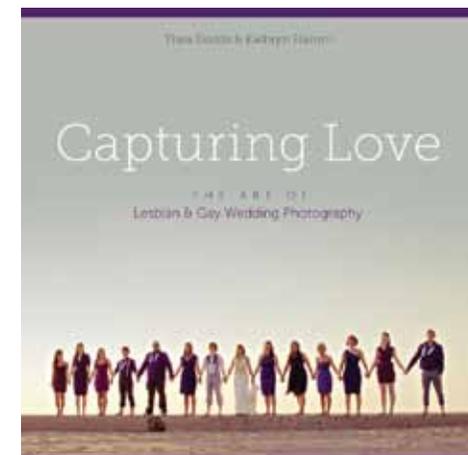
same-sex weddings can be a challenge not because they are controversial, but because photographers do need to make sure they are not falling into stereotypes, of the male-female dynamic of photo setups.

Capturing Love's authors are experienced in their fields, Dodds as a photographer and Hamm as a wedding "innovator" with experience as president of *GayWeddings.com*.

"I photographed my first gay wedding almost 10 years ago," Dodds said in her promotions for the book. "And, it wasn't just the first gay wedding I'd worked; it was also the first gay wedding I'd ever attended! I had an absolutely amazing time, but during the course of the wedding and those that followed, I realized that photographing same-sex couples and photographing them well requires more than a 'plug and play' approach from the standard wedding playbook. Simply put, what works for a straight couple won't always work for a gay or lesbian couple. Weddings are changing, and photography education needs to change, too."

The book is both a how-to for photographers and also a photo essay of samples from the work of 38 photographers across the country, including some from the Chicago area (Maggie Rife, Torie McMillan, Dawn E. Roscoe, Denver Smith and Ann Walker of *It's Bliss* with the cover photo of the book). I would have loved to have seen some more Chicagoans known for their amazing wedding photography, including those who also give back by donating their services to non-profits (Kat Fitzgerald, Rick Aguilar and others.)

Adi and Michael are a couple photographed by Dawn Roscoe. In the book, Roscoe talks about how she had used a traditional pose, which can also work. As *GayWeddings.com* notes on their



Cover of *Capturing Love*. Photo by Ann Walker.

Website: "The two men met in graduate school at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. They now live in Chicago, where Adi works as a research scientist at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, and Michael works as a speech language pathologist at All Bright Therapies. They got married in the chapel at Northwestern University, and held their reception at a restaurant in Evanston."

The book's cover photo, by Ann Walker, features the wedding party posing at North Avenue Beach in Chicago, offering the simplicity of a horizon "and the steadfast strength of community," as the authors state, "this, we contend, is one of the true opportunities available when working with same-sex couples."

The book also includes a glossary of terms, including "Chosen Family," "Bisexual," "Gender normative," and "Transgender."

This manual for photographers is actually something I would hope any photographer would use as a learning tool. After all, straight wedding photography could benefit from a fresh approach, too.

See www.capturingloveguide.com.

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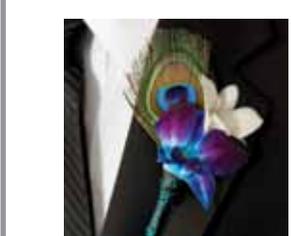






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PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK AGUILAR

Actress Mary-Louise Parker addresses anti-gay controversy



BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Mary-Louise Parker visited Chicago recently for Steppenwolf's Fourth Annual Women in the Arts Luncheon at the JW Marriott. The two-time Golden Globe winner was honored with a video career retrospective and questions from Artistic Director Martha Lavey.

Parker's work on Showtime's *Weeds* has garnered her four of her Golden Globe nominations, six Screen Actors Guild nominations and three Emmy nominations. She took home a Tony for the Broadway play *Proof* in 2001.

She has starred in unforgettable roles in *Red*, *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Bullets over Broadway*.

She has been a consistent friend to the gay community with her beginnings in the film *Longtime Companion*, playing a woman with AIDS in *Boys on the Side*, and the wife of a closeted lawyer in the HBO adaptation of *Angels in America*. This added to the surprise that recently she was accused of calling an antique dealer a "fag" in a scuffle. She wanted to set the record straight after the luncheon Nunn On One.

Windy City Times: Hello, Mary. How did you wind up at this luncheon?

Mary-Louise Parker: I don't know. They just asked me. [Steppenwolf ensemble member] K. Todd Freeman is one of my best friends. I just wanted to come with him.

WCT: He is the one that did that touching intro. You have known Steppenwolf actor John Malkovich through past projects, too.

MLP: Yes, I want to be John Malkovich. I love watching him on set. He helped me shop for dwarf baby goats this past Christmas for my kids on our downtime.

WCT: You have performed in many roles in support of the gay community so I wanted to ask you how you became involved in the first place?

MLP: Someone asked me once if I had any straight friends! I think it evolved from doing *Longtime Companion* so I have always been involved, and had a lot of gay friends both male and female. There is a misfit quality to certain generations of homosexuals because you never quite fit in while in high school. I think it will be different now because it is okay. I think in our generation I was a misfit and a wallflower. I always related to the other people that didn't quite fit in or were a little oversensitive. Do you know what I mean?

WCT: Yes, we are the same generation so I do. We appreciate it.

MLP: Oddly enough, this horrible man accused me of calling him a name. I would never... I was crushed because I feel like almost anyone could have come at me and accused me of something but I thought could they go there? That is the one place I would never go. I hope no one believes that I would do that. The person I went into the shop with was gay, which no one knows.

WCT: Is it okay to tell people that?

MLP: You can. I just don't want more people to Google it to bring it more attention. The man



Martha Lavey (left) and Mary-Louise Parker at the Women in Arts luncheon. Photo by Jerry Nunn

goes and operates under several names. The issue has always been so close to my heart. All of my gay friends were laughing at it going, "Yeah, right."

WCT: They thought it was ridiculous.

MLP: It is really upsetting that the people of today can accuse you of anything nowadays and some people are going to believe it because they have a voice to the world.

WCT: At least I can get your side of the word out to the gay community.

MLP: It just makes me so sad. I was really upset. How could he, of all places, go there with me? The shop owner wanted to sell the tape to TMZ and they wouldn't buy it because there was nothing on it. It just had me walking across the street.

WCT: Why did this happen in the first place?

MLP: Because he owed my friend, like, \$2,000. He bought her vintage purse then sold it, but didn't give the right amount of money. So we went in there together to deal with it and it was my idea to go in there.

WCT: I'm sorry it happened. I wanted to ask

you if there are past roles you have turned down that you regretted?

MLP: Well, I think it's in bad taste to talk about roles that I didn't play but since the actresses have talked about it in the press then I will. I was going to be in *Desperate Housewives* but I went for *Weeds* instead. People probably thought I was crazy to pick Showtime because back then they didn't have any big shows. I think they had *The L Word* around that time—not that there is anything wrong with *The L Word*.

WCT: It must have been hard to leave *Weeds* when it was over.

MLP: We were all crying.

WCT: What are your future projects?

MLP: I have *Red 2* coming out. It is different from the first film, though. They had two different directions with two different directors.

I also have *R.I.P.D.* with the director of the first *Red*, Robert Schwentke, coming out as well. I have a lot of fun working with him.

WCT: Do you get to Chicago often?

MLP: No, hardly ever. It is a cool city, though.

Program seeks juried artisans

The Illinois Artisans Program is seeking juried artisans.

Juried artisans participate in solo and group exhibitions, arts sprees (indoor art fairs) and demonstrations, and teach classes. Three not-for-profit venues operate under statutory authority of the Illinois State Museum Society to display and sell Illinois artisans work in more than 26 media categories including ceramics, glass, jewelry, painting, fiber arts, furniture, as well as fine art.

The locations are in Chicago, Rend Lake and Springfield.

The next deadline is March 28. Visit www.museum.state.il.us/artisans to apply.

GAM-TV party March 23

Chicago-based GAM-TV (which stands for "gay, Asian male") will debut its latest webisode, "Panda: Tale of a Gay Asian Bear," at a premiere party on Sat., March 23, at @mosphere bar, 5355 N. Clark St., at 8 p.m.

Admission is free.

Asians and Friends Chicago (AFC)—a local social organization for gay, Asian men and those who appreciate Asian cultures—is co-hosting the party. For more information, visit www.gamtvusa.com and www.afchicago.org; AFC's hotline is 312-409-1573.

Lakeside Pride hosting March 26 fundraiser

On Tuesday, March 26, Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles (LPME) will hold the fundraiser "Champagne Showcase."

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The evening includes a headliner performance by shh...OUT! Jazz Ensemble. Rounding out the night is the Rest Note Raffle with prizes from Francesca's on Bryn Mawr, iTunes and more.

Tickets are \$25; see www.LakesidePride.org.



'8' play reading benefits OPALGA's marriage equality efforts

WGN's Dean Richards and Megan Cavanagh (*A League of Their Own*, *Scrooge & Marley*) headed a cast of 21 in a staged-reading of "8"—a play by Academy-award winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black—March 10 at The Arts Center of Oak Park.

Presented by The Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association (OPALGA) in collaboration with 16th Street Theater, Oak Park Festival Theatre and Circle Theatre, "8" demystifies the debate around marriage equality by chronicling the landmark trial of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*. Using actual court transcripts from the federal trial challenging California's Proposition 8 and first-hand interviews, "8" shows both sides of the debate in a moving 90-minute play.

Directed by 16th Street Theater's Artistic Director Ann Filmer, "8" featured a cast of Chicago's finest actors, including Amy Matheny, Patricia Kane, Benjamin Sprunger and Ed Dzialo as the plaintiffs; with Megan Cavanagh as Maggie Gallagher, Keith Kupferer as David Blankenhorn and Dean Richards as Judge Walker.

Photo by Hal Baim

BOOKS

Smorgasbord of Words

BY TRACY BAIM

E-books may be the hot trend, but I still get piles of books each month eager to be opened and reviewed. I can't possibly keep up, but what follows are some highlights from the in-box.

Please support independent bookstores by purchasing your books through them. Stores we recommend include Women & Children First, Unabridged Books, The Book Cellar, After Words, the Book Table, 57th Street Books, Quimby's and Powell's.

Non-Fiction



A wonderful new addition to the stack of regional gay history books comes from Minnesota. **Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota**, by Stuart Van Cleve (University of Minnesota Press), provides a sampling of a wide range of LGBTQ history. Too often our history is focused on the coasts, and this book shows the deep and incredible activism and culture from this Midwest state. There are more than 120 essays, each of them very brief (in some cases too brief based on their importance), providing a road map for those who want to learn more. There are also more than 130 illustrations. Van Cleve mined the archives of the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota to produce the book, and Minnesota is fortunate to have such passionate historians working to preserve our history. Van Cleve is a former assistant curator at the collection, which gave him a unique insider's view to this treasure trove. Highly recommended.



The Gay Agenda is a guidebook to the modern LGBT movement, written by eQualityGiving.com co-founder Juan Ahonen-Jover (www.GayAgenda2012.com). It provides a basic understanding of what LGBT even means, and then works through a se-

ries of "agenda" items on the movement's to-do list. Youth, gender, marriage, military service, and the varied paths to equality are all discussed. It also gives tips on how readers can turn interest into activism. It came out prior to the 2012 elections, so some of it is now not relevant, but the concepts certainly are. There's a fun list of prominent LGBTs (and any list of course is going to have its limits), and it includes a copy of The Dallas Principles, a 2009 document created to push for full LGBT equality—now.

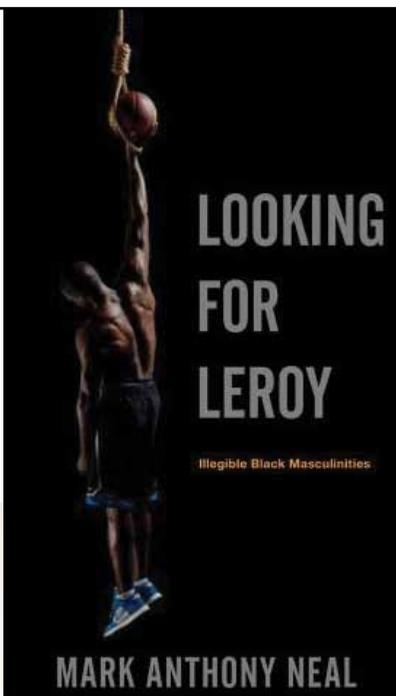
AMERICAN HONOR KILLINGS

DESIRE AND RAGE AMONG MEN

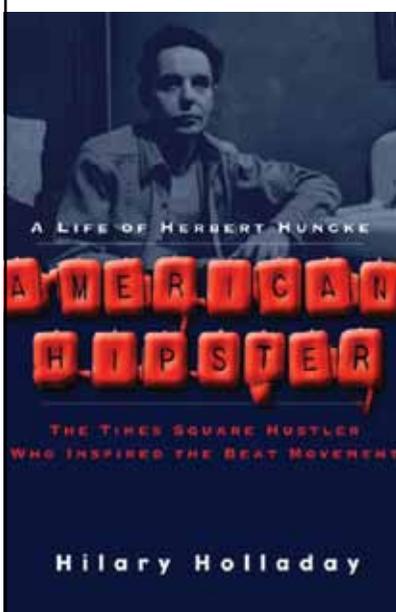


Remember the "gay panic" defense used in murder cases? An important new book about masculinity and homosexuality is now available from David McConnell and Akashic Books. **American Honor Killings: Desire and Rage Among Men** investigates several killers who "resorted to murder when their masculinity felt threatened. Each instance in this book is a crime against a gay man (or someone perceived to be gay), but these attacks could have just as easily been against a black man, a woman, or a Jewish temple—the hate these men carry within them is not exclusive to any one type," according to advance materials for the book. Among the murderers studied: Jon Schmitz (from The Jenny Jones Show case); gay porn star Darrell Madden who turned into a neo-Nazi and killed a gay man; and the Williams Brothers. I would have liked photos and images in the book, and also an exploration of even more cases, but it is an important contribution to the discussion of the roots of violence. A great companion on this subject is Arthur Dong's *Licensed to Kill* (DeepFocus Productions), a 1997 documentary that interviews the killers of gay men—many who turn out to be gay themselves.

On a similar topic of masculinity, Professor Mark Anthony Neal of Duke University has written **Looking for Leroy: Illegible Black Masculinities**, coming out this May from NYU Press. Neal investigates "the complex ways

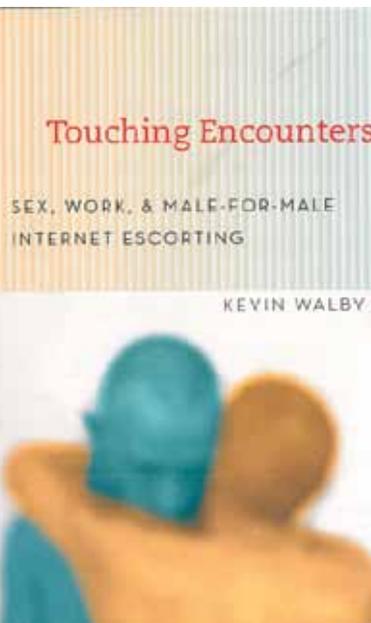


in which black masculinity has been read and misread through contemporary American popular culture." The common view of black male bodies as simply criminal "bring welcome relief to white America, providing easily identifiable images of black men in an era defined by shifts in racial, sexual, and gendered identities." One chapter that is particularly fascinating: "Fear of a Queer Soul Man: The Legacy of Luther Vandross." He speaks about the difficulty Vandross had acknowledging his sexuality, and mentions the same problem facing other black male singers. One incident I didn't remember hearing about was the 1982 car crash involving singer Teddy Pendergrass and a transsexual passenger, Tenika Watson. The accident left Pendergrass paralyzed (Watson had minor injuries), and raised questions about the singer's sexuality. This is an important new book for gay and straight alike.

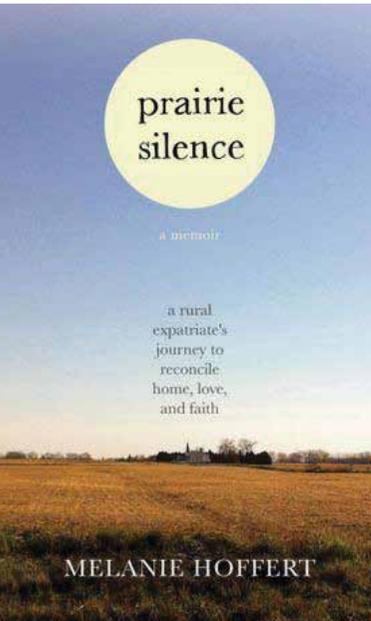


American Hipster: The Life of Herbert Huncke, The Times Square Hustler Who Inspired the Beat Movement, by Hilary Holladay, is now out from Magnus Books. The promo

says the book "tells the tale of a New York sex worker and heroin addict whose unrepentant deviance caught the imagination of Jack Kerouac (*On the Road*), Allen Ginsberg (*Howl*) and William S. Burroughs (*Junky*) and inspired some of their most famous writings." The book also looks at Huncke's youth in Chicago, his work with sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, and details his longtime partnership with Louis Cartwright, whose 1994 murder is still unsolved.

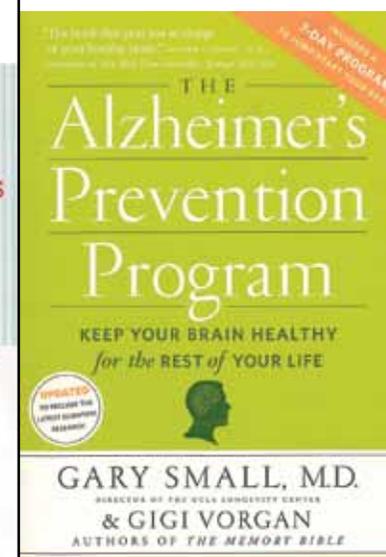


Hustling is also one of the themes in **Touching Encounters: Sex, Work, & Male-for-Male Internet Escorting**, by Kevin Walby (University of Chicago Press). The book examines "how masculinity and sexuality shape male commercial sex in this era of Internet communications." Walby, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Victoria, even draws on Michel Foucault in discussions about power and commercialized sexuality. The author interviewed male sex workers, and also discussed the "feigning of intimacy." A surprising academic approach to what can be a decidedly unacademic pursuit, and interesting even for those who have never paid for sex.

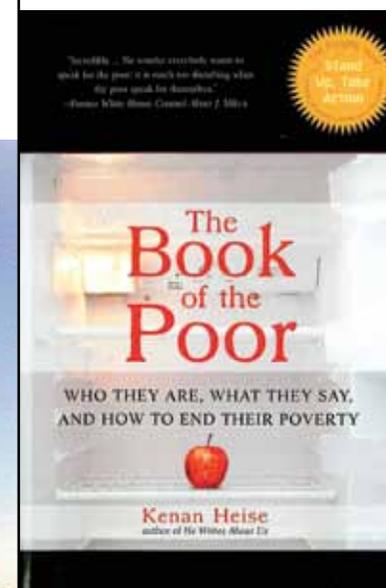


Melanie Hoffer writes a passionate memoir about her life growing up on a farm in North Dakota, **Prairie Silence** (Beacon Press). After college she moved to Minneapolis to be free to live an out gay life. She returned for a visit at harvest time, but felt like an outsider, even though she longed for home. This is a personal memoir that also deals with the loss of a way

of life, as these prairie towns are becoming deserted: "The towns are like crawfish that have died, leaving their beautiful exoskeletons behind." This is a book tens of thousands of LGBTs can relate to, those who migrated to the big cities over the past decades, hiding in the anonymity of Chicago, Minneapolis and Madison, but sometimes longing for the silence of the prairie.

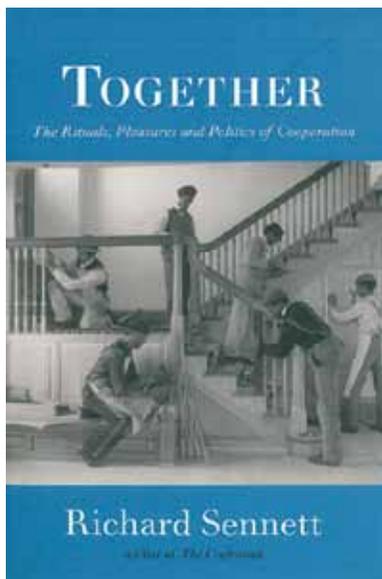


The LGBTQ community is not immune to the problems that face everyone as we age, or as our relatives age. Many don't have children, so it's even more important to stay as healthy as possible as long as possible, with no next generation to help with care (and even with kids, there is no guarantee!). **The Alzheimer's Prevention Program** by Dr. Gary Small and Gigi Vorgan (Workman Publishing) gives you basic some short- and long-term tips to keeping your brain active and healthy. The book has been updated with new research, and it also has a 7-day jump-start program. It includes food recommendations and cross-training ideas.



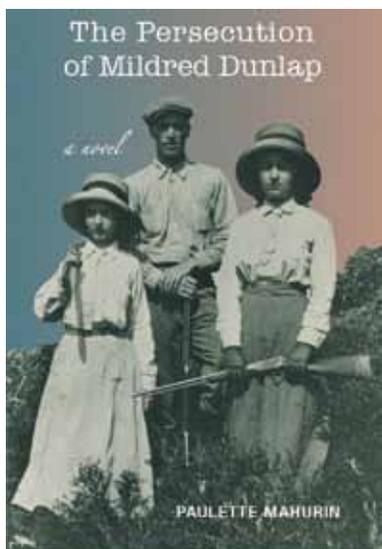
Former Chicago Tribune reporter Kenan Heise writes about an under-represented political group in **The Book of the Poor: Who They Are, What They Say and How to End Their Poverty** (Marion Street Press). He investigates areas across the country, including Chicago, and takes a journalists-eye-view of the problems, and solutions, for this complex issue.

Speaking of community, Richard Sennett explores one in **Together: The Rituals, Pleasures, and Politics of Cooperation** (Yale University Press). It addresses "why people and parties find it so difficult to cooper-



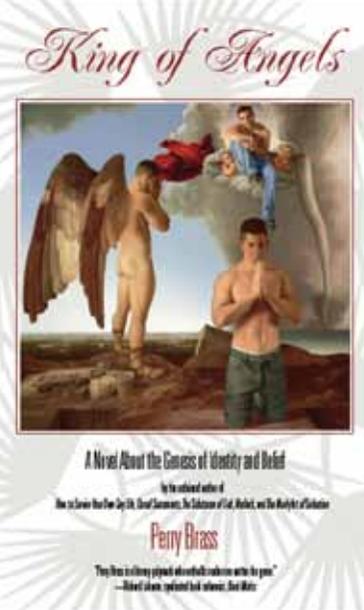
ate." Given the state of Congress and the White House, this is a very timely discussion. It is not a gay book, but does address how people can cooperate across differences.

Fiction



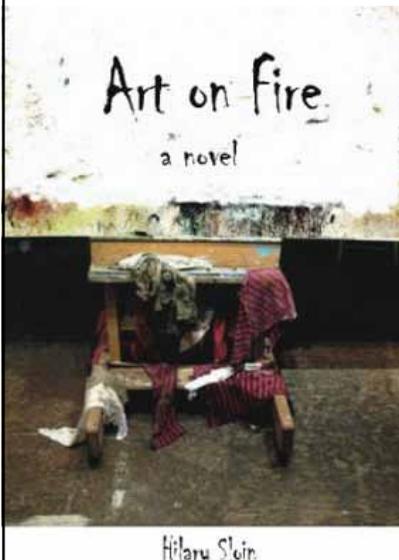
Paulette Mahurin uses the trials of Oscar Wilde in 1895 as a backdrop for a Patience & Sarah-like tale of the Old West in **The Persecution of Mildred Dunlap** (Blue Palm Press), a fun imagining of life for lesbians on the range. As the promo for the book noted: "The year 1895 was filled with memorable historical events: the

Dreyfus Affair divided France; Booker T. Washington gave his Atlanta address; Richard Olney, United States Secretary of State, expanded the effects of the Monroe Doctrine in settling a boundary dispute between the United Kingdom and Venezuela; and Oscar Wilde was tried and convicted for gross indecency under Britain's recently passed law that made sex between males a criminal offense. When news of Wilde's conviction went out over telegraphs worldwide, it threw a small Nevada town into chaos. This is the story of what happened when the lives of its citizens were impacted by the news of Oscar Wilde's imprisonment. It is a chronicle of hatred and prejudice with all its unintended and devastating consequences, and how love and friendship bring strength and healing." I enjoyed the connections between closeted lesbians in Nevada and Wilde's own trials, and Mahurin does a nice job of creating these characters just from the inspiration of photograph.

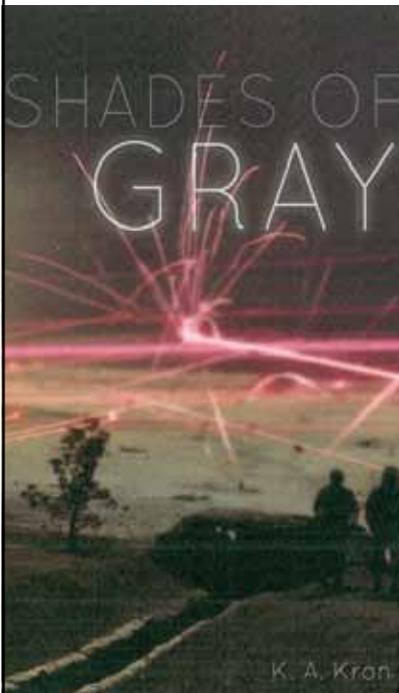


Perry Glass, a longtime gay journalist, is also an award-winning author (*How to Survive Your Own Gay Life*). His **King of Angels** (Belhue Press) is a novel about the "genesis of identity and belief." This is a Southern coming-out and coming-of-age story set in the 1960s. The central character is 12-year-old Benjamin Rothbery, growing up in Isle of Hope, Ga., the

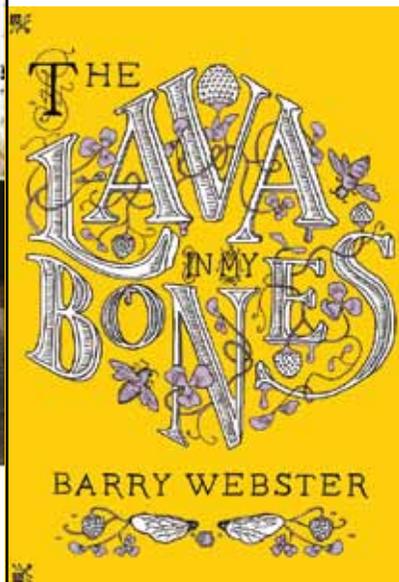
son of a Southern-WASP mom and New York Jewish dad. He attends the Holy Nativity Military Academy and finds out soon about a sexual underground—including pedophile monks. Read on as he journeys to self-discovery during a tumultuous decade.



Hillary Sloin's debut novel, **Art on Fire**, from Bywater Books, is a "pseudo-biography" of artist Francesca deSilva. Don't be fooled, this is a satire, an imagined life by a creative writer, one who aims her sharpened pen (keyboard?) at art world pretentiousness.



Shades of Gray is Kathy A. Kron's sequel to *Don't Tell* (both from Lethe Press), and both are based on lesbians in the military and how they juggle love and work. Kron bases her writing on her experience in the military. This is a novel set in a training unit that also works in the virtual world.



The Lava in My Bones by Barry Webster (Arsenal Pulp Press) is described as a "magic-realist novel. ... [Webster] combines elements of fairy tales, horror movies, and romances to create a queer, boundary-breaking celebration of excess and sexuality." Get ready for an escape into a new world of a geologist who eats rocks and wants to have his first same-sex relationship, and other fully imagined characters.

Children's Books

When Loves Comes to Town, by Tom Lennon, was first published in Ireland in 1993, but now it is available for the first time in the U.S., from Albert Whitman & Co., a children's book publisher in Chicago. Lennon was a pseudonym for an Irish writer who died in 2002. The new edition includes a forward by James Klise, a high school librarian in Chicago. The book is set in 1990 Dublin, where we meet Neil Byrne, a rugby player who is struggling to keep his sexuality secret. Many years after the book first



came out, Gareth Thomas became the first openly gay rugby player in Europe's pro leagues. Thomas came out in 2009, and he is now retired. Former Chicago Tribune reporter



Jean Latz Griffin, who for a few years covered the gay beat for the paper, has a children's book out, with illustrations by Jane Gaunt. **One Spirit: A Creation Story for the 21st Century**, is a gay-inclusive, racially and species diverse look at spirituality. A nice addition to your children's library, by CyberINK in Arlington Heights, Ill. There is also a DVD and cards. See www.cyberinkonline.com.

D'Emilio receives Triangle award

John D'Emilio is the 2013 recipient of the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, named in honor of the legendary editor of the 1970s and 1980s.

D'Emilio will be honored Thursday, April 25, as part of the 25th annual Triangle Awards, which honors the best lesbian and gay fiction, nonfiction and poetry published in 2012. The event will take place at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School in New York City.

D'Emilio, who teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is the author or editor of more than half a dozen books, including *Sexual Politics*, *Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States*; *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (with Estelle Freedman); and *The World Turned: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and Culture*. His *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin* won the Publishing Triangle's Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction in 2004.

He has also won fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and received the Brudner Prize from Yale University for lifetime contribu-



John D'Emilio.

tions to gay and lesbian studies. A former co-chair of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, he was also the founding director of its Policy Institute.

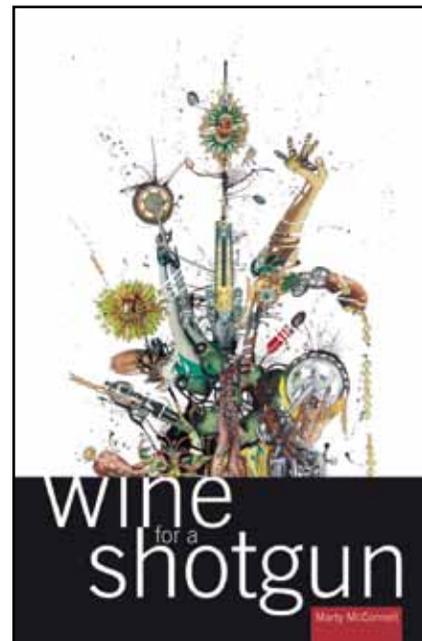
Lambda finalists include Chicagoans

The Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF) in Los Angeles Finalists announced finalists for the Lambda Literary Awards March 6.

Books from major mainstream publishers, academic presses, LGBT publishers and emerging publish-on-demand technologies make up the 687 submissions for the "Lammys." The finalists were selected from a record number of submissions and, for the first time, the judges could choose more finalists in those categories that drew a large number of submissions.

The finalists include these Chicagoans: Carol Anshaw, Carry the One, Simon & Schuster, for Lesbian General Fiction; Anne Laughlin, Runaway, Bold Strokes Books, for Lesbian Romance; Ramon H. Rivera-Servera, Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics, University of Michigan Press; Marty McCon-

nell, wine for a shotgun, EM Press, for Lesbian poetry; and Tracy Baim, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America, Prairie Avenue Productions and Windy City Times.



Winners will be announced during a ceremony Monday, June 3, at The Great Hall at Cooper Union in New York City. For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.lambdaliterary.org/awards.

Cover of Lambda Literary Award-nominated Wine For a Shotgun, by Marty McConnell

BOOKS

Gay Press, Gay Power: A look at LGBT media history

BY TONY PEREGRIN

You may be reading this article on a mobile device or a tablet, or perhaps you're reading the print version of this article, your newspaper fanned out leisurely before you, a cup of coffee in hand—but no matter how you're viewing this article you're likely aware that LGBT publications are constantly redefining themselves for a new media future.

Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America—a new book edited and co-written by Windy City Times publisher Tracy Baim—offers an unflinching eye toward the future of LGBT media and how publishers can survive—and thrive—despite the tectonic shifts in journalism over the last several years.

The book is a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award, in the category of LGBT Studies. Winners will be announced this June in New York City.

The 468-page book also provides a focused and detailed account of the rise of gay media over the last several decades. The title *Gay Press, Gay Power*, beyond its alliterative bounce, is meant to signify the strength of gay media over time, according to Baim, along with the critical role the LGBT press played in the rise of the gay rights movement.

Baim, who has worked in the LGBT media since 1984, spent more than a year researching, editing, and writing *Gay Press, Gay Power*, including coordinating a cadre of contributing writers. During that time, Baim immersed herself into a veritable pile of gay media sources, reading (or re-reading) some 35 books on the topic of LGBT media and hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, including original magazines from the 1920s and '70s.

"My favorite finds were those I had never seen referenced, including one from Harper's Magazine in the 1920s about women's schools, where they surveyed women about homosexual behavior," said Baim.

In the following interview, Baim reveals why LGBT journalism remains relevant despite the prevalence of LGBT topics covered in the mainstream media, and how "entrepreneurial journalism" may very well be the key for publishers to succeed in the current media landscape.



Mattachine Midwest June 1968 edition. Courtesy the M. Kuda Archives, Oak Park. This is just one of nearly 500 images in the book *Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America*. See the following page for more examples.

Windy City Times: In the chapter titled "The Future of Queer Newspapers," you advise publishers to harness the power of the Web in order to sustain their print publications, and you also underscore the fact that both formats—print and online—continue to be relevant.

Tracy Baim: Right now, the survival of gay media is partly tied to being a "brand" in your market. So, while we lose money in our online efforts, we know we have to be on top of the news where the readers are located on a daily basis. Social media is great—but it pays zero bills. We have to find a balance that makes sense for the future. Our print advertisers get better response in general because it is a more dedicated audience and they are not competing with all the flash of ads on the web. But for some advertisers, the web and e-mail lists are better for their particular product. Surviving in the LGBT media landscape today is about adapting, and providing a lot of different opportunities for revenue. We do events, such as sponsoring contests and awards, for the same reason—they provide revenue to help cover our costs.

WCT: When you started working on this book in 2011, you expected to confirm the fact that there are fewer gay publications serving the local and national markets today—but in fact the status of the gay press is actually worse than you originally anticipated.

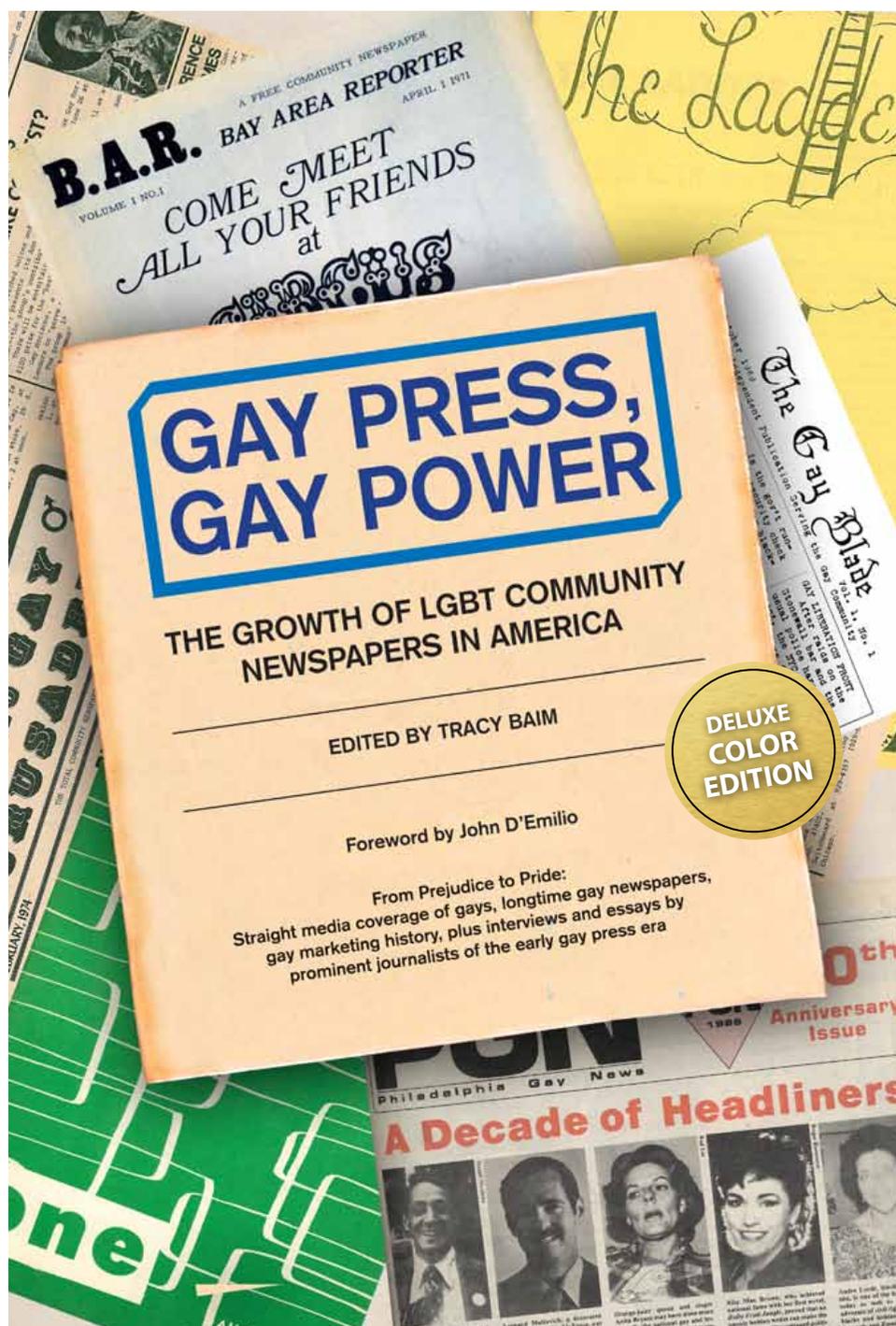
TB: We are at the tipping point. There are just 12 weekly and 13 biweekly regional newspapers left, with just over 100 print publications serving regional markets, including bar guides. There are a couple dozen national publications as well. This is down from hundreds of publications just a few years ago. But on an editorial side, which is what really matters, these regional newspapers provide critical coverage of our community and its institutions and leaders. The mainstream media is also shrinking, and they can only dig down so much within any one segment of the community; gay media provides an important checks-and-balances system to our community.

WCT: In the book you make the observation that "working in the gay press should probably be measured in dog years." Readers who are also members of the press will likely nod their heads in silent agreement—but for those outside the media bubble can you explain what you mean by this?

TB: The gay media for the most part has been a constant struggle. There is the in-fighting in our community, the long hours, low pay, and high turnover. There were certainly people who made a lot of money in the peak years of the 1990s—but for the most part it is a struggle. I seem to be able to thrive in it—but the LGBT media landscape is not for everyone. We can't pay a lot for freelancers but we do offer a lot of freedom to writers to explore interesting topics and to build their clip files. In fact, we have been a starting off point for a lot of new journalists, but it's hard to make a career out of it. That's the same in the mainstream media now. I think that gay media is more like entrepreneurial journalism because it really takes wearing all kinds of hats to stay in this business.

WCT: In Yasmin Nair's chapter titled "Do We Still Need Gay News Media?" she notes that if an individual were to read a month's worth of gay newspaper reporting certain story patterns would emerge: Gay marriage; hate crimes; DADT and the military; celebrity X comes out of the closet; and assorted gossip (guess who's gay?) Given the somewhat repetitive nature of this cycle of topics, talk about why the LGBT press continues to be relevant today as well as in the future.

TB: I wanted to include Yasmin's point of view



Cover of *Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America*.

[in the book] because it is unique, but I believe gay media can't be lumped into one pile. We do cover all aspects of the gay community, from hard news and investigations to legal issues, politics, entertainment, celebrities, sports and travel. We feel we are a one-stop shop for people wanting to know what's going on in the LGBTQ universe that day or that week. But to survive, we do have to make sure we are providing something different than the mainstream—so we can't simply focus on those easy, headline-grabbing stories.

WCT: The Nieman Journalism Lab recently featured some interesting trends for journalism for 2013 (and beyond). One writer says the future of journalism is tethered to "Mobile, location and data." Another writer, in a separate essay in the series, claims that "What is needed are newsrooms that can filter, verify, curate, and amplify social media for their audiences, in addition to journalists reporting in enterprising and contextual ways." Do these observations translate to local LGBT media?

TB: Well, that's using jargon to both simplify and complicate things, if that's possible. Good journalism is still shining through, no matter what format it comes in. Long-form online journalism, investigative print pieces, articles read quickly on mobile devices—these are all part of journalism today. We will write one story for print, expand on it online, and then post and repost it across social media. It is about making sure that article is visible and available across a lot of platforms—but the basics of good journalism apply no matter where a story is read.

WCT: You've spoken on the future of LGBT

media, so now I'd like to ask what the future holds for you, Tracy. What new projects are you working on?

TB: Owen Keehnen and I finished a book last year about Chicago activist Vernita Gray, and we're just waiting to work with her on finishing that with photos and any final edits. I have some other projects I want to do, including, for 2014, a project related to my 30 years in gay media, but this year I am also very focused on special projects for Windy City Times. We are working on a queers and the prison system series soon, coming on the heels of our award-nominated Generation Halsted series from last 2012.

To purchase *Gay Press, Gay Power*, visit the following websites:

Black & white: \$25:
www.createspace.com/4022184 or
www.amazon.com/Gay-Press-Power-Community-Newspapers/dp/1480080527

Color: \$89:
www.createspace.com/4064472 or
www.amazon.com/Gay-Press-Power-Community-Newspapers/dp/1481047213

It is also available at Women & Children First and Unabridged Bookstores in Chicago.

Tracy Baim is the author of *Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage* (2010, Prairie Avenue Productions). She is also the co-author and editor of *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community* (2008, Agate), the first comprehensive book on Chicago's gay history (see www.ChicagoGayHistory.org).

How far we've come ...

Take a glimpse at the history of gays in the media with these images from Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America, which includes nearly 500 images.

Growth of Overt Homosexuality In City Provokes Wide Concern

By ROBERT C. DOTY

The problem of homosexuality in New York became the focus yesterday of increased attention by the State Liquor Authority and the Police Department.

The liquor authority announced the revocation of the liquor licenses of two more homosexual haunts that had been repeatedly raided by the police. The places were the Fawn, at 795 Washington Street near Tenth Street, and the

and restaurants that cater to the homosexual trade. Commenting yesterday on the situation, Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy said: "Homosexuality is another one of the many problems confronting law enforcement in this city. However, the underlying factors in homosexuality are not criminal but rather medical and sociological in nature.

From *The New York Times*, December 17, 1963.



Come Out! first edition, November 14, 1969, New York City.

COME OUT FOR FREEDOM! COME OUT NOW! POWER TO THE PEOPLE! GAY POWER TO GAY PEOPLE! COME OUT OF THE CLOSET BEFORE THE DOOR IS NAILED SHUT!

COME-OUT, A NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY, dedicates itself to the joy, the humor, and the dignity of the homosexual male and female. COME-OUT has COME OUT to fight for the freedom of the homosexual; to give voice to the rapidly growing militancy within our community; to provide a public forum for the discussion and clarification of methods and actions necessary to end our oppression. COME-OUT has COME OUT indeed for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Make no mistake about our oppression: It is real, it is visible, it is demonstrable. IN NEW YORK A HOMOSEXUAL IS LEGITIMATE AS AN INDIVIDUAL BUT ILLEGITIMATE AS A PARTICIPANT IN A HOMOSEXUAL ACT. Hell, every homosexual and lesbian in this country survives solely by sufferance, not by law or even that cold state of grace known as tolerance. Our humanity is questioned, our choice of housing is circumscribed, our employment is tenuous, OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD TAVERN IS A MAFIOSO-ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DUM-DUM HOODS. It is just such grievances as these which have sparked the revolutionary movements of history.

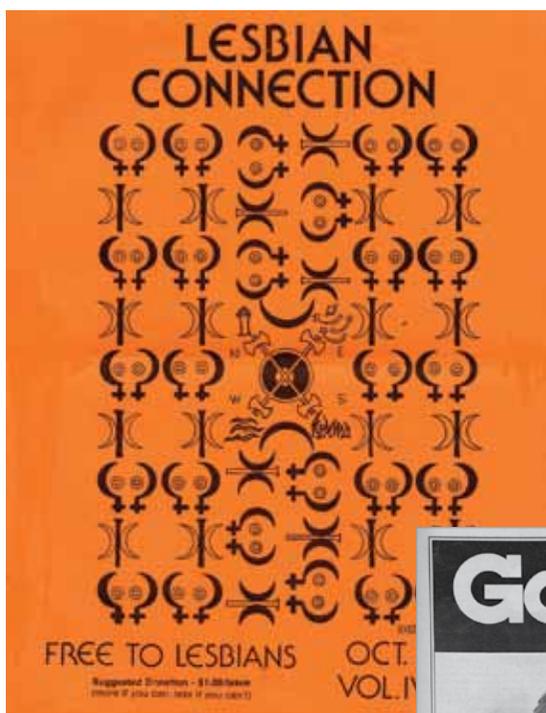
COME-OUT salutes militant oppressed groups, offers aid, but realizes that very often other oppressed people are also our own oppressors. THROUGH MUTUAL RESPECT, ACTION, AND EDUCATION COME-OUT HOPES TO UNIFY BOTH THE HOMOSEXUAL

COMMUNITY AND OTHER OPPRESSED GROUPS INTO A COHESIVE BODY OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT FIND THE ENEMY IN EACH OTHER.

COME-OUT will hasten the day when it becomes not only possible, but actual political suicide to speak of further repression of the homosexual. WE ARE COMING OUT IN COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY THAT NUMBERS IN THE MILLIONS. We shall aggressively promote the use of the very real and potent economic power of Gay people throughout this land in order to further the interests of the homosexual community. We shall convince society at large of the reality of homosexual political power by the active use thereof.

We will not be gay bourgeois, searching for the sterile "American dream" of the ivy-covered cottage and the good corporation job, but rather we will tolerate the exclusion of homosexuals from any area of American life.

Because our oppression is based on sex and the sex roles which oppress us from infancy, we must explore these roles and their meanings. We must recognize and make others recognize that BEING HOMOSEXUAL SAYS ONLY ONE THING: EMOTIONALLY YOU PREFER YOUR OWN SEX. IT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT YOUR WORTH, YOUR VALUE AS A HUMAN BEING. Does society make a place for us... as a man? A woman? A homosexual or lesbian? How does the family structure affect us? What is sex, and what does it mean? What is love? As homosexuals, we are in a unique position to examine these questions from a fresh point of view. You'd better believe we are going to do so—that we are going to transform the society at large through the open realization of our own consciousness.

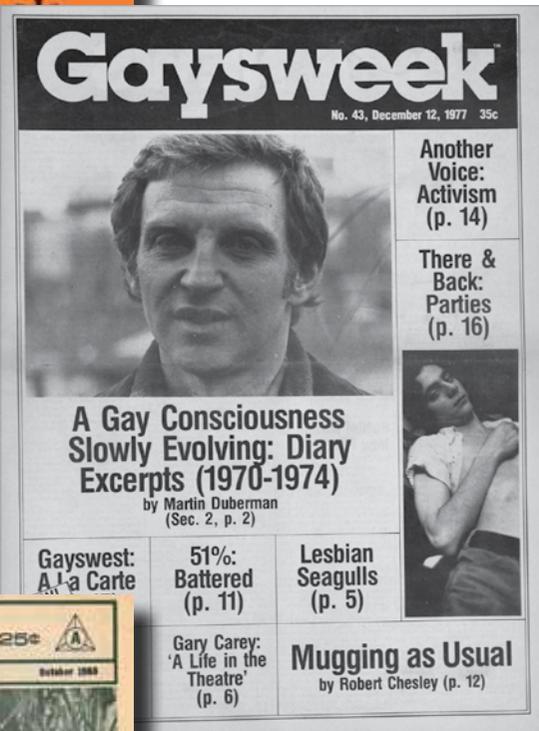


Lesbian Connection, October 1978.

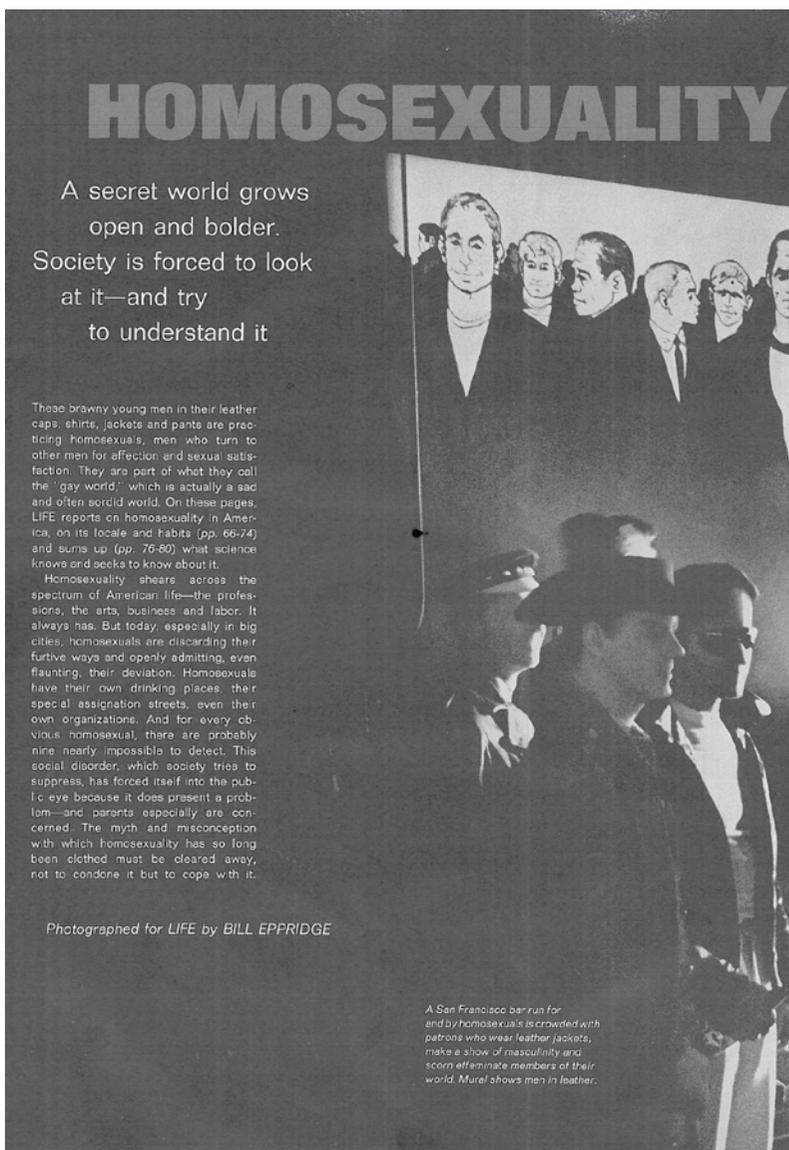
STEP & FETCHIT FEMALE MARCHI & PROCACCINO VILLAGE VOICE GOES DOWN

vol. 1, no. 1 new york, nov. 14, 1969 35c / 50c outside n.y.c.

Gayweek, December 12, 1977, New York City.



The Los Angeles Advocate, October 1968. Courtesy of Rich Wilson



The June 26, 1964, issue of *Life* magazine included a major story about "Homosexuality in America."

Doing the WAVE

BY ANDREW DAVIS

There was a time when the thought of eating food in a hotel prompted most people to eat in a "real" restaurant.

Well, those days are long gone. Hotels have hired top-notch chefs to create dishes that are on par with highly praised standalone venues.

One sublime example of those newer hotel restaurants is at the W Hotel at 644 N. Lake Shore Dr., where **WAVE** (www.cornerstonerestaurants.com/wave/index.html) is drawing patrons from outside in addition to the hotel's guests.

Eating there recently for lunch, I was immediately struck by how light and airy it was, as socialites and families took in the atmosphere.

Chef Gregory Elliott has an impressive pedigree (including Chicago's one sixtyblue and Ambria), and he has successfully applied his skills to the dishes here. The flatbread (with prosciutto, rapini, caramelized onions and taleggio) was absolutely delightful. Elliott provided an additional treat with butternut-squash caramelle, and the items were positively addictive—and could've



Cobia fish entree at WAVE. Press photo

been dessert items with their sweetness. (Other appetizers include a charcuterie platter, warm marinated olives and steamed mussels—and don't forget the soups and salads.)

As for the sandwiches and entrees, they are stellar as well. The Slagel Family Farm burger is one of the best burgers I've ever had, and it comes with caramelized onions, lettuce, tomato and Wisconsin white cheddar cheese. (Other options for the burger include a fried egg and bacon; however, since I wasn't in the mood for a possible trip to the cardiologist, I declined.) A fried chicken sandwich also deserved praise, and is certainly above the standard KFC fare.

Other entrees that I'm sure warrant trying include salame rosa, ricotta ravioli, and the Shet-

land salmon with wilted spinach.

By the way, I don't normally try cocktails earlier in the day, but I had to try the Gingered Apple—a concoction of Belvedere citrus and ginger beer with an apple garnish. It was so refreshing, and even had me thinking of spring while there was snow outside.

Incidentally, WAVE has an even more expansive dinner menu, with such dishes as cobia, pork chops and steak—although it's the duck-fat fingerlings that really might draw in the crowds.

So, try WAVE. Elliott handles appetizers, entrees and desserts (chocolate budino!) equally well—not bad for someone at a hotel restaurant.



Flatbread pizza. Photo by Andrew Davis

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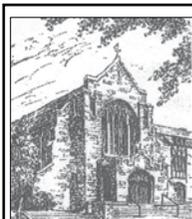
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CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 52nd ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 13th & 14th, 2013. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. APPLY NOW. For applications or information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. www.skokieartguild.org (7/3/13)

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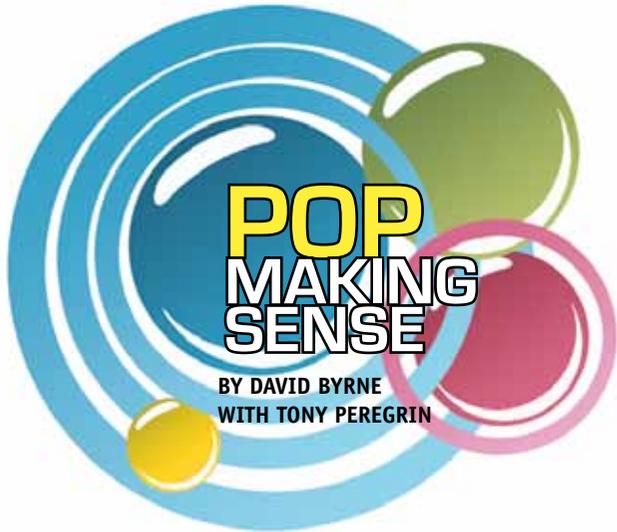
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It is heartbreaking news to find out that powerhouse vocalist **Anastacia's** breast cancer has returned. The Chicago-born siren overcame her first bout with breast cancer 10 years ago. Anastasia is cancelling her performance at the Dubai World Cup as well as her European tour that was scheduled to kick off in London April 6.

Like Cher's 1995 album of the same name, Anastacia's *It's a Man's World* features remakes of material made famous by male artists. Here, the standouts include Anastacia's signature wail on AC/DC's "Back in Black," Aerosmith's "Dream On" and Foo Fighters' "Best of Me." Her 2004 self-titled album recounts her previous battle with breast cancer, as heard on the hits "Left outside Alone" and "Sick and Tired." The anthem "I'm Outta Love" exploded on the scene in 1999. Since then, her success stateside never measured

soars as the bisexual Shapiro draws out the lyrics, "I want to know you, Mr. Starman." It is definitely worth a listen.

Ever since **Swing out Sister** made a splash with the smash single "Breakout" in 1986, the band has been making clever pop music. On the new CD/DVD set *Private View*, Swing out Sister revitalizes its catalog with stylish, sophisticated arrangements. The opening number, "Incomplete without You," sets the mood for the 10-track album with its carefree feel thanks to soft horns and a breezy rhythm. Beloved favorites "La

La Means I Love You," "notgonnache" and a cover of Dusty Springfield's "Am I the Same Girl?" work very well with the new sound. Originally a trio and now operating as a duo, Swing out Sister is wildly popular in Japan, where the accompanying concert footage was filmed. Here, the material translates flawlessly to a live setting. A snippet of the Jacksons' "I'll Be There" proves that Mariah Carey is not the only one who can cover this timeless gem. *Private View* is out now via Shanachie.

There has been many a certain fascination in pop music with the LGBT community. Motley Crue chronicles an ex-girlfriend getting married to another woman on "Same Ol' Situation," more recently Joan Jett and the Blackhearts covered Sweet's lustful ode to a bisexual woman "A.C.D.C.," to name a few. **Longreef** adds to the

music authority's website has a listing specific for YouTube views in its web section alongside Next Big Sound and MySpace Songs charts. It is still not clear if the methodology only measures official videos instead of fan made creations. Nielsen SoundScan handles the tally duties for Billboard. So does this mean we have to endure having "Call Me Maybe" and "Gangnam Style" being hits until the next phenomenon arrives?

Prince will not allow his music videos to be posted on the go-to website. It is unlikely that he will change his ways and become the Artists Formerly Not on YouTube.

Lady Gaga landed in hot water earlier this year when 156 million views were stripped from

her account, because it was speculated that her team had a program to constantly cue up her clips online to tally up her count and bragging rights.

Billboard has seen many changes over the years. Fleetwood Mac was the first band to land a song on the Hot 100 singles chart from digital sales of "Peacekeeper" in 2003. Madonna followed suit a week later with "American Life." In the '90s, songs could only chart if they were also available for purchase. Many radio staples like "Killing Me Softly" by Fugees, "Don't Speak" by No Doubt and "You Oughta Know" by Alanis Morissette did not have complete run of the charts since they were not for sale.



Pink in concert at the United Center. Photo by Jerry Nunn

P!nk lets it all hang out during concert

BY JERRY NUNN

The artist known as Pink or sometimes P!nk named after her former hair color arrived at the United Center March 9 sporting a spiky blonde do. It took a while to get there, though; after strong openers The Hives rocked the place fans waited until almost 10 p.m. for her to begin—and they lost an hour with the time change later.

Their patience paid off as "The Truth About Love" Tour sold out showing her loyal fan base and making it one of the hottest tickets in town. This was in support of her sixth studio album and tour.

The concert began with a video montage about her drinking; then she bounced up attached to a bungee to "Raise Your Glass."

She crawled on the stage for "Just Like a Pill" and had front-row fans grabbing onto her to which she exclaimed, "Seriously?"

Her latest single, "Try," was, as expected, powerful live. She then covered Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game," which is strange because she has enough material of her own to have an impressive set list.

There were many montages and interruptions throughout the evening, including clown and host Rubix Von Fuchenhurtz—who was never funny or entertaining. The audience was there for Pink to rock out to, and she did with an impressive backing band and black-clad back-up singers along for the ride.

The track "Just Give Me a Reason" was a highlight with fun's lead singer, Nate Ruess, beamed in by video; it contained the kind of vocals that make this a great choice as current single. Pink seemed a bit bored with "Trouble" right after, but picked things up a bit by playing some drums herself. She mentioned she wished could play piano like her keyboardist, Jason Chapman, then sang "Family Portrait" at his grand piano in a white flowing gown with pictures of her past

in the background.

There was some light girl-on-girl action during another interlude; then Pink talked a bit about her daughter, Willow, who said, "I love you" for the first time that day and how she would never forget this special time in Chicago.

For "F**kin' Perfect" she said she was no longer comfortable dropping f-bombs with her younger audience members in attendance.

She performed a medley of early hits with "Most Girls" "There You Go" and "You Make Me Sick" showing how far she has come.

She must have forgotten her statement about children with edgy song "Slut Like You" and then "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)" to close out things.

Pink returned with an encore of "So What" that might have been the most impressive stunts she has pulled yet. In sparkly gold heels she flew, Cirque du Soleil style, up to the third-tier balcony of the United Center, literally flying around to various pedestals and winking in the faces of fans. It was over-the-top and a true homage to her acrobatic prowess as she closed with the appropriate "Glitter in the Air."

There was something for everyone at this show, and it was obvious the crowd left satisfied despite the expensive ticket.

In some ways, this was similar to her last "Funhouse" tour with the volume turned up more. She was constantly in motion but seemed more comfortable and was fighting the pop image with rock ballads. At times she was out of breath and stated, "I haven't worked this hard since the drive-thru at McDonald's!"

Pink has stated in the past that she has turned down judging every reality-competition show and chose this tour instead to be with her fans. After these hundred performances are over next year maybe she can show some love to those programs. God knows they need her style and talent.

Follow more of the tour at www.pinkspage.com. Text and photos by Jerry Nunn



Swing out Sister. Publicity photo

up to her popularity overseas. The "Cowboys and Kisses" hitmaker is planning to continue to work on new material during her recovery.

Sally Shapiro offers dreamy electronic pop on *Somewhere Else*. The airy, feel-good vocals recall Ellie Goulding's, while the music shows inspiration from Italo-disco with a DIY sensibility. "All My Life" is a throwback to the Eurodance craze of the '90s. The album jumps into modern times with the standouts "If It Doesn't Rain" and "Lives Together." Shapiro has a title worthy of the Pet Shop Boys with "This City's Local Italo Disco DJ Has a Crush on Me." A remix companion to *Somewhere Else* is due out in April.

Shapiro's latest video, "Starman," is directed by openly gay German director Edwin Brienen. Here, a loveable, bearded gay man is admired and gushed over by many, even though nobody else out there is quite like him. The song has an absolutely heavenly, uplifting chorus that

theme with "She Likes the Ladies." Here, the hero is enamored by a woman who does not pick up anyone when she is seen out, so it is speculated whether she is lesbian. This just feeds the old joke that if a woman is not attracted to a given man, then she just has to be lesbian. The accompanying video for "She Likes the Ladies" is expected to surface on YouTube this month.

The Australian rock quartet comes to Pinch Penny Club, 700 E. Grand Ave., Carbondale, on Saturday, May 18. A free download of an acoustic live version of "Dirty Motel" is available at www.longreefmusic.com.

Baauer's "Harlem Shake" reigns at number one and I keep mixing it up with the '80s time capsule "Super Bowl Shuffle." "Harlem Shake" has spawned numerous homemade videos, similar to Carly Rae Jespen's sensation "Call Me Maybe." Part of the dance number's chart success is due to Billboard now tracking YouTube views. The

calendar

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Wed., March 13

Annual Clarence Darrow event Wreath-throwing marks his death 75 years ago. Presentation: Labor and Race Relations Today by Tom Geoghegan, Juan Perea, Anita Weinberg. 10am, Museum of Science & Industry (first outside behind the museum at the Darrow Bridge, then inside for a program), www.darrowbridge.org

CALOR confidential HIV and STI testing Every Wednesday without charge, regardless of age, ability to pay or residency. The process, from completing the consent paperwork to getting the results, takes 45 minutes. Counselors are available to review the results and provide referrals, as necessary. 12pm-4pm, CALOR, 3220 W Armitage Ave, www.calor.org

Cinema Q III: Free LGBT-themed movies every Wednesday in March To Die Like a Man (2009): An aging drag headliner in Lisbon is torn between the demands of a new romance and coming to terms with the past. In Portuguese with subtitles. Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, The Legacy Project, Queer Film Society and Reeling Present Cinema Q III Series. 6:30pm, Cultural 78 E. Washington St.

CAPS meeting Community Alternative Policing Strategy meeting, 2nd Wednesday of the month. Subject to change. 7pm, Clarendon Park Field House, 4501 N. Clarendon, Chicago, <http://www.lakeviewcitizens.org/caps.asp>

The TomKat Project A play that transcends the tabloids to discover the truth behind the marriage of Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes and The Church of Scientology. Playing at the Playground Theater, 3209 N Halsted St. 8pm-10pm, Playground Theatre, 3209 N Halsted St., www.facebook.com/thetomkatproject

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Ten performances through March 17. Robert Battle, Artistic Director, leads a 21-city tour, with both new and traditional pieces. Tickets \$32 - \$92 available online, by phone or box office. 7:30pm-9pm, 312-341-2357, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, www.auditoriumtheatre.org; Tickets: <http://ticketmaster.com/auditorium>

Thursday, March 14

Lawrence Hall Youth Services Lucky Charm Party Mix, mingle, sip, nosh, and nibble while benefiting youth and families who have experienced significant traumas. 5pm-7pm, Harry Caray's, 33 W. Kinzie St., <http://lawrencehall.org>

First Annual 46th Ward Awards Fundraiser This award season, join Alderman James Cappleman to celebrate and recognize the best of the 46th Ward. 6pm-9:30pm, 773-829-2199, Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan Rd., <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0b0ffri071slxvffkunbtdOnialk/edit?pli=1>; Tickets: <http://gopride.com/z7xd>

Dating for Queer Nerds Pi Day Celebration

Love life obtuse? Looking for acutery? Try a new angle on romance with other LGBT smarties at this singles bash. \$30. Registration required. 7pm-10pm, 855-637-3568, Will's Northwoods Inn, 3030 N. Racine Ave., <http://queerpiaday.eventbrite.com/#>; Tickets: <http://nerdsatheart.com>

Judy Gold Emmy-winning actress, comedian Judy Gold, known for off-Broadway hit 25 Questions For A Jewish Mother. Through March 16. 8pm-10pm, 312-662-4562, Up Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave. 3rd Floor, Chicago, http://upcomedyclub.com/show_right.cfm?id=219644&cart

Columbia College Jazz Ensemble Columbia College Jazz Ensemble (CCJE) continues its history of outstanding performances by featuring guest trumpeter Jeremy Pelt, who will begin his residency at the Columbia College Chicago Music Center on March 11. 8pm-11:45pm, Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, http://www.colum.edu/academics/music/artist_residencies.php

Friday, March 15

Inside Amy Armstrong's Mind Again! The diva is back in an all new once a month show! Boystown's favorite cabaret performer broadens her horizons, assembling a cast of her favorite comedians to produce and star in her own adult variety show. 9pm-11:30pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Cantate presents Benjamin Rivera conducts sublime a cappella music from the 1940s to the present celebrating various beginnings such as creation, day, birth, spring, a wedding, and a coronation. Featured work: Aaron Copland; 8pm-9:15pm, 7738183467, First United Methodist in Evanston, <http://cantatechicago.org/current-program/>

Chicago Leather Club Club meeting in the Club Room. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St., www.touchechicago.com

Saturday, March 16

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Weekly, peer-led support group for members of the LGBTQ community

with mood problems such as depression or bipolar disorder. Free. Community Room; 11am-12:30pm, 872-216-3272, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com

The 2013 Chicago Flower and Garden Show Returns for its annual show through March 17, 2013, at Navy Pier. 10am-8pm, 312-595-5400, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., www.chicagoflower.com

St. Patrick's Day at Sidetrack Let the rainbow lead you to a day of good, green, gay fun. Jameson Men and Jameson giveaways 5-10pm Bagpipers from the band Chicago Kilty at 8pm; 1pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, www.sidetrackchicago.com

Or Chadash annual benefit gala Honoring Rabbi Larry Edwards, Susan Boone, Bill Wahler. Cocktails, dinner, live music and silent auction. RSVP by March 6. 6:30pm-10:30pm, The Arts Club of Chicago, 201 E. Ontario St., Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/bc98f6u>

Benefit-Flame Monroe and Teresa Griffin Lesbian-owned, women-owned and minority-owned construction management company providing training and jobs in the weatherization field with a goal is to put 100 people to work by the end of the year. Tickets to benefit are \$40 each/\$50 for VIP. Tickets by phone. Reception 7 to 8pm with free drinks and refreshments. 7pm-10pm, 773-846-9858, DuSable Museum, 740 East 56th Pl. www.tajdevelopment.com

Same Sex, Different Gays: Musical Tales of Relationships Written by a team of three gay men, one lesbian, and two straight folks, this satirical but honest look at ins, outs, tops and bottoms of gay and lesbian relationships. 9:30pm-10:30pm, 773-961-8214, The pH Comedy Theater, 1515 W. Berwyn Ave., <http://whatisph.com/samesex.php>

Bijou: The Great and Powerful There's no place like Bijou during this Bijou Boys



THE GOLD STANDARD

March 14-16

Out comedian Judy Gold will be featured at Up Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave.

PR photo

nude revue. Hosted by Bryan Dowling. 10pm, Bijou Theatre, 1349 Wells St., www.bijouworld.com

Sunday, March 17

Erin Go Bragh for the RFAC Join us on St. Patrick's Day as Team PFLAG and Team G.L.A.S.S. combine forces to raise funds for the Ride for Aids Chicago. 50/50 raffle and other raffle items such as Southwest tix and \$50 gift cards from Home Depot, Target, Visa and Maggiano's. Even if you are unable to join us please consider a donation to Team PFLAG @<http://bit.ly/>

Turn to page 35

Get calendar online  WindyCityMediaGroup.com ChicagoPride.com

Memories aplenty aboard Chicago boat

BY ROSS FORMAN

Andrew Sadock is preparing for the 2013 sailing season, but he won't have the lesbian anchors that he's relied on for the past two years while serving as the on-boat captain for Red Witch, the only commercial wooden sailboat in Chicago.

Lauren Lindeman and her wife, Lynn Randall, managed the boat's administrative functions in 2011, while Lindeman handled the duties solo in 2012.

"Unfortunately, Lauren contracted a serious illness and, although serving as a consultant through the transition of hiring another office manager, [she] will not be returning to work for Red Witch in the foreseeable future," said Sadock, who previously served as a holistic healing practitioner in which he worked with many from the LGBT community either in a peer-capacity or in a healer-healee capacity.

Sadock, 54, who lives in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood, is now in his third season as the owner and president of Red Witch. The 2013 season sails from early May through September.

Sadock, who is straight, previously ran a Chicago architecture boat for eight years, "but it just got to the point where I wanted my own boat," he said.

He bought the Red Witch business Lindeman and Randall's son. Sadock is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard 100-ton master captain. His experience includes senior captain of the Bright Star, then-flagship of the Shoreline sightseeing fleet, an architectural tour boat. He has piloted large sailboats in San Francisco and Chicago since 1988.

Red Witch has been voted "Best Tour and



Andrew Sadock and the Red Witch (right). Photo from Sadock

Charter Boat" for three of the past four years in Chicago by Illinois Meetings & Events, and is Chicago's only wooden tall ship.

"It's an amazing experience and I get to meet some of the most incredible people," said Sadock, who singled out a group of 49 African-American lesbians who sail on Red Witch annually around Chicago's Gay Pride Parade.

"They are the most congenial, fun group that we serve every season," Sadock said.



Red Witch is available for day sails, evening cruises and special events. Private parties and corporate events also are held on the boat, which is docked at Burnham Harbor. It was named after the epic sea story, Wake of the Red Witch, by Garland Roark. Red Witch, built in 1986, is made of mahogany over oak frames, Sadock said. The boat has previously sailed in Hawaii and San Diego, moving to the Great Lakes about 10 years ago. Red Witch has been a registered Exhibition Tall Ship, Sadock said.

Red Witch was a participant in the Chicago Tall Ship Festival in 2003, 2006 and 2010.

"Red Witch is an incredible boat, an amazing vessel," Sadock said.

The boat sails up to five times daily during the summer, with each tour running up to three hours. Private cruises can accommodate up to 49 people, and about 6,000 annually sail on-board.

"Sailing on Red Witch is truly an unforgettable experience," Sadock said.

For more information on Red Witch, or to book a cruise or private event, visit www.red-witch.com.

BILLY MASTERS

"I think he's gonna have money."—Suze Orman tells Kathy Griffin she believes Honey Boo Boo will still have money in 10 years. And, yes, Suze referred to Honey Boo Boo as "he." Oh, those wacky lesbians!

If I am to continue writing this column, I'm going to need to be put on medication. Clearly, I am far too invested in the lives of people I barely know. This week, we all heard the news that Valerie Harper has brain cancer. That sounds bad enough, but it's even worse. What she has is leptomeningeal carcinomatosis, which is a type of cancer that's located in the fluid surrounding the brain. It's not something that can be removed or operated on—it's circulating. As a result, her doctors told her Jan. 15 that she could have as little as three months to live.

Ironically, that is the same day her autobiography, *I, Rhoda*, was released. She was also about to start a national tour of the play *Looped*, which earned her a Tony nod. (She's also producing the show with her husband.)

So put yourself in Val's position. She's gotta get out there and hawk her autobiography by doing interviews and book signings. She's in the middle of rehearsals for a tour that she's got money in. And she finds out she has weeks to live. Needless to say, she can't tour. But Val, being Val, hand-picked Stefanie Powers to replace her (after tracking Powers down in Dubai, where she was appearing in *Love Letters* with David Soul). As for her autobiography, Harper does a handful of interviews and an abbreviated book tour, acting as if she doesn't have a care in the world. At a Los Angeles book-signing, she spent five minutes showing a woman exactly how to tie a scarf on her head to get the "Rhoda" look—and this is a month after being told her prognosis (we'll post the video on BillyMasters.com). She appears as her usual joyous self, even mentioning that her hair is getting so long that she needs to get it cut. As Val told *People* magazine, "I don't think of dying. I think of being here now." Harper will be making a flurry of TV appearances this week to discuss her condition and raise awareness for cancer research.

Back to *Looped*, which I saw when the tour kicked-off in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Powers playing the role of Tallulah Bankhead is rather fitting. The play revolves around the enormous difficulty Bankhead had during post-production of her last film, *Die, Die, My Darling*—and the "darling" in the film was Miss Powers! Stefanie had two weeks to learn the play and make it her own. From the moment she walks out on stage, her Tallulah is in complete command. She's extraordinary. She holds her facial muscles in a way that gives her Bankhead's hooded eyes, wide mouth and angular features. Her voice is a marvel, and she's found the music and cadences that were so distinctively Tallulah.

Thanks to Matthew Lombardo's wonderful script and Rob Ruggiero's expert direction, there are tons of laughs—I'd say the first 20 minutes would rival any sitcom. While Harper was brilliant, Powers has found a way to truly become Tallulah. Only when reliving Bankhead's maiden attempt at "Streetcar Named Desire" does she let some vulnerability show—and it's as authentic as every other emotion in this tour de force. If the play comes to a city near you, it's something you shouldn't miss. Check out more details at www.LoopedOnTour.com.

I have a very special connection with *The View*. The week I moved to Hollywood 16 years ago, the show debuted. I've also been very close to numerous past and present hosts. So I was sad (but not entirely surprised) when I heard that Joy Behar will be leaving when her contract is up in August. Behar is an ambitious woman who has always had side projects. Her own show on Current TV will end once the network is acquired by Al Jazeera (unless she invests in a wardrobe of burqas). That frees her up for a new gig and,

as luck would have it, Behar has a fan in Jeff Zucker, the new president of CNN. After two recent meetings, it's been rumored she could be returning there. (The network also owns HLN, where she previously had a highly-rated show.) For now, all Joy will say about these changes is, "It seemed like the right time. You reach a point when you say to yourself, 'Do I want to keep doing this?' There are other things on my plate I want to do—I've been writing a play, I've been neglecting my stand-up." When asked about the meetings with Zucker, she said, "CNN would be a great place."

This could be just the tip of the iceberg for changes at *The View*. Rumors have been circulating that Barbara Walters may cut back her on-air activities significantly. And as we go to print, stories have been circulating that Elisabeth Hasselbeck's contract will not be renewed in August. While no one at the network is willing to go on the record, a complete overhaul of



Joy Behar is leaving *The View*—possibly for CNN, Billy says.

the show could be imminent. Of course, I'm sure Barbara will assert that all the former co-hosts will be welcomed back any time. Beyond that, I really can't say more on the subject ... except for this—if you hear something about *The View* that you are surprised I didn't report, it doesn't mean I didn't know.

Say you're Marg Helgenberger. You leave *CSI* after 12 years. It's still a hit show, but you announce that you'd like to do Broadway and films. Less than a year later, it's announced that you'll be starring in a new series—also for CBS. The show is called *Intelligence* and, to be fair, the lead is actually Josh Holloway from *Lost*. He plays a government agent implanted with a microchip, and Marg is the director of the government's cybersecurity branch. So let me get this straight—this is a show about that chip that my vet put into my dog? Riveting!

When my dog Li Li could get a pilot on CBS, it's definitely time for me to get her an agent and end yet another column. What a diverse group of items. And yet, there's even more dish to be served up at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that never skimps on seconds. I didn't have room to answer a question in print, but I'm always available to tend to your burning desires. Just send a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I turn up on Al Jazeera TV! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Military members join Ride for AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

He is a competitive swimmer and has completed numerous long-distance running events, including four marathons, but Le'Mikas Lavender is filled with emotions as he prepares for his first 200-mile bicycle ride: the 10th annual Ride For AIDS Chicago in July.

Lavender is excited, scared, nervous ... and sad.

"I am sad because HIV and AIDS—with proper government funding, prevention and education programs—can be eradicated," Lavender said. "We have to come together and put forth every effort in fighting this [disease]. We have the ability to create an HIV/AIDS-free generation; we can make this epidemic something that is only talked about in history books."

So, Lavender and four friends have formed Team GLASS, and joined the 200-plus other riders on this 200-mile, two-day adventure of a lifetime. Team GLASS is military servicemen—all from the U.S. Navy at Great Lakes Naval Station—who are part of the new Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Sailors (GLASS), the first non-academy, general base-sanctioned gay support group on any U.S. base in the world.

This is the first time each Team GLASS member is riding the 200 miles. Last year, Team GLASS volunteered at a lunch-stop during the ride.

"They were truly thankful for us taking time out to help and they wanted to know more about our lives," Lavender said of the 2012 event. "They were interested in knowing how was life in the military for a gay person."

Lavender and others quickly became friends with ride participants and organizers, so jumping aboard the 2013 event as riders, not just volunteers, was the next logical step.

"My goal [for the ride] is to foster new lifetime friendships, finish the race while raising both money and awareness [about HIV/AIDS]," Lavender said. "I want to erase the negative stigma that is related to the disease and show people that this epidemic is something that affects each and every one of us. HIV and AIDS does not discriminate. I want people to open their eyes and be exposed to people who are living with HIV and AIDS—not [people who are] just surviving or getting by with it—because, for years, [being diagnosed with HIV or AIDS] has been portrayed as the worst thing that could ever happen to a person or that being diagnosed meant the end of life as you knew it."

Not so, thanks to medical research—and the countless dollars raised through events such as the Ride for AIDS Chicago.

Lavender is committed to raising \$1,000, and Team GLASS has set its 2013 goal at \$10,000.

"This [ride] will be challenging, but I know my body and I know my limits. With proper training I know I can physically get through this," Lavender said. "If anything, this will be more of a mental challenge, much like [running a] marathon. There will be times [along the ride] when it will be just me, the bike and the road. At the end of the day, it's not about me—every breath I take, every mile of the 200, will be for the betterment of those who are living with HIV and AIDS."



From left: Brian Ruiz, Le'Mikas Lavender, Jesus Arteaga, Ariel Magana and Richard S. Dumbrique. Photo by Ross Forman

Lavender, like all five Team GLASS members, knows a friend who is HIV-positive or who has AIDS.

"I have a handful of personal best friends who are HIV-positive, and [I know] others who also are HIV-positive. The [health] battles that they have fought amazes and inspire me," Lavender said.

Brian Ruiz was pushed to pedal 200 miles by, among others, an HIV-positive friend who had done the ride numerous times—and the first time he completed the ride, he also was passing kidney stones.

"Whatever difficulty I face [during the ride], I know I will overcome it because there's no way it's nearly as bad as doing the ride for AIDS while passing kidney stones," Ruiz said. "I remember growing up hearing about HIV/AIDS, but it never truly was a reality to me until I came to Chicago and helped out with the Ride for AIDS last year. These [were] amazing, healthy people who were physically accomplishing feats that I never thought I could do, and doing it while being HIV-positive. That was truly an eye-opening experience."

"We hear about [HIV/AIDS] growing up, but we aren't necessarily listening. This [ride] helps bring awareness about HIV/AIDS to people of all walks of life. It spreads the word that it is a very real disease, but that people are living with it every day and continue to shine brighter than ever thought possible. They fight the battle every day of their lives and succeed. It is our generation's turn to fight back against the misconceptions of this disease and to help stop it."

To that, Team GLASS has set a mission statement—Mission Possible: Making HIV/AIDS a Thing of the Past.

"We did this as a means to reach out to our generation and to provide a clear goal as to what we should be striving for," Ruiz said. "It is absolutely possible to make HIV/AIDS something for the history books, so nothing should be holding us back. The Ride for AIDS Chicago provides a path for us to fight the good fight while reaching out to our peers."

Jesus Arteaga is motivated for the ride by others who have been active in the battle to end HIV/AIDS.

"I have had a few friends running marathons and fundraising thousands of dollars in the fight against AIDS. I was tired of sitting on the sideline doing nothing; I am ready to become more proactive in my community and raise awareness [about] HIV/AIDS and hopefully help find a cure," Arteaga said. "I definitely am nervous for the ride, but also excited for the challenge. When I think about [cycling] 200 miles, I think about how much I would hate driving that far [in a car], let alone doing it on a bike. This will probably be the biggest physical challenge I have ever attempted."

That's where Arteaga's military background will play a part.

"One thing I have gained from the military is learning how to push my body beyond its limitations and mental determination," Arteaga said. "Training for the ride will bring me back into top physical shape, which is important in the military. It also will set a good example for junior sailors."

For Ariel Magana, the ride is personal.

"I am thrilled to be among those individuals who have been through thick and thin living with HIV/AIDS, and with those who help support them," Magana said. "The ride will help me de-stress as I work for my goal and get in better shape than I am now. It will help me build character and more camaraderie among my peers at work."

Richard S. Dumbrique said completing the ride will show him "that I can do anything I put my mind to."

"One thing the military has taught me is that, in order to succeed, you need to work as a team and ask for help when you need it," Dumbrique said. "My friends and teammates doing the ride with me have strengthened that we all use together to complete the ride and overcome our weaknesses."

Dumbrique was stationed in Italy a few years ago and his best friend learned he was HIV-positive. Dumbrique was the first person he told.

"Ever since then, I look at the disease differently," Dumbrique said. "I came to the realization that it is real, and while being there for him to vent or to celebrate certain parts of his life, I have learned that [the disease] is not a death-sentence anymore. He is happy and living. Now with my help doing this ride, I am doing my part to make things just that much better for people living with HIV."

Lavender, who also will participate later this year in the Chicago Triathlon and the Chicago Marathon, is certainly proud of his multitude of uniforms.

"I have the courage to stand tall, loud and proud, and announce to the world that I stand side by side with those affected by HIV and AIDS, in their mission to fight this [disease]," Lavender said. "I have the courage to face any adversity that many come my way, even if at times I am standing alone. I am committed to run, swim, and cycle and educate for the rest of my life. I am committed to spreading the message, on and off duty, to never give up, to never look back and to know that there are many who have gone before me and I cannot let their fight be in vain. I am committed to win."

Read profiles of each of the Team GLASS members with the whole article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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The law states that no one is ever without an estate plan, even if they don't have a will. From the moment of birth, every individual has an estate plan that was written by the state in which he or she resides. State intestacy statutes provide an estate plan for everyone who does not make a will. Illinois has established a line of distribution for the property of someone who dies without a will.

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CALENDAR from page 32

MegandFred2013. 2pm-6pm, Marty's, 1511 W Bal-moral Ave.

"Southbridge" at Chicago Dramatists Athens, Ohio circa 1881. A white woman has been brutally killed and an angry mob is at the jailhouse door demanding the sheriff lynch the accused murderer. The young black man accused of the crime must relive the events that lead him to the hangman's tree in order to reveal the truth. Thursday-Saturday 8pm, Sunday 3pm, through March 3. 3pm-5pm, Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave., www.chicagodra-matists.org

Beers, Boys, Burgers and Beats! Who Needs A's when you can get B's! Beer's, Boys, Burgers, and Beats! 4pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Monday, March 18

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10pm in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Diva, Amy Armstrong (www.AmyFreddy.com); 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St, Chicago, http://www.roscoes.com

Tuesday, March 19

Anatomy of Sex: This is not your high school sex ed Fact-based myth-busting discussion about the rarely-talked about parts and functions of the clitoris. Workshop by Chicago Women's Health Center with the Center on Halsted. Sliding scale fee. Register and pay online. Question to Scout Bratt. 6:30pm, 773-935-6126x228, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., Tickets: http://chicagowomenshealthcenter.org/payment.shtml

Gay is the New Black A Networking Event for LGBT and LGBT-friendly professionals. Raffle. Contact information for other attendees. Space limited. \$4 drink specials. RSVP online. 6:30pm-8:30pm, 312-775-2023, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.meetup.com/gay-is-the-new-black

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert! Equality Illinois and AIDS Legal Council of Chicago premiere night and a special, post-performance VIP reception. Priscilla is the uplifting story of a trio of friends on the road trip of a lifetime, who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship in the middle of the Australian outback and end up finding more than they could ever have dreamed. 7:30pm, Auditorium

Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy., http://priscillachicago.brownpapertickets.com/

Wed., March 20

Gen Silent Screening Critically acclaimed documentary on LGBT aging. Discussion of issues raised by the film and ways to improve outreach. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by March 13 to Eric@Wseniors.org or by phone. 4pm-6pm, 708-234-1859, Satellite office of West Suburban Senior Services, 8300 Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park

Cinema Q III Free LGBT themed movies every Wednesday in March at 6:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

The Baton Show Lounge's 44th Anniversary Three shows at 8:30, 10:30 and 12:30, featuring the lovely ladies of The Baton with special guests Mykul Valentine and Candi Stratton. Call for reservations. Through March 24. 8:30pm, Baton Show Lounge, 436 N. Clark St., www.thebatonshowlounge.com

Friday, March 22

Eat to the Beat: Giordano Dance Chicago 50th Anniversary Season program celebrates decades of dance and a world premier by superstar choreographer Liz Imperio; 12pm-1pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph St., http://goprde.com/z7py

Rihanna Diamonds World Tour; 7:30pm, United Center, 1901 W Madison St., www.livenation.com

Deborah Cox LIVE! Roscoe's Presents: Deborah Cox LIVE! Multi-Platinum Billboard #1 Dance Icon Performing Her Hits: "Absolutely Not" "Easy As Life" "Beautiful U R" "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here" and "House Is Not A Home"; 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Jeannie Tanner Sextet Award-winning jazz composer, vocalist and trumpeter; 9:30pm, Andy's Jazz Club, Tickets: http://www.andysjazzclub.com/music_calendar.asp

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

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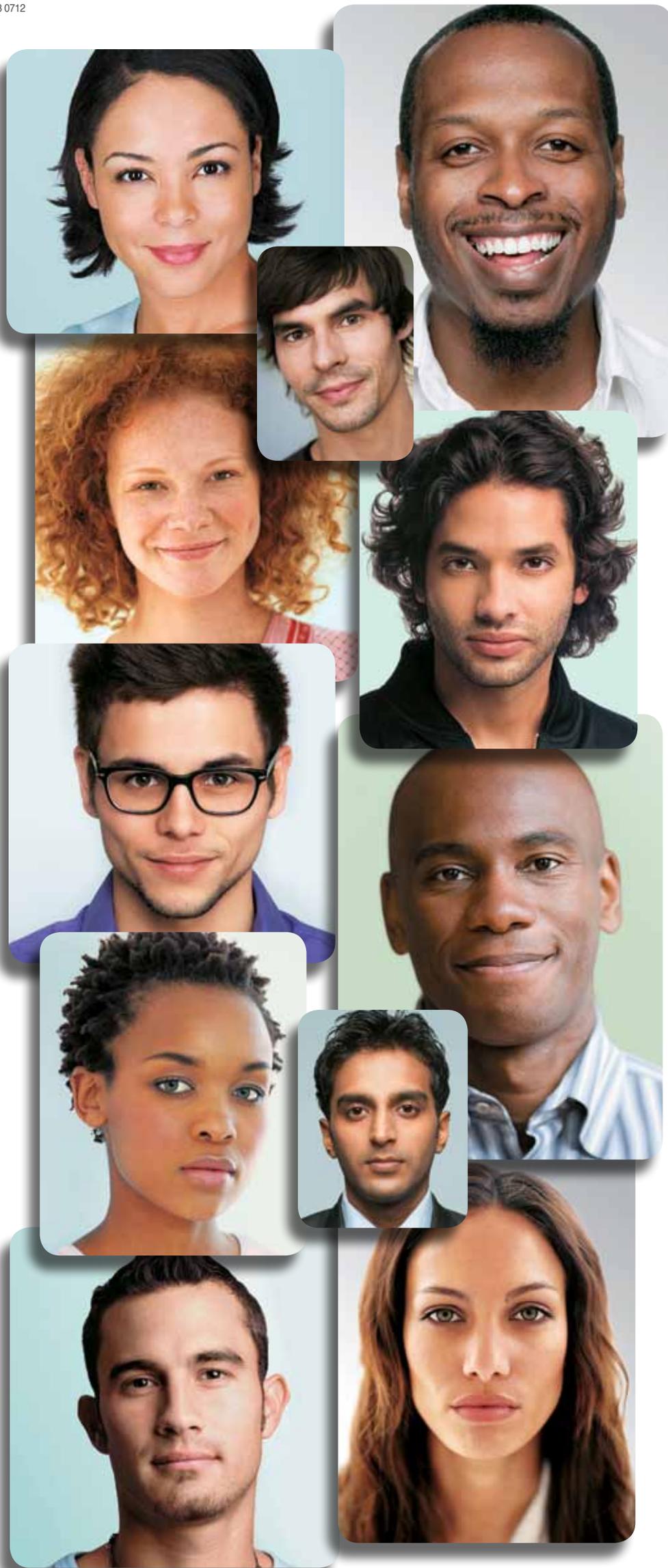
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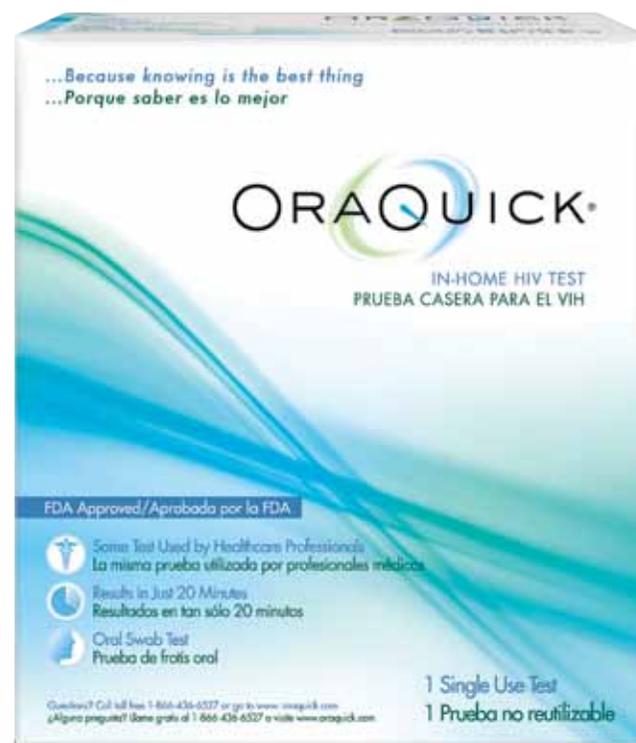
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