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PAGE 10



ALMOST THERE

Rep. Greg Harris talks marriage shortfall

BY KATE SOSIN

He did think about calling for a vote, he said. Sitting on the floor, Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris, the openly gay chief sponsor of the state's equal marriage bill, made one of the toughest calls of his career May 31.

After months of pushing and hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into the campaign, Harris decided to postpone a vote on equal marriage. The legislature's spring session ended without a vote.

Harris said the bill lacked the votes it needed to pass and that colleagues had promised their support in November, after they had more time to build favor in their districts. But LGBT groups blasted Harris, saying that the bill deserved the vote he had promised.

Windy City Times sat down with Harris in an extensive interview on the strategy behind his decision to wait, what he thinks got in the way of a vote and what went through his mind that Friday when he stood up and tearfully told supporters that a vote wouldn't happen before session's end.

Windy City Times: So let's talk about what is happening in Illinois right now that has made you feel this is the time when we can pass equal marriage.

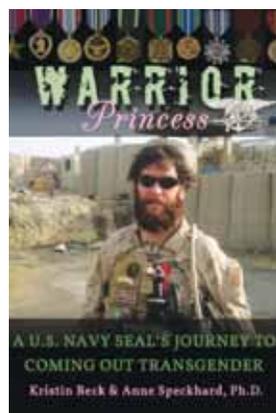
Greg Harris: The inevitability of it passing legislatively is I have 117 other colleagues with whom I regularly keep touch on this issue, and listening to them evolve. And as this exploded into the consciousness of

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Rep. Greg Harris seated in his district office, June 7. Photo by Kate Sosin

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A U.S. NAVY SEAL'S JOURNEY TO COMING OUT TRANSGENDER
Kristin Beck & Anne Speckhard, Ph.D.
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BELL-DONE



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Openly gay Grant Park Music Festival chorus director Christopher Bell is about to add to his accolades. Read more on page 23. Photo by Norman Timonera

'SOMMAR' BREEZE



page 27

The Chicago Spirit Brigade (above) was just one of the many performing groups at the Andersonville Midsommarfest, which took place this past weekend. See photos on page 27. Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Deborah Jacobs and Natalie Sullivan from Ms. Foundation; pic of Laura Washington courtesy of Washington; cover of Warrior Princess; image of Henry Cavill in Man of Steel from Warner Bros.

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INDY CITY

Indiana's Indy Pride (left) took place this past weekend.

Photo by Kim Flowers



Darren Criss set hearts aflutter when he performed in Chicago recently.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Ben Rimalower talks about how his love of Patti LuPone led to a friendship with her.

Photo by Christian Coulson

BOTTLE SERVICE

See photos from Equality Illinois' spring wine-tasting.

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Readers sound off on the developments regarding marriage equality in Illinois.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

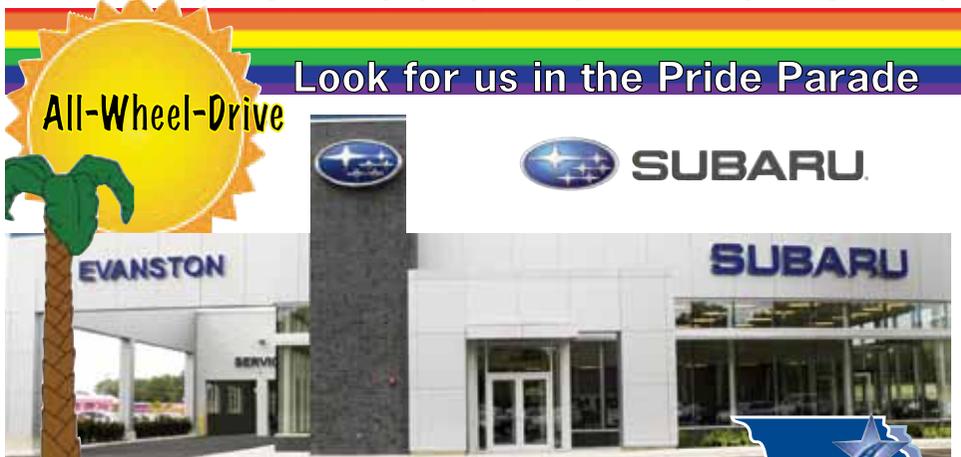
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BY FRANCESCA ROYSTER



Raising Queer Spawn: Children of Queer Families Walking the Borders

As my partner Annie and I raise our child Cecelia, who is now a little over a year old, I find myself torn between the urge to spare our daughter the pain and struggles of the homophobic world in whatever way I can and the urge to teach her to embrace all of the things that make our family queer: huge meals with chosen and blood family, our intentional ignoring of the distinctions of "mommy" things and "daddy" things. I want her to be able to fly her freak flag high, if she wants to. Mostly, though, I want to support Cece to discover exactly who she is meant to be in the world.

About 3 million LGBTQ folks in the United States are parents. And though the image of LGBTQ parents in recent media are predominantly upper-class and white, like *Modern Family's* goofy Dads

films like *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* or an especially good drum solo. And at my mother, who would buy the most outrageously funky Christmas presents for me, when all I wanted was the Sperry Topsiders that I read about in *The Preppy Handbook*. But the stakes of those struggles are heightened in situations of isolation, or the fear for physical and emotional safety produced by homophobia.

Writer Anne Chagnot describes her experience of the heightened awareness of her own queer family as she came of age. As she wrote in *The New York Times*, "When I was 4, my father decided he wanted to become a woman." She describes the difficulty of sharing this part of herself with conservative friends and boyfriends. "What was I supposed to say when my friends asked who was picking

"Since on average, LGBTQ parents have at least two kids, it's likely that at least 6 million Americans have an LGBTQ parent."

me up? Often I went with 'my aunt,' too worried to say 'my dad' and then have them see a woman sitting in the driver's seat." But she also writes of the ways that witnessing her transition helped her see her transgender parent as human, and to appreciate her struggle to live genuinely: "Perhaps it's the bold move she made, the fact that she truly

Mitch and Cam, or the financially comfortable white lesbian moms in *The Kids are Alright*, an LGBTQ parent might just as likely be a person of color. In contrast to most of these shows, ABC Family's *The Fosters*, which features a white and African-American lesbian couple and their multiracial, blended family looks promising, and considers many ways one can be a queer spawn, with a biological son, adopted twins and a foster daughter. Since on average, LGBTQ parents have at least two kids, it's likely that at least 6 million Americans have an LGBTQ parent.

In Anna Boluda's award-winning 2005 documentary *Queer Spawn*, the children of queer families talk about coming out to their friends about their parents and then being sudden objects of cool. They also talk about friends being not allowed to spend the night at their houses. They talk about the pressure to be straight—to disprove the myth that LGBTQ parents teach their kids to be gay, and they talk about the fear of disappointing their parents when they decide that they're straight. In any case, many express the desire to be seen as members of the LGBTQ community, whatever their own sexual and gender identification.

The struggles of kids of LGBTQ parents reflect the struggles that all of us have to face as we deal with the pressure to fit norms of gender and sex as we come of age. I remember being embarrassed at my straight parents when I was a 'tween—at my father, who would tear up at schlocky

chore her life, that has allowed her to live so deliberately, with such assurance and curiosity in the world," Chagnot writes.

Youth-led groups for children of LGBTQ parents like *Queerspawn* and *COLAGE* (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) help to create community connections and also to redefine the terms in the public eye. Megan McKnight, one of the *COLAGE* Chicago chapter facilitators, and senior at DePaul University, writes of the importance of raising consciousness about "queer spawn," and to help members of the larger community "to consider the unique positionality, border-walking, struggles and joys of children with one or more LGBTQ parents." *COLAGE* has had its own art shows, conferences, rallies and social media presence.

For our daughter Cece, being a "queer spawn" has meant having a family with ever-expanding borders, where her mothers, blood family and chosen aunts and uncles, like her Uncle Rae and Aunt Brian, help shape her confidence and faith in the world; who help her learn how to maneuver a slide for the first time, or to appreciate hummus and manaeish; whose downstairs laughter sometimes wakes her from her nap; who might teach her how to kick a soccer ball properly, or teach her new songs to entertain herself before her mothers wake up in the morning. Who might teach her how to wear stripes with polka dots, or shave her head and help her to fly her own flag.

Francesca Royster is a Professor of English at DePaul University, where she teaches courses on Shakespeare, Popular Culture, gender, race, sexuality and performance. Her books include *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era* (University of Michigan Press, 2013) and *Becoming Cleopatra: The Shifting Image of an Icon* (Palgrave, 2003).

Top five LGBT Supreme Court cases

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The two high-profile opinions pending release this month from the U.S. Supreme Court could end up being as historic as the *Loving v. Virginia* decision, which struck down laws against marriage for interracial couples in 1967. They could be as dramatic as *Roe v. Wade*, which struck down most restrictions against abortion in 1973. And, they're already getting as much attention now, if not more, than pending decisions on the Voting Rights Act and affirmative action.

If the Supreme Court makes definitive rulings in *U.S. v. Windsor* (regarding the Defense of Marriage Act) and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (regarding California's Proposition 8), the opinions will certainly warrant inclusion on any Top Ten LGBT Cases list, maybe even among the Top Five.

Here are the cases that would make most LGBT legal activists' Top Five LGBT Supreme Court opinions list today:

1-Lawrence v. Texas

Year: 2003

Vote: 6 to 3

Ruling: A Texas law making it a crime for two adults of the same sex to have consensual sexual relations in private violates the Due Process Clause.

Impact: The ruling not only struck down the Texas law but those in eight other states. It also put a stop to the use of various other entities—employers, the military, family courts, and others—from using the existence of the laws to justify various other forms of discrimination against LGBT people. Many believe it is the deci-

sion that most paved the way for the success of much later litigation, including on marriage, to assert equal protection rights for LGBT people.

2-Bowers v. Hardwick

Year: 1986

Vote: 5 to 4

Ruling: A Georgia law making it a crime for two adults of the same sex to have consensual sexual relations in private was constitutionally permissible.

Impact: Politically and legally, *Hardwick* lashed out against an LGBT community that was growing dramatically, in part due to legal gains and in part due to a need to address the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It was cited by hundreds of later decisions in courts across the nation to justify all various restrictions on the rights of LGBT people.

3-Romer v. Evans

Year: 1996

Vote: 6 to 3

Ruling: The voter-approved Amendment 2 to the Colorado constitution seeking to block any state or local jurisdictions from prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation violated the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Impact: It overturned Colorado's hostile law and put the brakes on a devastating trend of other states passing or attempting to pass similar initiatives. It also put governments on notice that they could not pass laws that disfavored LGBT people simply because a majority of voters dislike LGBT people.

4-One v. Olesen

Year: 1958

Vote: *Per curiam* (no dissenters)

Ruling: Without comment, the court overturned a Ninth Circuit decision that allowed the public mail service to refuse delivery of a gay and lesbian newsletter, which a Los Angeles postmaster had deemed pornographic.

Impact: This marked the first time the high court protected the rights of LGBT people specifically, and it did so in the context of harassment that began during the McCarthy Era of witch hunts against communists and homosexuals. By upholding the rights of gays and lesbians to express themselves politically and poetically, and to share those expressions among themselves through the mail, the court left open the important means of communication that the LGBT political and cultural movements needed to exist and grow.

5-Hurley v. GLIB

Year: 1995

Vote: 9 to 0

Ruling: The First Amendment right to freedom of association trumped a state law prohibiting discrimination on account of sexual orientation in places of public accommodation.

Impact: This ruling not only weakened the ability of states to prohibit discrimination, it was the beginning of a trend in which people who did not like gays argued that the First Amendment gave them a right to express their disapproval in public contexts. In short order, numerous cases emerged, including *Boy Scouts v. Dale* (in 2000). Even today, the argument is raised, most recently in *Christian Legal v. Martinez*, testing the right of school officials to require student campus groups to treat all students equally.

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Rose becomes highest-ranking out general

LGBT military organization OutServe-SLDN extended congratulations to Major Gen. Patricia "Trish" Rose, who became the U.S. military's highest ranking out gay officer, and her wife, retired Naval officer Julie Roth, according to a press release.

Rose's promotion ceremony was held May 31, led by her direct supervisor, Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, the first female four-star general in the United States Air Force. Rose is the mobilization assistant to the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In her civilian capacity, Rose is the public relations and marketing director for a local hospital.



Major Gen. Patricia "Trish" Rose.

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Extreme emotions fill Tel Aviv Pride

BY ROSS FORMAN

TEL AVIV—The 15th annual Gay Pride Parade here on Friday, June 7, drew LGBT revelers from around the world, capped by a wild, music-blasting, skin-filled sea of humanity on the beach and into the shallow water of the Mediterranean Sea.

Local organizers said the event attracted about 100,000 people—for the parade and the post-parade festivities under the bright sun on the beach—and many locals said it was the largest gay pride parade this city has ever hosted. “Much, much larger than last year,” said one gay male who lives in Tel Aviv, sitting with his boyfriend along rocks that overlook the water.

The joyous, upbeat, full-day party of rainbow delight was even more delightful for locals who learned the day before parade about major developments in this city’s darkest LGBT moment.

On June 5, Tel Aviv police arrested three suspects who reportedly were involved in the shooting at the Bar Noar LGBT youth center in 2009 that left two dead and 15 wounded. The case, which police said Wednesday is still open, has been unsolved and certainly carries a long, wide shadow in a truly gay-friendly, gay-safe Middle East city.

Pride here is a bit different than Chicagoans are accustomed to when the LGBT spotlight shines through Lakeview on the last Sunday in June every year. The festivities begin here at about 10 a.m., with Pride Happening, held at Gan Meir Park, a large park located in front of the LGBT Community Center. Imagine a street festival on a grassy area in front of the Center on Halsted.

Thousands attended, many wearing colorful customs, face paint, body paint and more, including a strong contingent of LGBT-supporting students (high school and college-aged). There were drag performers galore on stage, some offering their take on classic, or at least current, English-speaking songs, and plenty of popular, high-energy Israeli songs, sung in Hebrew.

Numerous locals addressed the crowd, including Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. Plus, the first French couple to get married, Vincent Autin and Bruno Boileau, appeared as part of their honeymoon celebration. They were invited by Tel Aviv’s Global & Tourism Company and were being hosted by the French Embassy in Israel. In late May, the two became the first gay couple to wed since France became the 14th country to permit



Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. Photo by Ross Forman

same-sex marriage.

“We were honored to receive the invitation and we are happy to have the opportunity to get to know this beautiful country and the Israeli LGBT community,” Boileau told The Jerusalem Post.

“We’ve heard a lot about Tel Aviv and we understand that [the city] is a very important place for the global LGBT community. Everyone knows that Tel Aviv has one of the biggest gay pride events in the world and we think that we have a responsibility inside the gay community to be present here.”

The park gathering featured a spattering of booths and/or organizations promoting their cause, such as, indHIVIDuality, which offered temporary tattoos in the company’s logo, which is partially a rainbow flag.

When the three-hour park festivities ended, the parade began—but nothing like what Chicagoans are accustomed to along Halsted Street and elsewhere every June.



Float at Tel Aviv’s pride parade. Photo by Ross Forman

As for a grand marshal, there is none, per se. Chicago announced former professional football player Wade Davis has the honors this year. When asked, a local guide hesitated on who the grand marshal is, and then slowly replied, “Mayor Ron Huldai.”

The revelers who congregated in the park streamed out onto the streets of Tel Aviv and proceeded to walk the parade route, right alongside, oh, give or take about 10 floats. There were, for instance, flatbed trucks with scantily-clad dancers for popular gay bars Evita and Dreck, and more.

Seeing the swarm of humanity in and around the limited number of floats was, well, just different. Forget the thousands of guardrails in Chicago that keep attendees away from the floats.

With tens of thousands of parade participants, not to mention the floats, the parade lasted about two hours, although the distance was probably just a bit more than a mile.

Cheering fans were ever-present along the route, and many sprayed or threw water on the marchers who, no doubt, didn’t object too much as the sun shined brightly on a cloudless afternoon with temperatures in the upper 80s.

Another difference between Tel Aviv and Chicago’s Pride Parades is the anti-gay protesters—or lack thereof. None were seen along the route or at the beach. There were, though, multiple gay groups of pink-painted supporters of Palestine.

The parade culminates on the beach—and it seemed everyone came to his rainbow festival. There was a DJ, cranking out up-tempo, extra-loud songs—some in English and some in Hebrew. Imagine Chicago’s Pride Parade ending at, say, Hollywood Beach—and sexy, celebrating LGBT supporters for as far and wide as the eye can see.

Truly, the visual here at Gordon Beach after the parade was one that the “older generation” probably never thought would happen.

Fifteen years ago, there were about 20,000 involved in this city’s first pride parade. This year, that tally has grown by at least five times that amount—with attendees from Russia, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Canada, Spain, England, Ireland, Romania, Panama, Ethiopia, South Africa, Denmark, Australia, the United States, and truly around the world.

NCAVP releases hate-violence report

BY MARGO ANDERSON

On June 4, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) held a press conference for the release of its report, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and HIV-Affected [LGBTQ] Hate Violence in 2012.”

The NCAVP is a collaboration of 40 local LGBTQ anti-violence organizations that provides public education as well as advocacy and support for victims of LGBTQ hate violence. The report is a compilation of data collected from 15 organizations across 16 states.

In 2012, 2,016 incidents of anti-LGBTQ hate violence were reported, a 4-percent increase from 2011. Twenty-five anti-LGBTQ homicides were reported, the fourth highest homicide rate NCAVP ever recorded. In Illinois, harassment has increased dramatically, climbing from 3 reports in 2011 to 26 in 2012. Discrimination has also increased dramatically, climbing from zero reports in 2011 to 19 last year.

Transgender individuals and LGBTQ people of color are disproportionately targeted. In 2012, 73 percent of anti-LGBTQ homicides were people of color and 54 percent were transgender women. LGBTQ people of color were 1.8 times as likely to experience physical violence as white LGBTQ people. Transgender people were 1.7 times as likely to experience threats and intimidation compared to LGBTQ non-transgender individuals.

In Illinois, African-Americans made up 30 percent of the victims of hate violence and transgendered individuals made up 23 percent of the victims of hate violence. Out of the 25 homicides reported to the NCAVP in 2012, two were in Chicago. Both individuals were transgender women of color. Lisa Gilmore, director of education and victim advocacy for the Center on Halsted, told Windy City Times: “It does seem to fit the pattern we see at the national level.”

The poor relationship between law enforcement and the LGBTQ community has led to underreporting. Only 56 percent of the survivors who reported an incident to NCAVP also reported it to the police. Of those who did report an incident to the police, 27 percent reported police hostility, an 18-percent increase from 2011. Forty-eight percent reported police misconduct, a 16-percent increase from 2011.

During the press conference, Gilmore stressed that anti-LGBTQ violence is frequently

not labeled as such. Gilmore said “the murders of Paige Clay and Tiffany Gooden are not currently categorized as hate violence by local law enforcement as no suspects have been questioned in relation to their deaths. Therefore ... despite evidence of overkill levels and execution style violence, the murders of these two young people will likely not officially be labeled hate motivated.” Gilmore told Windy City Times that, while she has not seen an increase or a decrease in police violence, “people do talk about feeling intimidated or threatened.”

The relationship with the police is particularly poor for transgender women and LGBTQ people of color. Maria Carolina Moralis, program director of Community United Against Violence, said “the increased integration of police and immigration are expanding the mistrust between LGBTQ people of color and the police.”

Transgender people of color were twice as likely as nontransgender white people to experience police violence. Transgender women were nearly 3 times as likely as those who were not transgender women to experience police violence. Ejeris Dixon, deputy director of community organizing and public advocacy at NCAVP, said NCAVP members have reported incidents of police profiling sex workers; conducting raids; using excessive force; making arrests at bars, pride parades and businesses; making arrests for public displays of affection and possession of condoms; and refusing to help survivors when they seek support.

Milan Nicole, youth organizer of BreakOUT in New Orleans and a transgender woman of color, said, “I was not engaged in sex work at the time, but [an undercover officer] asked me if I would come to his motel and have a drink. All of a sudden, four more police came and arrested me.” Said Nicole, “Some of the girls engage in sex work because of survival. Trans women of color don’t have the job opportunities, the education, and their families reject them.”

Chai Jindasurat, NCAVP coordinator, offered recommendations such as police accountability; prohibition of profiling; LGBTQ training; access to jobs programs, housing and safe schools; an increase in data collection; and an increase in funding for anti-violence programs.

The full report is at http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_2012_hvreport_final.pdf.

Book's co-author talks about transgender former Navy SEAL

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In her new book *Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy SEAL's Journey to Coming out Transgender*, Kristin Beck chronicles her childhood, life as a decorated Navy SEAL and her decision to come out as transgender.

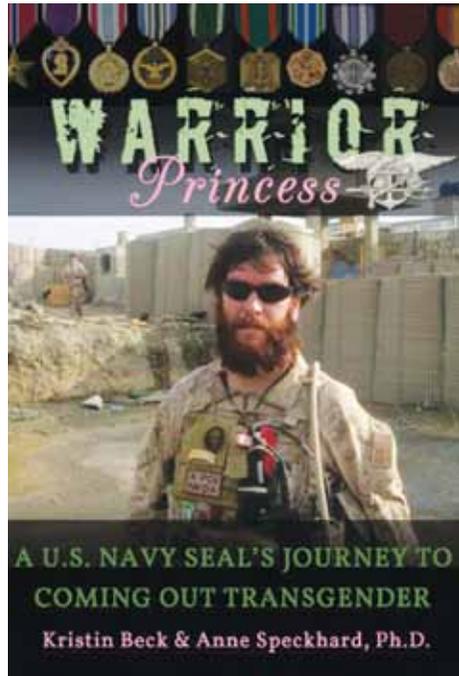
Beck, a former member of the elite SEAL Team 6, retired in early 2011 after 13 deployments and 20 years of service. Her retirement came just a couple of months prior to SEAL Team 6's raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The genesis of the book grew from a meeting between Beck and Dr. Anne Speckhard at a panel discussion "Leveraging and Understanding Irregular Warfare Capabilities across the Department of Defense" hosted by The Patuxent Partnership Jan. 13, 2013.

An adjunct associate professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University Medical School and former researcher and chair of a few task forces on counterterrorism for NATO Speckhard has also interviewed over 400 terrorists around the world over the past 10 years and designed the psychosocial and Islamic challenge part of the U.S. Department of Defense's Detainee Rehabilitation Program.

Speckhard was preparing a study of resilience within the Navy SEALs (specifically the stressors SEALs experience, PTSD and positive coping methods) and after hearing Beck speak about irregular warfare tactics she decided to ask Beck for an interview.

As they got to talking with each other they



hit it off right away, noted Speckhard. During that conversation Beck came out to Speckhard as transgender and showed her pictures of herself as a woman. Beck also told Speckhard that she wanted to write a book and asked Speckhard if she would write it with her.

When Speckhard met with Beck for their first interview about military resilience, Beck arrived at the restaurant as Kristin not Chris which surprised Speckhard. They talked for five hours,

Speckhard remarked. "I really liked her and my heart went out to her. She was in a lot of emotional pain and struggling with what to do and how to tell her story," said Speckhard. After that conversation, Speckhard agreed to help Beck and they began writing the book together.

Speckhard remarked that of all the people on the panel that day she felt a desire to talk to Beck. She thought that it was about the research project that she was conducting, however, Speckhard now believes that she needed to be present to help Beck during her time of need. "I hope I did that. Kristin needed to tell her story and maybe she needed someone psychologically oriented, non-judgmental and accepting of her struggle to talk with right before 'coming out' and I certainly provided that as we spent ten intensive hours talking about her life and upcoming decisions as we began to work together. It was privilege to be able to be there at that crucial time and also to be able to witness her coming out. I'm sure it took an amazing amount of courage and still does today.

Although this was Speckhard's first foray into LGBT issues, she has many LGBT friends. During the process of writing the book, Speckhard said that what surprised her the most was the fact that Beck was the exact same person that she met during the conference, just a different gender identity.

"I was really struck by Kristin's explanation about how it feels to be transgender and the pain transgender people experience when they encounter prejudice and condemnation," said Speckhard. "Gender identity is socially constructed in early childhood before one has narrative memory so for the person living it—their lived experience is that they were born that way. Years ago, I tried to raise my kids a lot more gender neutral but still today we find very binary divisions in the toy stores—pink Barbies for girls and Ninja Turtles for boys, but in fact my granddaughter who is four, at least loves to be a Ninja Turtle as much as pretend to be a princess, why should she be forced into either role?"

Since writing the book with Beck, Speckhard said, "I have received the most heartfelt letters from trans people all over the world thanking us for this book."

"Love is one of the most important values in life," said Speckhard. "Transgender individuals, as do all people, need to be loved and accepted as people. We need to understand souls have no gender and to love each other as we are, as we strive to be good and loving people."

See www.annespeckhard.com and www.twitter.com/healinggrounds to follow Beck.

Pentagon to issue same-sex ID cards

The Pentagon plans to begin issuing identification cards to the same-sex partners of service members beginning Sept. 1, the Washington Times reported. The dependents' ID cards will entitle partners to various benefits, as outlined by then-Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in a February policy decision.

"While the benefits being extended to same-sex domestic partners are important and a step in the right direction, they are not inclusive of vitally needed benefits like health care, housing allowances, and command sponsorship for overseas duty stations," said Stephen Peters, president of the American Military Partner Association, in a statement. "Some of the benefits not being extended are prohibited by the Defense of Marriage Act. If the Supreme Court does not rule in favor of same-sex marriages this month, our gay and lesbian military families will continue to suffer and sacrifice more than should be asked of them."

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Rev. Cathryn Caliendo and Alicia Vega. Photo courtesy of Wesley United Methodist Church

LGBTQA youth ministry group to launch in Cicero

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On Wed., June 19, Cicero's Wesley United Methodist Church (UMC) will officially launch an LG-BTQA youth ministry group with "Spirituality and Spaghetti: An LGBTQ Experience." The dinner and panel discussion will feature a variety of pastors and other individuals, with Katya Mazon of Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and Cesar Robles Santacruz of Morton College's Gay Straight Alliance moderating the event.

The genesis of this group grew out of an all-church planning meeting in fall 2010, Wesley UMC in Cicero's Rev. Cathryn Caliendo explained. During that meeting, Caliendo said that a parishioner came out to the congregation and called on the church to provide a welcoming place for LGBTQ youth.

"I distinctly remember that the first comment made was 'Why don't they go to church?'" said Caliendo. "When the parishioner told the congregation about how often both families and church communities rejected LGBTQ youth and

adults, the Wesleyans were stunned. This loving group of people couldn't imagine a Christian community which wouldn't accept everyone. The people of Wesley UMC believe that no matter who you are, you are welcome here."

From that conversation, lay leader Irene Nance put together a team to look at the church's mission and vision which progressed to Wesley UMC joining the United Methodist Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN).

The new group will be run by parishioner Alicia Tellez Vega on a volunteer basis. Vega and her partner were looking for a church to join and decided on Wesley UMC after they learned that the church was a member of the RMN. Vega has worked in child youth and family services for over 15 years and for two years she served as the Program Director for the LGBT youth program at the Center on Halsted. She is also a board member of Amigas Latinas and served as a community engagement leader for the LGBT Chicago-Metro Community Needs Assessment.

"From the moment we stepped into the church

building, we felt so welcomed and embraced. Our experience has been so rich in this church community that we wanted to share it with others," said Vega. "As a person who has worked in youth services, I have seen the negative impact that some churches and religious teachings have had on LGBTQ young people and how it has contributed to youth homelessness, suicide, and poor self-esteem. The goal of developing the LG-BTQA Youth Ministry is to engage LGBTQ youth in leadership development, service learning and job training while enhancing spiritual development and self-love. This project will create a safe space for youth to be accepted, loved, and embraced."

The goal of the kick-off dinner and panel discussion, Vega explained, is to bring together diverse members of the LG-BTQA community to discuss how LGBTQ people have been harmed by some religious institutions and how these cause particularly damaging effects on youth; present role models and positive leaders of religious institutions so LGBTQ people, especially youth, understand that they are loved by God and can find positive spiritual communities; and announce the development of the program "LG-BTQA Youth Ministries- Building Future Leadership for Cicero."

Vega said that the group received their first grant from the UMC Northern Illinois Conference as a part of the Creative Ministries Fund. "This funding will be used to hire five youth leaders who will be accepted into a 10 month Youth Ministry Leadership program where they will develop and lead a Youth Program Planning and Service Retreat for 10 other youth," she said. "As a group, the 15 youth will create at least

two community-service projects that they feel will have the greatest impact on the community from a social-justice perspective. ... The goal is for this program is to continue annually so that many generations of youth will be impacted and trained as church leaders."

Although Vega will initially lead the group and provide leadership training for the youth leaders who are hired the youth leaders will ultimately drive the programming. Vega noted that they collaborated with the primary youth serving organization in Cicero (Corazon Community Services) and two LGBTQ serving organizations in Cicero (RAICES and Entre Familia). They also reached out to Rev. Lois Parr of the Broadway United Methodist Church for guidance and she was very open to sharing information on their youth program, said Vega.

Since announcing intentions to start an LG-BTQA youth program, Vega noted that they have only received positive feedback and have heard from several pastors and lay leaders who are attending the event with an eye towards following Wesley UMC's lead and starting their own LG-BTQA youth programs.

"Despite what we have may been told by religions, churches and adults, we are all children of God and are loved by God unconditionally," said Vega. "This love is not despite our LGBTQ identity, but it is because of how we love one another. Come hungry to the event. We will have a free spaghetti dinner made special by my partner, Sofia Sarabia."

To register for the event, visit www.eventbrite.com/org/4094456965. To make a contribution to the program, contact Vega at engageyouth@hotmail.com or 773-426-2406.

Church coalition offering full month of Pride

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches is offering a full month of Pride-related activities for people of faith.

More than 60 congregations are part of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. Each one will participate in celebrating Pride during the month of June with various activities, and on Sunday, June 23, the congregations will come together to host the first Chicagoland-wide Ecumenical Pride Worship Service.

The service will be held at the First United Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St., at 7 p.m.

"The service is titled 'Draw the Circle Wide' and it reflects the coalition's ongoing efforts to provide the LGBTQ community with welcoming and embracing Christian worship spaces," said Brent Holman-Gomez, who is a member of the planning team.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Bishop Wayne Miller and United Methodist Church of Northern Illinois Bishop Sally Dyck will speak during the service.

"Both of them have done some advocacy for LGBT inclusion recently," Holman-Gomez said. "Bishop Dyck, for the Methodist Church, wrote an op-ed piece recently in favor of supporting gay marriage here in Illinois. ... The Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of the large denominations that has been affirming LGBT pastors and congregants officially for a few years now. The Chicago group that he represents is one of the leaders in the denomination nationwide for LGBTQ."

The worship service will also include music performed by an ad hoc choir. Anyone interested in being part of the choir can join the rehearsal, which is being held during the 6 p.m. reception prior to the service.

This is the first time that the Coalition, which began in the early 2000s, has done a Chicagoland-wide worship service.

Holman-Gomez also noted that on Sunday,

June 9, Judith Kotze—from Inclusive and Affirming Ministries in South Africa—will speak at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square. She will talk about issues of justice in South Africa and efforts being undertaken in religious communities throughout Africa to become more welcoming and affirming towards LGBT people.

"There is a lot that we can learn about where LGBT people are at in the social framework of Africa," Holman-Gomez said. "We've got a thriving community here in Chicago and what do we need to do to keep that thriving as well as what can we learn from the African experience as well as help them too, to develop their community."

The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches was formed to provide resources and a welcome space for LGBT individuals and help spread the message of affirmation and inclusiveness. It was centered in the Lakeview and North Side area of Chicago when it initially began.

It has grown substantially, stretching into the suburbs and south. It not only provides resources to help LGBT people of faith, but also religious leaders.

"We provide resources to pastors so that they can come together and think about how they can include gender diversity and sexual orientation diversity more in their work as pastors as well as make connections with other people in the city that can help them and their congregations grow," Holman-Gomez said.

"We recognize that as social traditions of homophobia persist churches can play an instrumental role in opening up the conversation and bringing an end to transphobia and homophobia, and we are excited about making sure that that voice is loud and clear and represented. And, it's a growing voice."

To find out more about the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches and for a Pride activity schedule, visit <http://chicagowelcomingchurches.org/index.php>.

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Gerber/Hart still not open to public

BY TRACY BAIM

More than 16 months after Gerber/Hart Library announced its move from Granville to a new location at 6500 N. Clark St., the library is still not open, with no confirmed date for an opening.

The library vacated its old space in early May 2012, which means it has been closed more than 13 months.

Brad Tucker, current board president, spoke at a community forum in February, promising a spring opening. He also promised that the five-member board would be looking to expand quickly.

Tucker, reached by email June 5, said the occupancy date is unknown because they have not received an occupancy permit, and the landlord has not explained why. The city has to inspect the space to provide a permit for the capacity of the space. "The landlord is primarily responsible for that process," he said.

Tucker said they are planning a June 29 "sneak peek" for the space and hope to be open the following week.

Rosemary Mulryan, Carrie Barnett and Kit Duffy spearheaded a search for new board members and presented a slate of nine qualified candidates to Tucker in early April. Both Mulryan and Barnett were leaders of Gerber/Hart many years ago, and Duffy is a longtime ally of the community (and was Mayor Harold Washington's liaison to the gay community).

"My committee submitted recommended candidates and now the board has to decide what they want to do," Mulryan said.

Nothing has been done with those recommendations. "The process has been stalled because of me," Tucker said, adding that he has been experiencing personal issues and has asked oth-



Brad Tucker. Photo courtesy of Tucker

er board members to step in. However, there is little confidence from the community in those who brought Gerber/Hart to this point in time, and this could cause further delays in adding new members to the board.

In addition to Tucker, a former Gerber/Hart

board president who only re-joined the board after the controversy surrounding the closing of the old space, the board includes Don Landers, who does not live in Illinois; Karen Sendziak, the previous board president; Jody Bedore; and John Orwat.

Tucker said most of the archives have been moved into the new space, and Mulryan said it is "beautiful." Tucker added that there were some

miscellaneous unexpected expenses related to the move, costing maybe a few thousand dollars, and related to shelving and similar space logistics issues.

"Financially, we are sound," Tucker said. "The move will end up costing more than we anticipated, but we have the funds to cover it."

They are not paying for rent in the new space until the occupancy is settled.

GOPs gubernatorial candidates shrink from backing marriage

Over the past few days, two Republicans have announced they have entered the Illinois governor's race.

Neither is expected to take a stand on marriage equality.

Millionaire venture capitalist Bruce Rauner is the most recent entrant, announcing his candidacy on a video on his campaign website. According to the Chicago Tribune, he said that the state government is broken. (In an interview with the Tribune, he also said that Democrats and Republicans are responsible for the mess.) However, he did not say how he would fix the public-employee pension crisis.

Appearing on WTTW's Chicago Tonight June 5, he said that he would leave that issue to the state's voters. When host Carol Marin asked Rauner if he was "ducking" the topic of marriage equality, he said, "I will not lead on that issue." During that appearance, he also said he wants to improve the state's education system and that he favors term limits for all politicians in Springfield.

However, Rauner, a father of six, has taken a position on abortion, saying he supports rights early in pregnancy, although he also backs restrictions for late-term abortions, according to the Tribune. He also backs parental

notification for minors seeking to terminate their pregnancies.

Interestingly, Rauner has been an unofficial adviser to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and has said he regularly speaks with him.

Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford launched his campaign June 1. He voted for the civil-unions bill in 2010, being the only Republican to do so. However, Windy City Times reported that earlier this year Rutherford stated he is not backing same-sex marriage. "As I see the marriage, I'm just not there," he said. "I see a difference from the religious standpoint of it, and so that is something that I have not endorsed. But again, I'm very supportive of what I think are fair issues."

State Sen. Kirk Dillard and former gubernatorial candidate Bill Brady are expected to announce their candidacies soon.

Regarding Democrats, Gov. Pat Quinn is running for re-election. Attorney General Lisa Madigan is expected to announce her candidacy. Former White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley has formed an exploratory committee for a possible run, ABC-7 reported.

Primary and general elections take place next year.

—Andrew Davis

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Ms. Foundation marking 40 years at Chicago benefit

BY SARAH TOCE

On Thursday, June 20, the Ms. Foundation for Women will recognize a trailblazer in the civil rights movement—Susan Fredman. This ceremony will be at the William H. Reid House, 2013 S. Prairie Ave., and is in recognition of the organization's 40th anniversary. Fredman will receive the Fearless Award for her work and philanthropic leadership.

As founder of Susan Fredman Design Group and Designs for Dignity, Fredman is an example of women's leadership through action.

Designs for Dignity, her nonprofit, renovates interiors for grassroots organizations that provide direct service for at-risk communities, survivors of sexual assault, as well as organizations that promote economic development in Chicago. These organizations transform lives, and Fredman transforms spaces that allow individuals to heal, grow and feel nurtured. According to the event release, "Her proactive nature and insight in providing this kind of service outside of her professional accolades, makes her a fearless leader."

The Ms. Foundation for Women has funded work on lesbian rights since the 1970s. In fact, the first LGBTQ grant was \$6,000 to Custody Action for Lesbian Mothers in 1977. Since that time, an additional 60 grants totaling at least \$1,100,000 have been handed out. Furthermore, Ms. was designated the first institutional funder of what was then just a project and is now the national philanthropic affinity group, Funders for LGBTQ Issues.

As referenced in *Forty Years of LGBT Philanthropy 1970-2010, Funders of LGBT Issues* (New York, 2012), "By 1982, foundations had invested close to \$900,000 in lesbian and gay issues, most of which (76 percent) came from 11 different funders. It was in this context that a small group of individuals working in philanthropy met at the annual conference of the National Network of Grantmakers (NNG), a home for progressive and social justice funders, to discuss how the field could better support lesbian and gay issues. The group became an official part of NNG and adopted the name the Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues."

The recollection continued, "The Ms. Foundation for Women awarded the Working Group its first grant in 1984 to research philanthropic support for lesbian issues. The following year, the Working Group published the findings and released a report to approximately 5,000 funders and nonprofit organizations. In 2001, the Working Group incorporated and became Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, now Funders for LGBTQ Issues."

Maia Benson, a Ms. Foundation for Women advisory board member, went back to the start.

"The Ms. Foundation for Women was founded by Marlo Thomas, Gloria Steinem, Pat Carbine and Letty Cottin Pogrebin 40 years ago with proceeds from the sales of Ms. Magazine," Benson said. "Today, our institution has an endowment of \$34 million—raised through individuals, corporations and foundations. It is both the largest and the oldest women's fund in the country and remains dedicated to boldly advancing women's rights."

While Benson reflected on the work that has been done over the past four decades, she reminded, "The issues that remain important to us are—just as they were 40 years ago—women's safety, health and economic justice. We place a special emphasis in grantmaking in the South, especially in the area of reproductive health—where some of the biggest threats are being

posed on state levels."

She added, "In Chicago, we remain very proud of the work of former Board member, Jean Hardisty who led some of Ms. Foundation's early economic justice work and also helped establish Crossroads in Chicago."

Hardisty was a founding member of The Crossroads Fund in Chicago in 1979 (the first grant was awarded in 1981 to the Chicago Women's Health Center). Additional founders included Lucy and Peter Ascoli, Margaret Atterbury, Kay Berkson, Ashley Bullitt, Susan Coleman, Paul Lehman, Ronna Stamm, Nancy Meyer, Bob Weissbourd and Ben Wolf. The organization's website states, "A public foundation, Crossroads Fund pools the resources of individuals, foundations and businesses, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations for social change."

Fast-forwarding to 1993, the Ms. Foundation for Women awarded the Gloria Woman of Vision Award to Suzanne Pharr, who went on to become director of the Highlander Center and a prominent national leader in the LGBTQ movement.

In 2007, the organization held a symposium on youth, gender and violence. At the core of the aforementioned movement: an impulse to end gender violence through social change and justice. Intersex individuals were also at the center of this grassroots initiative.

Two years later, in October 2009, the Ms. Foundation for Women held a symposium in New York City that lasted two days called "Leadership Development and Beyond." Young women of color and young transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) leaders of color were the focus of this bridge. In all, 75 members of the philanthropic community and leaders from nonprofits engaged in social justice work across the United States to explore the barriers to power facing young women and TGNC leaders of color, and to identify a set of strategic interventions to help transform and diversify non-profit leadership. The conference was held in conjunction with the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Third Wave Foundation, New York Women's Foundation and the Women of Color Policy Network NYU Wagner.

In 2011, the organization co-facilitated the first national gathering of minds regarding transgender funding. This event was in association with Open Society Foundations and Well-spring Advisors.

Continuing along the steady incline, the first leader of the Ms. Foundation Advocacy and Policy program was named in 2012. With a 20-year career with the ACLU under her belt, including nearly 13 years as the executive director of the ACLU of New Jersey where she spearheaded numerous advocacy campaigns to promote civil liberties, Deborah Jacobs assumed the pioneering role as vice president.

She told us, "Starting up a brand new department in a successful 40-year-old organization presents many exciting challenges and opportunities, and the whole organization is working to realize our vision. I came to my job at Ms. with a healthy respect for an iconic organization, but now with a year on the job my respect has grown into a mad passion for an organization that has an amazing history as an innovative advocate for women's equality. I'm so proud of Ms.'s commitment to the marginalized and disadvantaged women that others leave behind. It's such a unique organization."

Jacobs would know. She tells us of her time at the ACLU: "It's been an interesting experience transitioning from the ACLU to the Ms. Foundation. While the two organizations have many differences, at the core both are wholly commit-



Michelle Clarkin, director of leadership gifts for Ms. Foundation.

ted to the same humanitarian values, including equality for all."

Michelle Clarkin, director of leadership gifts, said, "[The] Ms. Foundation for Women is committed to providing a safe and equitable nation for women and children. We work in collaboration with grantee partners and community members to advance and protect human rights for our constituents across the United States through a combination of grantmaking and advocacy."

For Clarkin, the power of community speaks volumes.

"My work at Ms. Foundation has only served to reinforce my belief that women's collective power—through the channels of philanthropy and advocacy—has the power to transform lives," Clarkin said. "I have seen this firsthand through our support of grantees around the prevention of child sexual abuse, maintaining and securing reproductive health choice and access, and advancing affordable and quality childcare for all families," she said.

At Smith College, Clarkin worked in major gifts under the leadership of President Carol Christ, supporting the organization's Women of Promise campaign. During her time at Fairfield County Community Foundation, Clarkin managed communications and events for the Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls—the largest women's fund in New England. She later went on to earn a B.A. degree in communications from Columbia College, Chicago in 1994 and an M.A. degree in documentary from the University of London, Goldsmiths' College in 1996.

Clarkin offered valued advice to young women making a fresh foray into the civil rights movement.

"Through my early work as a LGBTQ activist and writer in Chicago [including for *Nightspots/Outlines*], I realized early on that if you want to create change, you must speak out. One of my favorite quotes is by Audre Lorde: 'Your silence will not protect you.' My advice to young women is if you spot injustice—speak out, if you sense something is not right—well then the world needs your voice to help correct it," she said. "I think social media has given young women a huge platform to create change. During the vote in the U.S. Senate on the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, our Communications Department created video admonishing the 22 Senators who voted against it. It was viewed by over 100,000 people. Ultimately, the bill passed.

"During the Steubenville rape case trial, we examined the bias in the media toward the perpetrators. We created a very simple and powerful social object around the media coverage of the Steubenville rape conviction that went viral. This post was shared 109,000 times; received over 3,000 comments, and had over 6,000 likes. The branded post was seen by 10.3 million people, many of whom took action by contacting their Senators and Representatives."

Interim program officer at the Ms. Foundation for Women Natalie Sullivan served as a commu-

nity organizer in Massachusetts, Ohio and Colorado during the 2008 presidential election. She brings more than 10 years of experience in advocacy roles at organizations across the United States, including Planned Parenthood and the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO).

"At [AYSO and Planned Parenthood], I worked with young people on a daily basis, and what I learned from these experiences was the need for organizations working with youth to have policies and practices in place to keep children safe," said Sullivan. "At Ms. we, and our grantee organizations, are working to implement policies and practices that keep children safe so they can learn and play in environments free from sexual abuse."

Sordid stories of childhood sexual abuse are not a new issue. Sullivan said, "Ms. has funded work to stop child sexual abuse since 1978, and of course we know that many, many lives have been impacted by child sexual abuse before then. What's happening now is that we are beginning to build a culture that says abuse is unacceptable."

The media plays a vital role in the unearthing of assets regarding this often-taboo topic.

"As sad as the stories in the media are, the fact that they are in the news is an indicator of change—the silence that once completely surrounded this issue is breaking, and individuals are turning outrage into action. This media coverage presents a true opportunity to organize to prevent child sexual abuse," Sullivan added.

Benson filled us in on what attendees might expect during the Chicago event June 20.

"During our 40th-anniversary year, we will be celebrating women who have made a difference around the country. We are thrilled that our Chicago Committee selected Susan Fredman as our Fearless Leader honoree in Chicago," she said. "Susan is admired by many as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist and we look forward to honoring her achievements."

Sullivan seemed to agree. "Susan Fredman's work is so important to the larger movement to end violence against women and girls," she said. "Much of our work at Ms., and the work of our grantees, is focused on advocacy and policy change on child sexual abuse prevention. And, we know that families and children experiencing abuse need caring and nurturing services now. Fredman's Designs for Dignity work is helping women and families find comfort and strength when they need it most."

"We have wonderful Ms. Foundation supporters in Chicago and we're thrilled to spend a special evening with everyone and honor Susan!" said Jacobs.

Amy Bloom of Amy Bloom Inc. is working with the Ms. Foundation to organize the event.

The Ms. Foundation 40th Anniversary event is Thursday, June 20, 6-8 p.m., at the William H. Reid III House, 2013 S. Prairie Ave. The event is invitation-only.

Laura Washington and 40 years of The Chicago Reporter

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The general media, according to Laura Washington, usually shies away from reporting on race if there's no aspect of conflict there.

"Henry Louis Gates gets in trouble with the cops, so we cover the story, and have a 'national conversation on race.' Then we move along to other things," said Washington, who is interim publisher of The Chicago Reporter. "The media sort of misses the boat, even when race-based stories are all around us."

But for four decades, that's given The Chicago Reporter a comparative advantage over its competition. "There's no other investigative publication that I'm aware of that covers race and poverty," according to Washington. "When the Reporter started back in 1972, there was nothing of its kind and that remains the same."

She returned to The Chicago Reporter, where she'd previously spent 17 years, last November, when its previous publisher, Kimbriell Kelly, stepped down. Washington has worn many hats in Chicago media over the years; besides her work for The Chicago Reporter, Washington is a columnist for Chicago Sun-Times and a political analyst for ABC-7 Chicago. In 1985, she was named deputy press secretary to Mayor Harold Washington. On the basis of both her reporting on LGBT issues and work in the mayor's office, she was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame as a Friend of the Community in 2012.

These days a large part of Washington's time is devoted to leading the search for the Reporter's next publisher—she said a decision is likely coming by this month's end—and wrapping up the magazine's 40th anniversary celebration, which culminates with a gala event June 13 at 7 p.m. at Chase Auditorium, 10 S. Dearborn St. The evening also includes a taping of the NPR radio program "Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me!"

"It was important for us to talk about our anniversary, especially in the context of how Chicago has changed in those 40 years," said Washington. "The city has become much more diverse. When we started, the city was pretty much black and white, and blacks were in the minority. Nowadays, it's black, white, Latino and Asian, and minorities make up the majority of the population."

Poverty, meanwhile, still threatens vast numbers of residents on the South and West sides of the city. "In many ways, that poverty has deepened because of the demographic changes we've seen in the last 10 years," Washington said. "Many African-Americans, especially upper- and middle-income African-Americans, have moved to the south suburbs and the western suburbs, and what remains behind are the poorest of the poor."

In the first issue of the Reporter, its founding publisher, civil-rights activist John A. McDermott, promised that the magazine would "try to be dispassionate, accurate and constructive in its approach." That means approaching a story so as to best sort out its facts and documenting community problems with a minimum of hyperbole.

"We have passion for the issue," said Washington. "But in terms of the reporting, race is an extremely emotional and controversial issue. ... So what we want to do is approach the topic with no agenda. We just want to find out what the facts are. We want to examine the problem without a lot of emotion, without a lot of screaming and yelling, and just present that problem."

Nevertheless, much of the public, including many news organizations, tends to mischaracterize The Chicago Reporter as an advocacy or-



Laura Washington. Photo from Washington

ganization. According to Washington, "There is this inclination to think that, if you care about racial inequities and economic inequities, it makes you some kind of an advocate or cheerleader, as opposed to a news organization that wants to make things better."

"We're not there to tell you how to fix the problem," she added. "We're there to identify it and leave it to the policymakers to find the solution."

That's what happened, for example, when The Chicago Reporter investigated the mortgage giant Countrywide Financial. A 2007 survey of regional mortgage data—one of many the magazine published—documented widespread discriminatory practices by the lender; African-American and Latino borrowers were being steered to high-cost loans more frequently than white borrowers, even ones with bad credit scores, were.

"African-American homeowners whose incomes were \$90,000 a year were less likely to get mortgages than whites who had incomes of \$30,000," Washington said. "That's an incredible disparity—an obvious racial disparity—that you could only point out by doing heavy duty number crunching."

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan subsequently launched an investigation into Countrywide's practices and sued them, along with Wells Fargo and Company, in 2010, alleging numerous violations of the state's Fairness in Lending Act and its Human Rights Act. Countrywide, now part of Bank of America, agreed to a \$335 million national settlement the following year, while Wells Fargo settled for \$175 million.

"Like a lot of good reporting, a lot of what we do doesn't necessarily move the needle or provoke change—that's the way journalism works," Washington added. "But a lot of what we do has an impact."

The Chicago Reporter covered LGBT issues long before most mainstream news outlets in the city did. "As early as the late 1970's, we had out journalists on our staff," according to Washington. "They cared about those issues and influenced the decision-making of our editors. When I was a young reporter they had a huge influence on me and helped me understand why those issues were so important."

She added that LGBT coverage easily fits into the scope of the Reporter's mission. "For a long time those issues were in the shadows—from my own perspective, LGBT issues are justice issues and equity issues. We look at people of color,

and many of them are LGBT's suffering inequities because of their racial status and their LGBT status. So they suffer a sort of double whammy, which is even better a reason to acknowledge and shed light on those issues."

The Reporter remains committed to investigative journalism even as other outlets have drastically cut it back—investigations expend a great deal of time and money, and run the risk of angering various interests in the community. To keep its investigations going, fundraising is a significant part of Washington's job. Community Renewal Society, which publishes the Reporter, is a major supporter, but the magazine also has to rely on foundational and corporate grants, as well as individual donors.

"Our stories are very time-consuming," Washington said. "A typical cover story for us takes two or three months to produce when one person's working on it. That means we're still spending money on salaries when you can't turn

out a product that quickly. ... You're also often dealing with reluctant people and institutions. So you've got to do FOIA's and you've got to call 80 times. You've got to spend more time talking to a lot of people—that's time-consuming and takes more bodies."

Given all the years she has worked at the Reporter, Washington still has a hard time referring to it as a "news organization" and not a "news magazine." She's nevertheless grateful that the digital age affords more opportunities to build an audience beyond the magazine's longtime readers.

"It's no longer a stand-alone, traditional vehicle," Washington said. "It's not just a paper or a magazine. We have a blog, a website and a bi-monthly magazine. We're starting to do a lot more reporting via Twitter and Facebook. We're a digital institution."

Call 312-427-4830. For publication details, see www.chicagoreporter.com.

Author discusses 'Military Masculinity'

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT

Aaron Belkin, author of *Bring Me Men: Military Masculinity and the Benign Façade of American Empire, 1898-2001*, spoke May 29 at the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. Belkin is known for work relating to *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* and is author of *How We Won, The Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (2011)*, and *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military (2003)*. He is a professor of political science at San Francisco State University and director of the Palm Center.

His new book looks at the complex construction of a masculine mystique that has become distorted and been normalized in military culture and tradition.

His chapters show that glorification associated with military service serves the military's needs by helping attract recruits and by justifying self-sacrifice, but creates a culture that is anything but benign. "In one sense, it is more about us as civilians than about service members," said Belkin. "While it is good for citizens to be loyal and law abiding like the troops, these messages [that civilians should be more like service members] become so ubiquitous and so hidden in plain sight that it is hard to think critically and hard to avoid hero worship. Which, by the way, I don't think is good for the troops or for the military."

The soldierly persona, with its implied rejection of everything non-masculine, is not available only to men. The respect that attaches to the warrior is available to and very attractive to women, to transgendered people, to non-citizens and to others who may see themselves as outcasts.

"One of the arguments against *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* was that inclusion of these minorities would sissify the military and undermine the masculinity, the potency of our male service members," said Belkin. "One of the things that's so astonishing about masculinity is that, contrary to those arguments, masculinity is a very flexible concept and it can readjust itself to accommodate women, gays and lesbians and transgender people... who at some point will be included in the U.S. military....short people, tall people, disabled people, abled people, Jewish people. Military masculinity is an idea that's available for all service members."

Belkin's research shows that dominance, penetration and rape are commonplace and supported by military tradition.

Acceptance of new norms, written and unwritten, is part and parcel of the socialization of new soldiers and questioning is not encouraged. New recruits, to succeed, just go

with it.

A full chapter of the book is devoted to male-on-male sexual penetration in all its forms, making clear that it happens far more often than generally known and that the aggressors or the victims do not always see the act as rape. In the context of rituals like hazing and the line-crossing ceremony (a sailor's first time crossing the equator), assault is so expected and accepted that it is sometimes seen as an act of inclusion.

In the Q&A at the library, the author didn't speculate about how the problem of sexual assault in the ranks could be changed.

Other chapters explore the array of contradictions inherent in definitions of masculinity and the influence of perceived masculinity on our national identity and in foreign policy decision-making, including the decision to go to war.

LGBT stoles on display in Rockford thru June 23

Fifty decorated stoles that nod to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people will be on display June 2-23 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Ave., Rockford, according to RRStar.com.

The long strips of fabric pastors typically wear over the shoulders are among 1,000 in the Shower of Stoles Project. Each stole contains the story of a LGBT person who is involved in the faith community in some way: minister, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator or active layperson.

The stoles represent 32 denominations in six countries. See www.emmanuel.lutheran-rockford.org/shower-of-stoles.html.

Hillary Clinton to speak at Chicago House event

The fifth anniversary of the Chicago House Speaker Series will feature former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The event will be Wed., Sept. 18, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Former speakers have included Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, actress/talk-show host Whoopi Goldberg, fashion designer Kenneth Cole and ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning June 25; see www.ChicagoHouse.org.

HARRIS from cover

the Illinois media and community discussions, just as it has in other states, seeing the results of the elections in November. But basically, the talk within their communities. It's been pretty obvious how people's opinions have been shifting on this.

WCT: Is the Illinois legislature lagging behind constituents on this issue?

GH: Take any issue that you want that's really high-profile: pensions or guns. The people who are fervent on those issues, most usually people who are in opposition, are well-organized, really motivated and they barrage you with their thoughts. And marriage I think is the same way. So if you listen to your phone calls every day, if you read your emails and your mail, if you think about the people who come up to you in the Jewel ... you get a view of, "Wow, there's really a lot of public opinion on this." So sometimes the fierceness of people who are organized in opposition to something can skew your perceptions. People who are supportive are not quite as fervent.

WCT: The initial plan after this bill fell short in the veto session was to get it passed through both chambers by February's end. My understanding was that sponsors hoped to bring it for a vote before anti-gay groups could mobilize.

GH: There would be two strategies about one chamber acting and then another. Some people would say you've got to act right at the same time, just virtually no lag time between to avoid allowing opposition to build. Others would say, on an issue like this, which clearly is a close vote, that one chamber acting and laying the groundwork and helping shape the opinion that is, in fact, the destiny of this legislation to be passed, sends a very important message to the next chamber going forward.

WCT: Going into the end of the session, I asked you if you would call the bill for a vote before session ended on May 31. Your response was, 'absolutely.' What happened between that conversation and the last day of session?

GH: I think our opponents were able to put a lot of resources into targeted communities to generate misinformation, particularly about how this legislation affected religious freedom that caused a lot of concern among some of my colleagues. Also, keep in mind that in passing legislation like this, if you're a proponent, you have to be sure that you have exactly 60, or to have a cushion 61 votes. So that's your job. You've got to hold all those people together.

If you're the opponent, all you have to do is find one or two to pull off, and you don't necessarily get held to account for how you do it.

I think some of my colleagues became very concerned that they had not been back in their districts and that this misinformation was out there. They wanted to be able to go back and explain and defend what they believed was the right thing to do.

WCT: When was the first moment that you realized things were looking shaky?

GH: To think that the roll call is looked as a frozen moment in time, as a photograph, is just not accurate. You always have ups and downs, ups and downs constantly.

WCT: Did you have a lot of ups and downs on those last two days?

GH: Oh yeah.

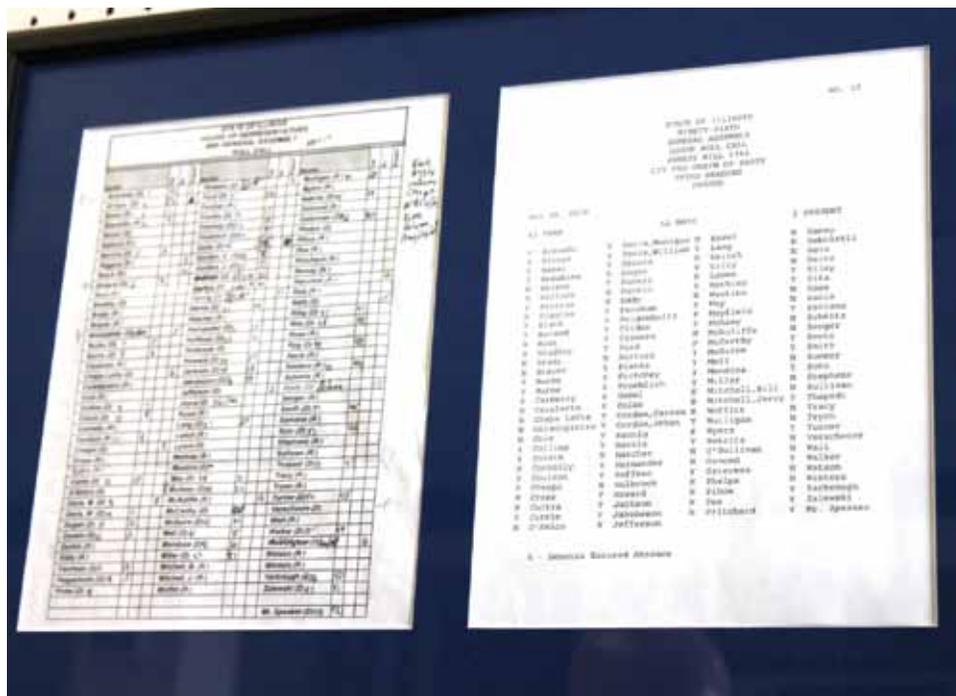
WCT: Did you have some sort of sign? When was it?

GH: Clearly I did because made the decision that I did.

WCT: What was that moment?

GH: Well, again, I don't get what specific members say ... Just remember how technology has changed, how votes are taken. Everyone says you should put it on what's called "postponed consideration." (Postponed consideration allows a vote to be pulled from record to keep a bill alive.)

In the not-so-distant past, that strategy worked differently than even today because there are people who would have said on an is-



The roll call Rep. Harris used to gauge support for civil unions. It is framed on the wall of his district office. Photo by Kate Sosin

sue, if this is going to win, I want to be on the winning side. But if it looks like it's going down, I'm coming off. So as those green and red lights go up on the board, in the days before handheld video cameras, there was not a record necessarily of how votes changed. You could end up with a roll call that's even worse than getting it on postponed consideration.

WCT: So your concern was that you would fall short on votes in planning for postponed consideration?

GH: That you would have an artificially low total, whatever that number would be. And that people could be locked into a vote. It's one thing to vote on an issue and explain your vote. It's another thing to vote on one thing one day, come back the next day, and explain how you've evolved that suddenly, especially if it's in short order.

WCT: The Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition wanted the opportunity to go after people in elections that will not support this bill. Strategically, what is the case for not calling it?

GH: Well, again, look at when the vote may get called. It still may get called before the primary. There might be an opportunity to get people on record, but then you also have to look at if you go after somebody in order to make a political statement, I think you have to be really sure that you'll be successful.

WCT: Did you consider calling the bill even though you knew it would fail?

GH: Oh, I agonized over both those options, sitting on the floor and talking to my colleagues.

WCT: Did you have any sense of the kind of backlash that would result from not calling it?

GH: I think I knew that it was an incredibly tough decision to have to make. The way the legislative system is set up, if you choose to be a sponsor of a bill, you are the one who is responsible for making those decisions in the best way you know how.

WCT: On that Friday night when you stood up to announce the bill would not be called, there was a moment when people in the gallery started shouting at you to call the bill. You paused, and it almost looked like you might call it.

GH: I had risen for a point of personal privilege. It was a different part of our House rules.

WCT: So, was it too late at that point?

GH: I mean, you're talking about how do we go back and change history.

WCT: I am curious because I think this moment is important for people who were watching that night. The coalition leaders were sending text messages to people in the gallery, asking them to yell at you to call the bill. So what I am asking is at what point calling the bill was no longer an option for you.

GH: Well, when I stood, I had to do what I

thought was the correct thing to do. Sometimes, it's not the popular thing to do, but for the time, I felt it was the correct thing to do.

WCT: Was there a conversation with the coalition about what might happen if the votes weren't there?

GH: We've talked all along. There were many, many options of how these things could unfold. We also know that the forces affecting those options change constantly.

WCT: A lot of people said they were not upset that the bill did not come up for a vote, but that they had felt led on. For people who have trust issues with you over that, what is the message you want to give them moving forward?

GH: That the goal here, as I think I've said, is that you have to have the long view in politics. You also have to sort of know, not only our own history, but the history of other struggles.

WCT: Have people been unfair to you and sponsors of the bill over the lack of a vote?

GH: You know, I need to do what I think is the right thing and keep this issue moving forward.

WCT: What do you want this movement to look like moving forward?

GH: There's a lot of work to be done in a lot of local rep. districts. You need to look at where our opponents are looking and targeting and attacking people because they seem to think that there is some kind of vulnerability. We need to build strength there, and we need to do that by working with folks that live and work and function in those districts.

WCT: Some have argued that there was a lack of community involvement, with people rallying and marching in favor of this bill. I am wondering if you agree with that.

GH: Movements have all different kinds of parts and people fill all different kinds of roles. There's direct action, and that's a very important component. There's the in-district organizing. There's the media strategy that's very important ... each of these is an important piece, and you have to do them all. It's always hard to say, if one is more important than the other because there's 118 districts and you've got to do all these things.

WCT: Did you believe on Friday that you had 60 votes?

GH: I'm not getting into specific roll calls.

WCT: But did you think you had the votes to pass this at the end of session?

GH: I think when the decision had to get made, I was really aware that there were enough people who were unwilling to cast that vote at that time that the best result was to make the decision I did.

WCT: But before that decision, did you think you had the support to pass it?

GH: I think the support has built continually over the year.

WCT: A lot of people have accused House

Speaker Michael Madigan of not prioritizing this issue and securing the votes. Is that a fair criticism?

GH: I think we all need to do more. As I said, there's all the different strategies, and then internal house strategies among the Democratic and the Republican Caucus.

I think in the Republican Caucus you were looking at potentially having some more votes also, and then it became news over there that the minority leader [Tom Cross] might be thinking about running for statewide office, which set off a scramble to see who could rise up within leadership in the Republican caucus. Members who had thought, "Hey, we need to vote for marriage equality because it's the right thing to do," suddenly were thinking, "If I'm going to run for a leadership position in the Republican Caucus, if the decide votes will be right-wingers or tea-partiers, I shouldn't vote for marriage equality anymore." So all kinds of things interplay on these kinds of decisions.

WCT: Do you have any regrets about the last year on this bill?

GH: I would love to have seen it pass and signed into law.

WCT: Do you think this will pass in November?

GH: I'm not talking about timelines or roll calls.

WCT: On Friday afternoon, you went up into the gallery and met with LGBT families who were there to see the vote. Did you know at that point that things were looking bad for the bill?

GH: When I went up to the families, I was very hopeful.

WCT: People have complained about a lack of transparency in this process. Is that fair a critique?

GH: I think if you were talk to any major lobbying organization they would say, "Yeah, you always keep your roll call as close to your chest as you can because the last thing you want to do is paint targets on the backs of those who are your supporters in advance of a vote."

WCT: Were there weekly meetings of the sponsors on this bill?

GH: Sometimes more than a couple times. And again, people know the broad outline of the work that needs to be done. We checked in about it on a fairly regular basis.

WCT: What were you thinking in the moments before you stood up to announce the bill would be postponed?

GH: What was in my mind was how heartbreaking this was going to be to so many people. This a step backward, yes, but it's part of a political process, and it causes us to rise up and call upon the best in ourselves.

WCT: What is the strategy moving forward?

GH: The key ingredients to victory are the same as they were before. We need to take the information that we have on how our opponents attack us. We have to counteract that. We have to say that the LGBT community is united, and we will never stop the fight for what is right.

WCT: But were there mistakes made in this push? I think a lot of people are asking what is going to change now.

GH: Hindsight is 20/20 and in the rearview mirror, you can always [ask], "Would I have done this differently?" There are always things you could have done differently.

WCT: What are those things?

GH: But going forward, you have to say, "We need to understand how our opponents are attacking us, we have to address those attacks, and we have to shore up our friends who want to be with us." And I think you don't evaluate an entire effort like this until it's totally concluded.

WCT: But for people who have invested a lot into this issue with the understanding from the coalition and from you that they would see a vote this year, what is the message? How do they keep faith in this campaign?

GH: The faith that countless generations who have struggled for equality before us have shown their unrelenting dedication to rising and marching and sometimes stumbling and falling but continuing to rise and march again until we are victorious.

Back to the future: Marriage bill work continues

BY KATE SOSIN

LGBT leaders returned back to the drawing board the first week of June after efforts to pass equal marriage in Illinois fell short by session's end May 31.

Illinois Unites for Marriage, the coalition of groups leader the state's marriage campaign, sat down June 4 to talk about moving forward after a failure to pass equal marriage left LGBTs stunned.

According to Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, approximately 25 organizations attended the meeting.

The groups stressed a need to create a united front and agreed to rally against those that fought against the bill, rather than against each other, said Cherkasov.

The coalition has unveiled a new social me-

dia campaign, called "I am Committed/ We are Committed." A statement from the coalition said that the campaign will express support for equal marriage, encourage people to sign on to a petition and work on volunteer recruitment.

The statement noted that the coalition remained disappointed by the lack of a vote on equal marriage but was forging ahead with plans to push for its passage. Additional announcements are expected in the coming days.

LGBTs have been divided over the shortfall on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, the equal marriage bill. On May 31, chief sponsor Rep. Greg Harris declined to call for a vote on the measure for lack of votes, despite urging from the coalition and families in the crowd. Harris said his colleagues assured him they would be more likely to vote for the bill during November's veto session, after they have

time to return to their districts.

The bill could still be called over the summer during a special session or during the November veto session.

The decision not to call bill sparked heated debate. A Change.org petition in favor of banning Illinois politicians from the Annual Pride Parade in June had picked up more than 1,963 signatures by June 10. [See <http://www.change.org/petitions/deny-entry-of-illinois-politicians-in-44th-annual-chicago-pride-parade>]

Among those registered for the parade are Harris and Rep. Sara Feigenholtz.

Feigenholtz, a longtime supporter of LGBT issues and a sponsor of the marriage bill, said she will be marching regardless. She intends to personally call constituents who have contacted her and asked her not to attend the parade, she said.

LGBT leaders and community members also made plans to talk about grassroots efforts to pass equal marriage in Illinois.

Community members were scheduled to meet in Uptown June 11 to discuss organizing support for the bill. [See online for a report from the meeting, which happened after this issue

went to press.]

Andy Thayer, co-founder of Gay Liberation Network, said he wants to see LGBT Illinoisans demanding their rights, rather than asking House leadership to make change for the community.

"If the last few months have demonstrated anything, it's that our rights are not inevitable, that community has to be actively involved, not just participating but directing our civil rights struggle," said Thayer. "It's not a question of persuading them to do the right thing, it's a question of forcing them to do the right thing. If you have thousands of people in the streets, that becomes an irresistible force."

Thayer said his group will propose protesting House Speaker Michael Madigan, who he said failed to put his weight behind the bill the get it passed.

A Facebook page on corporate support for marriage equality in Illinois also launched in early June. That page, facebook.com/Corporate-SupportForMarriageEqualityInIllinois, is tracking companies that stand behind the bill.

More information on the coalition's new social media campaign is available at: www.illinoisunites.org.

Where do state reps stand on marriage equality bill?

BY KATE SOSIN

In the wake of the Illinois House's failure to bring equal marriage to a vote by session's end May 31, many LGBTs have been asking about the stances of their elected reps.

Using data pulled from public statements, endorsements and inside sources, Windy City Times has put together a comprehensive list on lawmakers and how they might vote.

Following that list is an estimated tally of votes for the bill. We make no claims that lawmakers will vote according to this list, or that we have all the information on their stances. In some cases, it is very difficult to guess how a lawmaker might vote. In a few cases, this list has been informed by off-record statements from political insiders and LGBT advocates. In other cases, a lawmaker has been placed according to party lines.

This should not be taken as a definitive list. Sources also indicate a number of votes in favor of equal marriage will be surprises, including Republican votes.

Not sure who your lawmakers are? The Illinois board of elections has an interactive map for that: www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficial-SearchByAddress.aspx.

Dist. 1, Daniel Burke (D): Burke voted "yes" on the bill in committee and is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-1117.

Dist. 2, Edward J. Acevedo (D): Acevedo voted for civil unions and was Equality Illinois endorsed in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-2855.

Dist. 3, Luis Arroyo (D): Arroyo voted for the bill in committee to help it get to the House floor, but has said he will vote against it on the House floor. He has spoken with several LGBT leaders, but his vote is firm, he told Windy City Times. Springfield office: (217) 782-0480.

Dist. 4, Cynthia Soto (D): Soto is among the bill's sponsors, and she has been present at LGBT community events. Springfield office: (217) 782-0150.

Dist. 5, Ken Dunkin (D): Dunkin, chair of the House Black Caucus, is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-4535.

Dist. 6, Esther Golar (D): Golar was Equality Illinois endorsed and voted in favor of civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-5971.

Dist. 7, Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D):

Welch was just sworn in. Equality Illinois endorsed him in 2012. District office: (708) 450-1000.

Dist. 8, La Shawn K. Ford (D): Ford has made his support for the bill public. He voted for civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-5962.

Dist. 9, Arthur Turner (D): The Sun-Times reported that Turner said he will vote in favor of the equal marriage. Turner voted "yes" on civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8116.

Dist. 10, Derrick Smith (D): Smith is under federal indictment for alleged bribery. He returns to office after this winter after his colleagues expelled him from office over the indictment, and voters then re-elected him. He was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8077.

Dist. 11, Ann Williams (D): Williams is a supporter of LGBT rights and is a sponsor of the marriage equality bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-2458.

Dist. 12, Sara Feigenholtz (D): Feigenholtz is a longtime supporter of LGBT people and a 2001 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. District office: (773) 296-4141.

Dist. 13, Greg Harris (D): Harris, an openly gay lawmaker, is the chief sponsor of the bill. He has been a driving force behind LGBT policy in Illinois for years. Springfield office: (217) 782-3835.

Dist. 14, Kelly Cassidy (D): Cassidy is an out lesbian and a sponsor of the bill. Cassidy said that she has received more than 200 emails from constituents asking her vote in favor of equal marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8088.

Dist. 15, John D'Amico (D): D'Amico voted against civil unions in 2010, Equality Illinois did not endorse him in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8198.

Dist. 16, Lou Lang (D): Lang is a sponsor of the bill. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2002 for his support of LGBT people and AIDS funding. Springfield office: (217) 782-1252.

Dist. 17, Laura Fine (D): Fine is among the bill's sponsors. District office: (847) 998-1717.

Dist. 18, Robyn Gabel (D): Gabel is co-sponsoring the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-8052.

Dist. 19, Robert Martwick (D): Martwick is co-sponsoring the bill. District



Illustration which became popular on Facebook after the marriage equality measure failed to come up for a vote.

office: (773) 286-1115.

Dist. 20, Michael McAuliffe (R): McAuliffe voted against civil unions in 2010 and has indicated he would do the same if marriage equality were brought to a vote. "I will not support the legalization of gay marriage in Illinois," he said in a Daily Herald candidate questionnaire. But sources indicate that McAuliffe may not be more open to a "yes" vote than others. Springfield office: (217) 782-8182.

Dist. 21, Silvana Tabares (D): This journalist-turned-lawmaker is new to office. She was not endorsed by Equality Illinois last year, and sources suggest her vote has been hard to pin down. Springfield office: (217) 782-7752.

Dist. 22, Michael Madigan (D): House Speaker Madigan has stated his support publicly. Springfield office: (217) 782-5350.

Dist. 23, Michael Zalewski (D): Zalewski was endorsed by Equality Illinois and voted in favor of civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-5280.

Dist. 24, Elizabeth Hernandez (D): Hernandez voted "yes" on civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8173.

Dist. 25, Barbara Flynn Currie (D): Barbara Flynn Currie is a sponsor on the bill. Equality Illinois endorsed her, and she voted for civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-8121.

Dist. 26, Christian Mitchell (D): Mitchell, who is new to office, was endorsed by Equality Illinois and scored 16 out of 17 on the Windy City Times candidate questionnaire. He is also sponsoring the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-2023.

Dist. 27, Monique Davis (D): Davis

voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. But she has publicly stated that she will oppose the bill. "I want to be an engineer, and we can't pass legislation for me to be an engineer because I just don't have what it takes to be equipped to be an engineer," she told the Chicago Sun-Times. "And two people of the same sex are not equipped to be in what a marriage is." Springfield office: (217) 782-0010.

Dist. 28, Robert Rita (D): Rita voted "yes" on the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 558-1000.

Dist. 29, Thaddeus Jones (D): Jones was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. When called, a staffer said Jones would not be available to answer the question about his stance on the bill. He took office in 2011. Springfield office: (217) 782-8087.

Dist. 30, Will Davis (D): Equality Illinois endorsed Davis in 2012, and he voted for civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-8197.

Dist. 31, Mary Flowers (D): Flowers backed civil unions in 2010, and was Equality Illinois endorsed. But the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Flowers said she will vote against the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-4207.

Dist. 32, Andre. Thapedi (D): Thapedi voted for civil unions, and Equality Illinois endorsed him. In September, however, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that when asked if he supports gay marriage, Thapedi said, "I am uncertain of the query." Springfield office: (217) 782-1702.

Dist. 33, Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D): Evans took office in 2012 and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8272.

Dist. 34, Elgie Sims, Jr. (D): Sims has been in office since 2012 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. The Chicago Sun-Times reported last February that Sims supports gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-6476.

Dist. 35, Frances Ann Hurley (D): Hurley ran for office without an endorsement from Equality Illinois. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Hurley said she "was leaning toward yes for gay marriage." District office: (773) 445-8128.

Dist. 36, Kelly Burke (D): Burke took office in 2011. Equality Illinois did not endorse her. On a Chicago Sun-Times questionnaire, Burke dodged the question. "The citizens of the 36th District are worried about paying their mortgage, funding their children's education and making ends meet. I don't believe this issue is high on the radar

of the citizens of my district," she said. Springfield office: (217) 782-0515.

Dist. 37, Renee Kosel (R): Kosel was a "no" on civil unions, and she ran without an Equality Illinois endorsement. Kosel voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0424.

Dist. 38, Al Riley (D): Riley voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 558-1007.

Dist. 39, Maria Antonia Berrios (D): Berrios has stated that her vote is not up for grabs. She will vote yes on the bill, and she is pushing her colleagues to do the same. Springfield office: (217) 558-1032.

Dist. 40, Deborah Mell (D): Mell is an out lesbian and a bill sponsor. Springfield office: (217) 782-8117.

Dist. 41, Darlene Senger (R): Senger voted "no" on civil unions two years ago, but supporters hope that LGBT people and their allies will press her to vote yes, regardless. Springfield office: (217) 782-6507.

Dist. 42, Jeanne Ives (R): Ives made her sentiments clear in a radio interview this year when called gay relationships "disordered." Ives has said she will vote against the bill. Springfield office: (217) 558-1037.

Dist. 43, Keith Farnham (D): Farnham voted for the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-8020.

Dist. 44, Fred Crespo (D): Crespo backed civil unions in 2010 but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Crespo's skirted the question on his Daily Herald candidate questionnaire, stating, "I support civil rights for all people and oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, when I talk to local voters, they are more concerned about the recent increases in property taxes, eliminating wasteful spending and creating jobs. That is where I feel I must direct my energy, attention and efforts." Springfield office: (217) 782-0347.

Dist. 45, Dennis Reboletti (R): Reboletti did not support civil unions and said he does not support same-sex marriage, according to the Daily Herald. Springfield office: (217) 782-4014.

Dist. 46, Deb Conroy (D): Conroy, who took office this year, wrote in her Daily Herald candidate questionnaire that, "I believe no one should be discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, just as no one should be discriminated against based on their race or gender. That is why I believe

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that same-sex couples should be granted the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, which are especially important for financial benefits and medical decisions." District Office: (630) 415-3520.

Dist. 47, Patti Bellock (R): Bellock was among a group of lawmakers that filed a court document against the marriage equality lawsuits. Bellock voted against civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-1448.

Dist. 48, Sandra Pihos (R): In a letter to a Windy City Times reader, Pihos said she would vote against the bill because the vast majority of her constituents are against the measure. Pihos voted against civil unions in 2010. Springfield office: (217) 782-8037.

Dist. 49, Mike Fortner (R): Fortner voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-1653.

Dist. 50, Kay Hatcher (R): Hatcher's stance may be hard to pin down. In 2012, she dodged the question on a Yorkville Patch questionnaire, stating, "My personal philosophy is strongly fiscally conservative and socially moderate. Every person has to weigh for themselves the importance of each issue and how it affects their family." That same year, she noted on her Daily Herald questionnaire that most of the constituents to contact her on the issue were opposed to the measure, but she did not state her own opinion. She did vote against civil unions. Springfield office: (217) 782-1486.

Dist. 51, Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R): Sullivan is among the bill's sponsors. Springfield office: (217) 782-3696.

Dist. 52, David McSweeney (R): McSweeney was endorsed by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay group the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-1517.

Dist. 53, David Harris (R): Harris stated his views on equal marriage in a Chicago Sun-Times candidate questionnaire. "Current state law prohibits marriage between individuals of the same sex," he said. "I support that law and I do not support same-sex marriage. I could consider supporting civil union legislation depending on how it is written and what it does." Springfield office: (217) 782-3739.

Dist. 54, Thomas Morrison (R): Morrison was among a group of lawmakers who introduced a bill reaffirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage in July. Springfield office: (217) 782-8026.

Dist. 55, Martin Moylan (D): Moylan was just sworn into office. He was endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8007.

Dist. 56, Michelle Mussman (D): Mussman stated on a Chicago Sun-Times questionnaire, "I would not support legislation permitting gay marriage. I would support legislation permitting civil unions." But a Windy City Times reader and 56th Dist. resident said she believes Mussman supports the bill now. Mussman has not returned requests for comment. Springfield office: (217) 782-3725.

Dist. 57, Elaine Nekritz (D): Nekritz backed civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois, but she did not state her stance on marriage in candidate questionnaires. In photos after the House's failure to bring equal marriage for a vote in May, Nekritz is seen crying and hugging Christin Baker, Deb Mell's wife. Springfield office: (217) 558-1004.

Dist. 58, Scott Drury (D): Drury backs equal marriage, according to his Daily Herald candidate questionnaire. "I am committed to marriage equality in Illinois and, thus, people of the same gender should be allowed to marry in Illinois," he wrote. Springfield office: (217) 782-0902.

Dist. 59, Carol Sente (D): On her website, Sente asks constituents to let her know what they think about a bill that would legalize gay marriage. In her Chicago Sun-Times candidate profile, she said, "I am a strong supporter of civil rights for all people and do not believe that discrimination based on sexual orientation should be tolerated." Springfield office: (217) 782-0499.

Dist. 60, Rita Mayfield (D): Mayfield's stance has frustrated LGBT organizers and sponsors of the bill. She said she wants to vote "yes," on the bill but will not. She says that her district does not support the measure and that she will vote "present" so as not to betray the will of her constituents. Mayfield's best friend is reportedly gay. Springfield office: (217) 558-1012.

Dist. 61, JoAnn Osmond (R): Osmond sponsored a bill that sought to reaffirm the state's ban on same-sex marriage last year. She voted against civil unions in 2010. Springfield office: (217) 782-8151.

Dist. 62, Sam Yingling (D): Yingling, who was just elected, is the fourth out gay representative to take office and a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-7320.

Dist. 63, Jack Franks (D): Franks voted for civil unions in 2010 but told the Daily Herald in an interview before that that he opposed same-sex marriage. He was also the target of a protest against the bill recently. According to Richard Small, a gay constituent, approximately 50-100 people demonstrated, urging him not to pass the bill. In 2012, he was not endorsed by Equality Illinois.

Springfield office: (217) 782-1717.

Dist. 64, Barbara Wheeler (R): Wheeler believes marriage is a union between a man and a woman, she told the Daily Herald. Springfield office: (217) 782-1664.

Dist. 65, Timothy Schmitz (R): Schmitz was endorsed by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-5457.

Dist. 66, Michael Tryon (R): Tryon voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0432.

Dist. 67, Charles Jefferson (D): Jefferson voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Jefferson said he plans to vote no on the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-3167.

Dist. 68, John Cabello (R): Cabello, who took office in 2012, made headlines recently when he told voters at a Rockford Tea Party forum that he was against civil unions because they could lead to "other" things. "Now, and please bear with me," Cabello said. "Does this now say that somebody can get married to their dog?" Springfield office: (217) 782-0455.

Dist. 69, Joe Sosnowski (R): Sosnowski voted against the bill in committee. Springfield office: (217) 782-0548.

Dist. 70, Robert Pritchard (R): Pritchard voted against civil unions and backed a bill reaffirming the ban on same-sex marriage last year. Springfield office: (217) 782-0425.

Dist. 71, Mike Smiddy (D): Smiddy is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-3992.

Dist. 72, Patrick Verschoore (D): Verschoore voted "no" on civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-5970.

Dist. 73, David Leitch (R): Leitch voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8108.

Dist. 74, Don Moffitt (R): KWQC news reported in December that Moffitt believes marriage should be between a man and a woman. Springfield office: (217) 782-8032.

Dist. 75, Pam Roth (R): Last year, Roth was recommended by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of Illinois Family Institute, an anti-gay organization. Springfield office: (217) 782-5997.

Dist. 76, Frank Mautino (D): Mautino voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-0140.

Dist. 77, Kathleen Willis (D): Willis' stance is not widely known, but Equality Illinois endorsed her Republican challenger Skip Saviano over her last year.

Springfield office: (217) 782-3374.

Dist. 78, Camille Lilly (D): OakPark.com reported in January that Randy Hannig of Equality Illinois said Lilly would support the measure. Springfield office: (217) 782-6400.

Dist. 79, Katherine Cloonen (D): The Daily Journal reported in October that Cloonen was against gay marriage. District office: (815) 939-1983.

Dist. 80, Anthony DeLuca (D): DeLuca voted for civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Still, his vote has been seen as uncertain, prompting opposing rallies outside his office both for and against the bill. In March 2011, Chicago Heights Patch reported that DeLuca said he would oppose an equal marriage bill. "There is not a bill on that, but my vote would be 'no,'" Patch quotes DeLuca saying. Springfield office: (217) 782-1719.

Dist. 81, Ron Sandack (R): Sandack supports equal marriage and is sponsoring the bill. "It's a question of freedom, fundamental fairness and respect," he told Windy City Times. Springfield office: (217) 782-6578.

Dist. 82, Jim Durkin (R): Durkin voted "no" on civil unions and told Lemont Patch in a candidate questionnaire that he opposes gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-0494.

Dist. 83, Linda Chapa LaVia (D): Chapa LaVia voted against civil unions and ran unendorsed by Equality Illinois. She is believed to be undecided. Springfield office: (217) 558-1002.

Dist. 84, Stephanie A Kifowit (D): Asked in Oswego Patch candidate questionnaire about same-sex marriage, Kifowit said she believes everyone should enjoy the same rights, but added, "I believe the intent behind Illinois' recently enacted civil unions law has done just that." She was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8028.

Dist. 85, Emily McAsey (D): McAsey stated in her Chicago Sun-Times candidate questionnaire that gay marriage did not appear to be a priority for voters and that her focus was on other things. Springfield office: (217) 782-4179.

Dist. 86, Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D): In January, Walsh told the Herald-News that his vote was up to constituents. So far, he said, he had received an equal number of calls for and against the measure. "But personally, I don't have a problem with (legalizing) it," he said. Springfield office: (217) 782-8090.

Dist. 87, Rich Brauer (R): Brauer voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-0053.

Dist. 88, Keith Sommer (R): Sommer sponsored an anti-gay "Defense of Marriage" bill in August. Springfield office:

(217) 782-0221.

Dist. 89, Jim Sacia (R): Sacia wrote on his website, "I will oppose same sex marriage." Springfield office: (217) 782-8186.

Dist. 90, Tom Demmer (R): Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute, endorsed Demmer in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-0535.

Dist. 91, Michael Unes (R): Unes sponsored last summer's "Defense of Marriage" bill, intended to reaffirm the Illinois ban on same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8152.

Dist. 92, Jehan Gordon (D): Gordon voted "yes" on civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Still, LGBT activists have targeted her district heavily. Springfield office: (217) 782-3186.

Dist. 93, Norine Hammond (R): In 2012, Hammond was recommended for office by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay organization the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-0416.

Dist. 94, Jil Tracy (R): Tracy sponsored a bill last summer that sought to reaffirm the state's ban on same-sex marriage with a constitutional amendment. Springfield office: (217) 782-8096.

Dist. 95, Wayne Rosenthal (R): Rosenthal sponsored a bill last year that aimed to reaffirm the ban on gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8071.

Dist. 96, Sue Scherer (D): According to the State Journal-Register, Scherer wants to give civil unions more time to "work through the system" before passing marriage. Springfield office: (217) 524-0353.

Dist. 97, Tom Cross (R): Cross voted "no" on civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-1331.

Dist. 98, Natalie Manley (D): Manley's views on same-sex marriage have not been widely publicized, and she dodged the question on a Patch.com candidate questionnaire. Equality Illinois did not endorse her in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-3316.

Dist. 99, Raymond Poe (R): Poe voted against civil unions in 2010. "It's just a basic belief I have. I don't think we need them (civil unions). Everybody has the same rights. There's a lot of places where they get benefits," Poe is quoted saying by the State Journal-Register. Springfield office: (217) 782-0044.

Dist. 100, C.D. Davidsmeyer (R): Davidsmeyer took office in 2012. His position on same-sex marriage has not been widely publicized. Springfield office: (217) 243-6221.

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SIDEBAR

Marriage vote predictions

Yes - 34

- Daniel Burke
- Ken Dunkin
- Cynthia Soto
- La Shawn K. Ford
- Ann Williams
- Sara Feigenholtz
- Greg Harris
- Kelly Cassidy
- Lou Lang
- Laura Fine
- Robyn Gabel
- Robert Martwick
- Michael Madigan
- Elizabeth Hernandez
- Barbara Flynn Currie
- Christian Mitchell
- Robert Rita
- Elgie Sims, Jr.
- Maria Antonia Berrios

20. Deborah Mell

- Keith Farnham
- Ed Sullivan, Jr.
- Scott Drury
- Carol Sente
- Sam Yingling
- Mike Smiddy
- Camille Lilly
- Ron Sandack
- Naomi Jakobsson
- Deb Conroy
- Natalie Manley
- Elaine Nekritz
- Kathleen Willis
- Arthur Turner

Likely Yes - 16

- Edward J. Acevedo
- Esther Golar
- Emanuel "Chris" Welch

- Derrick Smith
- Michael Zalewski
- Will Davis
- Andre. Thapedi
- Frances Ann Hurley
- Kelly Burke
- Al Riley
- Martin Moylan
- Michelle Mussman
- Stephanie A Kifowit
- Emily McAsey
- Lawrence Walsh, Jr.
- Linda Chapa LaVia

Yes or likely total: 50

No - 43

- Monique Davis
- Renee Kosel
- Jeanne Ives
- Patti Bellock
- Sandra Pihos
- Mike Fortner
- Mary Flowers

- David McSweeney
- Thomas Morrison
- JoAnn Osmond
- Barbara Wheeler
- Timothy Schmitz
- Kelly Burke
- Charles Jefferson
- John Cabello
- Joe Sosnowski
- Robert Pritchard
- Patrick Verschoore
- David Leitch
- Don Moffitt
- Pam Roth
- Frank Mautino
- Katherine Cloonen
- Jim Durkin
- Rich Brauer
- Keith Sommer
- Jim Sacia
- Tom Demmer
- Michael Unes
- Norine Hammond
- Jil Tracy

- Wayne Rosenthal
- Tom Cross
- Raymond Poe
- Bill Mitchell
- Josh Harms
- John Cavaletto
- Charles Meier
- David Reis
- Mike Bost
- Jerry Costello, II
- John Bradley
- Brandon Phelps

Likely No -15

- Luis Arroyo
- John D'Amico
- Michael McAuliffe
- Darlene Senger
- Dennis Reboletti
- David Harris
- Rita Mayfield
- Adam Brown
- Chad Hays
- Dan Brady

- Brad Halbrook
- Daniel Beiser
- Dwight Kay
- Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr.
- Jay Hoffman

No or likely no: 58

Toss-up- 10

- Silvana Tabares
- Thaddeus Jones
- Marcus C. Evans, Jr.
- Fred Crespo
- Kay Hatcher
- Jack Franks
- Anthony DeLuca
- Jehan Gordon
- Sue Scherer
- C.D. Davidsmeyer

Contributing to roll call: Casey Cameron

Marriage Equality Round 2: A call for inclusivity

A PRESS STATEMENT FROM AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Friday's non-vote on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, otherwise known as the marriage equality bill for those in the LGBTQI community and our allies, left many disappointed and angry. There are people who have dedicated many years of their lives and significant portions of their time during the last several months to bring recognition and a path to economic stability to the many same-sex couples in Illinois.

Affinity thanks all who were involved up until the very last dissatisfying minute.

While the fight for marriage equality is not Affinity's top priority, we recognize the ability to marry the person you love as a civil right and broader society's most resilient vehicle for promoting the economic sustainability of families. In fact, a significant proportion of our constituency, Black lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women and queer youth, are among the most vulnerable under the LGBTQI rainbow.

Yet, for many in the general population, and within our own LGBTQI communities, marriage equality is seen as a "white gay man's issue." Nothing could be further from the truth and now that we have this window of opportunity to provide a more accurate picture of the diversity in our community, we MUST take it. We must also recognize that space was not made for the many organizations and individuals that could have made a difference in this fight.

A recent Williams Institute study found that, as in the general population, the LGBTQI population is increasingly of color, female, and poor. According to the study, just under 4% of the US population identifies as LGBT. A Gallup Poll last year corroborated the Williams Institute findings and, after polling over 120,000 people, found that African Americans are more likely to identify as LGBT than whites (4.4% vs. 3.2%). Furthermore women were slightly more likely to identify as LGBT than men and over 40% of African American women who identified as LGBT were raising children under 18 years of age, compared to 28% of white LGBT women, 14% of African American LGBT men, and 10% of white LGBT men.

Additionally, more than one in three people who identify as LGBT had incomes of less than \$24,000 while one in four people in the general US population had incomes at this level. These differences in income point to the impacts of structural racism, gender- and gender identity-bias, transphobia, and the many other "isms" that contribute to the marginalization of individuals and whole communities.

Our mainstream LGBT and other progressive organizations need to catch up with this reality and incorporate it into their public policy and advocacy priorities in a more intentional manner. But it is not just about our constituents and members. Spaces must also be made for the many small organizations, groups, activists, experts, and others who are a part of and work in queer and transgender communities of color, in ways that recognize their gifts and their challenges. That means changing how policy and advocacy work has typically been done in Chicago's LGBT community.

There are over 1.6 million nonprofits registered with the Internal Revenue Service. Three in four of these nonprofits have budgets under \$500,000. Almost half of nonprofits have budgets under \$100,000. A 2008 study of organizations that focus on queer and transgender people of color (QTPOC) showed these organizations to be woefully under capacity. At that time 50% of the 84 organizations interviewed were not registered nonprofits and the average budget was under \$80,000 (2008 dollars). According to the "Daring to Lead" study on nonprofit lead-

ership, while most non-profits are most often run by women, 98% of the multi-million dollar organizations are run by men.

Additionally, 82% of nonprofits, large and small, are run by whites, with African Americans, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans making up 3-5% each. Windy City Times' study from a few years ago on nonprofits in Chicago that serve LGBTQI people and people with HIV/AIDS bears out some of these capacity and leadership realities as well.

Unfortunately there is nothing new about the mismatch between the leadership of nonprofits and the populations being served, but it is always important to be reminded that the mismatch exists. It is particularly important to talk about this in the context of what is perceived to be the "gay agenda" and how issues are often so narrowly defined. We are all complex beings with identities that intersect many communities and

are impacted by numerous social policies and the implementation of those policies. This intersectional approach to social justice and public policy is the norm for QTPOC organizations and groups and is a very effective tool for coalition building.

There is amazing work being done by small nonprofits and groups in Chicago and other places in very challenging circumstances. Tapping into the expertise and resources of queer and transgender people of color organizations and individuals in ways that are not exploitative is critical to the passage of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act and the many other pieces of legislation and policies that impact the full identities of LGBT people - pension reform, Medicaid expansion, and school closings to name a few. It is also critical that elected officials show real leadership by understanding when to choose inclusivity over expediency.

There is plenty of blame to go around for last Friday's outcome in Springfield and it is important to examine what happened, who to hold accountable, and collectively determine how we move forward. One thing is for sure. The leadership of mainstream LGBTQI organizations must step out of their comfort zones to share space and resources and build relationships with other organizations, leaders, and causes before a crisis. That is not to absolve others for their part in this. But, just as we look outside of our community to find fault, we must also look within.

We are a community full of resilient individuals and institutions that have had to figure out how to survive and thrive over and over again. As Maya Angelou says, "When you know better, you do better." We are better than those among the opposition to who seek to divide and conquer to advance a narrow agenda. Let's do it right this time, guys.

Affinity Community Services is a social justice organization that works with and on behalf of Black LGBTQ communities, queer youth, and allies to identify emergent needs, create safe spaces, develop leaders, and bridge communities through collective analysis and action for social justice, freedom, and human rights. See <http://affinity95.org>.

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Many politicians march in the Pride Parade, such as Gov. Quinn (left) and Mayor Emanuel (right) in 2012. Photos by Susan Mattes

EDITORIAL

Politicians and Pride

BY TRACY BAIM

Gay activist Curtis Bumgarner was so angry with the recent non-vote on marriage equality in Springfield that he created a petition asking for politicians to be banned from Chicago's Pride Parade June 30. It is posted here: <http://www.change.org/petitions/deny-entry-of-illinois-politicians-in-44th-annual-chicago-pride-parade>.

Rich Pfeiffer—head of Pride Chicago, the parade organizers—said: "There are no plans to ban elected officials. Parade Day should not be a day of division and rancor, but rather one of love, pride and unity."

I think all levels of pressure are needed in this effort, but I simply disagree with a ban on the politicians in the parade. I do, however, think some things can be done to connect the dots on this issue. There are also some relevant facts to note about Chicago's Pride Parade.

First, like almost every parade in Chicago (and like many gay prides across the country), the politicians do not pay an entry fee. This is the case whether they gang together in one contingent, or have a vehicle and take up one slot on their own. Why does that matter? Because there is a limited supply of slots, so if a politician takes one, they eliminate someone else.

Second, the deadline has passed for this year's parade, and only two state representatives, Greg Harris and Sara Feigenholtz, have registered.

A few years ago, when the number of politicians marching started to grow, Pfeiffer said they made an adjustment for those without vehicles. They allowed them to be grouped together near the front of the parade. Then organizers space the rest of the stand-alone contingents throughout the route. They no longer have all of the politicians up front, but it may still seem they do because of the grouping of the walkers as contingent No. 10.

In addition, even though other state representatives are not registered, they may still be allowed to march in the No. 10 slot, or they may in fact just join with any other of the political contingents along the route. Note, Attorney General Lisa Madigan has also not registered, nor has Speaker of the House Mike Madigan.

Here are the politicians who have registered their own entries this year:

Rep. Greg Harris
Rep. Sara Feigenholtz and Sen. John Cullerton (combined)
Citizens for David Orr
U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky
U.S. Rep. Robin Kelley

Ald. Joe Moore
Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez
Ald. Danny Solis
Ald. Scott Waguespack
Cook County Democratic Party (includes County politicians)
Aldermen Tom Tunney, Joe Moreno, John Arena (combined)
Friends of Sheriff Tom Dart
The Alliance of Illinois Judges
Ald. Harry Osterman

Those who are registered as part of contingent No. 10 are:

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon
U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley
Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown
James Crawley, candidate for judge
Nancy Wade, Green Party candidate for Congress
Michael Allen Strom for judge

By marching, these politicians will be able to hear the positive and negative comments from people. This is a free-speech country, and I think the Pride Parade is a wonderful opportunity to allow the public to speak. I wish those 850,000 people would have marched on Springfield or City Hall, but that will never happen. So, let's have them shout their love or anger directly to the politicians. (Or maybe just stay silent and turn your backs if you want to express yourself.)

Now for the recommendations:

—The politicians should each be asked to pay a fee, and that money would go directly to the marriage-equality group of their choice. The standard fees are \$400 for non-profits, \$825 for for-profits and \$1,675 for corporate. Let's split the difference and pay the \$825. Since there are only two state representatives registered, this would not be much money, but it would be nice if some of the other politicians were also asked to chip in this year as a sign of solidarity. It is unfair that they get to march without paying any fee at all, thus taking a slot from someone else.

—This year, contingent No. 10 should be moved to No. 100, as a symbolic position in the middle of the parade, allowing more non-profits and pro-gay religious groups to move up. The contingents in vehicles could follow behind those.

This is an easy compromise—one that allows politicians in the parade and helps the marriage-equality efforts as well.

Anti-gay religious activists march in Chicago

BY TRACY BAIM

A non-profit, Catholic group from Pennsylvania called The American TFP (Tradition, Family and Property) attracted about 100 people to their anti-marriage equality protest in downtown Chicago June 8. About 20 pro-marriage equality protesters joined during the initial rally, and then some followed as the anti-gays marched south along Michigan Avenue.

A Pennsylvania man who only gave his first name as "Michael" said he was from the TFP and that people at the rally were from around the country, in town for what he said was a private event that was "none of your business," when asked.

"It is a civic organization of Catholic inspiration," Michael said of TFP, adding that it has some 10,000 members from different Catholic dioceses around the United States and was formed in 1973.

Before the event started, a few gay-rights activists confronted one lone Chicago anti-gay man posted in front of the Cultural Center, arguing about the Bible as well as the separation of church and state. The anti-gays then gathered on the east side of Michi-



Photos by Hal Baim



gan Avenue, in front of Millennium Park. Police kept the sides apart, although some members argued back and forth before the march began.

Once the anti-marriage equality group began walking south, the pro-gay group, separated by police, kept to the back of the march, shouting for marriage equality.

REPS from page 14

Dist. 101, Bill Mitchell (R): In 2004, Mitchell introduced a bill that sought to limit the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman in the Illinois constitution. Windy City Times reported at the time that Mitchell's bill "attempted to nullify existing laws, saying that 'civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Illinois.'" Springfield office: (217) 782-8163.

Dist. 102, Adam Brown (R): Brown took office in 2011 and ran in 2012 without the endorsement of Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8398.

Dist. 103, Naomi Jakobsson (D): Jakobsson is a co-sponsor marriage equality bill. Springfield office: (217) 558-1009.

Dist. 104, Chad Hays (R): Hays' position has not been widely publicized. On his website he writes, "Chad is Pro-

Life as well as a strong supporter of family values." Springfield office: (217) 782-4811.

Dist. 105, Dan Brady (R): Brady voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield Office: (217) 782-1118.

Dist. 106, Josh Harms (R): The Pontiac Daily Leader reported in mid-January that Harms believes marriage should be between a man and a woman. Springfield office: (217) 558-1039.

Dist. 107, John Cavaletto (R): In 2006, the Mt. Vernon Register-News reported that Cavaletto said, "I am strongly opposed to gay rights for homosexuals and I support a Constitutional Amendment to ban gay marriage." That same report notes that Cavaletto has a gay uncle. Cavaletto opposed civil unions in 2010 and backed an anti-gay "Defense of Marriage" bill in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-0066.

Dist. 108, Charles Meier (R): The Belleville News-Democratic reported this fall that Meier is against same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-

6401.

Dist. 109, David Reis (R): Reis was among a group of lawmakers to file a court document against two lawsuits that seek marriage equality in Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-2087.

Dist. 110, Brad Halbrook (R): Halbrook's stance on marriage has not been widely publicized. He has conservative stances on abortion and gun control. Springfield office: (217) 558-1040.

Dist. 111, Daniel Beiser (D): Beiser voted against civil unions in 2010 and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. WBGZ radio reported in January that Beiser did not support the marriage bill but did support a statewide referendum on the measure. Springfield office: (217) 782-5996.

Dist. 112, Dwight Kay (R): Kay was among a group of lawmakers to sponsor a bill re-affirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage last year, after 25 LGBT couples sued Cook County for the right to marry. Springfield office: (217) 782-8018.

Dist. 113, Jay Hoffman (D): Hoff-

man voted for civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois two years later. The Belleville News-Democrat reported last October that Hoffman backed civil unions but opposed same-sex marriage. District office: (618) 394-2211.

Dist. 114, Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D): Jackson voted against the bill in committee, making him the only Democrat to do so. Jackson voted "yes" on civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois last year. Springfield office: (217) 782-5951.

Dist. 115, Mike Bost (R): Bost voted against the bill in committee. He told KFVS News that he will oppose gay marriage. "We see many problems that can occur even with the civil unions that we've already dealt with. I'm afraid that gay marriage would step that up a bit," said Bost. "It's a bill that will be out there. Each one of us will vote our own conscience. I didn't vote for civil unions and I won't be voting for gay marriages." Springfield Office: (217) 782-0387.

Dist. 116, Jerry Costello, II (D):

NBC Chicago reported in October that Costello was against same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-1018.

Dist. 117, John Bradley (D): Bradley vowed to oppose gay marriage in a statement to KFVS News. "I am not going to be supportive of it," he said. "I didn't support civil unions. And I don't intend to support the gay marriage proposal. But I am sure this is going to be an ongoing battle for the State of Illinois." Springfield office: (217) 782-1051.

Dist. 118, Brandon Phelps (D): Phelps is against same-sex marriage. Two years ago, he co-sponsored a constitutional amendment to limit marriage to a man and a woman. "This constitutional amendment will reinforce the values and beliefs that I feel encompass the sacred institution of marriage, and will help keep it strictly between one man and one woman here in the state of Illinois," he said in a statement on his website. Springfield office: (217) 782-5131.

June 12 Danville event to host Sukie de la Croix

Internationally published out journalist Sukie de la Croix will be the featured speaker at a Human Pride-LGBT diversity event, "We Serve All Who Served" Wed., June 12, 1-3 p.m.

The event will take place at Danville's VA Illiana Health Care system, 1900 E. Main St., Room 104 (the Social Activities Room).

There will also be informational booths from the Illinois Safe School of Alliance, RACES: Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services, The Greater Community AIDS Project, Sexual Orientation Diversity Allies, Urbana's Up Center and the Danville Housing Authority.

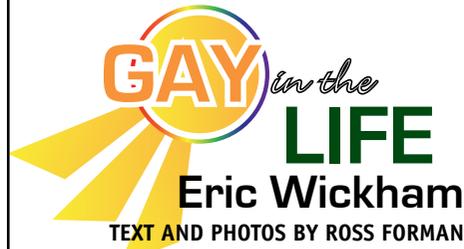
Ben Jenkins and Eszdee Darnell will provide musical entertainment. Call 217-554-3000.

LAGBAC, CBA to hold June 18 forum on local laws

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and the Chicago Bar Association are hosting "Discrimination Laws in Chicago and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations" at SmithA-mundsen, 150 N. Michigan Ave., on Tuesday, June 18, 12-1:15 p.m.

Sara Joan Bales, deputy commission for adjudication at the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and Mona Noriega, the commissioner's chair and commissioner, are scheduled to speak.

Lunch will be served. RSVP to Nick Furtwengler at nfurtwengler@lagbac.org by Thursday, June 13.



Age
25

Relationship status
Single

Neighborhood
East Lakeview

Orientation
x

Hobbies
Running, playing sports, and reading about health and nutrition.

Job Title
Manager and bartender at Taverna 750

Favorite movie
Gladiator

Favorite TV show
Grey's Anatomy

Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to have dinner with
Bob Harper, Steve Jobs, John Mayer and my father

Biggest tip ever received
Nearly \$300 on a near-\$500 bill

Little-known fact
Very crafty and handy, is great at building and designing things



Eric Wickham was working in mortgage finance and just not content with his 9-to-5 work world in a cubicle.

"I remember thinking about what made me happiest and I chased an opportunity," he said. "Working in bars and restaurants, there always are funny stories, and my favorites are ones that happen to [fellow] employees. Or jokes and games we play together. Everyone is a kid at heart."

Wickham's bar/restaurant life has, without question, led to some memorable times, and a few he no doubt would like to forget. Such as the time he spilled an entire glass of water on the head and shoulders of an elderly woman. Then there was the time he tripped walking up stairs with four hot plates in his hands—he ended up with marinara sauce all over his hands and arms.

One time he even broke down and cried in front of a table after his apartment had been robbed of about \$3,500 worth of cash and electronics.

Wickham said he eventually wants to earn a master's degree in human nutrition and medical dietetics. "I want to council individuals [on] making efforts and life changes to preserve their health," he said. "I think diet is the preventative medicine of many diseases and we should, as a culture, adopt a more natural and plant-based clean food diet."

Wickham said his dream job would be as a personal planner for high-end parties and events.

"This is truly one of the best industries in the world to be involved with. You get to enjoy so many moments and share with so many unique individuals," he said.



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How to love your gay child

BY QUETA RODRIGUEZ BAUER

The animosity against gay people will subside, I keep telling myself. Gay people will be all right, I repeat to myself, wishfully thinking. If only those who discriminate against gay people would really see the light... If only... I may be lying to myself; the world is not going to change as fast as I would like. But there is one way we can help, here in the United States and in my native Mexico.

I can be completely understanding of my kids' sexual orientation, but I can't keep it to myself. Unless we parents of gay children speak up about it, the discrimination, the misunderstandings are not going to stop. We parents need to be out, same as our children. The world needs to know that when our kids came out the world didn't end. We are still a family and we are still there for each other. Now, we all have to come out of the closet.

When my daughter came out, some 15 years ago (she is 32 now), I didn't know what to do, what to say or how to react. At that time I had been working on behalf of human rights for about 15 years. I even went to South Africa, representing a human rights organization, where there was a controversial resolution to work on the human rights of victims of repression due to their sexual orientation. I fought for it. Yet, when I found out about my daughter, I was in denial. I thought she was confused.

One day, when she was 17, I was driving her home from school. I asked her, "So, do you have any idea who you are going to prom with? She said: "I'm going with Sarah" (not her real name). I said, "with her?" She replied, "Yes, I like girls." Just like that!

It was time for me to stop at a red light, but I didn't know what to do, I was so confused! I asked, "What do you mean?" She said, again, "I like girls, I don't like boys." I muttered, "But how can you go to the prom with a girl? How can you go with Sarah?" She said, "I can go with whoever I want, and she likes girls too." I insisted, "Well, you might like that particular girl, but it doesn't mean you dislike boys! Sometimes one may have a very good relationship with a girlfriend and take it the wrong way..." she said, "No, I'm sure. I don't like boys."

I immediately called a friend whom I had just learned had a gay son and told her about my "problem." Luckily, she was a lot wiser than I was and she told me, "It's OK. Don't worry. You didn't do anything to cause it and you can't change it."

I discussed the issue with my husband, and after a few days of idea digestion, we decided the inevitable: there was nothing

we could do and we better continue loving her just as much if not more, because she had a hard road in front of her.

My daughter had been my baby, my beautiful little girl who liked only pink, my very insightful pre-teen who was in love with horses, and my very hard working teen who used to find all sorts of odd jobs.

And now, as an adult, she is also a friend on whose wisdom I rely to make important decisions in my life. And she has used her wisdom to choose her life partner, a wife, a wonderful, smart woman



Queta Rodriguez Bauer (left), daughter Joanna Bauer in red, and Hannah Gottschall, Joanna's wife, in gray, Joanna's wife. Photo by Allison Williams

whom we love and have welcomed into our family with open arms. All of us in our family think that we have never seen my daughter so happy.

My dream for my daughter to find a loving spouse has been fulfilled. I can appreciate how they see the future in each other's eyes; may they grow old together, and may they always be fond of each other.

My daughter has done her job. She has been courageous and now it's my turn. I have to tell the world how wonderful it is to have a daughter who is free to be herself in front of an ever more accepting world but which still imposes unfair laws on her because of her sexual orientation.

I have to proclaim all over, including and especially to my Latino friends and family, that my daughter is happily married to a wonderful woman. On occasion, people have come to me to confess that they also have a gay son, or daughter, or cousin. They see it is possible to be happy with an unconventional family. I tell them, "It's OK. Don't worry. You didn't do anything to cause it and you can't change it."

We must open the doors for our gay children. We must tell the world they are not different from anybody else, so they can be accepted and given the same rights and responsibilities as anybody else—including the right to raise their own children. That's the way to love our gay children.

Queta Rodriguez Bauer, MSC, ABC is a principal at Cultural Communications, LLC.

Cómo amar a nuestros hijos gay

POR QUETA RODRIGUEZ BAUER

La animosidad contra las personas gay disminuirá, me digo a mí misma. Los hombres y mujeres gays van a estar bien, me lo repito, pensando ilusoriamente. Si sólo los que discriminan a los homosexuales pudieran ver la luz... Si tan solo... pero tal vez me mienta a mí misma, el mundo no va a cambiar tan rápido como me gustaría. Sin embargo, hay una forma en que podemos ayudar, aquí en los Estados Unidos y en mi país natal, México.

Puedo comprender completamente la orientación sexual de mi hija, pero no debo quedarme callada. A menos

Insistí: "Bueno, tal vez te caiga muy bien una chica en particular ;pero eso no quiere decir que no te gusten los chicos! A veces uno puede tener una muy buena relación con una chica e interpretarla de una forma equivocada..." Dijo, "No, estoy segura. No me gustan los chicos."

Inmediatamente llamé a una amiga quien me acababa de decir que tenía un hijo gay y le hablé de mi "problema." Por suerte, ella era mucho más sabia que yo, y me dijo: "Está bien. No te preocupes. Tú no has hecho nada para que ella sea así y no puedes cambiarla."

Discutí el asunto con mi marido, y después de unos días de digerir la situación, decidimos lo inevitable: no había nada que pudiéramos hacer y sería mejor seguir amándola mucho, o más, porque tendría un duro camino por delante.

Mi hija había sido mi bebé, mi linda niña a quien le gustaba sólo el color de rosa, mi muy perspicaz pre-adolescente que estaba enamorada de los caballos, y mi muy trabajadora adolescente quien se las arreglaba para encontrar todo tipo de trabajos.

Y ahora, de adulta, ella es también una amiga en cuya sabiduría me apoyo para tomar decisiones importantes en mi vida. Y ella ha usado su sabiduría para elegir a su compañera de vida, su esposa, una maravillosa, inteligente mujer que amamos y a quien hemos dado la bienvenida a nuestra familia con los brazos abiertos. Todos nosotros en nuestra familia pensamos que nunca hemos visto a mi hija tan feliz.

Mi sueño de que mi hija encontrara una pareja amorosa se ha cumplido. Cuando se miran a los ojos uno ve como contemplan su futuro una al lado de la otra y que pueden envejecer juntas. Ojala que siempre se amen y se respeten así.

Mi hija ha hecho lo que tenía que hacer. Ella ha sido valiente y ahora es mi turno. Tengo que decirle a todos lo maravilloso que es tener una hija que es libre de ser ella misma frente a un mundo donde aunque haya cada vez más aceptación, sigue imponiendo leyes injustas sobre ella a causa de su orientación sexual.

Tengo que anunciar por todas partes, incluyendo en particular a mis amigos latinos y la familia, que mi hija está felizmente casada con una mujer maravillosa. En ocasiones, alguna persona ha venido a mí para confesar que ellos también tienen un hijo o hija gay. Ellos ven que es posible ser feliz con una familia no convencional. Yo les digo: "Está bien. No te preocupes. Tú no has hecho nada para que ella sea así y no puedes cambiarla."

Tenemos que abrir las puertas para nuestros hijos gay. Debemos decirle al mundo que no son diferentes de cualquier otra persona, para que puedan ser aceptados con los mismos derechos y responsabilidades que tenga cualquier otra persona—incluyendo el derecho a criar a sus propios hijos. Esa es la manera de amar a nuestros hijos gay.

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Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo of Hyde Park School Dance members by Shohei Koide

UP IN ARMS

Hyde Park School of Dance marks 20 years. See below.

DISH

Egg room.
Page 30

PR photo of deviled egg with arugula and capers at Purple Pig by Lisa Predko



THEATER

Days of our 'Lives.'
Page 20

Photo from Lives of the Pigeons by Scott Dray



SPORTS

Ride on.
Page 34

Photo of Paul Cantrell by Ross Forman



DANCIN' FEATS

Hyde Park School of Dance turns 20

BY VICKI CRAIN

This month the Hyde Park School of Dance (HPSD)—formerly the Hyde Park School of Ballet—celebrates 20 years of teaching dance on Chicago's South Side.

Artistic Director August Tye founded the school in 1993 after the School of Chicago Ballet, run by the late Maria Tallchief, closed. "One of Maria's board members like my teaching style and suggested I start my own school," Tye said. "I think dance is important. Dance does so many things to help you be a better person in today's world. It promotes confidence. It promotes self-discipline, time management. Being a dancer gives you life skills."

Once funding and a board of directors was secured, the school needed a mission. "We wanted it to be a not-for-profit that served the underprivileged and promoted diversity in dance," Tye said.

Not only is there diversity in dance classes ranging from ballet to modern, jazz to creative movement, but also with the dancers themselves, including HPSD alum Mark Sikorski, a member of the LGBT community who now attends Oberlin College on a Posse Scholarship, and teachers/mentors like jazz icon Joel Hall.

"Joel has always been one of the biggest inspirations in my life. I really feel like I would've never made it as a professional dancer if I hadn't trained with him," said Tye. "I had no confidence when I got here. He really inspired me. He liked my choreography. He wanted to support me. He believed in me in such a way that I felt like I could do anything."

When preparing for the 20th anniversary, Tye

thought it would be a good time to honor the people who inspired HPSD's artistic staff, which includes herself; sister Aimee, who is associate artistic director; and associate artistic directors Sarah Ford Thompson and Allyson Ratliff, one of Tye's first students. As a result, the Joel Hall Dancers, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and Paul Sanasardo Dancers will all be dancing in the performance this weekend, as well as guest dancers from the Lyric Opera of Chicago (Tye is ballet mistress) and the Joffrey Ballet. Tye's company, Tyego Dance Project (TDP), and her youth company, Tyego Next Generation (TNG), will also appear.

In keeping with the all-in-the-family feel, AER Dance Theater, a new company formed by Ratliff, will be making its debut. Also performing in the show are HPSD alums Elizabeth Mensah and Tara Willis, two dancers who went on separate artistic paths after school. Mensah currently dances with the Memphis Ballet, while Willis is studying for her master's degree at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Tye said Mensah is HPSD's first real ballerina where Willis is more avant garde and modern. "I like it because the two alums are really different. One is really classical and one is really cutting edge contemporary. It speaks to the range of what we do at the school."

The performance (titled "En Avant," or "Moving Forward") ends with a grand finale—"a big production"—that includes 50 HPSD students from ages 5 to 17, plus TDP and TNG dancers and HPSD alumni performing to an original composition by Michael Caskey featuring the voices of alumni set to music. "I love lots of bodies on stage," Tye said. "I tried to make a picture of



August Tye.

our school from the youngest to the oldest, from ballet to modern, trying to show how the dancers mentor each other and work with each other. My vision is kind of big."

Tye's passion for dance is coupled with a risk-taking philosophy that has served her well in her multi-faceted career as a dancer/teacher/choreographer. "I take any opportunity that comes my way and I try to run with it," she said. "Doors open and sometimes they only open once, so if you don't go through the door, you miss the

opportunity. I try to take what I can and do as much as I can."

It's good advice for us all.

Hyde Park School of Dance presents *En Avant* at the Logan Arts Center, 915 E. 60th St., on Friday, June 14, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$75; call 773-493-8498 or visit www.hydeparkdance.org. There will be a post-show reception on Saturday, June 15. Tickets are required.

More shows this month:

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago presents *danc(e)volve: New Works Festival* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago on the MCA Stage, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Thursday-Sunday, June 13-16. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$35 (MCA Members \$28, students \$10); call 312-397-4010 or visit www.mcachicago.org.

Bonedance presents *bully.punk.riot* at Links Hall/Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave., Thursdays-Sundays, June 20-30, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18-\$20; visit www.ticketfly.com/search/?q=BONEdance. For more information, visit www.breakbone.com.

Hedwig Dances and special guest from Cuba, **DanzAbierta**, perform together for two nights at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$30; call 773-871-0872 or visit <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/921245>.

Chicago Tap Theatre presents *Mama's Boy* at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 23, at 3 p.m. as well as Friday-Saturday, June 28-29, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 30, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$35; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.chicagotaptheatre.com/events/062113-mamas-boy.

Ensemble Español presents *Flamenco Passion* as part of its 37th annual American Spanish Dance and Music Festival. Performances are Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 23, at 3 p.m. at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. Tickets are \$26-\$46; call 847-673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.



The Second City Guide to the Opera. Image by Todd Rosenberg Photography

OPERA REVIEW

The Second City Guide to the Opera

Playwright: Jesse Case, Kate James and Timothy Sniffen
At: Civic Opera House, Wacker Drive at Madison
Tickets: www.lyricopera.org;
 312-332-2244; \$35-\$75
Runs through: June 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Following a single sold-out performance last January, the theatrical odd couple of Lyric Opera of Chicago and The Second City have partnered to offer a limited-run of a musical revue intended to show that opera—often regarded as high-falutin’—is approachable and can let its hair down. Even so, it’s a gilded affair amid the lavish Art Deco splendors of the Civic Opera House, although this show offers something spectacular few get to see: the view from the theater’s vast stage.

For this engagement, the audience is seated onstage in a make-shift cabaret of tables, chairs and sofas, looking across the huge orchestra pit and up to the boxes and balconies in their gold-and-crimson glory. A small platform, also onstage, serves as the performing area with room for a three-piece orchestra. Light refreshments and drinks are available (Chandon California champagne at \$40/bottle is a good deal) to complete the cabaret experience.

The revue itself is amusing, if genteel. It features such signature Second City devices as a pinch of four-letter words, some sex talk, several clever musical numbers and an “opera” improvised from audience-supplied material. The company sings an overture which makes fun of both audience and musical expectations and follows up with a master class for singers taught by a horny, bisexual diva. A blind-date scene—found in almost every Second City revue—offers a neurosurgeon (her) and an aromatherapist (him) bonding over Wagner’s Ring Cycle (running 41 hours through the addition of newly discovered material).

Still, the show treads gingerly on opera itself, perhaps wisely refusing to bite the hand that feeds it. There’s talk of Wagner’s Ring Cycle, for example, but nothing about Wagner himself, a prime target for satire (a closet cross-dresser, among other things). There are no jokes about short tenors or behemoth sopranos, nor are there jokes about barihunks or other trim-and-sexy singers. Surely there’s a fine skit in tenors

at the gym or bassos in leather.

Still, the eight-person cast (two of them actual Lyric Opera singers) and three musicians make it an entertaining evening with the “Song of the Trumpet Player,” an entire opera chorus applying for one office job and a musical tribute, “To Operaland” (“Life is so much nicer with an orchestra behind it...”). The very finest bit is 12-tone composer Arnold Schoenberg flopping as a stand-up comic when all his musicological jokes go over the audience’s head. In a case of life-mirrors-art-mirrors-life, the jokes *are* funny and the audience mostly doesn’t get them. Billy Bungeroth is the director of this thoroughly amiable evening and Jesse Case is the musical director (and composer of all music not written by Bizet or William Bolcom). FYI: Tickets are selling fast.

CRITICS’ PICKS

Blood and Gifts, Timeline Theatre, through July 28. We got into the Afghani hell of Islamic politics and blood revenge by doing to the USSR in the 1980s what they did to us in Vietnam: backing their enemy, who became the Taliban. It’s a sad story written and acted with passion. JA

In the Company of Men, Profiles Theatre at The Main Stage, through June 30. Provocateur playwright and filmmaker Neil LaBute transforms the controversial 1997 film that launched his career back into a juicy stage drama. This fine production shows the underhanded lengths two men go to manipulate an unwitting woman’s affections in a morally corrupt game. SCM

Othello: the Remix, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through June 15. Hip-hop Shakespeareans, the Q Brothers, tackle their first tragedy and come up with a four-actor precision version that’s clever, joyful, musical, extremely funny and yet respects the original. Their best work yet. JA

Homecoming 1972, Chicago Dramatists, through June 23. There are countless stories about military veterans returning to “normal life,” but Robert Koon may be the first playwright to question how “normal” civilian life was in post-Vietnam America.

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Lives of the Pigeons

Playwright: Sherod Santos
At: The Side Project, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave.
Tickets: 773-340-0140;
www.thesideproject.net; \$20
Runs through: June 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The men are too old for *The Zoo Story*, and the surrounding landscape too well-tended for *Waiting For Godot*. The pastoral setting also precludes our play being *The Dumbwaiter*, though the action will soon take on Pinteresque elements to assure us, beyond any doubt, that we haven’t stumbled upon a dinner-theater production of *I’m Not Rappaport*.

So what distinguishes this particular day and this particular pair of graybeards? Their customary afternoon chess game begins innocuously enough—until Gus feeds the pigeons, in defiance of park regulations and Max’s warnings. Later, when our petty malefactor, having lost the first match, goes to fetch beer and sandwiches, he returns to find Max missing and, in his place, a gentleman outfitted with a natty suit, a gold-topped walking-stick and an African accent. The stranger proceeds to interrogate, then brutalize, a bewildered Gus, and when the latter has been reduced to helpless compliance, orders him to commit a terrible atrocity. Max reappears to find

his distraught companion unsure of what has occurred, but they agree that the wise course is not to dwell on the incident.

The very name “People’s Park” hints at either a functioning dictatorship, or a recently-liberated one still acclimating to its newly-granted freedom. Then again, American poet-turned-playwright Sherod Santos could be commenting on civil obedience as the price we pay for maintaining the peace. Gus remarks on his wife’s suspicions regarding her husband’s friendship with Max and their activities at “The Palace”—a spot that might have been a government office, a fraternal lodge or a covert-ops prison, but has been recently bombed to smithereens by an unknown terrorist. Are Max and Gus remnants of a deposed regime, carefully concealing their past crimes? Or are they victims, still haunted by memories of collaborating with their oppressors in order to survive?

Ellipses are more acceptable in poetry than in plays, rendering Santos’ 70-minute scenario enigmatic beyond the limits of its genre. What makes us care about Max and Gus, nevertheless, is the dynamic generated by Don Bender and Vincent L. Lonergan, two of the storefront circuit’s most popular attractive older men. Their foosly camaraderie charms us immediately before menace intrudes in the form of Matthew Lloyd’s mysterious Man With Cane. Under Adam Webster’s unhurried direction, the chemistry of these three actors are enough to send us home musing on the precarious fates of humble citizens and birds.

THEATER REVIEW

A Cole Porter Songbook

Playwright: music By Cole Porter, arranged by Aaron Benham
At: Theo Ubique at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.
Tickets: 800-595-4849;
www.theo-u.com; \$29-\$59
Runs through: July 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Most Cole Porter showcases are dominated by his romantic ballads, their selection geared toward nostalgic senior couples unaware that the songwriter providing the soundtrack for

of human behavior. The evening’s roster may include golden-age hum-alongs like “It’s De-lovely” and “You’d Be So Nice to Come Home To,” but it also highlights Porter’s trademark irreverent—and often ambisexual—lyrics.

This eclectic approach is continued in Aaron Benham’s musical arrangements: Who would have thought to weave “It’s Bad For Me” together with “You Do Something to Me” and “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” into a Baroque-harmony chorale? Or sample from such diverse sources as carousel-organ, player piano and La Marseilles? Or resurrect a nearly forgotten “list song” from a 1958 television special? David Heimann’s dances also draw from a variety of styles, ranging from Vernon Castle one-steps to jitterbug to Charleston—all in a single number yet!—as well as Can-Can, country hoe-downs and Viennese waltzes.



A Cole Porter Songbook. Photo by David Heimann

their youthful memories was anything but happily het like themselves—an impression supported by his long and contented marriage to a likewise agreeable woman. This beacon in the history of American musical theater was a star with many facets, however, reflecting many sensibilities.

If you’re one of those just discovering that the composer of “Anything Goes” was gay, you might suddenly find yourself delving the familiar lyrics for double entendres and hidden references. (Okay, you guys, no giggling during “You’re The Top.”) While this Theo Ubique revue features some male-on-male by-play in the ballroom choreography for “Experiment,” what is more apparent is that the privileged world that Porter inhabited endowed him with a cheerfully gender-unrestricted view

None of this would matter if the quartet assembled by director Fred Anzevino didn’t have the versatility required to deliver a sizzling “Too Darn Hot” and a ditty rhyming “orgy” with “Lucrezia Borgia.” Jill Sesso vamps like a sugar-frosted dominatrix for “Let’s Misbehave,” Christopher Logan shows off some Donald O’Connor acrobatics in “They Couldn’t Compare to You,” while Sierra Naomi and William Lucas bring vocal muscle to generate the necessary soar for Porter’s melodic climaxes. Anyway, who can resist a “Brush Up Your Shakespeare” employing three costume changes? Oh, and did I mention that flowers are distributed to lucky playgoers in the course of the show? As the maestro says, “Let’s Do It”—soon.

WINDY CITY TIMES THEATRE SERIES 2013-2014

A RAISIN IN THE SUN*

TIMELINE THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

7:30pm

By Lorraine Hansberry, Directed by OJ Parsons

This award-winning classic from lesbian playwright Hansberry "changed American theater forever". – *New York Times*

THE NORMAL HEART

TIMELINE THEATRE

at **STAGE 773**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

7:30pm

By Larry Kramer, Directed by Nick Bowling

A searing drama about the personal and private indifference to the AIDS plague in the 80's and one man's fight to awaken the world to the crisis.

THE LITTLE PRINCE

WORLD PREMIERE

LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

7:30pm

By Rick Cummins and John Scoullar

Directed by David Catlin

Based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
A visually arresting, fully immersive theatre interpretation of the beloved French novella from the creators of *Lookingglass Alice*.

GYPSY*

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

7:30pm

Book by Arthur Laurents, Music by Jule Styne

Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Gary Griffin

From the award-winning director of *FOLLIES* comes the musical of famed stripper Gypsy Rose Lee and her larger-than-life stage mother.

BOOTYCANDY*

CHICAGO PREMIERE

BAILIWICK THEATRE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 2014

8pm

By Robert O'Hara, Directed by Lili-Anne Brown

"Funny, smutty and enticingly subversive... a toxically satiric portrait of American life, as it is experienced by someone black and gay."
– *Washington Post*

THE WAY WEST*

CHICAGO PREMIERE

STEPPEWOLF THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014

7:30pm

By Mona Mansour, Directed by Amy Morton

A hilarious and heartbreaking play about a family's frontier spirit fueled by both self-delusion and survival.

APPLAUSE*

BAILIWICK THEATRE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

8pm

Book by Betty Comden & Adolph Green,

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Lee Adams, Directed by Chris Pazdernik

Based on the Oscar-winning film *ALL ABOUT EVE*, this seldom-produced musical won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

DAYS LIKE TODAY*

WORLD PREMIERE

WRITERS' THEATRE

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014

7:30pm

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Book by Laura Eason

Directed by Michael Halberstam

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Kiss of the Spider Woman. Photo from the BoHo Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Kiss of the Spider Woman

Music and Lyrics: John Kander and Fred Ebb
Book: Terence McNally
At: BoHo Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773.975.8150
www.BoHoTheatre.com; \$25-27
Runs through: June 30

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

As a dramatic story set against a troubling backdrop but full of romance and theatrical flair, John Kander and Fred Ebb's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* has always fit well alongside their most revered and successful works, *Cabaret* and *Chicago*. Yet it's much more operatic, much more fantastical and distinctively more queer.

Debuting in 1992, the musical embraces the homosexuality of its main character—Luis Alberto Molina, a man locked up in a Latin American prison for having sex with a minor—in a way so different from today's films, shows and musicals with main characters no less queer. Most gay

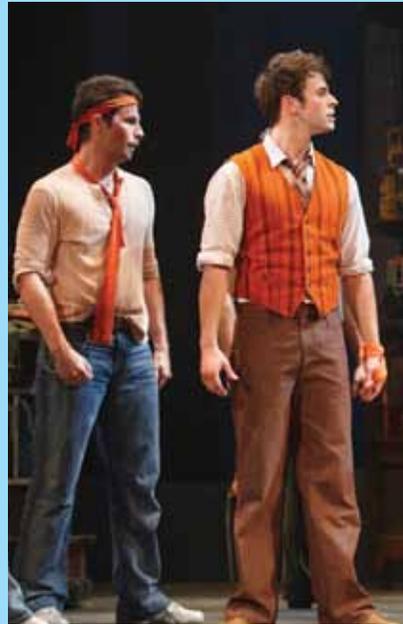
characters are written to help fill out a spectrum of diversity, provide comic relief or simply to "better reflect the times." Molina's sexuality serves none of these purposes (aside from a few comedic zingers). He embodies it, but it does not define him. At his core he is a man longing for escape and drawn helplessly toward romance. His sexuality only makes his dangerous set of circumstances worse.

BoHo Theatre (Bohemian Theatre Ensemble) captures this core with a visually impressive three-quarter round production of the musical at Theater Wit that includes a small live orchestra and performers with experience at musical subscription powerhouses such as the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire and Evanston's Light Opera Works. The deck is stacked, but the show is a string of moments that can be labeled hit-or-miss.

Even in this small space and without microphones, the ensemble numbers take off behind this collection of excellent (predominantly male) vocals. The variations on "Over the Wall" as well as more theatrical numbers such as "Gimme Love" stand out thanks to choreography and the pure organic sound of these young men.

Evan Tyrone Martin—who plays Valentin, Mo-

SPOTLIGHT



West Side Story returns to Chicago in a non-Equity tour based upon the 2009 Broadway revival. Hopefully, the youthful energy of the fresh cast will help Jerome Robbins' original choreography to soar along with the glorious tunes like "Somewhere," "Cool" and more penned by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. Also see how well Arthur Laurents' 1957 scriptural adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* holds up more than 50 years after its Broadway debut. *West Side Story* continues its run through Sunday, June 16, at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, June 12-14; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, June 15; and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 16. Tickets are \$18-\$85; call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. Photo by Carol Rosegg

lina's cellmate and a revolutionary with whom he falls in love—stands out among the featured vocal performers with his combination of power and moving falsetto. Nathan Carroll has the chops for Molina despite his youthful look, but his strengths lie in humanizing Molina's diva persona.

Without question, something is missing from the production and suspicion can rightfully be placed on Aurora the Spider Woman, played by Jennifer T. Grubb. She has the femme fatale look, especially in Bill Morey's costumes, but there's an inexplicable lack of power behind her vocals. (Giving her a mic might've made artistic as well as common sense.) As the imaginary temptress and looming specter of death floating in and out of the action, her character should titillate the audience with every appearance, but she only does so visually.

Director Peter Marston Sullivan has chosen to put great emphasis on the escapist elements of

this challenging musical and in that endeavor he succeeds. And not just in terms of the blur between fantasy and reality, but also in it being a passionate love story. Molina's feelings for Valentin are never lost and play out in a lovely way in "Anthing for Him."

What is lost, however, is the aching and suspenseful drama and tragic unfolding of events, those things that—when this musical is at its best—fuel the more abstract elements. More effective numbers featuring the Spider Woman might have at least created a safety net in the production's entertainment value, but if the drama doesn't work here, the ceiling is only so high.

Kiss of the Spider Woman has a lot to be proud of, but BoHo has tried to scale a challenging wall of a musical.

Tonys get 'Kinky'

Kinky Boots—a musical about a drag queen who helps a man save his father's shoe factory—dominated this year's Tony Awards, shown on CBS June 9.

The musical (which started with a pre-Broadway run in Chicago) led with six awards, including wins for best musical, leading actor Billy Porter and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (both whom are openly gay), and composer Cyndi Lauper.

USA Today reported that upon accepting the award, Lauper said, "I gotta thank my mom for sharing all that wonderful music. I wrecked all her Broadway musicals when I was a kid, the cast albums. ... And I want to thank Harvey Fierstein for calling me up. I'm so glad I was done with the dishes and I answered the phone."

Pippin won four Tonys, including best revival, lead actress in a musical (Patina Miller) and featured actress in a musical (Andrea Martin).

In other news, 79-year-old Cicely Tyson won her first-ever Tony for her role in *The Trip to Bountiful*. "I had a burning desire to do one more great role. I didn't want to be greedy. Just one more," Tyson said.

Another Tyson—former boxer Mike (who had a one-man show)—was among those featured in host Neil Patrick Harris' opening number. Harris also included a number on Broadway stars who were in failed TV shows. (The *New Normal*'s Andrew Rannells, *Go On*'s Laura Benanti and *Smash*'s Megan Hilty appeared with Harris, who is on the long-running *How I Met Your Mother*.)

Harris mostly received raves for his hosting duties. Even the *New York Times* stated that Harris "set the bar so high with his introductory flourish that fears of another familiar Tony malady haunted the rest of the CBS broadcast:



Sandy the dog (from *Annie*) and host Neil Patrick Harris at the Tonys. Twitter pic

the dreaded *How Do We Top the Opening Number Disease*." (The *Times*, though, did give the closing number a mixed review.)

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* took home the top play honors. *Virginia Woolf*—Edward Albee's play about a middle-aged couple's dissolving marriage—won for best revival, best actor (star Tracy Letts) and best director (Pam MacKinnon). Letts and MacKinnon mentioned Chicago and Steppenwolf Theater in their speeches. (The Steppenwolf production of "Woolf" which premiered in Chicago.) In winning, Letts bested Nathan Lane, Tom Hanks, David Hyde Pierce and Tom Sturridge.

Lauper also performed her hit song "True Colors" during the "In Memoriam" segment.



'And the Winner Wasn't' held at Sidetrack

On June 4, Pride Films and Plays held a benefit at Boystown nightspot Sidetrack entitled "And The Winner Wasn't." The evening payed homage to musicals that were nominated for Tonys, but didn't win.

Performers included Amy & Freddy, Bethany Thomas and Scott Gryder. Musical selections came from *Under A Rainbow Flag*, *Barnum* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, among others.

Tons of theater tickets were raffled off throughout the evening along with gift certificates to local businesses and bottles of Halsted Vodka.

Visit www.pridefilmsandplays.com for more information. Text and photos by Jerry Nunn; see video from the event at youtube.com/windycitytimes.





Christopher Bell. Photo by Patrick Pyszka

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Out conductor distinguishes himself with posts, awards

BY JOE FRANCO

Thirteen years ago, Christopher Bell was invited to guest-direct the Grant Park Music Festival Chorus. As Bell put it to Windy City Times, the festival organizers wanted to “try this guy out.” After two years of guest conducting, Bell was offered his current position as Chorus Director. “Chicago is a unique city. We have two large choruses here,” said Bell. This further enticed Bell to take the job as Chorus Director. Since then audiences have been entertained by Bell’s trademark stage flamboyance.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the son of Anglican clergyman, Bell was introduced to music at a young age. “I suppose there are three answers to the question ‘When was your earliest or defining musical moment?’ My parents started me on the piano when I was 6 or 7. I then become more interested when studying music at University. But for me, the defining moment was after I had won a conducting contest in Vienna. I was then invited to guest conduct with the BBC Orchestra in Glasgow.”

Bell’s presence in Scotland is still very strong. He currently directs the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Junior Chorus and is the founder of the National Youth Choir in Scotland. “It has always been part of my plan to encourage young people to sing. In Chicago, there is considerable motivation among the youth of the City,” said Bell. Bell works extensively with the Grant Park Apprentice Chorale, which is composed of students from Chicago colleges, all handpicked by Bell.

Openly gay, Bell never stressed his sexuality but uses it as an example of what can be accomplished. “Being gay is part of who I am,” he said. “I wanted to promote singing among young men. I also wanted to be seen as a leader and a motivator to let this young men know that being gay is not a barrier to do what it is you want to do. There is no need to hide.” It was in part, this attitude of youth leadership and motivation that helped earn Bell the Michael Korn Founder’s Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art.

The Korn Founder’s Award, named after one of the founders of Chorus America, is an honorary citation established in 1978 to pay tribute to an individual with a lifetime of significant contributions to the professional choral art. “This is an award from my peers. Its significant to me and at the same time is awesome and hum-

bling,” said Bell. “But I hope this isn’t some sort of omen or sign since it’s a lifetime achievement award. I’m only 52 and I should hope I have many more years of music in me,” joked Bell. The award ceremony takes place during the Chorus America’s Annual Conference in Seattle, Wash., June 12-15. “I’ve never been to Seattle and I’m quite looking forward to it. I’ll only be in the city for about twenty-four hours but I hope to see some of the sights and take a quiet moment for myself to take it all in.”

“We’re so proud of Christopher for this lifetime service award, and for his leadership here with the Grant Park Chorus and the college students he mentors in the Apprentice Chorale,” said Paul Winberg, president of the Grant Park Orchestral Association. “He has advanced choral art by his commitment to training young singers in addition to the work he does with professional choruses.”

“I feel that the Grant Park Chorus is unique and special and should be heard outside of Festival,” said Bell. This summer, Bell and the Chorus will get to reach those new audiences with Songs of Praise and Passion a program of a cappella music at the South Shore Cultural Center on July 30 and the Columbus Park Refectory on August 1 at 7:00 p.m. Bell added that he believed the Chorus should also be heard outside of Chicago. “The Grant Park Chorus must be extremely versatile. That is crucial to the success of any member of the chorus. We could be performing Broadway one night and then a solemn mass a few nights later. That’s not an easy transition.”

Bell is very excited for the 2013 season. Aside from getting to take the Chorus to new audiences, the repertoire this season is as varied as in years past. “We begin with Alexander Nevsky by Prokofiev. We move into Benjamin Britten’s masterwork of the 20th century, War Requiem. We have some fun with Rodgers and Hammerstein and the a cappella program and finally end with Schubert’s Mass in E Flat.”

The Grant Park Music Festival is a true Chicago asset. It is the nation’s only free, summer-long outdoor classical music series. Now in its 79th season, running June 12-Aug. 17, the Grant Park Orchestral Association can add Bell and his prestigious award to the list of its fait accompli. Bell’s presence as an openly gay choral director is a sign not only for the youth that he inspires but also for anyone who sees their sexuality as a barrier. For Bell, it isn’t.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Man of Steel; film notes

Late in **Man of Steel**, director Zack Snyder's reboot of the Superman franchise for Warner Bros., a female army captain articulates what the audience has been thinking for more than two hours when she gazes longingly at the hulking, caped dreamboat embodied by Henry Cavill and shyly admits, "I think he's kinda hot."

That's an understatement. At 6'1," Cavill, who has played supporting roles and the lead in the indifferent Greek mythology blockbuster *The Immortals* last year, is certainly tall and toned enough to fill the red boots and form-fitting costume. Hot, hot, hot, Cavill is. But then so was Klinton Spilsbury in *The Legend of the Lone Ranger* and Miles O'Keefe in *Tarzan the Ape Man*—not to mention Brandon Routh in 2006's *Superman Returns*, Warner's last try at starting the series over.

Whether or not Cavill's super-hot body and super-cute looks are enough to ensure further outings in the iconic role or send him to movie history oblivion like those other unfortunate hemes, they certainly provide an apt metaphor for Snyder's much more muscular, grittier take on



Amy Adams in *Man of Steel*. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

the material. Devoid of charm and subtlety to the point where the inevitable romance between Superman and ace reporter Lois Lane (played by Amy Adams) incites titters as opposed to swoons, *Man of Steel* is a perfect calculation of the modern-day Hollywood juggernaut.

This calculated approach has its merits and the movie skillfully combines the first two of the Christopher Reeve late 1970s Superman movies into one. It eschews any reference to archcriminal Lex Luthor and his daffy sidekicks and jumps right to General Zod, Superman's one worthy adversary, a fellow Kryptonian who also survived the extinction of their home planet of Krypton. Zod (played with typical terse effect by Michael Shannon) and his cohorts have followed Superman/Kal-El to earth in search of



Henry Cavill in *Man of Steel*. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

something called the "codex" that Kal's father (Russell Crowe) sent with him to Earth before Krypton was destroyed.

The codex is a device that could bring back the inhabitants of Krypton but would extinguish humanity in the process, which is Zod's mission. But Kal has taken a fancy to his adopted planet and the lessons imparted by his adoptive parents (Diane Lane and Kevin Costner) as he grew up on their Kansas farm. And though he's a loner, forced to blend in because of his extraordinary abilities and has for years been subjected to taunts and beatings by humans (talk about a victim of bullying), Kal still believes in the inherent goodness of earthlings and is determined to thwart Zod and his minions—all of which Lois Lane becomes privy to through her ace sleuthing (leap of faith required there).

Scripted by David S. Goyer from a story conceived by he and Christopher Nolan, Goyer's collaborator on the *Batman* trilogy reboot, the movie has a much darker, more melancholy tone (and look) than the Christopher Reeve pictures and Nolan's fatalistic, Fascist artistic sensibilities combined with his gut-busting action sequences are obvious reference points. John Williams' famous Superman theme and his lovely melody for the romance between Lois and Superman ("Can You Read My Mind") are gone, replaced by yet another Nolan signature—a Hans Zimmer music score that pummels rather than exhilarates the audience. Although Snyder brings his own preference for long takes and his awareness of the importance of Cavill's physique to the proceedings (he is shirtless when introduced), Nolan's presence from the sidelines is overwhelming.

At the center of the cacophony is Cavill, with his cute rather than handsome face sitting atop his massive, football blocker body. His acting, though, isn't exactly anything to get hot under the collar about—he often seems dazed or puzzled, and even when angered not much registers on his face. He's Superman as a lunkhead who wants to use his fists cause he ain't too smart (this Superman flies with hands clenched, rather than palms out, another signal, apparently, of his hypermasculinity). There's not a smidgen of the personality that Reeve brought to the role but then this isn't a Superman movie that would have had any use for Reeve—or Margot Kidder or the rest of the actors who helped make the 1978 version so endearing—and gay director Bryan Singer's 2006 reboot as well (although the miscasting of Kate Bosworth as Lois Lane was a big misstep).

But let's give credit where credit is due—though I genuinely loved Reeve and Routh in the role and those director's visions of the material, Snyder has certainly delivered a picture that adheres to the current movie zeitgeist—which

says that blockbusters must be interchangeable, bigger, faster, pumped up on adrenaline with an approximation of emotion rather than the true expression of it. *Man of Steel* is certainly all that—a robotic exercise in moviemaking that will no doubt satisfy the requirements of millions of distracted moviegoers who no longer require absolute engagement to be entertained—and who might, in fact, prefer exactly that.

Bridgforth raising funds for new project

Artist Sharon Bridgforth has just launched a BIG USA Project fundraising campaign for her current work in progress, "River See." Chicago has been home to much of "River See's" development.

The project will return to Chicago for its world premiere at Links Hall in 2014. Meanwhile, full funding from the USA Project Campaign will insure the completion and success of "See."

Set on a juking boat, with blueswomen, queers, deviants and seers, "River See" is the prayer before the Great Migration. Experienced through the heart of See, a young woman-in-training, "River See" explores blues stories as living arrangements of jazz.

Through an improvisational process that happens live during performance/with singers, dancers, musicians and audience members, Bridgforth composes a moving soundscape in support of SEE's story. The actor that plays SEE (Sonja Parks) and Bridgforth work with local performers in each presenting city.

This project will only be funded if its goal of \$40,000 is reached by July 15. Visit http://www.usaprojects.org/project/river_see.

Alternative comics expo June 15-16

The Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE)—a weekend-long celebration of independent comics—returns to Chicago Saturday-Sunday, June 15-16, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. with more than 200 local, national and international exhibitors at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Free and open to the public, the CAKE Expo will feature original artwork for purchase, workshops, exhibitions, panel discussions and special guests.

See www.cakechicago.com.

Film notes:

Celebrating Diversity, the free LGBT film series the Chicago Public Library and the Queer Film Society are co-sponsoring, continues Tuesday, June 18, at the Logan Square branch, 3030 W. Fullerton Ave., with a 6 p.m. screening of Chicago-based filmmaker Tadeo Garcia's 2004's **On the Downlow**, the story of the potentially dangerous consequences of a secret affair between two male gang members. Garcia and his co-writer, Roger B. Domian, will be present for a post-screening discussion and DVD copies will be on sale.

The series ends Wed., June 19, with a book reading/signing event at the Sulzer branch, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave. Author Rob Christopher (and secretary for the Queer Film Society) presents an overview of his 2012 book *Queue Tips: Discovering Your Next Great Movie*, a guide to help movie fans utilize the DVD selections from their local library in choosing a film. Performance monologist David Kodeski will give a multimedia presentation of his contribution to the book, a chapter that delves into the homoerotic content in the 1961 film *Back Street* and other movies. Christopher will sign copies of the book (which will be for sale). www.queerfilmsociety.org

White Frog, from out director Quentin Lee (Ethan Mao, *Flow*, *The People I've Slept With*)—the story of an Asian-American family reeling after the accidental death of their elder, closeted son (played by Glee's Harry Shum, Jr.)—is out on VOD. (It will be out on DVD July 16 from Wolfe Video.) Joan Chen and out actor B.D. Wong play the bereft parents whose high expectations are transferred to his surviving siblings, especially his younger brother who also struggles with Asperger's Syndrome. Yes, there is more than a dash of Ordinary People in that plot outline and although it's a tad clichéd, this is a very satisfying, heartfelt drama.

Bisexual comic-book event June 15

The Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago and Chicago Bisexual Queer Meetup are hosting a comic book event Saturday, June 15, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., at 7:30 p.m. to coincide with the Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE).

The featured speaker will be Northwest Press publisher Charles "Zan" Christensen, editor of the forthcoming anthology *Anything That Loves*.

See "Bisexual Comics Event at The Center" on Facebook.

'Queer Queens of Comedy' June 14

Poppy Champlin, Gwen LaRoka and Dana Austin will headline the revue "Queer Queens of Comedy," Friday, June 14, at 8 p.m. at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

Champlin chooses the best of the best lesbian comics from across the country to join her at each venue.

Admission is \$25-\$35; see www.mayne-stage.com.



Poppy Champlin.



The cast of *The Fosters*. Photo courtesy of ABC Family

'The Fosters' TV show breaks new ground with lesbian foster moms

The new ABC Family TV show *The Fosters* debuted June 3, offering a new kind of American family. Not only are the lesbian moms an interracial couple, they are also foster moms to several children (and raising a biological child from one partner's previous heterosexual marriage).

Lena Adams and Stef Foster are the Fosters. Lena, played by Sherri Saum, is a high school principal. Stef, played by Teri Polo, is a police officer. Polo has been seen in such projects as

Meet the Fockers and *The West Wing*. Saum has been on *Rescue Me*, *In Treatment*, and other shows.

Jennifer Lopez and her Nuyorican Productions are producing the show, and other producers include Peter Paige, who was on the U.S. version of *Queer As Folk*. Paige and Brad Bredeweg are co-creators and co-writers of the show.

The anti-gay group One Million Moms has pushed for a boycott of *The Fosters*.

Foster the children

VIEWPOINT
BY KIM FLOWERS

I'm not an avid TV watcher, but I'm already in love with *The Fosters*. A police officer and high school vice principal raise biological, adopted, and foster children while dealing with the trials of life in a realistic and touching way. Even if the couple were a man and woman, I would still have a special place in my heart for this show, but since they're lesbians this makes it more unique, and of course presents more challenges. Being a foster parent is on my bucket list, and my first novel *No Turning Back* is about a teen lesbian who runs away from a foster home in search of her brother. Foster care in this country is an issue that still needs addressed today, and sibling groups especially face difficulties in permanent home placement, and sometimes with being able to stay together. Many gay people would love to adopt or foster kids that need homes, but for some, the law makes this extremely difficult.

In states such as Utah, Nebraska, Arkansas and North Dakota, discriminatory laws make fostering a child if you are gay either difficult or impossible. While equal marriage is stirring up the news, opponents' rallying cry is that gay couples should not have rights for the sake of our nation's children. But thousands of children in the United States need homes ... if people really care about these kids, why can't they see that gay couples or singles could provide desperately needed love and care?

According to *AdoptUSKids.org*, my home state of Indiana has 9,294 children in foster care; Illinois has a staggering 19,431. Many of these children are also eligible for adoption. It is not legal in Indiana for two people of the same sex to adopt the same child. But for people who consider this option, it would still be better for a child than no adoption at all. Illinois does have broader rights in this

case than Indiana, but that doesn't mean it's always an easy road. The best news is when residents of the state adopt a child from Illinois foster care, adoption is free.

A show like *The Fosters* could be a great tool to raise awareness for what all kinds of foster parents and kids go through, illuminating a system that may not be broken, just overwhelmed because of need. Author Ericka Simpson says, "(I have seen) so much negativity toward ABC Family and the new show *The Fosters*, but not one word about ABC's new show *Mistresses*? Really? We hate on lesbian parents who open their homes to adopt and foster children, but we indulge in a show that promotes adultery. Which show is really destroying the sanctity of marriage and family?"

It's not often that a TV show brings tears to my eyes, or that I can actually watch an entire episode. But *The Fosters* is putting a cause close to my heart in the spotlight and I have high hopes for the program, and our future. Equal marriage rights in this country could be the first step toward helping more gay couples and needy kids find the families they have been seeking. We must tell those who oppose us that the rights we need are definitely for the children.

Kim Flowers is an award-winning author from Anderson, Ind. <http://kimflowers-books.weebly.com>



Teri Polo (left) and Sherri Saum in *The Fosters*.



Latin@ group screens 'Transvisible'

Dozens of people attended the May 30 screening of *Transvisible: Bamby Salcedo's Story*. Salcedo is a long-time Mexico-born trans activist who resides in Los Angeles.

Roland Palencia, the movie's executive producer, traveled from Los Angeles to attend. He facilitated a Q&A session that included many kudos and questions from activists and advocates who were eager to find out more about Salcedo and the movie's production.

Unid@s: The National Latin@ LGBT Human Rights Organization—through its *VISIBLE* project and in collaboration with UIC Gender and Sexuality Center, Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA), Amigas Latinas, Orgullo en Accion, Project Vida, Vida/SIDA and United Latin@ Pride week—presented the film.

The film is part of Unid@s' Project *VISIBLE*, which seeks to amplify the voices and presence of Latin@ LGBT individuals in the United States, including Puerto Rico. Photo by Liz Thomson

CHICAGO PRIDE.COM

BUD LIGHT

June 20, 2013
7 - 9 PM
at Hydrate Nightclub

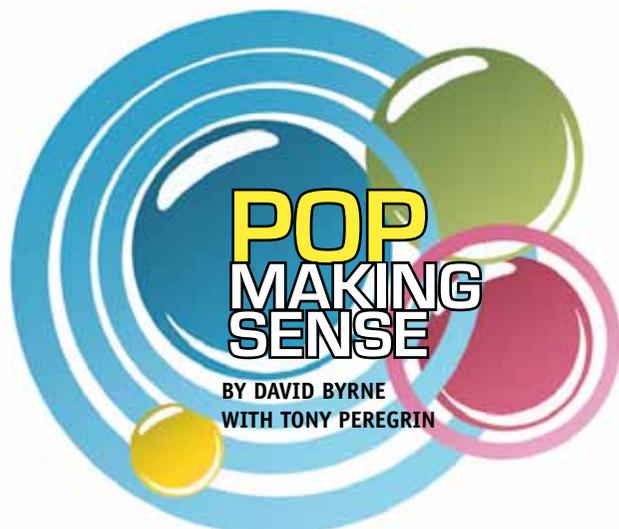
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A complete list of #ChicagoPride events from the combined resources of ChicagoPride.com, Nightspots and Windy City Times

calendar Q

Chicago's Pride Headquarters @GoPride #ChicagoPride



Chicago's very own **JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound** has been celebrating its latest effort, *Howl*, with a tour through Calif. The energetic soul-meets-rock band returns for a homecoming concert as one of the main draws at Taste of Randolph on Friday, June 14.

Howl shows maturity for the quintet. The album is highlighted by the outstanding slower moments "River" and "These Things." Do not worry; this is not "Baaadnews." Howl has upbeat material like "Before I Die" and "Not Alone" that will work in well with the band's classics in a live setting. On the stand out "Rouse Yourself," the vocals remarkably channel those of Al Green, keeping the group's renowned retro-soul vibe planted. Howl is out now via Bloodshot Records.

Celebrate Pride month with a live show from **Jinx Titanic and the Ladykillers** Saturday, June 22, at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. The gay-fronted rock band will be joined by the collective Carpacho y Su Super Combo and Kaldi Jones. Last year Jinx Titanic and the Ladykillers made quite a comeback with the fantastic rockabilly-inspired outing *Mister Casanova*.

Following multiple teasers before its street

date, the buzz surrounding **Daft Punk's** *Random Access Memories* became intense. The chart-topping collection is five years in the making. Here, the French electronic pioneers salute disco by having Nile Rodgers of Chic fame playing his trademark throwback guitar on "Give Life Back to Music" as well as on the collaborations with Pharrell Williams, "Lose Yourself to Dance" and "Get Lucky." The album was delayed so that Daft Punk could provide the soundtrack to 2010's *Tron: Legacy*. The art of composing a movie score is not lost on *Random Access Memories*, as heard on "Touch." "Motherboard" even takes this one step further and would fit perfectly in a reboot of the *Alien* film franchise. The set's payoff comes with the climatic "Contact." No tour dates are planned, per an interview with Australia's Triple J radio.

On the CD the minutes, **Alison Moyet** recruits Guy Sigsworth to be her co-writer and producer. Sigsworth has worked with many female pop stars, like Bjork, Madonna, Britney Spears, Alanis Morissette and Robyn, none having quite the same vocal muscle as Moyet.

"Horizon Flame" serves as the ultimate opening track by reminding the listener of Moyet's achievements and greatness. "Remind Yourself" and "Filigree" are mature, but still hip. I am trying to overlook Sigsworth's missteps with elements of dubstep on "Changeling" and "A Place to Stay." Throughout the minutes, there are dramatic elements, most notably on "Rung by the Tide," which could be an unofficial audition for Moyet to handle the next James Bond theme.

After being recognized as iTunes' Australian Alternative Album of the Year, *A Is for Alpine*,



Alison Moyet. Photo by Tom Martin

by **Alpine**, finally got released stateside. The breezy pop-rock numbers "Lovers 1" and "Lovers 2" set the tone for this album. "Seeing Red" and "Gasoline" act as the pillars, holding up the set with a quirky, left of center pop flavor. "Gasoline" has the irresistibly catchy refrain, "I wish it wasn't just the nighttime." "Too Safe" captures the beautiful layered, breathy vocals that make Alpine glow. On Friday, June 14, Alpine takes to the stage at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., with Crystal Fighters headlining.

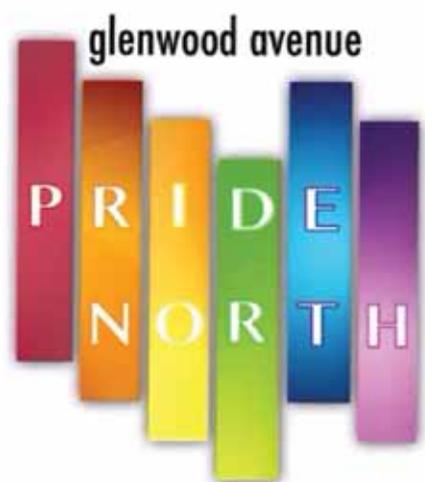
Cabaret duo **Everybody Says Yes**, featuring Meghan Murphy, comes to Fitzgerald's SideBar Music Room, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, on Sunday, June 16. Songwriter and pianist John Fournier pens lyrics that illustrate unrequited love like "Black-Eyed Susans," where Murphy's voice is crystal-clear. Murphy sings with such passion on "Everybody Knows Who You Love" and "Sweet Things" that nothing other than just a piano is needed to support her. "Chicago Girl" cleverly presents hometown pride in a humorous fashion for the Windy City and its landmarks. For tickets, visit www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com. *Everybody Says Yes* can be found on FaceBook.

On *Where It All Began*, **Matthew Morrison** belts out a dozen Broadway standards, nodding to his work in musicals. This collection is not the

average tribute to showtunes. Morrison mixes it up by including the medleys "Come Rain or Come Shine/Basin Street Blues" and "West Side Story Medley." Even his adorable dimples are practically visible on charming numbers like "It Don't Mean a Thing" and "Luck Be a Lady." Granted, Frank Sinatra also covered "Send in the Clowns," but I am used to hearing this standard sung by women. However, Morrison's version works here. If his character Will Schuester would hear these tracks, not only would he approve, but he would break into dance.

This month PBS will be airing the special *Matthew Morrison: Where It All Began—Live from the Bushnell*. As a vocal ally to the LGBTQ community, Morrison recently issued a video for HRC's campaign *Americans for Marriage Equality*.

In other Glee news, singing sensation **Charice Pempengco** announced that she is lesbian on the Filipino talk show *The Buzz*. Having played foreign-exchange student Sunshine Corazon, Pempengco and Lea Michele delivered a fun twist to Beyonce and Lady Gaga's duet "Telephone" on an episode of the Fox hit. The 21-year-old made a mighty splash stateside showing off her powerful and mature voice on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and *Oprah*.



SUNDAY, JUNE 30 / 9AM - 9PM

2013

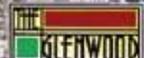
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Nat'l Women's Music Festival July 4-7

The National Women's Music Festival will take place July 4-7 in Middleton, Wis., at the Madison Marriott West.

Among the many singers/comedians slated to perform are Cris Williamson, Melissa Ferrick, Big Bad Gina, Voices of Africa, June & Jean Millington, Gina Yashere and Kristen Ford.

The festival also nurtures new performers with a talent competition; last year's winners, comedian Barb Nelligan and singer-songwriter Ginger Doss, will perform July 4.

Visit www.wiaonline.org for more info.

Wavefront Music Festival at Montrose July 5-7

Diplo, Danny Tenaglia, Fatboy Slim, Erick Morillo, Teri Bristol, Frankie Knuckles, Laura Jones, Mark Farina and Jamie Principle are among the acts slated to perform at the Wavefront Music Festival, which will take place at Montrose Beach July 5-7.

Festival times are Friday, July 5, 12 p.m.-

10 p.m.; Saturday, July 6, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, July 7, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Wavefront is an all-ages festival; however VIP areas are 21+ only. Free shuttle service will be provided to the Wilson Red Line 9-11 p.m., Friday-Sunday night.

See www.wavefrontmusicfestival.com.

CGMC holding 30th-anniv. events

During the last two weekends in June (June 21-23 and June 30) at Pride Fest and the Pride Parade, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) will reconnect with alumni.

Among the slated events are:

—Friday, June 21: A casual evening of cocktails at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

—Saturday, June 22: Reunion Sing at Pride Fest as well as dinner at restaurants such as Francesca's (1039 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.), The Little Mexican Café II (1055 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.), and Nookie's Edgewater (1100 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.).

—Sunday, June 23: LOVE Brunch at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

—Sunday, June 30: Pride Parade
See www.cgmc.org for more info.

48th Midsommarfest brings the food and fun

The 48th annual Midsommarfest kicked off June 7 in Andersonville. There was a smaller version between Balmoral and Catalpa on Clark Street after 5 p.m. before the extended street version on Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9.

Donations for the neighborhood began at \$5 on Friday and \$10 on the more crowded days. Vendors sold sangria, buckets of cheese fries and gyros, among other items. Entertainment included Brazilian dancers, '80s cover bands, the Chicago Spirit Brigade and Joan Crawford-worshipping band The Joans.

More than 50,000 attendees visit every year, making this street festival one of the biggest in Chicago.

For more information on the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, visit www.andersonville.org. Photos and text by Jerry Nunn



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SEE AD ON PAGE 31 FOR MORE DETAILS

Photos by Kirk Williamson

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Gay Chicagoan to climb Mt. Everest for charities

BY ROSS FORMAN

The emotions are already plentiful for Joe Rudy, who is a mix of nervous, excited and intimidated.

Rudy, 26, an openly gay Chicagoan who lives in Wicker Park and works as a salesman at a local art gallery, is already counting down the days until he attempts one of the most challenging hikes in the world.

Yep, Rudy is heading to the Himalayas with a group of about five others, arranged through a London-based company, to hike Mt. Everest—the highest mountain in the world, 29,029 feet above sea level.

“I’m nervous, but really excited,” he said. “I’m a bit intimidated by the training [that will be] involved—really, really intense cardio and muscle endurance. To simulate the stress of the high altitude on the body, you do intense cardio and muscle endurance activities for extended periods of time.”

Part of Rudy’s training will include tying a tire to a six-foot cord and then tying the rope around his waist. He will be carrying a 60- or 70-pound backpack and walking around Chicago for, oh, six or seven hours.

Without question, “this is a once-in-a-lifetime climb,” he said.

Rudy grew up on a farm in a small town about three hours from Chicago. He learned the fundamentals of climbing from his dad, Paul, and the two climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska, the highest mountain in North America. The two also have climbed Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest mountain in South America.

Everest is about 7,000 feet higher than either of the other two elite mountains.

“They are such incredible experiences because they are so extreme, and truly test one’s limits. They really make you appreciate the small things, such as running water, or a bath,” Rudy said, smiling.

Everest is, though, a very serious adventure, with a success rate of only about 20 percent—and it definitely has potentially fatal consequences.

The majority of climbers who start Everest yet fail to reach the peak succumb to physical and mental breakdown.

“Mentally, it’s very difficult—the daily grind, the daily workouts, and the stress,” Rudy said. “Sleeping [at high altitudes] also can be an issue. It’s normal to suffer regular headaches from



Joe Rudy. Photo from Rudy

the altitude and loss of appetite. “Climbing Everest is a huge task, incredibly difficult for anyone. But, I don’t think, in a way, it’s much different than the fighting Equality Illinois and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) have been doing for years for gay rights.”

So Rudy is doing the 70-day climb to aide both charities. His website for the climb is: www.Everest4Equality.org.

“Joe’s climbing Mt. Everest is, in so many ways, symbolic of the LGBT community uniting to face the most daunting challenges in the struggle for full equality,” said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO for Equality Illinois. “Joe’s story of training, perseverance and endurance is a powerful testament to human ability.”

Rudy has lost 20 pounds on each of his two other major mountain climbs, even though he’s often consuming 6,000 calories in a day and those were only about 17-day adventures. He hopes to weigh about 185 next March when he starts the climb, up 10 pounds from his current weight.



Joe Rudy and others mountain-climbing. Photo from Rudy

The hike up will take 60 to 65 days. Coming down, it takes only a few.

“You have to go up really, really slow to let your body and your brain adjust to the altitude,” said Rudy, who will survive on camping-style, carbohydrate-loaded meals.

Rudy is hoping to raise up to \$200,000 through fundraising, which then will be split between the two charities.

“In 2013, asking to marry the person you love ... I don’t think that’s ridiculous; it’s asinine that we don’t have these rights,” said Rudy, who is dating Robby Shields, although Shields won’t be along for the climb.

“This climb is relatively short compared to the fight for LGBT rights that these charities have been doing for years, for decades. I’m really excited to be representing these two groups.”

Rudy will update regularly during the climb, including video blogs.

“I’m really excited for this climb, but more importantly, I want the chance to get married and

someday have a normal family. Rudy said. “I’m hoping that the climb can bring attention to some Americans who otherwise wouldn’t know or be open-minded to LGBT equality.

“I really want to change the attitude and opinion of closed-minded people regarding LGBT issues.”

Rudy will be climbing the north face of Everest, which is more challenging than the south—and the death rate on the North is two times that on the south side due to the extreme cold and the more challenging vertical climb.

What are the first things he wants when it’s over?

Running water, a cup of coffee, a shower, and a burger, he said, laughing.

“I’m excited to be able to contribute to these causes, even just a little bit,” he said.

And from quite an altitude.

Rudy is hosting a fundraiser for Everest4Equality on Thursday, June 27, at Primitive Gallery, 130 N. Jefferson St., 5:30-8 p.m.

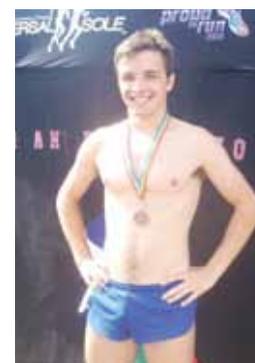
Proud to Run June 29

The 2013 “Proud to Run” 5/10K race will take place Saturday, June 29, at Montrose Avenue and the lakefront at 8:04 a.m.

More than 2,000 LGBT runners and walkers are expected to take part in this annual event that is part of Chicago’s Pride Month celebrating LGBT pride.

Slated highlights include a visit from the Chicago Pride Parade’s grand marshal, Wade Davis; entertainment from the Chicago Spirit Brigade; race morning music from Tim Hite; and pre-/post-race stretching with FFC personal trainers.

Proud to Run benefits Test Positive Aware Network, The Night Ministry and Youth Pride this year. Register at www.ProudToRun.org.



Proud to Run 2012. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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Everyone who completes the survey by June 30, 2013 may enter into a drawing to win one of five US \$100 cash prizes, or designate a non-profit charity to receive the prize.



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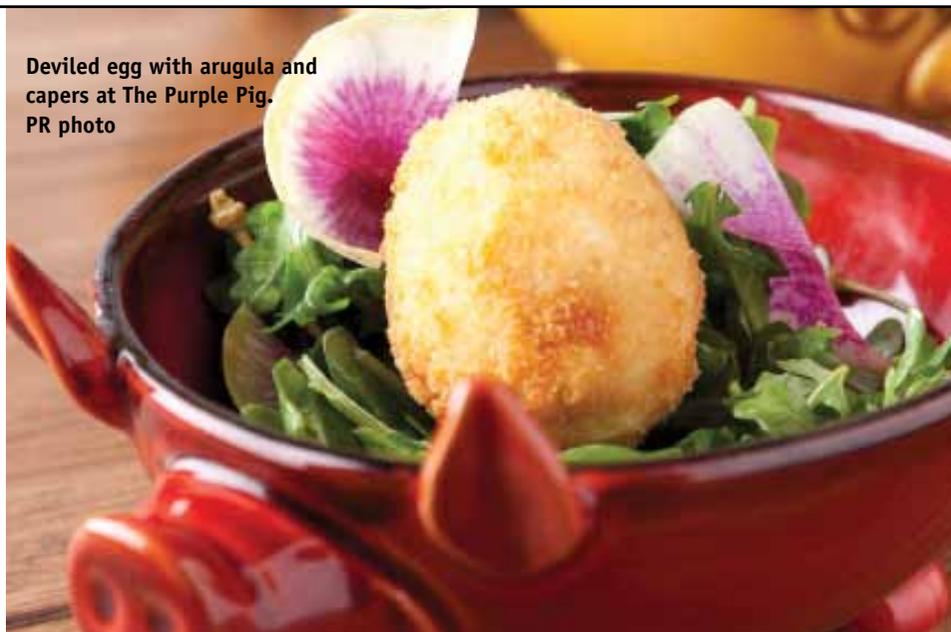
The Purple Pig

BY MEGHAN STREIT

If you need to refuel halfway through a Michigan Avenue shopping spree, check out **The Purple Pig**, which is conveniently located at about the halfway point on the Mag Mile. Unlike some of the chains and tourist traps on the strip, The Purple Pig offers an impressive wine list and food made from high-quality ingredients.

In the few years since it opened, The Purple Pig has already racked up some high honors.

Deviled egg with arugula and capers at The Purple Pig. PR photo



Bon Appétit magazine named it one of "The 10 Best New Restaurants in America" in 2010. Also that year, it was given a Michelin "Bib Gourmand" award, which designates restaurants that serve good food at particularly good values. The Purple Pig's impressive resume is not a huge surprise, considering the Chicago heavyweights in the kitchen: Scott Harris of Mia Francesca, Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia, and Jimmy Bannos and Jimmy Bannos, Jr., of Heaven on Seven.

Word has most certainly gotten out about the small Michigan Avenue restaurant. The place was packed on the night I visited, with locals and tourists sharing coveted spots at communal tables and huddling around the large L-shaped bar. I found the pace a bit frenetic, and getting a drink at the bar required a little effort and patience. Some people will enjoy the excitement and buzz, but I wouldn't recommend The Purple Pig for a quiet or intimate dinner. It's better for

Turn to page 32

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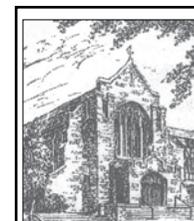
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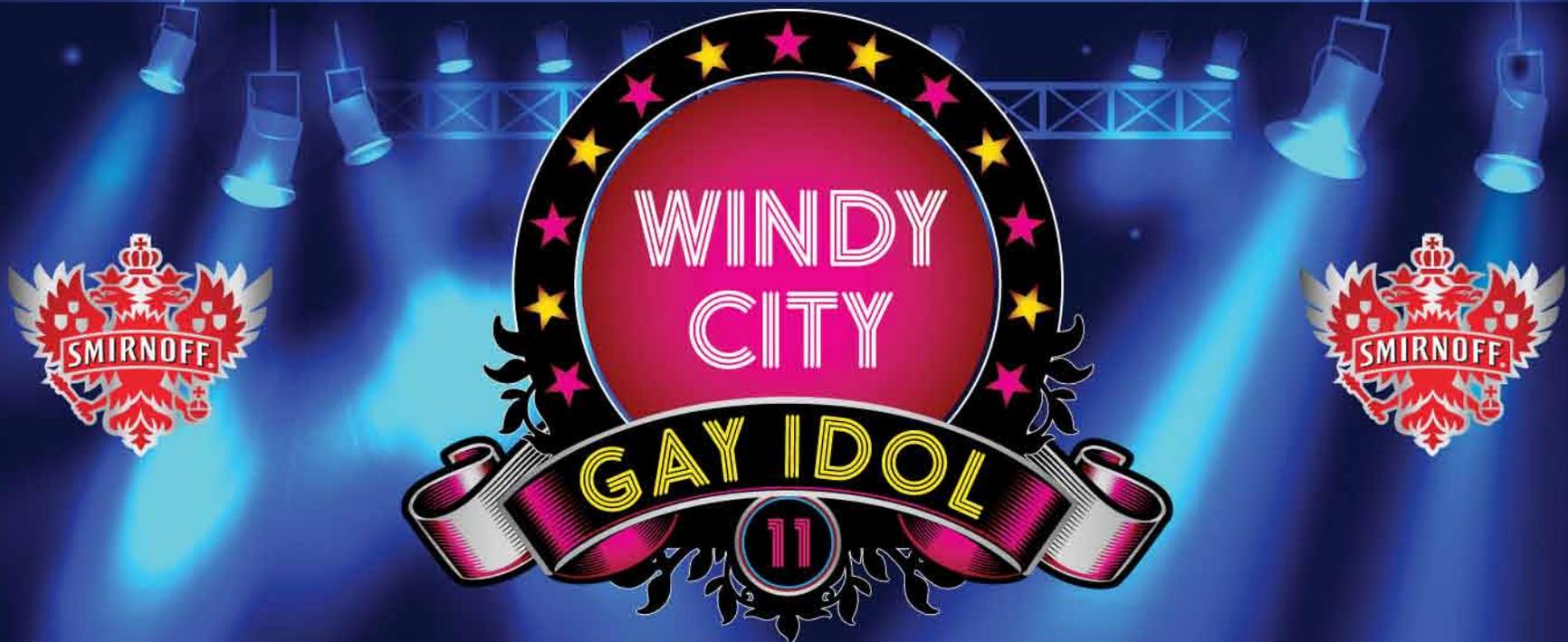
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Ravinia, and more!****HOSTED BY AMY MATHENY AND SOFIA SAFFIRE****With Guest performers : Meghan "Big Red" Murphy and 2012 Gay Idol Robert Hughes****AUDIENCE CHOOSES THE TOP 12 CONTESTANTS TO MOVE ON TO THE FINALS!****\$10 COVER INCLUDES VOTING BALLOT AND ENTRY INTO THE RAFFLE****AND DON'T FORGET THE FINALS AT****MAYNE STAGE 1328 W Morse****WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 * 6pm door / 7pm start****For tickets, visit www.maynestage.com/gayidol.aspx**FOR MORE, VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/WINDYCITYGAYIDOL](https://www.facebook.com/WINDYCITYGAYIDOL) OR EMAIL WCMGPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM














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calendar

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WINDY CITY
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nightspots

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Wed., June 12

St. Sukie de la Croix Keynote speaker for the Diversity Committee's first annual Gay Pride Day. Music by Ben Jenkins and Esz-dee Darnell. VA Illiana Health Care System provides health care services to veterans in central Illinois, and western portions of Indiana. 1pm-3pm, Veterans Hospital, Social Activities Room, Bldg 104, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, Ill.

Suit & Tie: an after work affair Benefiting Bailiwick Chicago Theater. Network with prominent company members while enjoying surprise performances, libations and hors d'oeuvres. Learn how to support Bailiwick and an exclusive inside look into the upcoming 2013-14 season at Victory Gardens Theater. \$100. 6:30pm-8:30pm, Hotel Palomar Chicago, 505 N. State St., www.bailiwickchicago.com

Book Study: Homosexuality & the Bible "Homosexuality & the Bible" a four-part series led by Pastor Rachele Brown of aChurch4Me, MCC on Wednesdays in June. 7pm, United Church of Rogers Park UMC, 1545 W. Morse Ave., www.achurch4me.org

Baroque Band: The Godfather The classic 1972 movie "The Godfather" provides the inspiration for a program featuring music by J.S. Bach, Telemann, Pachelbel, Sebastian Nagel, and C.P.E. Bach, whose keyboard concerto will be performed by celebrated Chicago-based artist and Baroque Band harpsichordist David Schrader. 7:30pm-10:30pm, 3122352368, Sympho-

ny Center, 220 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, http://www.baroqueband.org/event/the-godfather/

Sidetrack: 31-derful Years! Celebrate 31 years and see Sidetrack's new entryway and refreshed Main Bar. Full speed ahead. Doors open at 8. No cover. 8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, www.sidetrackchicago.com

Thursday, June 13

Howard Brown's Bisexual Women's Support Group This support group is for women who are attracted to more than one gender (e.g. bisexual, pansexual, queer), or are questioning their identity and looking to discuss issues of sexuality in a safe and confidential space. 6pm-7:30pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd., www.howardbrown.org

More for Gay Men Movie Night Dangerous Living. Admission: \$7 per film; \$5 in advance. Includes movie, facilitated discussion and light refreshments. More info: john@wrightliving.com. 6:15pm-9pm, 312-645-8300, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Logo's Drag Race Tour Featuring stars of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 5 Monica Beverly Hillz, Honey Mahogany, Ivy Winters, Alyssa Edwards, Coco Montrese, Roxxy Andrews, Jinx Monsoon, Alaska and Dextox. General admission \$20 at the door. Doors open at 10. 7pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

"The PRIDE" "The PRIDE" by About Face

Theatre is presented through July 13 (no show on July 4). \$30 (\$20 for previews; \$15 for students); 7:30pm, Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave., www.aboutface theatre.com

You'll Have A Gay Ol' Time Come laugh your panties off with Caitlin Berg, Lynda Lanford, Amy Eisenberg, Marla Depew, Bradley Thomas and Kristin Clifford. 9pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark St., www.parlouronclark.com

Out at Wrigley National Anthem Contest Sing the National Anthem at Wrigley this summer. Out at Wrigley presents the annual National Anthem Contest. Arrive by 8pm to sign up. Free to enter. 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.outatwrigley.com

Inside Amy Armstrong's Mind Again! Diva Amy Armstrong 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-11pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Friday, June 14

Katie Kadan at Roscoe's Start Your Weekend of Right with Katie Kadan every Friday from 7-9pm! A soulful mix of Motown meets Janis Joplin. 7pm-9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Fleetwood Mac Live British-American rock band formed in 1967 in London; 8pm, Allstate Arena, 6920 N Mannheim Rd, Des Plaines, http://fleetwoodmac.com; Tickets: http://ticketmaster.com

Rent Jonathan Larson's rock opera based on Puccini's La Boheme tells the story of one year in the life of a group of friends who are impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in the New York City's Lower East Side under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 3pm through June 30. \$24. 8pm, 630-637-7469, Downtown Historic Naperville at the Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall, North Central College, 31 S. Ellsworth, Naperville, www.brightsidedtheatre.com

Queer Queens of Comedy With Poppy Champlin, Gwen LaRoka and Dana Austin Tickets: \$25 general admission | \$35 general admission There's a unique comedy revue that's touring the country with some of the funniest, edgiest, talented and most outrageous comics; 8pm, 773-381-4551, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., www.maynestage.com

Windy City Boys Troop & Chicago Hellfire Club night Two hot clubs in one joint night. Meet the members. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St., www.touchechicago.com

Saturday, June 15

Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE) Exciting list of guests, exhibitors. 200+ local, national and international alternative cartoonists. Through June 16. 11am-6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org; Tickets: www.cakechicago.com/guests-exhibitors/

11th Annual Windy City Gay Idol semifinals Windy City Gay Idol searches for the best amateur GLBT singers in the Chicago area. Competition continues through June in Chicago's bars and clubs. 2pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, http://gopride.com/z81w

Taste the Rainbow: Pride Picnic and Pub Crawl Pride picnic and pub crawl crew around Highwood beginning at 5pm and concluding at The Alley for a night of fun, dancing, drinks, and bowling. 2pm, 847-432-6000., Everts Park, Highwood

American Veterans for Equal Rights annual Flag Day Beer Bust, BBQ Gay veterans. \$10 donation benefits the activities of the AVER Chicago chapter. 3pm-7pm, Replay Beer & Bourbon, 3439 N Halsted St, www.averchicago.org

GLMA in Chicago Join GLMA President Desi Bailey and Executive Director Hector Vargas as they share new developments. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages. \$50; 6pm-8pm, Atrium, Lurie Medical Research Center 303



DRAG DOLLS

Thursday, June 13

Monica Beverly Hillz (above) is among the former RuPaul's Drag Race contestants who will be at Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St.

Photo from Logo

E. Superior St., Chicago, http://gopride.com/z887

aChurch4Me's "The Next Generation of Queer" Young queer voices and bodies join for an evening of all-ages entertainment by aChurch4Me. All-ages evening of expression through music, dance and arts. A portion of the proceeds benefit The Crib, a youth ministry and shelter of the Night Ministry. \$15 adults; \$7 students. 7pm-10pm, 773-951-4268, MCC at Overdier Hall, 1545 W. Morse Ave., www.achurch4me.org

Sappho's Salon 5th Anniversary '80s Prom Sappho's Salon 5-year anniversary celebration

Turn to page 33

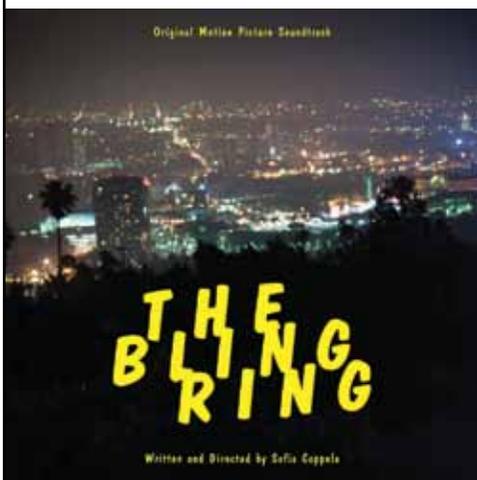
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One lucky Grand Prize Winner will win *The Bling Ring Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* and a copy of *The Bling Ring: How a Gang of Fame-Obsessed Teens Ripped Off Hollywood and Shocked the World* by Nancy Jo Sales. Two runners-Up will win a copy of *The Bling Ring: How a Gang of Fame-Obsessed Teens Ripped Off Hollywood and Shocked the World*.

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click2win@hotmail.com

by Mon., June 17 to be entered. Three winners will be chosen.

Winner will be selected at random from all entries and will be notified via email. One entry per person, please.

DISH from page 30

happy hour with a group or as an upscale pit stop while shopping.

That said, the wine list is superb. I'd challenge wine drinkers to find any varietal or winemaking region missing from this hefty list. My favorite wine of the night was the Domaine Vacheron Sancerre from France's Loire Valley. It's a substantial white with high citrus notes and a smoky finish that pairs well with a variety of food. That's a good quality in a bottle of wine at a place like The Purple Pig, where you'll be sampling a number of different small plates.

The Mediterranean-influenced small plates are shareable and wine-friendly, making this a fun place to sample a bunch of items with a group. As The Purple Pig's tagline ("cheese, swine & wine") promises, you'll find a nice selection of cheeses and cured meats that you can cobble together to make a lovely plate. Having never met a cheese I didn't like, I particularly enjoyed the Quadrell-Taleggio and the Caprino Tartufo, a soft white cheese with a pungent truffle flavor.

Not content with an entire cheese plate, I also ordered the Burrata Pugliese from the antipasti section of the menu. I've typically had burrata with a simple drizzle of olive oil or a bit of pesto and tomatoes. This inventive preparation called on tangy fennel frond pesto and sweet honey and bee pollen to bring out the flavors of the soft Italian cheese. It was certainly unique and I'm glad I tried it, but I still prefer burrata with just some boring old olive oil and classic pesto. I also tried the charred cauliflower, which is covered in breadcrumbs and baked golden brown in a little crock. Cornichons give the mild cauliflower a little extra zing.

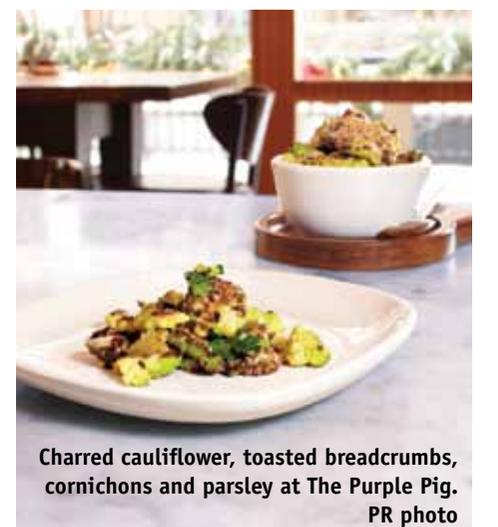
I really enjoyed the asparagus and arugula salad. Treviso (an Italian red lettuce) and hazelnuts give the salad a nutty heartiness and the simple olive oil dressing doesn't interfere. There's an entire section of fried items, which gets my stamp of approval. One of the more in-

teresting offerings was the fried deviled egg. The egg is split in half for deviling and then put back together to be fried. The tasty egg, with rich savory filling and a crisp fried "shell," is served over a light mixture of arugula and capers. Another tasty treat from the fried section is the eggplant Parmesan balls. Tender slices of cooked eggplant and melted Parmesan are rolled into a ball and fried into crispy goodness.

While nothing at The Purple Pig necessarily knocked my socks off, there wasn't a single bite I didn't enjoy. Everything was flavorful, prepared well and presented nicely. And, there were many enticing dishes I hope to sample on my next visit. All in all, I had a lovely evening sipping wine and nibbling on creative small plates. Next time I'm hungry on the Mag Mile, The Purple Pig will be at the top of my list of places to stop for a bite or unwind with a post-shopping cocktail.

The Purple Pig is located at 500 N. Michigan Ave.; call 312-464-1744 or visit www.thepurplepigchicago.com.

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



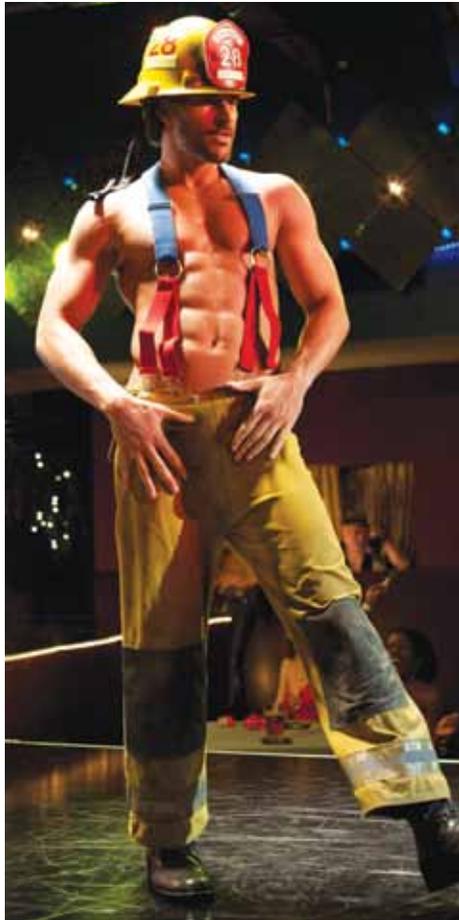
Charred cauliflower, toasted breadcrumbs, cornichons and parsley at The Purple Pig. PR photo

BILLY MASTERS

"Let me tell you something: Sometimes a Cuban sandwich and an ice-cold beer can be better than sex. You're entitled to your opinion, but I have another."—Dra. Ana Maria Polo makes this statement to a defendant on Telemundo's wildly popular daily courtroom show, *Caso Cerrado*. Personally, I think having the sandwich and beer after sex is even better.

Gays pop up on TV when you least expect it. I was eating breakfast when all of a sudden *The View* was interrupted with news of gunshots at Santa Monica College. I wasn't paying close attention when they introduced an eyewitness, Chad Lazzari, who gave the following description: "I was studying for my biology final and as I looked out the window, I could see kids looking backwards and running." When I looked up at the TV, I saw Chad Allen! I knew that name sounded familiar (his full name is Chad Allen Lazzari). It was a day of revelations for me. Not only did I not know Chad was studying biology, but who knew Santa Monica had a college?

It'll soon be time for *Broadway Bares*. This is



Joe Manganiello will be yelling "Stella!" soon, Billy says.

a special event when the Broadway community gets together and shows what they've got in a risqué burlesque revue in order to raise money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. This year's theme celebrates our country with "The United Strips of America." Giving the evening a bit of an extra oomph is the addition of sexy Max von Essen. Max was featured as Migaldi in "Evita" (on the nights he didn't go on for Ricky Martin as the stand-by for Che), and is certainly one of Broadway's sexiest men. And he's mighty popular—when he announced via Twitter that he was accepting fundraising pledges, he had a goal of \$1,000, which he surpassed in two hours. I'll post the direct link on my website. "Broadway Bares" takes place June 23 at the Roseland Ballroom in NYC. There are two shows. While they're both great, the 9:30 show tends to be a bit tame compared to the midnight show. For more info and tickets, check out *Broadway Bares.com*.

I have no idea if Billy Magnussen is gonna participate in *Broadway Bares*, but he might as well.

After all, he's been naked for most of his work in the legitimate theatre. First was *The Ritz*, where he wandered around in a towel. (No one was complaining.) He's similarly clad in Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, where he plays Spike (described as a "beautiful boy toy"). How does the hot 28-year-old maintain his enviable physique? "I train a lot to get in shape, so I don't have to worry about it. Running and weights and diet. ... Diet is the big thing." Those aren't the only big things, as you'll see from the footage on *BillyMasters.com*.

Those of you who are fans of *Magic Mike* or *True Blood* obviously enjoy looking at sexy Joe Manganiello. And what's not to like? He's certainly a beautiful man. If you can wait a few months, you could actually see him in the flesh. He's just signed on to appear in the Yale Repertory Theatre production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. As it turns out, this will be his second time playing Stanley Kowalski. He previously did the play at the West Virginia Public Theatre, a run of the show I inexplicably missed. This production will run Sept. 20 through Oct. 12. You can get more info and tickets by checking out *YaleRep.org*.

Another American Idol alum is showing some skin. You probably can't place Nathaniel Marshall from season seven (where he made the top 36). Shortly after his time on "Idol," some nude photos of him leaked on the Internet. He did his best to squash them since he had a boyfriend who wanted to keep everything private. That boyfriend is now history and Nathaniel began dating someone named Jaysyn. Before you know it, Nathaniel Marshall became Jady Daniels, a full-fledged gay porn actor. He makes his debut on *Men.com* by topping Travis Freeman ... so many strange names that mean nothing to anyone. But it won't stop me from showcasing his enormous talent on *BillyMasters.com*.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Richard in Chicago: "What do you know about the upcoming show *Below Deck*? A reality show about hot sailors at sea? Sign me up."

Well, let's first clear some things up. The show is about the crew working a luxury yacht and the wealthy folks whose constantly changing whims they cater to. I first heard about this Bravo show after it was filmed months ago because one of the crewmembers is David Bradberry, the spousal-equivalent of my good friend and fellow Bostonian, gay porn star Trevor Knight. Given David's background as a Marine and his undeniable good looks, he was perfectly cast on the show. While no one can predict what will make it to air, certainly the chance to see David in his skivvies is enough of a reason for you all to tune in. Trevor might even pop up on the show. If not in the flesh, then at least a virtual appearance. After all, David and Trevor chatted via Skype every day.

Could it be that Patti LuPone is already eyeing her next Broadway musical? It could if she has anything to say about it. Apparently, she went in to read for the musicalized version of Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway*. She was asked to audition for the part played by Dianne "Don't Speak" Wiest. How did it go? "Woody Allen didn't see it," was all La LuPone was willing to say on the subject.

When Patti is waiting for calls from Woody AND Glenn Close, it's definitely time to end yet another column. With the summer soon upon us, I'm closing up LA and heading east ... first Fort Lauderdale, then Provincetown, then, well, who knows? The only thing I do know is that I'm always busy bringing you the hottest stories on *www.BillyMasters.com*, the site that's always sizzling. And I'm always happy to tackle your toughest questions. Just send them to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Joe Manganiello and Billy Magnussen turn up in the much-awaited musical version of *Magic Mike*. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

SemiFinals @ Sidetrack

Sat | June 15 | doors 2pm

TEQUILA RESERVA
Don Julio

Windy City Media Group Presents

WINDY CITY

GAY IDOL

11

ELEVENTH ANNUAL

Co-hosted by Sofia Saffire & Amy Matheny

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CALENDAR from page 32

eboration presents '80s Prom. Lesbians and their friends are encouraged to dust off their '80s prom dresses and tails and join Sappho's Salon for this '80s Prom. \$10 cover. 7:30pm-11:30pm, 773-769-9299, Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Bisexual Comic Book Event The Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago and Chicago Bisexual Queer Meetup are hosting a comic book event to coincide with the Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE). Northwest Press publisher Charles "Zan" Christensen, editor of the forthcoming anthology *Anything That Loves*, will speak. In the SAGE space. 7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

Kevin Newhall: CD Release Kevin Newhall, Chicago-based singer, songwriter, and piano player, serves up smartly crafted, meaningful, story songs on a groove-based piano, with rich, catchy melodies and a generous side of lightheartedness. 8pm-10pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave., www.davenportpianobar.com

"Burlesque is More" Burlesque Is More is Annoyance's steamy-hot burlesque/improv show featuring acts by seven stimulating ladies. \$15. 8pm, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N Broadway, www.theannoyance.com; Tickets: <https://annoyancetheatre.thundertext.com/events>

Sunday, June 16

Urban Village Church Andersonville Service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be involved in the community! LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 10:30am-11:45am, Bethany Retirement Center, 1602 W Ainslie St., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

Northalsted Sunday Funday North Halsted comes alive with Sunday-Funday festivities and activity. See what all of Chicago Land is enjoying. Come straight to Halsted! 11am-11pm, Halsted/Belmont to Halsted/Waveland, www.northalsted.com

Kathleen Ellen Marshall, the "Symmetric Destruction" series In its second floor gallery, photography series focuses on our perception that manmade

structures have been designed proportionally, symmetrically and with a clear plan; yet city centers are often filled with chaos. Through July 23. 7pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

Monday, June 17

The Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation golf outing 22nd Annual Play for the Cure Golf Outing benefits breast cancer research. The 18-hole outing begins with registration at 11 am, followed by lunch. Tee-off is at 1pm, and the day is capped off with an evening cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception until 8 pm. \$900 per person. 11am-8pm, 312-926-7133, Onwentsia Club., 300 N. Green Bay Rd. Lake Forest, www.lynnstage.org

Abigail Riccards: Jazz siren CD-release for *Every Little Star*, with a kids' theme. CD features a Jeanne Tanner original song. \$10; 8pm-10pm, 312-360-0234, Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct., www.jazzshowcase.com/calendar.

Tuesday, June 18

Damski Award Chicago Sun-Times columnist and author Neil Steinberg will be presented the 2013 Jon-Henri Damski Award. 7pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <http://goprider.com/z8bj>

Lakeview Orchestra: Stravinsky's Firebird Suite Final concert of the season, Gregory Hughes, conductor. Bernstein: *Candide Overture*, Beethoven: *Symphony No. 1*, Barber: *First Essay for Orchestra*, Stravinsky: *The Firebird Suite*, followed by a reception to announce our 2013-2014 Season. 8pm-10:30pm, Merit School of Music, Gottlieb Hall, 38 S. Peoria St., <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6894029227/pride>

Wed., June 19

Spirituality and Spaghetti: An LGBTQ Experience Leaders from diverse religious & spiritual groups discuss the effects of negative messages on LGBTQ people, especially youth. Complimentary spaghetti dinner. Information: Alicia Vega at 773-426-2406 or engageyouth@hotmail.com. Register online. Apologies: not wheelchair accessible, elevator under repair. 6pm-8pm, Wesley United Methodist Church, 6011 W 36th St, Cicero, Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/org/4094456965>

The ultimate bicycle rider for AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

Paul Cantrell supported friends in 1999 who were participating in the Twin Cities to Chicago Heartland AIDS Ride, a 550-mile bicycle ride spanning six days from St. Paul, Minn., to Chicago.

"I went to the Closing Ceremony, and was overwhelmed by the power and energy of all the emotions, compassion, care, support and love that poured out from the crowd, volunteers, crew, riders and ride organizers," Cantrell said. "At that moment, I decided I was going to get involved, and committed myself to riding and fundraising for the 2000 Heartland AIDS Ride."

And that he did. Cantrell was, ultimately, a four-time Heartland AIDS Rider.

"I didn't know this at the time, but the impact of my first [Heartland] AIDS Ride in conjunction with the awesome people I met, the stories we shared and the overwhelming outpouring of support from the people and communities we biked through, inspired me to commit myself to this cause," he said.

Cantrell was a participant in the inaugural Ride For AIDS Chicago, a 200-mile bicycle ride from Chicago to Wisconsin and back, held in 2004.

He has since rode in all nine Ride For AIDS Chicago events, and this summer will be the event's 10th—and Cantrell's 10th. He is the lone 10-time Ride For AIDS Chicago participant.

"My first [bicycle] ride [in support of HIV/AIDS charities] was in 2000, and it was an experience like no other," Cantrell said. "It was quite literally a city of volunteers, crew, riders and staff that moved in unison across three states touching and impacting the lives of countless individuals and families with education, awareness, stories of triumph, hope, tragedy, compassion and overwhelming amounts of support and love."

"There were times when I would be riding completely alone, and also times I would be riding among packs of other riders. It was the times when I was alone on the route, looking at vast amounts of open road ahead of, behind and around, with no other riders in site, that was the most difficult, even more difficult than the rolling hills. I got through my first Ride remembering the many people—friends, lovers and acquaintances—who lost their fight [to] HIV/AIDS, reflecting back on the wonderful times we all shared together, in addition to the commitment I made to step up and do my part to help be a positive force for education, awareness and hope against this non-discriminating disease."

"The stories shared and friendships made on the Ride also were a force of positive inspiration that helped keep me motivated and moving forward with each day's route, not to mention the outpouring of support from the communities we biked through. One of the things that really helped me keep going was the number of riders who needed a voice of support, or a gentle push, or just someone riding along side them keeping pace cheering them on and telling them that they could do it."

Cantrell, now 44, lives in Andersonville and is the project coordinator, phlebotomy services manager and facilities manager of the department of pathology at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System. His partner of 12 years is Ted Harris.

"For many, an event like the Ride For AIDS Chicago is a bucket-list item. [People] do it once or twice, and then they're done," said Richard Cordova, director of athletic events for the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), which produces the annual 200-mile Ride For AIDS Chicago. "Paul's continued commitment to the cause is admirable to say the least. Having ridden for 13 consecutive years is a true testament to his



Paul Cantrell. Photo by Ross Forman

character. We are lucky to have him."

Cantrell has fundraised about \$55,000 for local HIV/AIDS charities through his bicycle rides—and he's shooting for \$10,000 this summer in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Ride For AIDS Chicago.

"I keep doing the Ride because I can, and because HIV/AIDS is just as real a threat and concern today as it was in the 1980s and 1990s, only now we have better and more sophisticated medicines and treatment options," Cantrell said. "One of the signs of positive inspiration that was frequently seen and used by many on the early Pallotta Teamworks riders was 'I'mPossible.' [It was] taking the word 'Impossible' and turning it into a message of hope and positive inspiration simply by adding an apostrophe."

Cantrell said his push to keep pedaling is honoring those who have succumbed to the disease, and for those now living with HIV/AIDS.

"The most emotional Ride moment I experienced is very difficult to decide from 13 years of Ride experiences," he said. But if choosing from just the RFAC events, "The 2004 Ride For AIDS Chicago ... the determination and dedication of all the people [who came] together to make this first Ride as successful as possible [was memorable.]"

Cantrell also treasures the "most emotional ride moment" from the RFAC when he encountered a first-time rider in distress on the side of the road with a flat tire, deflated spirits and battling extreme anxiety that she would not finish.

"This person was full of passion, but obviously doubting her ability to continue due in part to this being her fourth flat tire of the day," among other reasons, Cantrell said. "I stopped, helped her change her flat tire, talked to her about her Ride experiences thus far and did what I could to keep her hopes up about finishing the Ride."

"She had run out of extra tubes on her second flat tire of the day and her third flat was fixed by one of the crew members who just happened to have the right size spare tube. Luckily, I happened to have the same size tires and a spare tube, and while helping her change her flat tire, I was questioning her about what happened each time she had a flat tire to try and figure out why [she had] so many flats. While she was explaining, I was checking the wheel and it turned out she had a spoke that had worked its

way loose and punctured its way through the wheel to the tube and each time she hit rough pavement or gravel trails or railroad crossings, the tube would pop. I had the tools necessary to remove the damaged spoke and we worked together fixing her flat tire."

That rider told Cantrell that she was riding in honor of her brother, who had died of HIV/AIDS.

"She also shared how devastating it was that her brother died alone due to her family's inability to accept his sexual orientation and the conflict that frequently came about when she would bring him up in conversation at home with [her parents]," Cantrell said. "The 'died alone' part really struck me hard, especially with the sheer unconditional love and remorse she couldn't help but show over the loss of her brother, who she described as her 'secret best pal,' because he would listen to her about everything and help her through anything, even the stuff she was afraid or too embarrassed to discuss with her parents."

"She [eventually] shared more about the times she had with her brother and some of the boys he would date. She was happy to share his life's story with someone and, in doing so, shared that it was as if he was right there with her, to which I replied, 'That's because he is with you each and every mile, and each and every time you think of him—love never dies.'"

A few weeks after that Ride, Cantrell received a letter in the mail with no return address. "It was a thank-you for taking the time to help her,

and to listen to her stories about her brother, and for inspiring her to stand-up to her parents about the hurt she felt over the way they treated their son, her brother and her friend," Cantrell said.

Cantrell said the Ride is still fun, "and offers a great deal of personal fulfillment," he said. "I enjoy the camaraderie with the other riders, the crew, staff and volunteers, as well as the life experiences and stories shared by those individuals throughout each fantastic journey."

"I have made countless friends over the years through the Ride For AIDS Chicago. I also have local and long-distance friends from the early Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride, who I still maintain relationships with."

"The life stories, experiences and journeys that these people have experienced, or witnessed and shared, is nothing less than amazing and unique to each person. It just feels good to be a part of something good and among a group of people who genuinely care about doing something that helps make our world brighter and better, especially for those less fortunate."

Cantrell's \$10,000 fundraising goal for 2013 is more than double any previous yearly goal.

"The only thing I get from the Ride For AIDS Chicago is fulfillment and personal gratification, knowing that I'm doing something to help others and doing what I can to make tomorrow brighter for those who are living with HIV/AIDS," he said.



Gay sportswriter at BMO Harris event

Gay sportswriter and national media pundit LZ Granderson was the special speaker at the BMO Harris Lions Pride kickoff event June 6 in downtown Chicago.

Pictured are BMO Harris staff with honorees. From left: Ralph Kennedy (executive board member of LGBT ERG, Employee Resource Group); Shane Isaacson and Kimo Haubby, Not for Profit of the Year Award Winner—Chicago Spirit Brigade; LZ Granderson; Victor Salvo (The Legacy Project award Recipient—Community Organizer/Business Owner of the Year); Jason Karel (award recipient—Employee Volunteer of the Year Award); and David Martin (chair of LGBT ERG BMO-Harris Bank).

Also pictured is Granderson addressing the crowd.

Photos by Hal Baim

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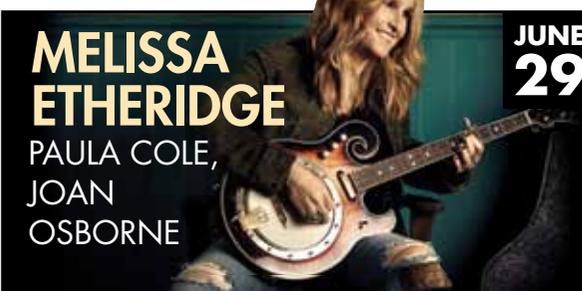
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