



**DISHING WITH ANA ORTIZ OF 'DEVIOUS MAIDS'**

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

JUNE 19, 2013  
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**WCT PROFILES CAREER COACH JODY MICHAEL**  
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# IN THE DETAILS

## The marriage bill's past—and future

BY KATE SOSIN

For state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, the first sign of trouble came Thursday afternoon, May 30.

"Someone that I had confirmed wasn't there all of the sudden, and I thought this was not a good sign," Cassidy said, sitting in a coffee shop in her North Side district.

Cassidy had checked and double-checked with the lawmaker in question, who she declined to name. He planned on voting yes, he had said. But that changed on Thursday.

"Folks that I thought were really solid really weren't," said Cassidy. "And that's what happens. Something starts to bleed and then it just keeps going."

On May 31, the Illinois House delivered a demoral-

izing blow to families seated in Speaker Mike Madigan's gallery when they closed spring session without voting on equal marriage. The 60 votes were not yet there, chief sponsor Rep. Greg Harris told the packed chamber. Reps had promised to return during November's veto session and support the bill, he said.

The shortfall sparked outrage as both sponsors and LGBT organizations had repeatedly forecast the bill's success before session's end. Illinois Unites for Marriage, the coalition of organizations pushing for the bill, slammed Harris for not calling for a vote.

But how Harris went from seemingly certain on the bill's success to sure of its failure in a matter of days went unexplained.

### Setting the stage

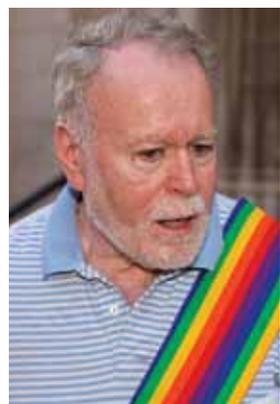
For most of the marriage push, Harris was reserved with his predictions. He would call the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act when the votes were there, he told media and supporters, but gave little indication about when that would be.

Just ten days before session's end on May 21, Harris told Windy City Times that he would "absolutely" call the bill before session ended.

"When I put it up on the board, it's going to go up to win," he added.

It was the first commitment on a timeline to come from Harris, and coalition leaders, growing antsy to see a vote, began to promote that statement to supporters.

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**RAINBOW SASH PROTESTS CARDINAL GEORGE**  
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**WCT TALKS WITH THE MCC'S REV. NANCY WILSON**  
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# PRIDE ON THE HORIZON

Find out about events happening this Pride season, including the Back Lot Bash, the Dyke March, Pride Fest, Pride North and the Pride Parade. See page 30. Photo from last year's Pride Parade by Tracy Baim



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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Devious Maids cast from Lifetime; photo of Jody Michael; photo of Joe Murray by Tim Carroll; image of the Rev. Nancy Wilson

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**I LOVE A PARADE**  
See photos from this weekend's Puerto Rican Pride Parade as well as an LGBT post-event gathering (left).  
*Photo by Janean L. Watkins*



Out journalist/raconteur Sukie de la Croix recently gave a talk in Danville.  
*Photo from de la Croix*



Actor Kit Williamson talks about being on 'Mad Men' and the gay Web series 'Eastsiders.'  
*PR photo*

**WORLD VIEW**  
Windy City Times talked with the members of the band A Great Big World.

**NOTES ON A SCANDAL**  
Readers sound off on protests and the local music scene

**ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**  
Find out the latest about Adele, Bryan Batt and Lady Gaga.

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**BLUE STREAK**

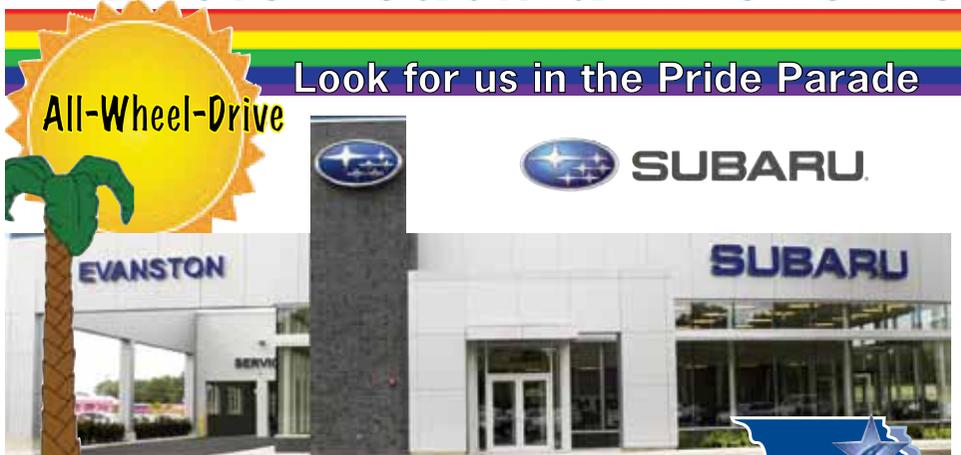
Windy City Times covered the Chicago Blues Fest, which included artists such as Shemekia Copeland (above).  
*Photo by Vern Hester*

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## A Queer Agenda

BY ANDRÉ PÉREZ



### Generations of Change

From the Take Back Boystown controversy to Windy City Times' own Generation Halsted youth spotlight series, LGBTQ youth are increasingly visible in the queer community.

Youth are forming Gay-Straight Alliance in high schools across the country. So-called "at-risk" youth find support in outreach and prevention programs thanks to shifting government understandings of HIV and violence intervention. LGBTQ youth are the subjects of research by both large-scale educational institutions and small-scale community organizations alike.

LGBTQ youth have more opportunities to get to know one another earlier and come of age in an environment where they can question with, organize with, and date other LGBTQ young people. I'm just old enough to have not known students who were out in high school much less to have had an organized presence, and I see myself at the cusp of a new generation of LGBTQ

are irrelevant or unimportant, about how they know that I don't need their support or validation. Reality couldn't be father from the truth.

I embrace coming of age in a community that those before me built, a community that spent time teaching me how to be an activist, educator and youth worker. I can only be who I am because generations of queers laid a foundation I could build from. That work may have seemed small, but it was laborious, slow and dangerous. Thank you to people who facilitated support groups I came out in, who started conferences where I developed my worldview, and who took me in when I had nowhere to go. In our collective enthusiasm for youth, let us not forget to create intentional spaces for youth to talk with, learn from, and share experiences with elders.

When was the last time you attended an event with 50-year-olds and 18-year-olds represented? In five years

of seeking out intergenerational spaces, I've found only a few one-off events—an intergenerational mixer hosted by Genderqueer Chicago, a storytelling workshop by About Face Youth Theatre, and Broadway Youth Center's former mentorship program. I challenge us all to be more inclusive of older folks in our organizing. As I open up to older queers, I hear from many folks who feel left out of and un-

"Let's embrace this moment where change is accelerating, but let us also make room for our elders even if they think differently than we do, use different language, and make choices we don't understand.

appreciated by the queer community. Let's embrace this moment where change is accelerating, but let us also make room for our elders even if they think differently than we do, use different language, and make choices we don't understand. One of the most dynamic people I know is Alexis Martinez, an older trans woman who is willing to make a space for herself at the table even when people don't make it easy.

I firmly believe in the capability of youth and plan to be a youth advocate for life; however, the youth-obsessed nature of our community is disconcerting. From dance party floors to non-profit offices, there is a pervasive attitude that youth is what we all should aspire to. We promote youth leadership as "full of potential" while implying 30-somethings are past their prime. When I'm involved in a successful project, older folks approach me to extol how proud they are of what I'm doing. Too often, the conversation includes a self-effacing preface about how they

appreciated by the queer community.

Let's embrace this moment where change is accelerating, but let us also make room for our elders even if they think differently than we do, use different language, and make choices we don't understand. One of the most dynamic people I know is Alexis Martinez, an older trans woman who is willing to make a space for herself at the table even when people don't make it easy.

But let's make it easier for them just like they made it easier for us. Join me in greeting elders when they come to an event for the first time, changing wording on a flyer, and committing to advertise our events not exclusively via Facebook. When we die, the work will not be done, and I hope we will pass on a sense of pride in where we came from, along with our optimism for the future.

André is the founder of the Trans Oral History Project, co-founder of Project Fierce Chicago, and a working board member of Orgullo en Accion. When André is not rabble-raising, educating, or building community, you can hire him to photograph events and portraits by contacting him at [andrealanperez@gmail.com](mailto:andrealanperez@gmail.com).

# LGBT group in AMA's House of Delegates

The American Medical Association (AMA) voted GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality into its House of Delegates, the AMA's principal policy-making body, June 17 in Chicago.

GLMA is the first and only LGBT organization in the House of Delegates, signaling a major shift to advance understanding of LGBT health-care needs and promote equality. In the past, the AMA's GLBT Advisory Committee—which has included members of GLMA's leadership since its inception in 2005—influenced several key AMA policies supporting a broad range of LGBT issues, including the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the adoption of children by same-sex partners.

"With this historic vote, GLMA has a significant opportunity to increase our efforts to improve the health and well-being of LGBT individuals," said GLMA Executive Director Hector Vargas. "By joining the AMA House of Delegates and having a voice in the largest physician group in Ameri-

ca, GLMA will be able to leverage the strength of the AMA's support and influence to build greater understanding within the mainstream medical community about the unique health issues faced by the LGBT community."

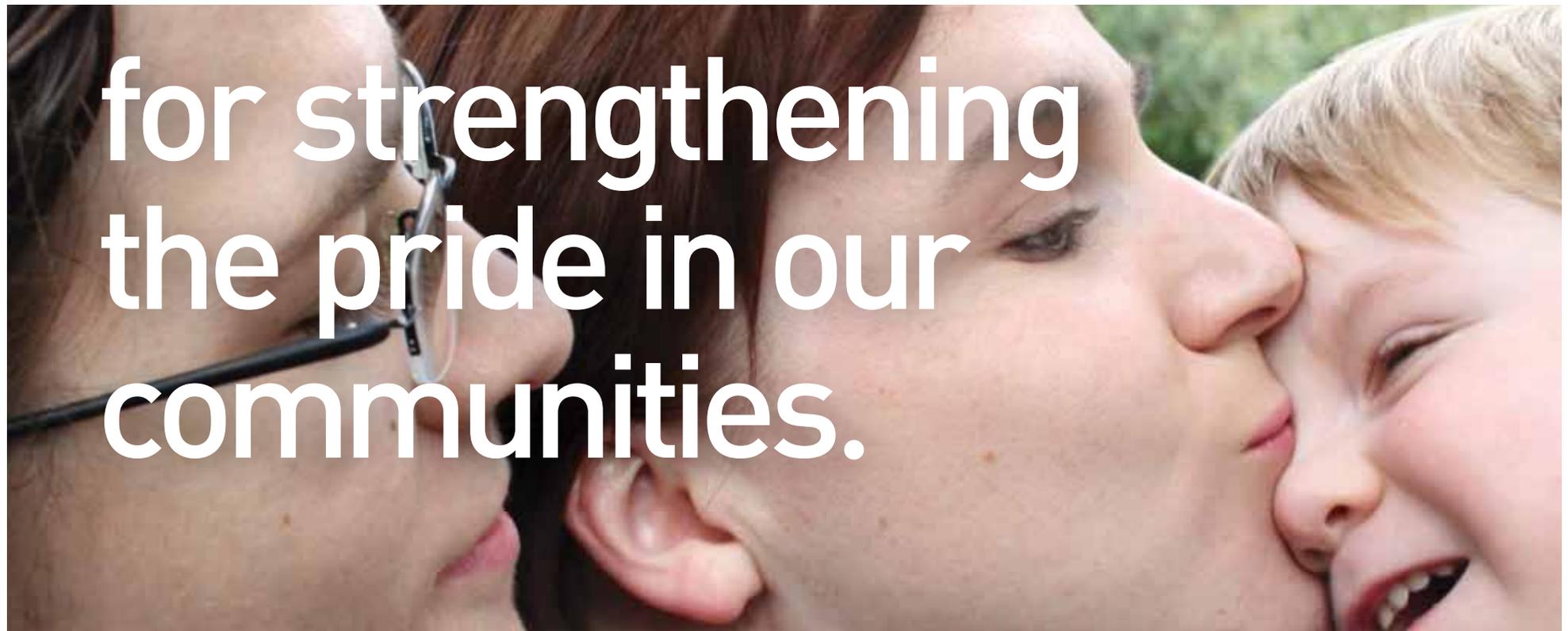
In a statement Lee Swislow, executive director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said, "Having identity documents that accurately reflect one's gender identity is a critical issue for transgender people in their everyday lives. Birth certificates that misrepresent gender put people at risk for discrimination, violence and negative health care experiences and outcomes."

Brian Richardson—director of public affairs for the Chicago Department of Public Health and who oversees the Office of LGBT Health—told *Windy City Times*, "This is great news. There are still a number of disparities facing LGBT people when it comes to health, [so] any opportunity for inclusion of the LGBT community is good news."

—Andrew Davis



Above (from left): Dr. Bechara Choucair, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health; James E. Elvord, AWM, first vice president-financial advisor, RBC Wealth Management, which was a sponsor of the event; GLMA Executive Director Hector Vargas; and GLMA President Desiray Bailey. Below left: Choucair. Below right (from left): Carl Streed, Shilpen Patel, Adam Levine, Andrew German, Joseph Annis, Gregory Baschke, Jeremy Toler, Jason Ziplow, Brian Hurley and Desiray Bailey. Photos by Ed Negron



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# NOW conference to stress unity, equality

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

The annual National Organization for Women (NOW) Conference is being held in Chicago July 5-6 and will include adopting the organization's agenda for the coming year as well as the election of its national officers.

In 2002, NOW officially endorsed marriage equality and for the past decade has worked with other allied organizations to advance the issue nationally and on a state-by-state basis.

Current NOW President Terry O'Neill said that marriage equality will continue to be a main focus for the organization, and the conference will include workshops focused on attaining equal marriage rights.

"Marriage equality is one of our major campaigns," O'Neill said. "We are going to be rolling out new materials and more materials and engaging chapter leaders at the community level. We are targeting states with our allies in the equal marriage movement, and we are going to be really active."

"In 2012 we were extremely active in all of the states that had marriage equality referenda and we and our allies scored a clean sweep."

O'Neill also points to immigration reform as a key issue where the organization is standing with the LGBT community, demanding that any changes that are adopted include LGBT families.

"Our coalition is not breaking apart over these issues," she said. "We are determined to have same sex couples have their families fully recognized, and I know that our allies in the immigration reform community are with us. Now whether we can get the elected officials to be with us, that is something else. But the allied organizations we really are together."

O'Neill noted that one of the biggest changes to the progressive community recently has been a greater determination to work together and commit together to progressive issues.

"The theme of this year's conference is 'Stronger Together: United for Equality,'" she said. "The reason that we wanted that as the theme is that we believe the challenges that are facing ordinary families throughout the country are so layered, if you will, that the organizations in the entire progressive community are coming together in a way that I don't think we've come together perhaps ever in the past."

"We know that the Republican playbook is to divide and concur the progressives and thereby defeat Democrats and we're not buying it," she added. "Women are absolutely not fooled by what the Republicans are trying to pull off."

In addition to its focus on marriage equality and inclusive immigration reform, NOW will also be focusing on other key issues, ending violence against women around the world, strengthening social security, and fighting for freedom from poverty in a Wal-Mart economy, all of which



NOW President Terry O'Neill. Photo courtesy of NOW

will be the focus of specific workshops during the conference.

NOW has a full agenda for the coming political elections also, which involve both advancing social issues as well as winning political campaigns.

"Moving forward we really have our eye on 2020 because that is a key year, that is the year that the census will come out again and redistricting is key," O'Neill said. "The progressive movement, we really didn't do well in 2010 in the redistricting and we are now paying a huge price for it."

"Between now and 2020 what do we have to do? Two things, at the federal level we have to step up our game and get feminist, progressive, preferably women, but feminist candidates, elected to both the house and the senate."

"The state level is where women's reproductive healthcare is being sincerely compromised in state after state after state, so we are starting small, but we are determined to have a state by state by state effort to address these devastating restrictions. It's not just restrictions on abortion, its restrictions on birth control. In New Jersey alone, Gov. Chris Christie has zero-funded family-planning clinics at the state level, for three years."

NOW will hand out three awards for courage and leadership this year during the conference: Saru Jayaraman, co-founder and co-director of Restaurant Opportunities Centers, is receiving

the Women of Action Award; Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky will receive the Woman of Impact Award; and Heather Booth and Jeanne Galatzer-Levy will accept the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Women's Health Award on behalf of The Jane Collective, which was founded in Chicago in 1965 and was one of the first abortion counseling services.

Conference speakers include U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D) and Rev. Jesse Jackson on July 5, and Carol Moseley Braun on July 6. Elections for NOW president and two vice presidents will take place July 6, followed by a reception with music, dancing and a cash bar.

For more information, visit <http://www.now.org/organization/conference/2013/>.

## Does HIV stigma drive infection?

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

"The constant drumbeat of crisis around HIV gets tiresome," said John Peller, vice president of policy, AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Yet infections among gay men are rising.

In accepting a GLAAD Media Award for "How to Survive a Plague," activist Peter Staley said, "Gay men are only about 2 percent of the U.S. population, but we're the fastest growing group of new infections, 63 percent of total infections in recent years. Why aren't these numbers shocking us?"

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said if current trends continue 50 percent of African-American men who turned 18 in 2009 and have sex with men will be HIV-positive by age 35. Fifty-four percent of all men who have sex with men will be HIV-positive.

Responses to rising infections focus on reducing stigma and increasing talk.

Chicago's AFC launched "How Are You Healthy?" embracing a holistic approach to men's health. "We really got guys talking about health in general, including HIV," Peller said.

AFC also looked closer at men receiving and requesting services. "We found HIV stigma played a role," Peller explains. Those who brought internalized homophobia, "gay stigma," to HIV infection were less adherent to treatment. They lacked social supports before infection, a circumstance that continued, sometimes worsened, after infection. "Now they felt isolated for two reasons, being gay and infected," Peller explained.

Nationwide, Needle Prick Project founder Tyler Curry wants "to get people talking about HIV again. Not just gossiping but honest talk that doesn't stigmatize us." It's a "modern conversation" about HIV, as his mission states, "what it means to be HIV-positive and what it will take to protect each other today."

Curry, 29, lives in Dallas. He tested HIV-positive in 2012 and was radicalized.

"Since my positive test result, dating sure has been interesting. I've faced lots of rejection, stony cold receptions from others. All because we can't talk about it," Curry said.

"After I forced a conversation during a buddy brunch, I learned that half the guys around the table were infected. Yet there we sat all that time. Silent." His posse dished everything—politics, sex, religion—to the dirtiest detail "but we never discussed HIV as it pertained to our everyday lives," Curry said.

Curry's online project, <http://www.getpricked.org>, breaks the silence between positive and negative guys by allowing real guys with real HIV to offer testimonials and their photos.

"My generation feels safely removed from the HIV epidemic. And why shouldn't we? People like me can go on treatment and live healthy lives and no one would be the wiser. That is, unless we all start talking to one another. Then these statistics become actual faces, real people, not just CDC numbers," Curry said.

Dialogue must focus on "HIV prevention as a shared responsibility," said Sean Strub, founder of POZ magazine and more recently The Sero Project.

HIV criminalization laws block shared responsibility, fuel stigma, and may result in more infections.

To ease stigma and bring laws into line with current science, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee

has reintroduced the "Repeal Act," which asks state attorneys general, state public health officials, people living with HIV, legal advocacy and service organizations to review laws, policies and cases that impose criminal liability on people living with HIV.

"These laws are based on bias, not science. These laws breed fear, discrimination, distrust and hatred, and we've got to modernize them. That's exactly what this legislation would do," Lee said upon reintroduction.

Current HIV statutes send "a message to people who are negative or don't know their status that protecting them from acquiring HIV is someone else's job," Strub explains. He's referring to criminalization laws that require knowledge of one's HIV status in order to be held liable. Street translation: "don't test, escape arrest" which creates "an illusion of safety that results in more HIV transmission," Strub said.

Sustaining the illusion of safety is the de-emphasis by service organizations which no longer provide supportive networks—a needed resource according to AFC research—for the infected and, in the process, thwart misinformation and stigma.

Lambda Legal's HIV Project Director Scott A. Schoettes said that "If public health officials rely primarily on the scare tactics of two decades ago, they will just lose credibility and increase stigma and discrimination."

"It would be more effective to fund supportive networks of people with HIV, empower people with HIV, which results in lessened stigma," Strub said. Like Curry's online efforts which create dialogue between positive and negative individuals.

Aaron Laxton is creating dialogue.

Laxton, 33, is a St. Louis HIV activist, and like Curry is on the Advocate's current list of 40 Under 40.

Laxton said his mission is to "simply live my life in such a way that shows other people living with HIV that it is possible to be happy and healthy and HIV-positive."

Laxton underscores a generational shift.

"People are forgetting about the plague era, the pain, loss and destruction that AIDS left behind in the gay community. People no longer think that HIV is a problem. We have been told that we can take medications and that will keep us healthy. No one tells you, however, that the newest class of medications to treat HIV cost over \$3,000 a month," he points out.

To bring back dialogue and awareness Laxton started on day four of his diagnosis to chart his journey. Viewers can see the results at <http://www.youtube.com/laxtona>.

On HIV prevention and other messages, Laxton observes that "as a community we are desensitized. We're told that we should be concerned about everything and in turn that makes it hard to be concerned with anything. I think that it is very telling of where we are in the fight to end HIV/AIDS."

Lambda Legal's Schoettes thinks the tough question is why more people aren't aware or don't really seem to care. Besides AIDS fatigue, "our response, or lack of adequate responses, is tinged by issues of race, socioeconomic class, immigration status, and disparate levels of access to care."

As one online guy wrote in an email for this article: "Know your status and be truthful about it. Being HIV-positive is fine but needs to be communicated."

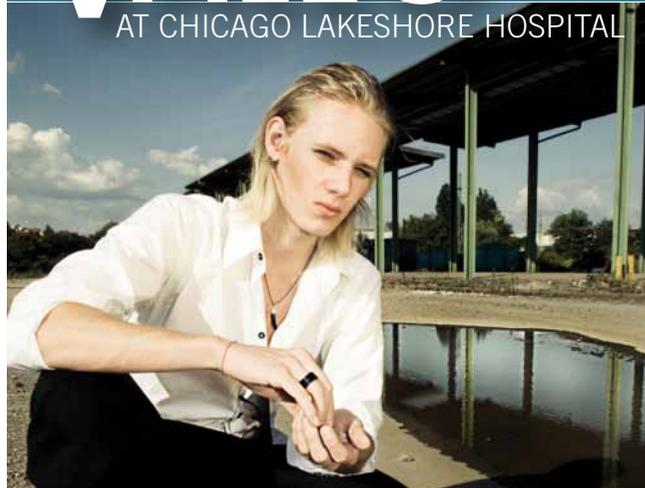
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# Rev. Nancy Wilson, MCC conference headed to Chicago

BY DEANNA DUFF

For more than 40 years, the Reverend Dr. Nancy Wilson's leadership has built bridges between faith groups, LGBT communities and the general public. Her advocacy has addressed racism, AIDS, poverty, women's rights and countless social justice issues.

President Obama appointed her to the White House Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in 2011 whose current focus is addressing the under-reported issue of human trafficking and modern-day enslavement.

Wilson became a Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) pastor in 1972 and currently serves as their elected, global leader. MCC is an ecumenical denomination founded in 1968 with a specific outreach mission to LGBT parishioners. There are more than 300 MCC congregations in almost two dozen countries worldwide.

People from around the world are expected in Chicago July 1-5 for MCC's General Conference XXV, "Believe." See <http://believe.mccchurch.org> for details.

Wilson is one of 25 leaders on the President's Advisory Council, which represents a diverse group of nonprofits, faith-based and secular organizations. The council analyzes and makes recommendations to the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (OFBNP) regarding public policies and programs. The OFBNP was founded by executive order in 2001 by President George W. Bush. By executive order, President Obama extended the existence of the Advisory Council to 2015.

**Windy City Times: How did you recognize that your calling was to join the ministry and did you face particular challenges being a lesbian?**

Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson: I grew up in the United Methodist Church in Long Island, New York, but my family wasn't particularly religious. When I was in my early adolescence, I didn't have a vocabulary or many words to deal with being a lesbian or female. I had a spiritual experience around age 11 of feeling that whatever it was—this presence—God was my friend and that someday I'd have other friends. I remember hearing that promise. I don't have the words to describe it, but it was a mystical experience.

In college, I declared as a religion major. I wasn't out of the closet about my sexuality when I started. I came out senior year before seminary. The Methodist seminary didn't know how to handle it [homosexuality], but they didn't kick me out. If I'd tried to stay Methodist, they would have, but it was before it was even in their disciplinary books. They didn't have words for it. They weren't happy about it, but I managed to stay for a few years and then finished at a Catholic seminary in Michigan. As a young person, I was drawn to the social gospel. It was a time of civil rights and the Vietnam War and I understood what I was being called to do. It was an amazing adventure to start a new community, a new church [MCC], and have the freedom to do it our way.

**WCT: How do you observe many young people, especially LGBT, relating to religion in today's culture?**

NW: Many of the mainstream churches are opening up, but the Methodist's doors are still slammed shut to [homosexuals] being in the ministry and lots of other churches are skating on the edge. They struggle with being completely open, especially on a local level. I think the biggest issue for young people is what's the relevance of religion at all? Institutional religion has betrayed a lot of people whether it's the Catholic Church's scandals, a general lack of justice or just irrelevance. We need to challenge



The Rev. Nancy Wilson.

ourselves and be churches that are true to their values. Hypocrisy is what really alienates and drives people away.

**WCT: For some young people, they want to be involved in a religious community, but aren't embraced due to issues such as being LGBT. How do you advise them to affect change—work from within the institution or from without?**

NW: There is heartbreak and disappointment for young people raised in churches [who are marginalized] and also for those with no church background at all. What do they do when they want to be part of that community? I think you sometimes come in through a side door, maybe not the front door. If a church is engaged in a project or service that's helping people in need—food pantries, AA meetings, homeless programs—that's a way to feel connected to the community.

**WCT: In July 2012, President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, began earnestly addressing human trafficking. It's estimated that 21 million people are enslaved in the U.S. every year. Were you surprised by the extent of the issue?**

NW: I don't think anyone on the council was an expert in this area at the beginning. We all admitted how shocked we were about how much we didn't know. This is a global crisis. It's a domestic problem as well as international. Human trafficking is a low-risk/high-profit industry. People make phenomenal amounts of money on the suffering of others. We have to flip it so this becomes a high-risk/low-profit enterprise. We need to open our eyes that trafficking is happening in many places—small towns, big cities and right under our noses—where we just don't see it.

**WCT: You've said that the LGBT community needs to be particularly aware. About 10 percent of individuals trafficked are LGBT. Are there particular risk factors?**

NW: In the U.S., about 40 percent of teen runaways are LGBT. We know these people are targeted by traffickers because they don't have any

defense. They're easily lured or kidnapped. From my perspective, I began to make connections that this directly relates to religious communities. Many of the 40 percent of homeless teens are runaways because of prejudice or abuse at home related to religious issues about them being LGBT.

**WCT: People often associate human trafficking with the sex trade, but aren't they also used for labor?**

NW: Women, children and men are enslaved and exploited to perpetuate a certain style of life—clothing, perfume, meat, tomatoes—the chances are that someone was flagged to work in that supply chain to make it happen. We need to ensure good practices and fair trade and fair food in our country. So much [trafficking] exists and there isn't an easy way to see or evaluate it. We need to educate people about the implications of having easy and cheap access to goods and services. What if there was an app on your phone that could tell you whether a product was made slave-free? You could verify that people worked with dignity and decent wages to produce it. We all need to be conscious about this as human beings.

**WCT: What progress are you witnessing?**

NW: I think there is going to be an explosion of awareness in the next couple years and we're hoping that we [the council] can be a part of longterm commitment. There are corporations who want to cooperate and are pledging to ethically operate. They're pledging that the goods and services they produce won't involve labor from trafficking. We're giving out annual prizes to corporations making these commitments.

**WCT: For the average person who wants to help, what can they do?**

NW: There are two groups that I think are especially great on this issue. One is Slavery Footprint, [slaveryfootprint.org](http://slaveryfootprint.org). Before the first White House Advisory Council meeting, we took the online Slavery Footprint test. It's a self-test about what products, services and goods you use. It tells you how many people—slaves—it likely took to produce those items. It's an easy, but powerful thing to do.

Polaris is another organization working to stop human trafficking and rescue those already enslaved, [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org). Sometimes you see phone numbers about domestic violence hotlines in public restrooms? They want to do that for human trafficking—publicize 1-800 numbers in restrooms, on billboards and more. People can call the hotline and someone will rescue them—literally.

**WCT: The council is composed of non-profits, secular and faith-based organizations. What role do you feel religious groups should play in public discourse?**

NW: I think everybody in a diverse, public sphere should have a voice and bring their own values and views into the public square for discussion, evaluation and conversation. It's a way to find common ground. Right now in Congress, we see such awful dysfunction because people's vested interests are not in seeking common ground. When faith groups want their ideology to be the only one that rules people's lives, that is not appropriate and we need to safeguard against it. But they [faith groups] also represent significant constituencies that should be able to speak about their values and public policy. I think secular groups should also be able to make a case for their values.

**WCT: Recent tragedies—such as the Boston Marathon bombings—have spotlighted the issue of religious extremism. How do you feel society can constructively address the topic without causing more divisiveness?**

NW: I think we live in a world that truthfully has more organizations working for peace than the other direction—even though it sometimes doesn't seem like it. The world has been a violent place for a long time and religion can go either way. It can be a force for good, peace and justice or intolerance, hate and violence. Those of us who are spiritual or religious, it's our jobs to speak from a place that's for justice, understanding and tolerance.

Most Christians in the world are not hateful, but there are Christian extremists who're racist

and violent and abusive. That distorts faith and serves a negative and dangerous viewpoint. The same is true of Islam and other religions [who have extremists]. I deeply respect other people's faiths and positions. What's important are the values we share. It's very important for people of all faiths to speak out against fear and hate mongering.

**WCT: The Supreme Court's ruling regarding DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] is expected in June. Do you feel optimistic?**

NW: I feel very optimistic. I don't think we'll get everything we want, but I believe DOMA will be overturned. It doesn't mean gay marriage will be universal in our country—that's another fight, I'm afraid—but you can see the momentum of change in the world and the United States. For DOMA to collapse would be huge, but then the deeper fight is on the way. It's still a cause for enormous hope. I've been in this movement for over 40 years and came from a time when this discussion was unimaginable. I didn't think it would happen in my lifetime.

**WCT: What progress do you foresee in the next 20 years for the LGBT community?**

NW: I think transgendered people are still at an earlier place in our community's movement. I think that many people, especially younger people, will increasingly be fluid around issues of gender and sexuality. In the next 20 years, I feel that the big issues will be more global—such as women's issues. The truth is, if we can help women get equal access to education, we could end poverty. Also, a lot of places in the world are still so far away [from progress] regarding human rights and LGBT rights. That has a lot to do with religion, a lot of which is exported from the U.S. We live in a world that's increasingly complicated and volatile in some ways. It's going to be very interesting to see what happens.

Originally published by The Seattle Lesbian ([www.theseattlelesbian.com](http://www.theseattlelesbian.com))

**For more about the conference, see <http://believe.mccchurch.org>.**

## Social Security's new policy for gender-marker changes

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a revision to its policy around changing one's gender marker on a Social Security card—a move transgender-rights groups see as a victory, according to Advocate.com.

The SSA removed its requirement that transgender people wanting to amend their gender on a Social Security card provide proof of gender reassignment surgery. Instead, it has opted for more inclusive language mandating that a transgender person provide a passport or birth certificate reflecting the accurate gender, or a certification from a physician confirming that the individual has had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition.

"This is a big win for LGBT equality. This crucial policy change by the Social Security Administration brings SSA procedures into alignment with other federal agencies that have made progress on equality for transgender people," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey in a statement. "This new policy is in line with how transgender people live their lives and is in line with the medical community's consensus on when a person's gender should be recognized."

In addition, the Task Force stated that SSA also issued guidelines on how staff should interact with transgender people. This includes protections regarding confidentiality, proper pronoun usage, and treating transgender people with respect and dignity.

# AIDS team training tied to marathon

BY ROSS FORMAN

Every Saturday morning for about five months, starting in early May, they gather on a grassy patch along the lakefront path at Foster Avenue. In the cold and rain, or miserable heat and humidity.

It's time to train for the annual Bank of America Chicago Marathon, held on the second Sunday of October. The Team To End AIDS (T2) is the official endurance-training program of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC)—and its training site starts at Foster Avenue and usually is a southbound run, starting with three miles and building up over a matter of months to training runs of 20 miles or more.

T2 is a group of local running enthusiasts, some experienced and some complete newcomers, even former couch-potatoes, practicing in the spring and summer for that magical Sunday in October, when each will run 26.2 miles through the streets of Chicago—from downtown up to Lakeview, out to area by U.S. Cellular Field and then back toward a big, bold banner back downtown that blasts FINISH.

(Anyone looking to join T2 and run the annual Chicago Marathon in October can visit [www.t2ea.com](http://www.t2ea.com) or call 312-334-0934.)

Katie Schmid, 35, who lives in Ravenswood, knows all about T2 Saturdays. She is the T2 head running coach in her ninth year coaching with T2, her 11th season overall. She was a participant in the program before becoming a coach.

To date, she has personally run 18 marathons, two half-Ironman events, and a full Ironman.

She also has crossed the finish line in Chicago—in spirit—with literally thousands of locals who she has coached, each wearing T2 red shirts

in support of AFC.

"The best part of running with T2 is being reminded of the power I have as an individual. I have the power to accomplish an amazing goal. I have the power to inspire others. I have the power to save lives," she said.

Schmid greets the T2 runners on most Saturday morning training runs—just as she did June 15, when the crew was bracing for its eight-mile run—with her distinctive, loud, energetic "Gooooooooooooo morning, T2 marathoners."

She gives a few last-minute pointers, describes the route they will be running that day, shares training tips, and maybe a personal story or joke. Schmid's dedication to the cause—fundraising, coaching and volunteering for AFC through T2—is tireless, endless.

She often jokes that she hopes a cure for HIV/AIDS is found soon, just so she can sleep in on a Saturday morning in the spring or summer.

The T2 crew on June 15 was about 70 runners, ranging in age from their early 20s to early 70s, and truly it is a mix of every race, creed and sexual orientation. T2 has long been a flag-waving supporter of the LGBT community, starting with AFC president David Munar, who is openly gay, and T2 marathon runner. His predecessor, Mark Ishaug, also is openly gay and has been a runner for the program, too. T2 had a float in the 2012 Gay Pride Parade.

About 200 runners will be in T2 red on race day, Oct. 13, the culmination of months of training, the completion of a life-changing journey that ends with a shiny medal placed around the neck of each finisher.

T2 marathon runners have long had a 100-percent completion rate on race day.

And then it's time to celebrate, as T2 hosts a



T2 marathoners at the June 15 fundraiser. Photo by Ross Forman

post-race fiesta that would rate with any New Year's Eve party.

T2 is still accepting applications from runners through the end of June for the Chicago Marathon, which sold out in record time. So yes, you can still run the Chicago Marathon, and help AFC in the process.

"We give an experience of a lifetime," Schmid said. "The camaraderie and support T2 generates is inspiring. It's especially good for those people who are a bit intimidated by the marathon or simply by running. You have a team of coaches, staff, and teammates who are there to motivate you, inspire you, and get you to the finish line."

The T2 journey isn't just about Saturday morning team runs; it also is the weekend parties, and often fundraising events during the week—all done to support AFC.

Take, for instance, June 15. They ran eight miles in the morning, then many of those same runners congregated for an evening rooftop fundraiser in Uptown, with a breathtaking view of the Chicago skyline—and more than \$3,000 was raised for AFC.

Dan Cornejo hosted the catered third-annual party, which attracted T2 runners and triathletes, among others, and has quickly become a

must-attend event. Cornejo has run the Chicago Marathon each of the past two years in red in support of AFC—and he's shooting to fundraise \$6,000 this year alone, which would push his grand total raised for AFC over three years to about \$15,000.

"Joining T2 definitely has changed my life and helped me become healthier, and helping the fight to end HIV/AIDS is very, very rewarding," said Cornejo, who celebrates his 34th birthday June 30—and is encouraging his friends on Facebook and elsewhere to donate \$34 to AFC, through his online T2 fundraising page, so everyone can celebrate.

"T2 is particularly good for beginner [runners] because we offer a range of experience and levels," Schmid said. "We have a supportive and non-intimidating environment, and a team that is committed to getting everyone to the finish line. Everyone is a runner with us, no matter what their speed [is]. Our program uses a training method that is especially good for beginners and we have over a 99 percent success rate."

To support Dan Cornejo in his fundraising for AFC, go to: [http://events.aidschicago.org/site/TR/T2/T2?px=1103004&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1060](http://events.aidschicago.org/site/TR/T2/T2?px=1103004&pg=personal&fr_id=1060)

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Soy un amigo, Latino y un educador comunitario.

- José

José (en el centro) vive con el VIH desde 2001.



Tengo pareja, soy editor y me gusta correr.

- Oriol

Oriol (izquierda) vive con el VIH desde 1992.



Somos pareja, nos gustan los caballos y hacemos trabajo voluntario.

- Brian

- Kevin

Brian (izquierda) y Kevin (derecha) han vivido con el VIH desde 1996.



Soy un amigo, un estudiante, y un hijo.

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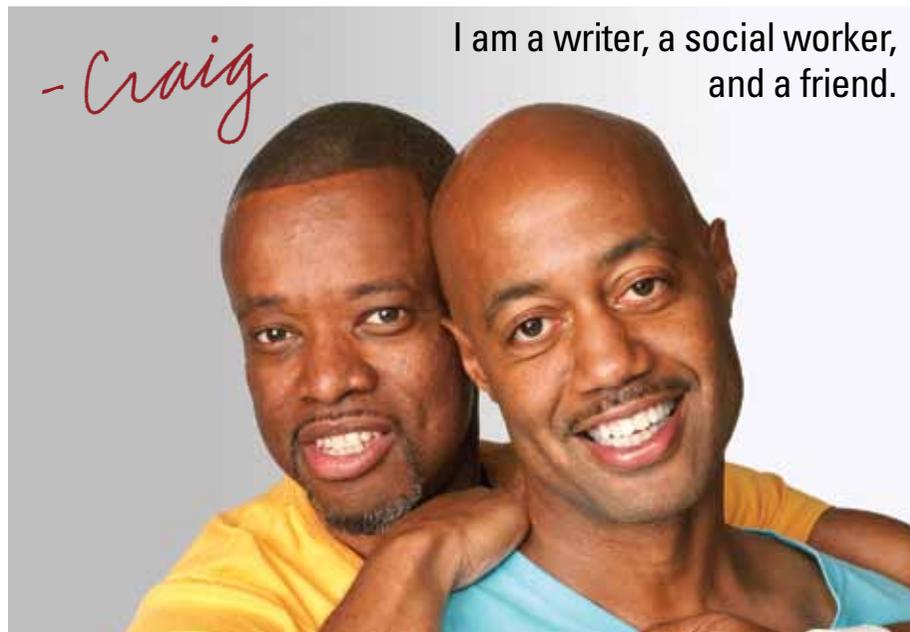


We are partners, horse lovers, and volunteers.

- Brian

- Kevin

Brian (left) and Kevin (right) have lived with HIV since 1996.



I am a writer, a social worker, and a friend.

- Craig

Craig (right) has lived with HIV since 1985.



I am a best friend, a poet and a cook.

- Antron

Antron (right) has lived with HIV since 2004.



I am a friend, a Latino, and a peer educator.

- José

José (center) has lived with HIV since 2001.

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## MARRIAGE from cover

Harris reiterated that commitment to coalition leaders, said Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett, who also chairs the coalition.

### Tackling the House

Two strategies had dominated thinking on how best to approach the vote in Illinois.

One line of thought was that sponsors should secure votes in both the Senate and House before calling for a vote in either. The reasoning was that Senators who voted "yes" would not take heat for a bill that couldn't pass the House and that anti-gay activists would be left with little time between the two votes to mobilize.

The other strategy was to pass the bill in the Senate and ride that momentum to a win in the House.

Backers aimed to achieve both strategies, planning to pass the bill in the Senate and work that momentum towards quick success in the House. Talk in the coalition suggested that plan could be complete by February's end.

"The idea was to keep the momentum moving so quickly that we would not give our opponents time to organize in a strategic way," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

A successful Senate vote on Valentine's Day put that goal into focus.

"I was so proud of the Senate and how they handled this vote," said Sen. Heather Steans, the Senate chief sponsor of the bill. "There was no arm-twisting involved."

But the House proved to be a much tougher push.

The bill needed between 55-58 votes to put it within reach. Backers thought that if they could meet that threshold, Madigan would pull in remaining votes and help it pass.

But coalition leaders had not kept a firm roll call, and Harris had declined to share his. Confidence from LGBT leaders had been founded on faith in Harris and his perceived rapport with Madigan. Leaders felt that Madigan would throw his weight behind Harris if it came down to the wire.

Further, the campaign for marriage equality had largely been funded by Fred Eychaner, one of the biggest backers of Democratic politicians and causes in Illinois. It seemed unlikely that Madigan would burn his supporters.

Still, weeks passed after the Senate's success without a vote. Anti-gay groups began to organize weekly rallies against the bill.

The coalition, seeing momentum dwindle, fought to keep the story in the news, releasing statements of support from celebrities and politicians and stating repeatedly that a vote would come any day.

On March 13, House Speaker Michael Madigan told reporters that the bill was 12 votes short of the 60 it needed to pass. The statement set off panic among some LGBTs, but members of the coalition quietly scoffed at the number.

In fact, a vote had been anticipated the following day. Madigan's statement, rather than alarm coalition leaders, was taken as a bluff in advance of a vote, a tactic to energize LGBTs and prevent anti-gays from flooding the capitol the day of the vote.

The following day, coalition leaders headed for Springfield in hopes of seeing a vote. The day came and went without one.

There were several times, sources say, when the bill could have passed during the spring session. In mid-March, organizers had counted 58 yes votes, four to six of them Republicans. With several lawmakers still in the "undecided" column, LGBT organizers felt confident that Madigan and Harris could secure the final votes to pass the bill.

That outlook started to turn when reports began to circulate that Republican House Leader Tom Cross was considering a run for attorney general. The news set into motion a scramble among Republicans eager to move up in leadership. At least two Republican yes votes were reportedly lost, as Republicans aimed to appease their base.



Equality Illinois Executive Director Bernard Cherkasov with the marriage timeline. Photo by Kate Sosin

By mid-May Senator Steans felt a twinge of concern.

"Once you get caught into the end of session and all the stuff that needs to happen, that's just complicating," she said. "So when it hadn't happened by two weeks out, then I started going, 'OK...' But I still felt it was ultimately going to pass."

### Thursday

By the time the last week of session arrived, sponsors and coalition leaders were anxious to see a vote. Many predicted the bill would see a vote on Thursday, May 30, and LGBT families headed for Springfield.

In the capitol building, coalition leaders predicted the bill's passage by early Friday morning. Thursday, however, ticked on without a vote or a signal from House leadership.

Coalition leaders started to get restless.

On Thursday around lunchtime, coalition leaders gathered in Rep. Deb Mell's office to strategize on how to pressure Harris and Madigan into calling for a vote. Mell, one of four openly gay legislators in the House, was not present at the meeting.

The coalition decided to hold a press conference in front of Madigan's office to pressure Madigan and Harris.

Jim Bennett, coalition chair, told media that the bill would pass if called. LGBT families also spoke, urging the assembly to act.

Estimates on the vote count on Thursday vary. One source said that the bill had 53 firm votes going into the last few days of session. Another totaled the support at 58.

But late in afternoon Thursday saw a quiet rumor that there would be no action on the bill. That rumor went unconfirmed, and with conflicting reports circulating throughout the capitol, LGBTs were simply left to wait.

With time running short, the coalition organized a rally in Springfield for the following morning and asked supporters to travel to Springfield.

### Friday

Friday, May 31, the last day of spring session, opened with a sense of urgency. The coalition sent out an email impelling supporters to contact their reps. LGBTs convened in the capitol rotunda to show support for the bill. But a bus of about 20 supporters organized by the coalition ran an hour late. Approximately 100 people were present for the rally.

Some believed the bill had 58 or 59 votes that morning, enough to pass if Madigan could pull in the last remaining votes.

That understanding was affirmed that morning when Madigan opened his House gallery to LGBT families who had come to witness history.

Bill after bill was called throughout the day, with no vote on marriage discussed.

At 1:30 p.m., the House recessed for lunch. Harris made his way up into Madigan's box to visit with families who had come for the vote. Harris took pictures with the families and said he was optimistic about the vote.

When the assembly reconvened hours later, coalition leaders were nervous but confident.

Sponsoring reps were not put on alert until later that afternoon, but word that votes were falling off the bill sent sponsors into a scramble.

"We were working the roll call like mad," said Cassidy of Friday afternoon.

At around 5:10 p.m. Madigan appeared in the House chamber. His presence alerted many who had waited all day for a vote.

Soon after, Madigan pulled the four openly gay reps into his office.

The bill did not appear to have the votes, he said. It was up to Harris to decide what to do.

"We talked about various options," said gay Rep. Sam Yingling. "There was definitely dialogue between everyone at the table."

Harris also consulted with Steans.

The two had been in touch all day, but Steans said it was not until Friday afternoon or evening that the situation became evident. Harris asked Steans what she thought he should do.

Her initial gut reaction was that he should call the bill, she said. She quickly realized that was emotion speaking and told him not to call the bill.

In fact, other sponsors had the same temptation, they said.

"The reality is that would put us off at least a year, maybe longer," said Cassidy, who added that she also understood the desire to see a vote.

"You don't burn down the house just because you don't like the color of the dining room," she added.

"Calling the vote would have been so personally satisfying," said sponsoring Rep. Ann Williams. "In retrospect, I have to really commend Greg Harris [for waiting]."

"A first, there were was a great deal of disbelief," said Rep. Sara Feigenholtz. "My sense was that we were very close."

Feigenholtz called Harris's decision to wait "wise."

"I thought it was the toughest call that he'll ever make in his career, undoubtedly," she added.

By Friday evening, the shortage of votes was significant.

"Enough that it would have gone very badly had it gone up on the board," Cassidy said.

Several close to the bill estimate the "yes" votes would have been in the 40s, a devastatingly low number.

"I was stunned," said Yingling. "My partner and our kids were on the floor, and there were a number of families from across the state that were in the gallery. That was my immediate thought as well as the other legislators. It was very surreal."

### The Rita Mayfield issue

Among the most frustrating fence-sitters on equal marriage had long been Waukegan Rep. Rita Mayfield.

Mayfield voted "present" on civil unions because she could not bring herself to vote against the bill despite the will of her district, she said. The issue was close to her heart, she added, as her best friend is a gay man living Florida.

Mayfield had been on LGBT target lists since the civil union vote, with multiple organizers working to turn her ambivalence into a "yes" on the issue of equal marriage.

In spring 2012, Equality Illinois held a Springfield lobby day that focused on marriage, despite the fact that a marriage bill had yet to be introduced. The lobby day signaled that groups were preparing to push for equal marriage in the coming months.

Mayfield was among the targets for the lobby day. Approached by a constituent that day, she explained that her district contained many churches. She did not feel she had the support to vote for same-sex marriage. She also reiterated that she voted "present" on civil unions because she could not bring herself to vote "no."

LGBT groups continued to court Mayfield after the lobby day.

So difficult was that push that some activists considered supporting a primary candidate to oppose her. But Mayfield's district sat next to that of candidate Yingling, whose victory would make him the first openly gay rep elected in Illinois outside of Chicago. In the end, the money and energy was put into Yingling's campaign.

Yingling won, and Mayfield remained in office.

According to Mayfield, she surveyed more than 108,000 constituents on the issue of same-sex marriage a year ago, and just 20 percent supported equal marriage, with 70 percent opposed.

But activists did not give up on Mayfield, stating that the phrasing of the survey questions encouraged bias against equal marriage.

Mayfield and LGBT groups agreed to tackle the issue at a town hall forum in the district. The ACLU's Khadine Bennett fielded questions from more than 100 attendees at the Waukegan meeting. But that plan backfired, with the overwhelming majority in attendance opposing the bill. According to residents, attendees on both sides of the issue had been brought in from out of the district.

According to sources, Mayfield had in fact told coalition leaders not to invite supporters to the meeting, stating that she wanted to hear from the community. But the low turnout in favor of marriage equality followed by Mayfield's statements that her district appeared opposed raised eyebrows in the coalition.

The town hall meeting was the last straw for some LGBT activists, who grumbled that Mayfield was anti-gay, and that she simply wanted cover for not supporting equal marriage. LGBT organizers made the call to invest energy into other lawmakers, but the Rita Mayfield question never went away.

Several sources close to the bill said that with the clock winding down in session, Mayfield began picking off support for the bill in the Black Caucus.

Sources estimate that as many as 10 lawmakers got cold feet in the final hours.

Those that saw Mayfield as a problem did not elaborate specifically on why she might have

Gay activist Michael O'Connor, a former 34th District legislative staffer, said he felt that stories about Mayfield were very unlikely.

"She doesn't have that kind of power," he said. "I'm highly suspect when I hear stuff like that."

#### Issues with outreach

Suggestions that the Black Caucus prevented the bill's passage have been refuted by Caucus Chair Ken Dunkin and LGBT organizations alike.

"We shouldn't be wearing the jacket for this," Dunkin told reporters May 31. "That would be unfair and disingenuous to have the Black Caucus wear the jacket because you have 71 Democrats."

Dunkin later declined to comment to Windy City Times on the reports about Mayfield.

But some close to the bill argued that even if Mayfield had worked against it, the damage would have been minimal had more work been done within the Black Caucus. Many felt the caucus was taken for granted, with two lobbyists hired in the final 48 hours to target Black lawmakers.

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, also said that Black LGBT leaders were not called on to aide in outreach to Black representatives.

"We could have been educating and mobilizing our constituents," said Hunt. "We did have some constituents that we knew of that were very interested in going to Springfield. We don't have the resources for that. There could have been things that we could have done in the Black press, which we tried to do a little bit ... but it wasn't part of a larger strategy. It was just us stepping in because we weren't seeing anything visible in terms of support marriage equality."

Hunt and O'Connor were among a group of

control. In fact, many LGBT organizers were simply told not to work on the bill, numerous sources confirmed.

This lack of communication about strategy coupled with the bill's ultimate shortfall in the final hours appeared to be the source of tension between Harris and others working to pass the bill.

Many in the coalition felt that they could have helped pass the bill but were not utilized, while others felt shut out from the process.

Coalition leaders first heard rumors Friday night of the vote shortage. They got confirmation through lobbyists less than an hour before Harris announced it. The coalition unanimously wanted to see a vote, they said. However, they were not consulted.

"All of our groups had already made the decision," said Bennett, coalition chair. "There was no one on a different page."

LGBT organizers began texting people in the gallery, asking them to yell at Harris to call for a vote when he stood to speak. When Harris rose, onlookers did just that.

Among those yelling was Bennett.

"Justice delayed is justice denied!" Bennett shouted from the gallery.

According to Ed Yohnka of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU did not discuss the possibility of shortfall with Harris.

"That is something we should have all prepared for and been prepared for and been prepared to speak about in a fashion that would have been less reactive and more affirming in terms of keeping the movement going forward," said Yohnka.

Despite anger at Harris, many in the coalition also blamed Madigan for the shortfall, stating that he did nothing to drum up support for the bill beyond state his support for marriage equality.

Of the sponsoring reps, however, only Mell said she felt the speaker did not fully prioritize the bill.

Mell said she wanted to attend an LGBT protest held outside Madigan's Chicago district office June 16, but that a personal commitment prevented her from doing so.

#### Moving forward

Both coalition leaders and reps have urged LGBTs to direct their energy into unifying rather than tearing each other apart.

Reps point to the campaign's many successes—numerous media editorials in favor of equal marriage, swift progress in the Illinois Senate and rapidly evolving public opinion. Supporters note that it took three decades to pass the Illinois Human Rights Act, and that the marriage push is less than a year out of the gate.

In Bernard Cherkasov's Equality Illinois office hangs a large hand-written timeline of goals. The timeline moves from the passage of civil unions to marriage equality, and it has clearly been on his wall for years now. He points toward the end of the timeline. In 2012, the goals were to protect and elect supportive lawmakers. This year was to see the introduction of a marriage equality bill. Next year, that bill was slated to become law.



State rep. Rita Mayfield (in center, with microphone) at a Waukegan forum that people against same-sex marriage attended. Photo by Kate Sosin

worked against the bill behind-the-scenes. Some felt she was anti-gay, while some speculated that she didn't want to take a vote that would put her odds with other Democrats.

But Mayfield strongly denied that version of events.

"That's absolutely not true," she told Windy City Times. "That is definitely not what happened... there is so much finger-pointing."

Mayfield said that several colleagues had told her they felt they needed more time, a message she passed along to Harris in the weeks leading up to session and in the final hours, she said.

"I spoke to Rep. Harris more than once," Mayfield said.

Mayfield said that about eight Black Caucus members wanted the opportunity to return to their districts and educate their constituents on the issue before voting "yes."

As for her own vote, she said, she is still looking at voting "present."

"I'm definitely leaning 'yes,'" she said. "I don't know what it will take to push me over the edge."

Black LGBTs to travel to the capitol independent of the coalition to lobby lawmakers.

#### A look at leadership

Sponsors of the bill have called for unity in the wake of the non-vote. Cassidy, Steans, Yingling, Feigenholtz and Williams all stated on-record that they felt Harris made the best call.

Still, sources suggest that Harris kept both his colleagues and the coalition at arm's length.

Several sponsors made a habit of asking coalition leaders when a vote might come, rather than Harris. Some key sponsors did not appear to have access to the roll call, and at least two were not given target legislators to work on.

Williams, a consistent LGBT supporter and close ally to gay legislators was not working off a roll call.

"I had no access to any master list or target list but would talk to people that I was close with on both sides of the aisle," Williams said.

Another rep was told to talk to "everybody."

Still, Harris reportedly assured sponsors and coalition leaders that everything was under con-



Jesus Ruiz and his two daughters with their sign. Photo by Tim Carroll; more images online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

## Madigan protest draws small crowd, big support

BY KATE SOSIN

A hastily organized protest against Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan may have been sparsely attended, but the demonstration attracted much attention June 16.

About 18 people attended the rainy midday protest, held outside of Madigan's district office in Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood. The demonstration intended put heat on Madigan after the Illinois House adjourned without voting on a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage May 31. LGBTs have partially blamed Madigan, stating that the speaker did not use his power to influence support within the Democratic Caucus.

"The notion that state reps vote their conscience is as ludicrous as saying most Chicago aldermen vote their conscience," said Gay Liberation Network co-founder Andy Thayer. "Mike Madigan put his finger to the wind and decided that the anti-gay bigots are more mobilized."

The protest had been planned just four days prior at a meeting held in Uptown in the wake of the non-vote.

Despite low turnout, the demonstration attracted a significant amount of attention and support, as numerous cars speeding down Pulaski honked their horns in support.

A follow-up meeting on further actions was slated to be held June 18 at The Center for Inner-City Studies, 700 E. Oakwood Blvd.

A downtown march in support of marriage equality has also been scheduled for July 13, the details of which have yet to be announced.



Ryne Patrick and Andrea Crain kick off the meeting. Photo by Tim Carroll

## Marriage activists blame Madigan for non-vote

BY KATE SOSIN

Finger-pointing over a failed push to pass equal marriage in Illinois this spring has been abundant since May's end, and LGBT activists are now eying the House's top Democrat.

Activists protested outside Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's district office June 15, citing what they say was a failure to prioritize equal marriage this year.

The decision to target Madigan was made at a community meeting held in Uptown June 11. More than 50 people attending the gathering, held at the Peoples Church of Chicago. No elected officials attended.

The meeting marked the first public forum held since Rep. Greg Harris, chief sponsor of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Act, announced that the bill lacked the votes needed to pass before spring session ended May 31. Some criticized Harris over the call to postpone a vote, stating that they wanted lawmakers forced on-record with a vote.

But at the Uptown meeting, speakers largely blamed Madigan, who they said should have wrangled support for the bill within the Democratic Caucus.

Among the most critical of Madigan was Gay Liberation Network co-founder Andy Thayer, who stated that the speaker needed "to whip his own damn caucus into line."

"Mike Madigan owns the House," said Thayer. "He just decided that he wasn't going to put any political capital in this."

Thayer and other GLN members called for a protest of Madigan, a call that was approved by a popular vote after some debate.

LGBT activist Andrea Crain moderated an extensive discussion on possible grassroots efforts to push the bill forward. Participants disagreed over whether or not supportive politicians should be punished for the lack of a vote, which many felt had been promised.

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, advocated for rewarding politicians who had supported the bill, like Gov. Pat Quinn.

One attendee suggested that parade attendees stonewall politicians who decided not to call for a vote.

"If Harris shows up, I would love to see backs

turned," the person said.

Others lamented the fact that organizing efforts have largely highlighted white activists.

Overall, participants advocated a need to react to the shortfall both immediately and over the long term, forcing elected officials to take the issue seriously through protest and grassroots pressure.

"They're always with you until it's time to stand up on the battlefield," said one person.

Joanie Rae Wimmer, a transgender advocate and attorney, suggested that the group start looking at primaries where undecided lawmakers can be replaced with supportive ones.

The group concluded with a decision to hold a rally in support of marriage equality on July 13, after June pride season wraps up, at a downtown Chicago location. They also discussed and tabled a decision on planning for a large-scale protest in Springfield timed for the fall veto session.

Among those criticizing the lack of a May vote were LGBT leaders within the Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition. Leaders in the coalition, spearheaded by Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties of Illinois, were not present. But Martinez of The Civil Rights Agenda did attend and explained possible timelines for the bill.

Some have expressed hope that the bill could see a vote during a special summer session, while Harris has suggested possible action during the fall veto session. If it passed, it would likely not go into effect until June 1.

The meeting was organized by community activists Crain, Ryne Poelker and Lair Scott.

The protest against Michael Madigan will be Saturday at noon outside his district office, 6500 South Pulaski Road.

Details of the July 13 March in downtown Chicago have yet to be finalized.

Two other upcoming protests were also mentioned, including June 16 against the appearance of Cardinal George at the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian outreach, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 708 W. Belmont Ave. Rainbow Sash and GLN coordinated the protest. Also mentioned was a rally planned for the night of a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Defense of Marriage Act and Prop 8, held the evening of the decision at the corner of Roscoe and Halsted.

## Marriage coalition restructuring

BY KATE SOSIN

The coalition of organizations working pass equal marriage in Illinois has announced plans to restructure after a push to pass equal marriage by the end of this year's spring session fell short May 31.

Illinois Unites for Marriage—a coalition headed by Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Unions of Illinois and Equality Illinois—will hire a full-time campaign manager and expand its field team.

The announcement comes after weeks of coalition meetings addressing the Illinois House's failure to vote on equal marriage by session's end May 31.

"The frustration and disappointment felt across the state when the marriage bill was not called for a vote has been channeled into refocused work and dedication at Illinois Unites to win the freedom to marry," said Jim Bennett, a chair of the Illinois Unites coalition, in a statement. "Not only is marriage for same-sex couples coming to Illinois, it will arrive with a strong bedrock of LGBT and allied organizations ready to support all those who wish to marry the person they love."

Among reported issues within the coalition was a perceived lack of collaboration with LGBT leaders of color.

The coalition, which contains several prominent LGBT groups representing communities of color, will include more of its members at regular meetings, the coalition said. Citizen Action Illinois, The Human Rights Campaign, the Chicago Urban League, Freedom to Marry and The Civil Rights Agenda will be among the groups at the table.

The coalition is also kicking off a search for a campaign manager and adding to its organizing team. That team will be working within target districts, adding to the number of door knocks and calls to those areas.

Finally, the group has committed to holding nine public meetings throughout the state by mid-July.

Alongside that news was a separate announcement from Equality Illinois, which is launching a "Fight Back for Marriage" campaign, aimed at putting pro-LGBT lawmakers into office and educating Illinoisans about marriage equality. The campaign commits \$.5 million to supportive candidates and education for 2014.

Half the funds will go into political campaigns, while the other half will go to opposing anti-gay advocacy.

"No opponents of marriage equality can be sure that their re-election campaigns will be easy next year," said Jeremy Gottschalk, chair of Equality Illinois PAC board of directors, in a statement.

Groups in the Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition include:

- Affinity Community Services
- African American Lesbian Professionals Having a Say
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- All Saints' Justice Circle
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 31
- Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)
- Anti Defamation League
- Center on Halsted
- Chicago Bar Association
- Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
- Chicago House
- Chicago Jobs with Justice
- Citizen Action/Illinois
- The Civil Rights Agenda

- Community Alliance and Action Network (CAAN)

- Decalogue Society of Lawyers
- Equality Illinois
- Family Equality Council
- Freedom to Marry
- Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur (GLAD)

- Grassroots Collaborative
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Human Rights Campaign
- Illinois Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics

- Illinois Department of Human Rights
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Illinois Psychological Association
- Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Lambda Legal
- Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC)

- Marriage Equality USA
- Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF) - Midwest Regional Office
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - Illinois Chapter
- National Museum of Mexican Fine Art
- National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Peace and Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese Chicago
- PFLAG Belleville
- PFLAG Bloomington/Normal
- PFLAG Northern Illinois Council (14 Chapters)

- Phoenix Center
- Prairie Pride Coalition
- Public Pride Alliance
- Quad Citizens Affirming Diversity
- Rainbow Cafe of Carbondale
- ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare IL and IN
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73
- The Shaw Law Group - Jennifer A. Shaw, P.C.
- Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN)
- UE Western Region
- UNITE HERE, Local 1
- The UP Center of Champaign County
- Urban League
- Youth Pride Services

## Marin cancels one event, still hosting another

The Marin Foundation sent Windy City Times is cancelling a July 23 marriage-equality debate between Dr. John Corvino and Maggie Gallagher that was to take place at Roscoe's.

However, the foundation is still hosting Peterson Toscano at the Center on Halsted for his one-man play, Transfigurations, about transgender Bible characters, July 1, 7 p.m. at Center on Halsted.



Brenna Cronin and Joe Murray after Mass. Photo by Tim Carroll

# At AGLO, cardinal refuses communion to Rainbow Sash leader

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago's Archbishop Francis Cardinal George refused communion to gay activist Joe Murray, who wore a rainbow sash during George's appearance at the 25th anniversary of the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) June 16.

About 25 LGBTs and allies protested outside of AGLO's Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 708 W. Belmont Ave. They could be heard shouting outside during Mass, and cars honking in support were also a frequent sound heard during the service.

The Rainbow Sash Movement and the Gay Liberation Network organized the protest. Murray is the founder and executive director of the U.S. Rainbow Sash Movement. While several others took rainbow sashes from Murray ahead of Mass, no one else protested inside.

Murray stood up with his back to George during parts of the Mass, and then he went up with the estimated 200 others in attendance to receive communion. George refused him, and Mur-

ray walked away with his hands open and empty, showing the congregants that he had been denied.

But in an emotional show of solidarity, Brenna C. Cronin, who had already received her communion as part of the church choir, went back up and took another communion wafer and brought it to Murray herself.

"One of my brothers, a member of my community, who is a full and equal member of the body of Christ, was denied communion. So I got back in line and I brought him communion, as I would for anyone else," Cronin told Windy City Times after the Mass. Cronin, who is a lesbian, has been involved with AGLO for two years and is also a cantor.

"I was denied communion by the Cardinal," Murray said after the event. "I turned to Christ, I walked back open handed, and showed the community that I was denied communion, and Christ, in his mercy, sent me a priest [Cronin] to give me communion."

"It was the individuals who witnessed the Cardinal not giving me communion that were re-

ally stunned," Murray said. "They reached and grabbed me as I returned to my pew after being judged by the Cardinal to be a sinner not worthy of any compassion, and told me of their support. I could hear the horns blowing supporting the outside demonstration, could hear the chanting of my brothers and sisters in the GLN outside of the church, and that also gave me courage. But my guardian angels were the women who seemed to get what I was doing; the men felt threatened and showed that. ... I think most people were stunned that [they] witnessed this happen—not by my presence, but by the AGLO reaction to that presence."

AGLO refused any recording or photographing of the service, though they have allowed this in the past. In fact, they made this request through on-duty police officers who were in the church in response to the protests of the Mass.

Murray said he heard from one AGLO board member that they thought members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were expected to be at the protest (they did not attend). That AGLO member reportedly told Murray he would direct physical violence against them if they showed.

The service did not address any issues of marriage equality. It was called a "Mass of Thanksgiving" and was focused on the alleged prostitute Mary Magdalene, and Jesus's love and support of her.

After the service, the cardinal greeted people at the back of the church, where the screams of protest outside could be heard. Some activists did go in and called out his bigotry on marriage equality, and they were asked to leave.

George then met with congregants for a reception, and helped cut a cake for AGLO's 25th anniversary.

Asked by this reporter to comment about marriage equality, George said "What is that?" Asked again, he responded: "This is a celebration of AGLO that gives people the spiritual help they need ... that's why I'm here." Asked a third time about marriage equality, he laughed, and said, "That subject has been talked about a lot. This occasion is to celebrate this group. Which is a good group."

Outside of the church, there were strong interactions between some AGLO members and protesters, and against their fellow AGLO members who showed support for Murray.

"Then there was crazed individual who kept

shouting out for me to sit down when I stood up to turn my back on the Cardinal while he gave his hypocritical message of love," Murray said. "After Mass some individual began bullying the women who had the courage show me support, like the individual who brought me Holy Communion. She gave me strength, and courage. All the while this bullying was going all the board members just watched and smiled. I am not angry just very sad it has come to this type of bullying behavior in God's house of prayer where all people should be welcome."

AGLO was formed 25 years ago when Cardinal Bernardin forced a split in the local Catholic LGBT community. He offered the existing group Dignity a choice of how to worship in a take-it-or-leave-it approach. Bernardin formed AGLO out of the Archdiocese, and Dignity went in its own direction. AGLO is made of largely of older white males, but it also has some lesbian and straight members, and a small participation of racial minorities.

Awards were presented during the service to Father Pat Lee and longtime AGLO member Jim Lux.

In advance of the Mass, GLN and RSM issued a press release stating: "The Cardinal in his most recent column in the Chicago Catholic New World indicates in the first two paragraphs that he wants to take part in public conversation about gay marriage but closes off further discussion when he says that the subject is closed by reason of Jesus' statements about marriage in Matthew's Gospel. We doubt the Cardinal's sincerity in this matter. He follows up by congratulating those who successfully urged Illinois legislators recently to give no consideration to a bill allowing same-sex marriage in the state. ... Clearly he does not agree with the concept of separation of Church and State when it comes to marriage."

"Our message to the Cardinal is simple: hate is easy, love takes courage, and the kind of faith based bigotry he promotes is not welcome in Chicago's LGBT Community," Murray said. "This visit is especially poignant since it takes place during June which is the month our community celebrates Gay Pride."

"Cardinal George continues to be a bigot and those who passively support him and do not speak out about this vile homophobia are as much part of the problem as the Cardinal."

## UChicago at center of racist, anti-gay prank

Postal carrier Iran Becton said he was the victim of a racist, anti-gay prank at the University of Chicago, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity at the school were involved in a prank that had Becton needlessly dragging 79 postal supply boxes up to doors of the frat house. The items were addressed to "Reggin Toggaf;" written backward, the first name is a racial slur and the surname is an anti-gay one.

On its website, the fraternity issued a statement: "Several weeks ago, several dozens of USPS priority mail boxes labeled with a derogatory name were delivered to the chapter house from an unknown sender. After receiving the boxes, the active brotherhood immediately filed a complaint with USPS, as involved federal agents can confirm."

"While we were not responsible for this heinous and blatantly racist and homophobic federal offense, we are deeply saddened and sincerely apologize for any emotional distress caused to Mr. Iran Becton—the individual who delivered the boxes—as a result of this situation."

"We are fully cooperating with the authorities and the University administration in order to resolve this issue and hold accountable those responsible to the fullest extent of the law."

The fraternity's mail delivery has been put on hold until the fraternity sends a written apology to the letter carrier.

## Caterpillar withdraws Scouts support

Peoria-based Caterpillar Inc. is no longer giving money to the Boy Scouts because the organization discriminates against gay people, according to the Huffington Post.

The company's move was not directly tied to the recent Boy Scouts decision to continue to bar gay adults from the organization while allowing openly gay children to be scouts. Instead, the company decided to cut off funding while reviewing a request for \$25,000 that came in last year from a local group in Illinois.

## Pride worship event June 23

A Chicagoland Pride worship event that involves more than 60 member congregations will take place at the First United Methodist Church, 77 W. Washington St., on Sunday, June 23, at 7 p.m.

The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches is hosting the event.

For more information, see "Coalition Pride Worship—Ecumenical area-wide event" on Facebook.



Cardinal George cutting the cake at AGLO's 25th anniversary. Photo by Tim Carroll



Left: Andrea Crain tries leads a June 11 community meeting at Peoples Church. Right: The June 11 crowd votes in support of Andy Thayer's motion to hold a protest at Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's office June 15. Photos by Tim Carroll

# Marriage and Equality: A Way Forward

BY TRACY BAIM

We are at an interesting pivot point in our LG-BTQ community's history in Chicago and Illinois. The delay in marriage equality here provides an opportunity to learn and grow. But I fear this potential will be squandered once again.

We may indeed actually see short-term success in the fight for marriage rights in Illinois. Much work needs to be done, but combined with legal challenges and increased pressure, there is hope for marriage equality, if not in 2013, then soon after.

About 50 people attended a community meeting June 11 at the Peoples Church in Uptown, one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods. No politicians attended. And no one was there as an official representative from the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition. It was all grassroots activists and caring citizens. So we continue to have not just a failure to communicate with one another, but a failure of leadership to actually lead.

At the meeting, there were of course some of the same activists who have been protesting in the streets for years. But there were also new people to the protest table, hungry for accurate information and for ideas on a direction forward. They are tired of not seeing any clear strategy, and of being told to "wait" or just "call your reps." Most of those at the meeting voted to protest at House Speaker Michael Madigan's district office at noon June 15, voted to hold a downtown rally July 13, and will soon make plans for a major march on Springfield, likely the first day of the veto session this fall.

What are the leaders of this community afraid of when the activists want to protest in the streets? Are they too busy listening to paid political and public relations strategists and not the community? It remains unclear who is calling the shots within the coalition. With national groups stepping into the fray and local groups not keeping a roll call independent of the bill's sponsors, the coalition's strategy remains unclear. Even less clear is whether PR consultants are working for the coalition, or if the coalition is answering to PR consultants. What has come out of the coalition has been a social media campaign, crafted by ASGK strategies, a PR firm working to pass the bill.

But our community's leaders know that outside agitation is historically what kept the pressure on insiders and politicians to actually move on behalf of our rights. There is no movement that has succeeded in this country without people in the streets. And it wastes time and energy when

we have three parallel tracks working on this bill but not fully engaging with one another.

I suggest the most important thing to work on right now is a "10,000 Families March for Marriage Equality" [someone suggested the better name of **March on Springfield for Marriage Equality**] on the first day of the veto session this fall. There should be other inside and outside agitation before then, including a push for a summer vote. But if Rep. Greg Harris stands by what he said May 31, he will call this for a fall vote. Let's give him the added outside pressure he needs to bring urgency to a veto session vote. Harris told Windy City Times if 10,000 people had showed up in Springfield May 31, it might have helped kick this bill over the finish line.

## Starting Over

I am going to propose a few ideas below, with respect given to advocates and activists, politicians and pundits, donors and the grassroots. What happened the past six months was too much behind the scenes, with people afraid to reveal a strategy for fear the opponents would respond to it, when in fact the strategy should be clear to the community, even at the risk of showing our hand. Because without a public strategy, we alienate our own base, our own community, and do no long-term work that will create a better and stronger movement.

But first I want to review my personal take on our community's past three decades, based on my participating in, and covering, this community since 1984. In these 29 years, I have seen organizations make the same mistakes over and over, in part because of a lack of institutional knowledge and new people coming in and out of the movement. It is also because Chicago itself presents a very unique set of challenges to true movement building, based on divisions along geography, race, class, gender and age—going back many generations.

1) While lobbying on the phone, in emails and through online petitions—and even public relations campaigns—are necessary components of modern activism, these efforts create no true movement for change. What was needed these past few months was also a street-based campaign, one that the media could cover. When anti-gays protested at locations around the state, especially in Chicago and the suburbs, I was shocked to see how few marriage equality "leaders" participated. The media was there, the politicians were paying attention, yet sometimes just a few dozen marriage advocates showed up. The movement's leaders had decided not to

counter the anti-gays on the streets, and we looked weak. Not only that, when it came time to call people to Springfield for a last-minute rally, little more than 100 people from the entire state showed up—people had not been trained to actually physically show up at a protest.

Can you imagine the Black civil rights movement, or women's movement, or ACT UP, succeeding just through letters to the editor, advertisements and petitions? There were street protests, marches, sit-ins, etc. They complement the insider work and it trains the activists,

It is obvious that the staffs of our major non-profits do not reflect our community. No one agency can be perfect, but it has always been largely a paid white leadership in our LGBT organizations. There are always exceptions, but because of this stubborn problem of largely white staff and largely white boards of directors, they in turn attract largely white volunteer and donor bases. They recruit from a mainly closed circle of friends.

In my 29 years of covering this community, I have attended events all over town. I rarely

"This movement has to figure out a way to channel the anger as much as it channels the money and the votes."

readying them for the crucial moments of where pressure is needed.

2) Public cultural and educational events are needed in diverse communities. Most of our community's largest events happen downtown or on the North Side. Very few forums on marriage equality happened in the districts of reps who were wavering or who needed support for their vote to stay "Yes." We should be partnering to create fun, celebratory and educational forums in these districts, cross-promoted with the reps themselves. Some reps reportedly told Rep. Greg Harris they needed to go back into their districts to work on this. Well, let's help them by providing some LGBTQ talent and power to make them memorable. We have talent of all kinds (poetry, music, theater, film, speakers, religious leaders and much more). Let's use it.

3) We need to put more community money where our community members actually live. We need to hire a more representative group of people who work at our LGBT and AIDS organizations. When the Center on Halsted was launched in 2007, the leaders knew it was a problem that it was located in one community. Boystown was where the support was, the space was, and the resources were at the time. But now there could be satellite Centers on Halsted in several parts of the city, including the Southeast, Southwest and West sides. A small space, maybe sublet with an existing theater or church, where events happen, where staff work, and true outreach occurs. Ultimately, wouldn't it be great to have a 50-ward plan, accompanied by the suburbs, to truly engage our entire community?

see very many white faces at primarily Latin and African-American events. And at predominantly white events people ask "Where are the people of color?" Really? In 2013, that segregation is just as strong, if not worse, than it was in 1984. If whites don't go to people of color events, how do you create bonds where they then come to predominantly white events? This is all true of our gender and gender identity divide as well. Most of it starts with social segregation, but then it digs its tentacles into our official structures, our staffs and our boards of directors. It is still very common for someone to say to me "Well, we did outreach through so-and-so to his Black friends, and none of them were interested in joining our board." This is a social community, built on social circles, and if you do not actively try to break down those long-term barriers, you will never be doing true community work.

4) There are great examples of cross-cultural work in Chicago's LGBTQ past and present. Things such as the Color Triangle, or Women of All Colors/Cultures Together, joint pride events, Lesbian Community Cancer Project dances at the South Shore Cultural Center, International Women's Day dances, the Dyke March (going into different communities), Amigas Latinas, ALMA, Asians and Friends, Affinity and individual leaders who worked hard to make change. But people who are volunteers, or those who are paid not well, burn out. They move on. Groups change and fold. So to truly sustain this kind of work

Turn to page 17

## MARRIAGE from page 16

takes more than just a few people with good intentions struggling against the tide of history. It takes a long-term commitment, money and other resources to nurture and grow the change we want.

We can learn from what has worked, and that is making our events fun and inviting, and creating them organically with many voices at the table. We can't just expect to host a political forum and people will come out. Not without true community building as part of the plan.

5) Much of the problems we now face are because of the past. Most African American and Latino LGBTQs who are over age 50 in Chicago can tell you many stories of the blatant racism they faced at gay clubs in the 1970s and 1980s. The subtle social racism still exists—and sometimes it is not so subtle, as with the Take Back Boystown efforts against minority youth. But the extra carding of people of color at gay clubs was very real, and documented, and resulted in lawsuits and boycotts. People of color were tokenized, sexualized and discriminated against. Many fought hard within the white LGBT groups to work for change, but most of them eventually packed their bags and went to work within people of color communities to work for change. Being a token can take its toll, especially when you are treated as such.

6) AIDS has had a devastating impact on our people. We lost visionary leaders who could have continued to contribute to our movement. This is true of thousands of people of all colors. We lost incredible, magnificent LGBT people who fought hard for inclusive social change. ACT UP was a melting pot of diversity. They fought the outside world, and they fought each other as well, trying to create a new way of working together. Trying to change homophobia, racism, sexism, classism on top of fighting for the lives of friends and family was a near-impossible under-taking. Some men with AIDS wanted to focus on AIDS. Others wanted to connect the dots of oppression, healthcare access and discrimination hurting all people. They tried to do all of that under one acronym. It worked briefly, and very well, but those divisions, and death, were ultimately too much to overcome.

What lessons can still be learned from ACT UP? That we can work together on pivotal issues, and that marriage equality can be one of those. It crosses boundaries, and in fact has a more devastating economic effect on the middle and lower classes, those dependent on social security, pensions, healthcare benefits of partners, and those with low-wage jobs who are raising children. But how do we do this? We create reasons to get together beyond the politics, we build community groups and businesses that are both single-issue and multi-issue. We recognize that not everyone who is LGBTQ sees marriage as the only goal, but that it can be part of a series of issues we work together on. We stop our single focus on one gay-rights plank and we speak out and show up for a range of issues.

Some individual LGTBs do this, no doubt. And some groups, like Gay Liberation Network, are always crossing these boundaries, from displaying their rainbow colors at everything from immigration rallies and war protests to the Chicago Teachers Union rallies. While some issues may be too controversial for our non-profits to weigh in on, there are plenty of ways to support the work of others without risking your tax status. And individuals can do what they want, showing up across many communities. Business leaders and donors, of course, can do much to make change.

7) While we share many issues in common with past civil rights movements, we need to respect that not all oppression is the same, and we can't get into a war of ranking these. If an African American politician says they are offended at the use of the term "civil rights" for LGBT issues, we need to respect this and bring dialogue to the table, not a racist, angry response. The history of brutality and racism faced by African Americans and Native Americans is unparalleled in this country. We do our LGBTQ movement no good in trying to directly compare what our

people have gone through to what happened to Blacks (including LGBTQ Blacks). The systemic racism of the past few hundred years still has an effect today on the African American community. This inherited impact spreads through multiple generations, and is deep in the memories of those who lived through it, and who have heard the stories of their ancestors.

That said, we can speak to one another about the different kinds of oppression LGBTQs face. That is very real and has also had a steep price. LGBTQs have lost their lives, their jobs, their families. Uniquely, LGBTQs get kicked out of their own homes by parents for being different. Also of historical significance, most LGBTQs can "pass" in society (some Blacks could and did do this over the years). This passing has a price, an internalized homophobia that can lead to substance abuse, and even suicide. A healthcare crisis was allowed to blossom into a worldwide pandemic, AIDS, because of homophobia and

**"What are the leaders of this community afraid of when the activists want to protest in the streets? Are they too busy listening to paid political and public relations strategists and not the community?"**

racism—we do have that in common, because early losses were among the "4H's"—homosexuals, Haitians, hemophiliacs and heroin addicts. No one wanted to help those communities until they realized it was never just killing "those people".

We have our own levels of pain, but we can't try to get into a game of "my oppression is the same or worse than yours". It will not be the way to victory.

### What, Me Worry?

If you are reading this and saying "Well, I do this work in my life," that is great. This is not meant to be an accusation of any one person or organization. This work is hard. At Windy City Times, we try to practice what we preach. Our publications benefit from the points of view of a diverse staff and a team of freelancers. We always are aware that we need to have diverse people to have stronger and more diverse content. We try to cover events all over town, with our limited resources. For 10 years, we (when we were Outlines newspaper) published BLACKlines and En La Vida monthly newspapers for the Black and Latino communities. They were written by and for those communities. But businesses did not want to advertise, not enough to sustain those publications. I miss those publications very much. They provided a unique space to debate and focus on those issues. They were not that difficult to do, but there was no money to sustain them long term.

[Let me add my experience as co vice-chair of the Gay Games board, a project I worked on as a volunteer for seven years. We hosted nearly 11,000 athletes from almost 70 countries, for Gay Games II in 2006. We were extremely committed, and even sometimes criticized by our own community, to diversity efforts for women and people of color. We made sure our literature was diverse, our board and staff was diverse, our outreach was far-reaching, our scholarships covered a wide range of people, and our venues were throughout the city, including the Southeast and Southwest sides. Even one gay paid leader—at a public city meeting—questioned us if it was wise to have cycling on the South Side! We had events all over the city and also Oak Park, Evanston, Skokie and even Crystal Lake. This was a difficult, long process, but our team worked very hard to keep to our goal of inclusion.]

So what about marriage equality? It does have a place in this larger debate about division in our community. Because we did not have

a 50-ward effort in our city, and even less so in most suburbs and downstate, we are paying the price for not being further along in the understanding of our issues. Politicians and religious leaders who are against us can easily fall back on the "that's a North Side issue" because we have played into their hands. We have not done our jobs. A white 30-year-old working hard on the North Side might say, "I did not create this problem." Yes, a white bus driver in 1950s Minnesota might have been able to say to Rosa Parks, "I would have let you sit anywhere you wanted on my bus." But what did they do to work for change where Rosa Parks lived?

Most of us are simply trying to live and pay our bills. Raise our children or our pets. We are activists part-time if we are lucky. We trust our leaders, those paid to do this work, and those who commit extraordinary volunteer hours, to really carry the weight of this struggle. And most of the time, that appears to work. But it is not

sustainable, and it is not going to get us true equality. And it won't help us when these "big" issues come up, ones around marriage equality, queer youth homelessness, LGBT senior housing, feeding people who are hungry, and much more. What we need is a much larger infrastructure, one that works across this city for true change.

### The Nitty-Gritty

Let's simplify the above historical overview with a few concrete suggestions that might help the short-term goal of marriage equality, but hopefully will help provide long-term gains for full equality, and create an amazing quality of life. I offer Windy City Times as a sponsor for these events, to help spread the word and keep these costs down. Will the coalition and activists join us in creating some true change?

**1) The Illinois unites for Marriage Coalition, which said it will continue to broaden its list of members, needs to engage people from those districts that are most on the fence.** In addition, they need their own transparent staff and structure. By having a coalition of groups that each have their own independent agendas and mission, the larger mission of the coalition can't be obtained without staffing. We hear they are moving in this direction, but it must be done with great speed—and transparency.

**2) Pick the 10 or so representative districts most change-able from "Maybe" to "Yes," or those needing some solidifying, and create events that combine culture and education. (These include both Chicago and suburban areas.)** Do these timed to right after Labor Day and before the fall veto session. Perhaps combine a couple districts if they are neighboring. Have the events at theater or church spaces that are welcoming. Purchase food and beverages and services from local businesses and make the events free and fun and fabulous, and work with the elected officials in those areas (so not just reps, but senators, alderman, committeeperson, etc.) to make them inclusive. Have well-known speakers but also grassroots people telling their stories, and make sure these events are well promoted, well attended, and well covered.

**3) Launch two satellite offices for the Center on Halsted, one on the Far South Side, one on the West Side.** A simple office with two staff members charged with outreach and education, and providing referrals for support services at the main Center and related agencies. Ideally sublet or rent nearby to existing community organizations doing similar work, for example on AIDS efforts.

**4) Provide resources to existing groups working on LGBTQ African American and Latino issues to allow them to hire staff to work on outreach efforts related to marriage equality for the next 6-12 months.** They already have connections, why not give them the power to strengthen their work. For the long term, we need to better support these groups in their community building.

**5) Hire staff and lobbyists to work specifically in districts where they have experience.** Ask the reps for a list of recommended, qualified people to do outreach in their districts—who has the influence? Do not bring in people who are not from the area to lobby in districts they have no history with.

**6) When the anti-gays have a protest, create an action-alert response team of coalition members and others who will send a notice out asking for a response each and every time.** The media is watching, YouTube is watching, and the politicians are watching.

**7) By building this response team now, we will have people ready to do this in the fall.** Right now, we should be planning "March on Springfield for Marriage Equality" for the first day of the veto session. People could plan ahead for the day off of work. Our leaders knew the last day of the spring session was May 31. Yet no huge turnout was organized, so that when one was needed, an alert went out the day before and just 100 or so people showed up in Springfield. We know there will likely be a veto session. Let's create a plan of action to alert everyone to show up the first day of that session this fall (unless of course the bill passes sooner). This kind of action alert could be used to assist other groups doing similar work, for example on immigration reform that is LGBTQ inclusive.

**8) Ask the Victory Fund, the national LGBTQ organization that trains and raises funds for political candidates, to come in for a series of new training sessions focused just on LGBTQ of color in the Chicago area.** Focus on building new leadership and supporting those who later run for office. We have many openly LGBTQ elected officials now in Illinois, but outside of the judicial ranks, none are people of color.

**9) And finally, we have to work together and be transparent in what we do.** We can't be afraid of the opposition knowing what we are doing. And we can't be afraid of one another. Yes, some people are afraid of a protest at House Speaker Madigan's office. They don't have to show up. But they should not be ostriches acting as if these activities are not happening, and they should not deny that these protests are being demanded by legitimate voices in the LGBTQ community. Our politicians especially should not be afraid to hear opposing views at public forums or at the Pride Parade.

This movement has to figure out a way to channel the anger as much as it channels the money and the votes.

I could put forth larger goals than even the above suggest. Things such as documenting our community now through permanent ways (my [chicagogayhistory.org](http://chicagogayhistory.org) free website, and Victor Salvo's The Legacy Project)—plus documenting our events, and our culture, to make sure it is all passed down to youth today and in 50 years.

We often struggle to define ourselves because of so little understanding of our heroes and our history. That makes our bonds together very tenuous and easily severed when we disagree. It makes it easy for our enemies to define us as all one way—when we know we are not monolithic. We make ourselves easy targets if we do not show our true diverse selves. Sometimes that gets a little messy.

And all of this boils down to people and money. We need it all to make it work.

History shows that progress often comes with backlash and setbacks. But we can learn some lessons here, and build a much stronger community, if we care to.

Tracy Baim is publisher and executive editor of Windy City Times. She can be reached at [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com).



Dr. Eugene M. Thomas (left) and his longtime partner, Rev. Gordon R. McCoy. Photo from Thomas

# Chicago couple together for 42 years, anchored around MCC

BY ROSS FORMAN

They wanted to wait to get married when it would be valid throughout the U.S., but they feared how long that still might be. So, this past February, Dr. Eugene M. Thomas and his longtime partner, Rev. Gordon R. McCoy, had a civil union.

Ironically, though, the whole idea was rather casual and kind of spontaneous.

"We had been talking about marriage generally and Gordon said, 'Well, would you like to get married, then?'" said Thomas, who replied, "Yes." "Gordon then said, 'I think I just proposed.'

"Gordon is a rather formal person and seemed to feel that his proposal wasn't very romantic. I was more impressed that he really meant what he had said. We were sitting at our dining room table and were just talking. We continued to talk and discussed [the subject.]"

Their civil union was held at aChurch4me Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Rogers

Park.

Naturally, they want to be married in Illinois.

"I only ever envisioned same-sex marriage in Illinois after President Obama came out for same-sex marriage in the state where he has been senator," Thomas said.

Thomas is on the MCC church board of servants and a retired professor at Loyola University Chicago. He enjoys watching professional tennis, reading mystery fiction, and traveling, often by train.

McCoy was a pastor and network lead in MCC, though now retired. He enjoys reading gay fiction and history; and years ago in college, he learned how to play the bagpipes and was in a bagpipe band for three years.

The two were introduced by a mutual friend while waiting for a Metra Electric train, then called the I.C., McCoy said, en route to a civil rights rally downtown.

They have since been together for 42 years.

"I would say we are just very comfortable and compatible with each other," McCoy said.

McCoy has been officiating Holy Unions through MCC since 1981.

"Though we celebrated many anniversaries with friends, we never actually had our own official Holy Union, let alone a civil union or fully legal marriage. We know who we are, and we know our relationship is valid in the eyes of God, so what else matters?" McCoy said. "But then this year we did have our civil union, and now we appreciate the importance of legal validation too."

McCoy was originally trained for the professional ministry in the Presbyterian Church back in the 1960s, and served three churches in that communion, but then left. "I stayed away from

all churches for 10 years, then, in the 1970s walked into a Metropolitan Community Church," he said. "I converted to MCC and began serving as a pastor in 1985. More recently I have mainly served as the network leader for MCC's North Central US Network which covers 12 churches in six states. I just retired, effective this [spring]."

Thomas has been involved with MCC since the 1970s; he was involved with the Church of God In Christ during his youth and early adult life. He said MCC "seemed to be a natural choice since both Gordon and I were looking for a 'church home,'" he said.

"I have served on several church boards and currently serve on the board of aChurch4me, my current church home. Serving for several years on the Board of Ordained Ministers, which constituted the final committee for persons seeking ordination in MCC was a great experience. Currently I serve on the Board of Servants, The Stewardship Team and the Community Care Team at my church."

MCC is celebrating 40-plus years of ministry to the LGBT community and beyond. Its 25th General Conference is July 1-5 in Chicago, which will attract worldwide attendees to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love, according to the MCC website.

At the conference, there are educational opportunities and more, workshops and plenary sessions. There also are Bible studies and worship sessions.

The theme for the conference is "Believe," which comes from John 17:23: Then the world might believe, that you, in fact, sent me.

"The 25th MCC Conference promises to be an historic occasion for several reasons," Thomas said. "Thousands are reportedly planning to come, and this will be a great time to see and hear our current leader, Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, and our founder, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, both of whom are greatly respected. The conference will allow many to attend numerous religious services, workshops and other religious involvements."

"The most significant role for myself at the 25th MCC Conference will be to lead a 'Pastors Spouse' session with a respected lady co-lead, Ms. Mary Woodruff. This workshop will seek to give pastoral spouses a chance to meet and greet one another and briefly talk about their lives with their respective MCC pastor spouse."

This is the first time MCC's international General Conference has ever been held in Chicago. "People are coming from over a dozen countries and we have sold out the Millennium Fairmont with over 1,000 persons registered, not to mention spouses and friends who are coming for the enjoyment of the city and for the evening worship services which are open to all without registration," McCoy said. "I'm especially looking forward to meeting the delegates from Latin America where MCC has been growing like wildfire."

"I've been serving on MCC's Conference Core Team mainly as the local guy who presumably knows something about Chicago and has utilized my role as network lead to work with the 20 or so other leads in ensuring people know about travel tips and other hospitality issues. As the conference gets under way, I will be at the hospitality table."

Thomas naturally points to MCC as one of the reasons for their long life together.

"I think our involvement with MCC has been of great help," he said. "We both came from families that were religious and our parents were role models, showing and demonstrating respect

and devotion to one another. We both have had leadership roles for several years in church and our respective professions and there has been an unwritten expectation I feel from ourselves and others that we have been somewhat of a role model, especially as concerns mixed race couples. I would say we are just very comfortable and compatible with each other in that we have a love and respect for education, the arts, music and travel."

So what's ahead for the two?

Retirement, of course, anchored by their favorite pastime: traveling, including in Europe. Plus, both want to attend the Wimbledon Championships.

"Professionally, I, and perhaps both of us, will continue our several board involvements which include our train board associated with Amtrak, and several professional boards which for myself include Social Welfare and Agency board," Thomas said.

McCoy added, "I'll be continuing my involvement with MCC on a volunteer basis and am looking forward to the Grant Park Music Festival. Eugene bought us tickets for my birthday and I can't wait to go. Then we will be doing some traveling by train to see some friends in Toronto."

For more about the conference, see <http://believe.mccchurch.org>.

## PPIL offering free HIV testing

Planned Parenthood of Illinois is offering free rapid HIV testing at its Austin (5927 W. Chicago Ave.), Englewood (6059 S. Ashland Ave.) and Roseland (11250 S. Halsted St.) locations for a limited time.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, there are more than 22,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago. Despite declines in HIV-related mortality, HIV continues to be in the top ten leading causes of death, ranking fourth among people between the ages of 34-55 who died in Chicago.

To make an appointment, call 800-230-PLAN or visit [www.ppil.org](http://www.ppil.org).

## Chicago among gay-friendliest cities in U.S.

Consumer-advocacy website NerdWallet used a data-driven approach to find the country's most gay-friendly cities—and Chicago ranked among the top 20.

To compile the list, analysts considered the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, the percentage of households that are same-sex, the number of gay-related hate crimes and an overall gay-friendliness score.

Chicago came in 12th with a score of 67. The top three cities are Palm Springs, Calif.; San Francisco; and Seattle.

## Hillary Clinton 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](http://www.ChicagoHouse.org).

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## GLSEN honors Illinois guidance counselor

On National Teacher Appreciation Day, GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) announced the selection of Matthew Beck—a guidance counselor at Erie Elementary School in Erie, Ill.—as the 2013 Educator of the Year, according to a press release.

The Educator of the Year award recognizes an “education professional who has enriched his or her community by ensuring that all students, particularly LGBT students, are safe from bullying and harassment.”

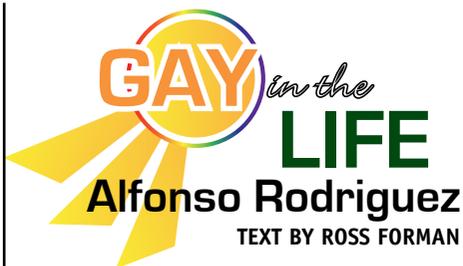
In the past year, Beck helped his school continue its participation in GLSEN’s No Name-Calling Week. He also secured developmentally appropriate family diversity resources for the school’s counseling office.

## Pride Shabbat June 28

Temple Sholom’s LGBT affiliate group, Am Kes-het (Hebrew for “People of the Rainbow”), will host a Pride Shabbat service Friday, June 28, at the temple, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr. A wine-and-cheese reception will start at 5:45 p.m., with the service beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Among the leaders slated to attend are 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman, Howard Brown Health Center CEO Karma Israelson, state Rep. Greg Harris, John Berry from the Human Rights Campaign, ACLU Legislative Director Mary Dixon, Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett, and Bernard Cherkasov (CEO of Equality Illinois and a Temple Sholom member).

See [www.sholomchicago.org](http://www.sholomchicago.org).



**Age**  
42

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Neighborhood**  
Uptown

**Hobbies**  
Movies, dining out, and window-shopping

**Roots**  
Was born in Chicago. His mom is from Colombia. His dad is from Puerto Rico. They met at Amundsen High School and married at St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Chicago.

**Favorite movies**  
Gia; Love, Actually; and The Holiday

**Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to have dinner with**  
Meryl Streep, Michel Legrand, Ellen DeGeneres and Ernest Hemingway

**Little-known fact**  
“I’m a little bit of a freak,” he said, laughing. “I’m pretty much an open book. My friends and family know me well; I hide nothing and I’m very seldom censored; it’s a flaw that I’m working on.”

Alfonso Rodriguez is a survivor.

“I overcame trust and intimacy issues as a result of being molested from the age of 6 to the age of 8,” he said.

Rodriguez also survived an emotionally-abusive relationship, he said.

“I survived falling into the dark world of drugs and alcohol. I survived being homeless as a result of that part of my life. I survived thinking that I was going to die when I was diagnosed with HIV. I survived,” Rodriguez said. “I firmly believe there was always something bigger than me with plans for my life; I just needed to take those few steps to make it happen and open my mind and heart to positive changes in my life.

“Today, I live a happy life as a full-time student.”

Rodriguez attends Truman College, where he is in the LGBTQIA & Friends Club. He also is the communications officer for the Student Government Association, and said he likely will run for president of the LGBTQIA & Friends Club in August for the fall semester.

“I’m convinced I’ve always been aware of my sexual preference,” Rodriguez said. “My mom shared with me that, when I was in kindergarten, I refused to wear a blue knit sweater. She’d put it on me and I’d run back to my room to take it off when she wasn’t looking. One day she confronted me and demanded to know why I didn’t want to wear the blue knit sweater. I said, ‘Mommy, if I wear the blue sweater, then Johnny can’t see me.’

“Johnny was a little boy in my classroom [who] had blue eyes. I figured that if he had blue eyes and if I wore anything blue, then he wouldn’t be able to see me, that I would become invisible to him. Interesting how the mind of a 6-year-old works.

“Johnny and I were caught in the coatroom once after that, [though] I really can’t remember what we were doing back there.”

Rodriguez said gay student life at Truman College is, thus far, “a pleasant experience.”

“When I got to Truman, there was a not-so-active [gay] club in place, but this past semester there have been two superstar role-models in the club [who] have made a difference, not only on a school level but in the local community, too. I’m very proud to have worked alongside Dr. Rudra Dundzilla, who is our advisor/sponsor; Marie Martin, president of the club; and Aaron Ramirez, vice-president.

“Marie and Aaron took the club to a different level that will serve as a platform for other students to get involved in what’s going on in school and in our community.

“I’d like to keep the LGBTQIA & Friends Club involved in community events and perhaps take it to a service level where we volunteer at a local community organization as a group for worthy causes, such as working with displaced youth, feeding the homeless and wherever we may be of service. It’s not about being in a club that matters, it’s how we move as a whole in the community and what difference we make. If we’re not making a difference in someone’s life, or if we’re not having an impact in the community we live in, then what are we doing? I know we have some pretty enthusiastic students at Truman College, and they [too] feel the same passion for getting out there and lending a helping hand.”



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## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

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Tracy Baim

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Andrew Davis  
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**SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS:** Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Chris Chevront  
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**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**SENIOR WRITERS** Bob Roeher, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest  
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)  
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WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,  
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640  
U.S.A.  
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 Community Marketing, Inc.



**ROSS  
FORMAN**

## Catching up to history

I often wonder what the "older generation" truly think about the Gay Pride parades that happen in countless cities around the world, especially in Pride Month: June.

Take, for instance, Art Johnston, 69, the owner of Sidetrack, the biggest gay bar in Chicago, an award-winning gay bar on the national scene, and a bar that LGBT around the world have heard about.

There was a time when gays had to sneak into Sidetrack, wearing a baseball hat and sunglasses, and raids on gay bars were commonplace. Johnston's bar now has a new, snazzy look to the main bar—the same part of the bar that, well, was the bar back in the day. Of course Sidetrack has not always been the metropolis on Halsted Street it is now, capable of accommodating more than 1,200 patrons at any one time.

Then there's Jon Phillips, 90, who had a high-profile, celebrity-filled life while working in the City of Chicago. I can't imagine what Jon had to go through, and the stories he truly could tell, about gay life half-a-century ago.

The Stonewall Riots happened in ... wait, I need to Google that, just to be certain of the year because, well, I'll admit, I'm not 100 percent sure. In fact, even if \$1 million was on the line, I couldn't tell you exactly what happened at Stonewall.

I'm sure I'm not the only one lacking historical knowledge from the LGBT front.

That said, Stonewall was ... nah, I'm not going to explain. How many who truly don't know too much about Stonewall will spend five minutes—

after reading this story—researching anything about Stonewall and its importance to the LGBT community?

After Stonewall there was, sadly, the HIV/AIDS era. I'll never forget when Johnston once told me that he's been to at least 200 HIV/AIDS-related funerals—and if I showed him one square-foot of carpet from a local funeral home, he likely could name the funeral home. So sad; that's about all I can say because I truly cannot relate; I'm too young. But I certainly know and have heard about the wide-reaching impact HIV/AIDS has had—in Chicago, let alone around the world.

A few years back, in honor of the 30th anniversary of the first diagnosis of HIV, the *Windy City Times* ran a continuing series for 13 months, *AIDS @ 30*, with multiple HIV/AIDS-related stories every issue. It was an honor, not just an education for me, to write so many stories within that series. I can only hope others got as much out of that series as I did.

As mentioned, I'm too young to truly understand the impact of the HIV/AIDS era. I'm not even sure I know anyone personally who has died from the disease. About seven or eight years ago, I was in Honolulu on a regular basis, almost every month. I remember seeing a photo of a bartender hanging at the famous bar he worked at, so I asked if he moved off the islands and they were honoring him. Instead, I was shocked that this muscled, super-nice bartender died from HIV/AIDS. I didn't even know he had the disease.

I still think about him every time I do something to help the HIV/AIDS community.

My biggest support of the AIDS community was through the Team To End AIDS (T2), the endurance-training program of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). I joined T2 in 2007 to train for my first marathon. I joined because many Chicagoans told me it was an amazing program, then known as the National AIDS Marathon Training Program. I did not join T2 for the cause—supporting AFC—per se. I grew to become a staunch supporter for T2 and AFC, particularly because of people such as Mark Ishaug, David Munar and T2 coach Katie Schmid.

In five years, I was able to raise about \$30,000 for AFC and couldn't be prouder.

I have so many friends thanks to T2, not to mention countless memories that I never will forget.

Every spring the fundraising for T2 starts in full force. I truly hope those doing the fundraising for T2 and, ultimately, AFC understand why they are raising tens of thousands of dollars annually.

There also are hundreds set to participate in mid-July in the 10th annual Ride For AIDS Chicago, a 200-mile bicycle ride produced by the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), another dedicated organization serving the HIV/AIDS community.

Next up on my short walk through history is just that, a walk through the streets of Tel Aviv, as the hip, modern Israeli city held its 15th annual Gay Pride Parade on June 7. Tel Aviv's Pride starts with a gathering in a grassy park outside the local gay community center. Thousands attended and what really caught my eye, and also the attention of other worldwide journalists covering this event, was the amount of youngsters in the crowd—likely high school and/or college-aged supporters of the rainbow, gay and straight. In addition to the park gathering, there was the parade, and then ultimately a beach party with a DJ—and the same thing was seen throughout the day in Tel Aviv: it was as if the Pride Parade was the place to be. Locals of all ages attended, and Tel Aviv Pride certainly has become a must-attend for gays from, literally, around the world.

Chicago will be under the rainbow spotlight on Sunday, June 30, and the way Pride has evolved in Chicago in recent years, no one should be surprised if city officials estimate 1 million people attend.

I'm sure Sidetrack's Johnston will be among the masses, maybe even 90-year-old Phillips ... and I truly wonder what they think about the progress made, and what's still to come.

**Ross Forman is a freelance writer for *Windy City Times*.**

## LETTERS

## Playing House

Dear Editor,

Kate Sosin's interview with state Rep. Greg Harris ended with a classic dodge.

When the reporter questioned Harris on powerful House Speaker Mike Madigan's failure to muscle the marriage bill to passage, he weakly responded that "everyone could have done more." Then, without even mentioning the mighty speaker's name, Harris turned on a dime and blamed the Republicans for the marriage debacle—in spite of the fact that the Democrats have a nearly two-to-one supermajority in the House!

And never mind that Madigan has ruled the Illinois House for decades and had just whipped his Democratic caucus into line by ramming through a controversial pension "reform" bill. Yes, Madigan is a guy who tries to put the screws to teachers and state workers yet refuses to raise a finger on behalf of a marriage bill that, according to recent polls, has majority support in Illinois.

What gives?

Clearly, after suffering an embarrassing defeat of his pension bill in the Senate, Madigan wished to expend zero political capital on anything else and likely ordered Harris to table the marriage bill. And Harris, being a caucus insider and party loyalist, complied. He didn't see his role as key

spokesman for an embattled Illinois minority to be one of standing on principle and calling out the Speaker for his abject failure and betrayal. But LGBTQ people and our allies are under no such obligation to the Democratic House caucus.

Unlike the cowardly Harris, we don't need to bow and scrape and shuffle our feet while protecting Mike Madigan. Instead, we need to take our anger to the streets and demand legal equality.

Bob Schwartz  
Chicago

## House matters

Dear Editor,

Rep. Greg Harris clearly thought he had obtained enough commitments to pass gay marriage in the Illinois House in the legislative session that ended on May 31. He was wrong.

Now Harris and his allies want activists to believe Harris has obtained enough commitments to pass gay marriage in the veto session, which may require a three-fifths vote instead of a simple majority.

Based on the poor performance of the Illinois General Assembly on pensions and other matters, it's hard to be confident the legislature will do the right thing—or even to be confident the legislature will do anything ... except cash their

*per diem* checks while not accomplishing much. We can be pretty sure of that.

If Harris wants to set me more at ease, he can commit to resigning from the Illinois House of Representatives and not running for election again if the House fails to pass gay marriage in the veto session.

Otherwise, I believe activists should treat every member of the House who isn't a public "yes" as being a hostile. These representatives should be challenged in the Democratic primary.

It's not like the Illinois House is doing such a great job on other matters that citizens should consider any of them irreplaceable.

Carl Nyberg  
Chicago

Send letters and viewpoints to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com). Items may be edited for length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



## TALKIN' 'BOUT A 'REVOLUTION'

Windy City Times reviews the movie *The Secret Disco Revolution*. See page 32.

## DISH

**Mex-citement.**  
Page 38

*Photo of polenta at Takito Kitchen  
by Andrew Davis*



## THEATER

**Yay, 'Pride.'**  
Page 22

*Photo from The Pride  
by Michael Brosilow*



## SPORTS

**Force of arms.**  
Page 42

*Photo of Chicago Force  
from the team*



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Hot London tickets

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

LONDON—Unquestionably two hot theater tickets in London right now are *The Tempest* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the National Theatre's West End transfer of *The Curious Incident... of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

*The Tempest* is a draw in part to its share of British TV celebrities in the cast, while *The Curious Incident...* is riding high on recently winning seven 2013 Olivier Awards including Best Play. (*The Curious Incident...* matches the once record-setting seven Olivier Awards won which the musical *Matilda* won last year.)

I was part of two very appreciative audiences for both productions on a recent trip to the United Kingdom, and it's a safe guess that it's only a matter of time before Chicago audiences will be able to experience these critically acclaimed shows for themselves.

In the case of *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's Globe has been releasing several of its past productions in cinema screenings and later on DVD (repertory from last season including *Henry V* and *Twelfth Night* is slated for special movie theater release this summer via the Shakespeare's Globe On Screen initiative).

And as for *The Curious Incident...*, Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel has already been seen locally via the National Theatre's NT Live worldwide movie theater screenings. Just which Chicago theater will get the rights for a home-grown production in two- to three-years time is one question that local audiences should be eagerly awaiting. The Goodman or Steppenwolf undoubtedly will get first dibs, though smaller companies like Steep Theatre and Griffin Theatre both have proven track records in producing Chicago premieres of

Stephens' original plays like *Harper Regan* and *Port*.

## 'The isle is full of noises'

Academy Award-winning director Danny Boyle highlighted Shakespeare's *The Tempest* with a famous quote ("Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises...") in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics.

You could hear the Brits in the Globe audience, still riding high on the glow of 2012, audibly mumbling in recognition when this quotation arose during the show. But they were also buzzing about the celebrity talent attached to director Jeremy Herrin's traditional, but still very engrossing production.

Perhaps the biggest TV name was Colin Morgan, the title star of the BBC-TV series *Merlin*, appearing as the magical sprite Ariel. It was very amusing for me at intermission to overhear one teenage groundling (who paid five pounds to stand in "The Yard" through the performance) recounting and squealing her amazed shock and delight at realizing that Morgan was in the production.

More TV connections came from Olivier Award-winning actor Roger Allam (*Game of Thrones*, *The Thick of It*) as the initially revengeful overthrown Duke Prospero and the *Miranda* of Jessie Buckley, a contestant in the Oliver! reality TV casting series *I'd Do Anything*.

Thankfully these starry standouts blended well together with their cast mates to bring what is believed to be Shakespeare's last fully authored play to life. The drunken physical comedy of James Gurnon's *Caliban* (deploying a noticeable Caribbean-styled accent), Sam Cox's self-important butler Stephano and Trevor Fox's scraggly



**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.** Photo by Brinkhoff/Mögenburg

jester Trinculo was a constant delight, as was the gawky Joshua James as the Price Ferdinand who can't believe his besotted luck at meeting someone so dreamy as Buckley's *Miranda*.

The stars attached to this *Tempest* will undoubtedly assure that the production will be filmed for posterity and subsequent release in cinemas and DVD. But to experience Shakespeare live in what is this generation's best guess of what the historical Elizabethan Globe Theatre was actually like is a necessity for any theater lover. This season's *The Tempest* is definitely satisfying in that sense.

## Curiouser and Curiouser

*The Curious Incident...* could be seen as a bit of old news. The show opened last August in the National Theatre's Cottesloe Theatre space (now under renovation and soon to be renamed the Dorfman Theatre), before transferring to the West End at the Apollo Theatre this past March. Yet as the show approaches its one-year an-

niversary, *The Curious Incident...* remains fresh and full of theatricality. Stephens' stage adaptation of Haddon's novel is not only smartly faithful, but it provides a sturdy framework for an amazing team of theater artists led by director Marianne Elliott (who won an Olivier Award for her efforts) to vividly illustrate it.

*The Curious Incident...* tells of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy who has Asperger's syndrome, and his efforts to find out who killed a neighborhood dog with a pitchfork. But as Christopher delves deeper to find the culprit, he uncovers some uncomfortable truths about his own family along his fraught journey.

Elliott and her skilled designers draw upon Christopher's professed love of mathematics and space exploration to employ lots of dazzling multimedia wizardry in the physical production—to not only show Christopher's obsessed focus, but his frightening confusion as he sets out on a trip to London.

Giving the show its heart is a dedicated ensemble of actors (many playing multiple roles) who revolve around Christopher, who is touchingly played with plenty of alternately annoying and endearing tics by Johnny Gibbon at the performance I attended (Gibbon plays Christopher at select performances, alternating with Olivier Award-winner Luke Treadaway).

The fact that *The Curious Incident...* brims with theatricality from start to finish (namely its mathematical appendix that follows the curtain call), should come as no surprise, since Elliott was a co-director of another recent National Theatre hit, *War Horse*. With *The Curious Incident...*, The National Theatre has the potential for another theatrical global phenomenon, though I'm keen to see how Chicago theater artists will reinterpret this brilliant script for our hometown crowds.

For more information on *The Tempest* at Shakespeare's Globe, visit [www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com).

For more information on *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, visit [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk).



# Once-Daily Discover the PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> EXPERIENCE

## ABOUT PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>

PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> (darunavir) is a prescription medicine. It is one treatment option in the class of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medicines known as protease inhibitors.

PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> is always taken with and at the same time as ritonavir (Norvir<sup>®</sup>), in combination with other HIV medicines for the treatment of HIV infection in adults. PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> should also be taken with food.

- The use of other medicines active against HIV in combination with PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>/ritonavir (Norvir<sup>®</sup>) may increase your ability to fight HIV. Your healthcare professional will work with you to find the right combination of HIV medicines
- It is important that you remain under the care of your healthcare professional during treatment with PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>

**PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>.**

**Please read Important Safety Information below, and talk to your healthcare professional to learn if PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> is right for you.**

Once-Daily PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> (darunavir) isn't just an HIV treatment, it's an HIV treatment experience as unique as you. That's why you should ask your healthcare professional if the PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> Experience is right for you.

Once-Daily PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> taken with ritonavir and in combination with other HIV medications can help lower your viral load and keep your HIV under control over the long term.

In a clinical study\* of almost 4 years (192 weeks), 7 out of 10 adults who had never taken HIV medications before maintained undetectable† viral loads with PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> plus ritonavir and Truvada<sup>®</sup>.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>?**

- **PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects. See "Who should not take PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>?"**
- **PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>, together with Norvir<sup>®</sup> (ritonavir), have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems
- Tell your healthcare professional if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems: dark (tea-colored) urine, yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, pale-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs, or loss of appetite

(continued)

*Please read the Important Safety Information and Patient Information on adjacent pages.*

**Ask your healthcare professional about the PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> Experience. And be sure to visit [DiscoverPREZISTA.com](http://DiscoverPREZISTA.com) for tools and helpful information to find out if the PREZISTA<sup>®</sup> Experience might be right for you.**

\*A randomized, open-label, Phase 3 trial comparing PREZISTA<sup>®</sup>/ritonavir 800/100 mg once daily (n=343) vs Kaletra<sup>®</sup>/ritonavir 800/200 mg/day (n=346).

†Undetectable was defined as a viral load of less than 50 copies per mL. Registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

- **PREZISTA® may cause a severe or life-threatening skin reaction or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare professional immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA® and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare professional immediately if you develop any skin changes with these symptoms: fever, tiredness, muscle or joint pain, blisters or skin lesions, mouth sores or ulcers, red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye." Rash occurred more often in patients taking PREZISTA® and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild

### Who should not take PREZISTA®?

- **Do not take PREZISTA® if you are taking the following medicines:** alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®), methylergonovine, cisapride (Propulsid®), pimozide (Orap®), oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®), the herbal supplement St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®), simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®), sildenafil (Revatio®) when used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, indinavir (Crixivan®), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®), saquinavir (Invirase®), boceprevir (Victrelis™), or telaprevir (Incivek™)
- Before taking PREZISTA®, tell your healthcare professional if you are taking sildenafil (Viagra®, Revatio®), vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), tadalafil (Cialis®, Adcirca®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (Crestor®), pravastatin (Pravachol®), or colchicine (Colcrys®, Col-Probenecid®). Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA® might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control, such as condoms

**This is not a complete list of medicines. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking or plan to take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.**

### What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA®?

- Before taking PREZISTA®, tell your healthcare professional if you have any medical conditions, including liver problems (including hepatitis B or C), allergy to sulfa medicines, diabetes, or hemophilia

- Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
  - The effects of PREZISTA® on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your healthcare professional will need to decide if taking PREZISTA® is right for you
  - **Do not breastfeed.** It is not known if PREZISTA® can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to your baby in the breast milk

### What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA®?

- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and increased bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZISTA®
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking HIV medicines, including PREZISTA®. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time
- Changes in your immune system can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden
- The most common side effects related to taking PREZISTA® include diarrhea, nausea, rash, headache, stomach pain, and vomiting. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you experience these or other side effects, talk to your healthcare professional. Do not stop taking PREZISTA® or any other medicines without first talking to your healthcare professional

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

Please refer to the ritonavir (Norvir®) Product Information (PI and PPI) for additional information on precautionary measures.

**Please read accompanying Patient Information for PREZISTA® and discuss any questions you have with your doctor.**

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(darunavir) tablets



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**IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION**


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**PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)**  
(darunavir)  
Oral Suspension

**PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)**  
(darunavir)  
Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking PREZISTA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment.

Also read the Patient Information leaflet for NORVIR® (ritonavir).

**What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?**

- **PREZISTA can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects.** It is important to know the medicines that should not be taken with PREZISTA. See the section **"Who should not take PREZISTA?"**
- **PREZISTA may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA in combination with NORVIR® (ritonavir) have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of the below signs and symptoms of liver problems.
  - Dark (tea colored) urine
  - yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
  - pale colored stools (bowel movements)
  - nausea
  - vomiting
  - pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
  - loss of appetite

**PREZISTA may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop any skin changes with symptoms below:

- fever
- tiredness
- muscle or joint pain
- blisters or skin lesions
- mouth sores or ulcers
- red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye" (conjunctivitis)

Rash occurred more often in people taking PREZISTA and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

See **"What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?"** for more information about side effects.

**What is PREZISTA?**

PREZISTA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine used with ritonavir and other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. PREZISTA is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

When used with other HIV medicines, PREZISTA may help to reduce the amount of HIV in your blood (called "viral load"). PREZISTA may also help to increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cell which help fight off other infections. Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4 (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZISTA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**

- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

**Who should not take PREZISTA?**

**Do not take PREZISTA** with any of the following medicines:

- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)
- dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®) methylergonovine
- cisapride
- pimozone (Orap®)
- oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herbal supplement St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Serious problems can happen if you take any of these medicines with PREZISTA.

**What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA?**

**PREZISTA may not be right for you. Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
  - are allergic to sulfa medicines
  - have high blood sugar (diabetes)
  - have hemophilia
  - are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if PREZISTA will harm your unborn baby.
- Pregnancy Registry:** You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you. If you take PREZISTA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of the registry is follow the health of you and your baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed.** We do not know if PREZISTA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Using PREZISTA and certain other medicines may affect each other causing serious side effects. PREZISTA may affect the way other medicines work and other medicines may affect how PREZISTA works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other medicine to treat HIV
- estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control such as a condom.
- medicine for your heart such as bepridil, lidocaine (Xylocaine Viscous®), quinidine (Nuedexta®), amiodarone (Pacerone®, Cardarone®), digoxin (Lanoxin®), flecainide (Tambocor®), propafenone (Rythmol®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- medicine for seizures such as carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Epitol®), phenobarbital, phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- medicine for depression such as trazadone and desipramine (Norpramin®)
- clarithromycin (Prevpac®, Biaxin®)
- medicine for fungal infections such as ketoconazole (Nizoral®), itraconazole (Sporanox®, Onmel®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- colchicine (Colcrys®, Col-Probenecid®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- medicine used to treat blood pressure, a heart attack, heart failure, or to lower pressure in the eye such as metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol-XL®), timolol (Cosopt®, Betimol®, Timoptic®, Isatolol®, Combigan®)
- midazolam administered by injection
- medicine for heart disease such as felodipine (Plendil®), nifedipine (Procardia®, Adalat CC®, Afeditab CR®), nifedipine (Cardene®)
- steroids such as dexamethasone, fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Veramyst®, Flovent®, Flonase®)
- bosentan (Tracleer®)
- medicine to treat chronic hepatitis C such as boceprevir (Victrelis™), telaprevir (Incivek™)

## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

- medicine for cholesterol such as pravastatin (Pravachol<sup>®</sup>), atorvastatin (Lipitor<sup>®</sup>), rosuvastatin (Crestor<sup>®</sup>)
- medicine to prevent organ transplant failure such as cyclosporine (Gengraf<sup>®</sup>, Sandimmune<sup>®</sup>, Neoral<sup>®</sup>), tacrolimus (Prograf<sup>®</sup>), sirolimus (Rapamune<sup>®</sup>)
- salmeterol (Advair<sup>®</sup>, Serevent<sup>®</sup>)
- medicine for narcotic withdrawal such as methadone (Methadose<sup>®</sup>, Dolophine Hydrochloride), buprenorphine (Butrans<sup>®</sup>, Buprenex<sup>®</sup>, Subutex<sup>®</sup>), buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone<sup>®</sup>)
- medicine to treat schizophrenia such as risperidone (Risperdal<sup>®</sup>), thioridazine
- medicine to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary hypertension such as sildenafil (Viagra<sup>®</sup>, Revatio<sup>®</sup>), vardenafil (Levitra<sup>®</sup>, Staxyn<sup>®</sup>), tadalafil (Cialis<sup>®</sup>, Adcirca<sup>®</sup>)
- medicine to treat anxiety, depression or panic disorder such as sertraline (Zoloft<sup>®</sup>), paroxetine (Paxil<sup>®</sup>, Pexeva<sup>®</sup>)
- medicine to treat malaria such as artemether/lumefantrine (Coartem<sup>®</sup>)

This is **not** a complete list of medicines that you should tell your healthcare provider that you are taking. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA without first talking with your healthcare provider.

### How should I take PREZISTA?

- Take PREZISTA every day exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- You must take ritonavir (NORVIR<sup>®</sup>) at the same time as PREZISTA.
- Do not change your dose of PREZISTA or stop treatment without talking to your healthcare provider first.
- Take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR<sup>®</sup>) with food.
- Swallow PREZISTA tablets whole with a drink. If you have difficulty swallowing PREZISTA tablets, PREZISTA oral suspension is also available. Your health care provider will help decide whether PREZISTA tablets or oral suspension is right for you.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be given with the supplied oral dosing syringe. Shake the suspension well before each use. See the Instructions for Use that come with PREZISTA oral suspension for information about the right way to prepare and take a dose.
- If your prescribed dose of PREZISTA oral suspension is more than 6 mL, you will need to divide the dose. Follow the instructions given to you by your healthcare provider or pharmacist about how to divide the dose. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you take too much PREZISTA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

### What should I do if I miss a dose?

#### People who take PREZISTA one time a day:

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

#### People who take PREZISTA two times a day

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 6 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 6 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

If a dose of PREZISTA is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZISTA at any one time.

### What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?

PREZISTA can cause side effects including:

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?"**
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including PREZISTA can get high blood sugar, develop diabetes, or your diabetes can get worse. Tell your healthcare provider if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking PREZISTA.
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes can happen in people who take anti-retroviral therapy. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including PREZISTA.

The most common side effects of PREZISTA include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- headache
- abdominal pain
- vomiting

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PREZISTA. For more information, ask your health care provider.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### How should I store PREZISTA?

- Store PREZISTA oral suspension and tablets at room temperature [77°F (25°C)].
- Do not refrigerate or freeze PREZISTA oral suspension.
- Keep PREZISTA away from high heat.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be stored in the original container.

### Keep PREZISTA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

### General information about PREZISTA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use PREZISTA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give PREZISTA to other people even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about PREZISTA. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about PREZISTA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-526-7736.

### What are the ingredients in PREZISTA?

Active ingredient: darunavir

Inactive ingredients:

**PREZISTA Oral Suspension:** hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylparaben sodium, citric acid monohydrate, sucralose, masking flavor, strawberry cream flavor, hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment), purified water.

**PREZISTA 75 mg and 150 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY<sup>®</sup> White (polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

**PREZISTA 400 mg and 600 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY<sup>®</sup> Orange (FD&C Yellow No. 6, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

**PREZISTA 800 mg Tablets:** colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, hypromellose. The film coating contains: OPADRY<sup>®</sup> Dark Red (iron oxide red, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufactured by:

PREZISTA Oral Suspension  
Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V.  
Beerse, Belgium

PREZISTA Tablets  
Janssen Ortho LLC,  
Gurabo, PR 00778

Manufactured for:

Janssen Therapeutics, Division of Janssen Products, LP, Titusville NJ 08560

Revised: April 2013

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The Pride. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Pride

**Playwright:** Alexi Kaye Campbell  
**At:** About Face at Victory Gardens, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.  
**Tickets:** 1-773-871-3000;  
**www.aboutfacetheatre.com;** \$30  
**Runs through:** July 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

For her finale as About Face artistic director, Bonnie Metzgar offers a powerful and absorbing production that deepens and darkens as it progresses. With only four performers, it appears to present a relatively simple structure and familiar situations, but it quickly accumulates psychological mass of “Chekovian” depths, as one character mockingly observes. The play’s sorrowful, chilling and poetic closing words are as unexpected as they are truthful: “You have been the prisoner of fear. You have only known how to hold on to things, and the things you have held have died in your hands.”

Set in London, *The Pride* is split between 1958, when homosexuality still was illegal in the UK (and here), and 2008. England had a long history of punishing queers who flaunted it (Oscar Wilde, Alan Turing) while rewarding discreet poofers (Sir Arthur Sullivan, Sir John Gielgud). The 1958 storyline introduces instinctive fag hag Sylvia, married to latent homosexual Philip. When Sylvia introduces Philip to discreetly gay writer Oliver, a fling ensues. Unable to cope with the emotional and physical ramifications, Philip rejects Oliver through physical brutality and then subjects himself to aversion therapy. The contemporary storyline has Sylvia as best gal pal when Philip leaves his lover, Oliver, because of Oliver’s promiscuity. Providing a lighter counterweight to the gravity of the primary storyline, the 2008 scenario explores sex addiction vs. emotional love, and comments on gay chic.

Metzgar’s first-rate cast features Patrick Andrews (Oliver), John Francisco (Philip), Jessie Fisher (Sylvia) and Benjamin Sprungen (various roles), all of them youthful-but-accomplished veteran actors. Andrews, Francisco and Sprungen also are About Face associate artists. They do Metzgar proud and she returns the compliment. Their English accents are good and—above all—consistent (Anita Deely, dialect coach) and they are convincing with playwright Alexi Campbell’s occasionally-arch dialogue, some of which sounds as if written in the 1950’s. As the play progresses and complexities deepen, Campbell makes greater use of monologue (or one-sided dialogue) in a way suggesting the influence of

playwright Caryl Churchill. Of the four, Andrews has the largest role and, as audiences have come to expect from him, he delivers with naturalness and focus. His 1958 Oliver is discreet, passionate and emotionally needy while his 2008 Oliver is brazen, careless and emotionally needy.

*The Pride* peels its characters like an onion. Reflecting this, William Boles’s scenic design becomes progressively more minimal, peeling away the décor of a smartly-furnished flat down to bare brick walls and the limbo of a spotlight in the dark (Becca Jeffords, lighting). Boles uses the small Richard Christiansen Theater with greater flexibility than I’ve seen before.

Arriving five years ago, Bonnie Metzgar (and supporters) saved About Face from financial disaster. We owe her a hearty “Well done!”

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**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. MSB

**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

**The Liar**, Writers’ Theatre in Glencoe, through July 28. Don’t believe a thing a man tells you! A 17th-century French verse comedy, by tragic author Corneille, is sheer delight as freely adapted by modern American David Ives and performed “con brio” by an attractive, energized cast. JA

**Smokey Joe’s Café**, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at Royal George Theatre, through June 30. This is your last chance to hear the Leiber & Stoller songs ensuring in the 1950s and ‘60s that rock ‘n’ roll was here to stay, delivered with fresh energy by an exuberant young ensemble. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Three Musketeers

**Playwright:** adapted by Robert Kaulzaric  
**from the novel by Alexander Dumas**  
**At:** Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-761-4477;  
**www.lifelinetheatre.com;** \$40  
**Runs through:** July 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The average playgoer, asked about *The Three Musketeers*, will probably mumble something about sword-fights, big wigs and a scramble to recover a diamond necklace. You’ll find some of this in Robert Kaulzaric’s adaptation of the venerable Dumas sword-and-cloak classic, but the hallmark of this new page-to-stage translation is its adherence to the original source material, albeit illustrated in decidedly modern metaphors.

The first of these we notice is that our titular comrades are not the usual quartet of white guys, but an ethnically-diverse brotherhood rendering immediately recognizable the scorn heaped by cosmopolitan Parisians upon the southern-born D’Artagnan. The second is that the royal guards wear commando gear (T-shirts, berets, kevlar vests), in addition to the obligatory rapiers. More significantly, the boundaries of the warring factions—church and state, Catholic and Protestant, France, England and Spain—are laid out clearly, as are the conflicts they impose on individuals less steadfast in their loyalties as our

“three inseparables,” and the senseless deaths engendered by the vanity of powerful men and calculating women.

This is not some stodgy PBS costume-drama, however, all elongated vowels and eyebrow-acting. Scenic designer Alan Donahue has stripped Lifeline’s stage to its bare walls and constructed thereupon a giant jungle-jim, replete with ladders, poles and cross-bars for climbing up, sliding down, spinning around, swinging on and dropping from.

Not only does this facilitate the kind of spectacle that sparked cheers and applause from the press-preview audience, but it allows the action to proceed at cartoon-swift pace without assuming likewise cartoon proportions. If the hitherto-definitive Richard Lester romp resembled a comic book, this is the graphic novel version, where innocent people die, villains go unpunished, and solitary heroes roam the mean streets, secure only in their own code of honor.

Portraying larger-than-life characters in an intimate space without slipping into hyperbolic camp is no easy task, but under Amanda Delheimer Dimond’s deft direction, Glenn Stanton carries off the coming-of-age subtext inherent in D’Artagnan’s progress, flanked by Chris Hainsworth, Dwight Sora, Christopher M. Walsh as his respective mentors. The ten actors filling the remaining 36 roles also retain their individual darkness—indeed, Katie McLean Hainsworth’s Milady de Winter emerges so irredeemably evil that her grisly execution by lynching is well-justified. The show’s run is rumored to be nearly sold out already, so don’t you wait to join in the fun and adventure.



Ain’t No Crying...  
 Photo by  
 Danny Nicholas

## THEATER REVIEW

### Ain’t No Crying the Blues: In the Memory of Howlin’ Wolf

**Playwright:** Jackie Taylor  
**At:** Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.  
**Tickets:** 773-769-4451;  
**www.blackensemble.org;** \$55-\$65  
**Runs through:** Aug. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

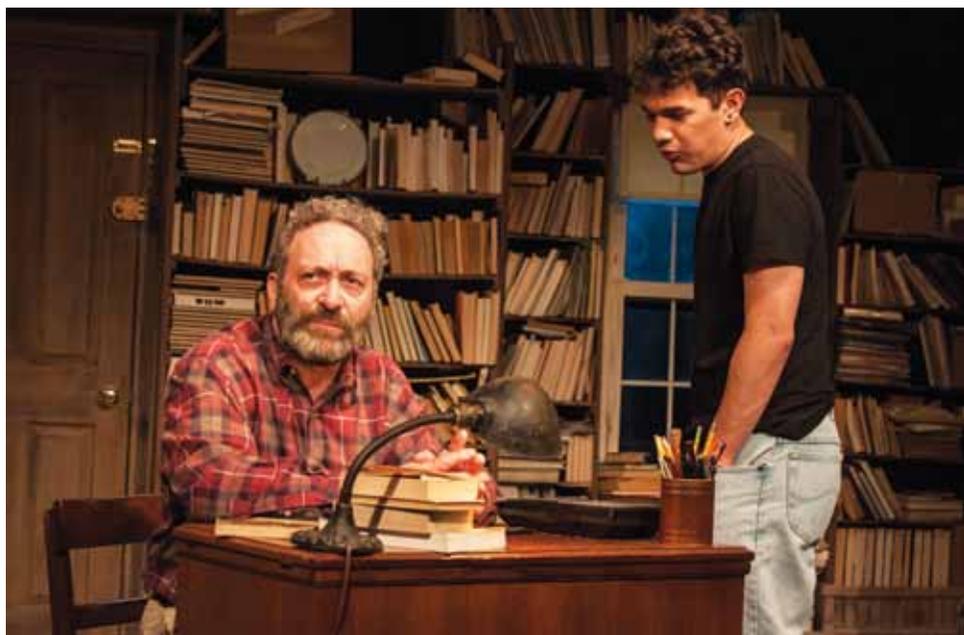
*Howlin’ Wolf* has always defied “living-the-blues” stereotypes: The man born Chester Arthur Burnett didn’t smoke, drink or do drugs. He married only once and remained faithful until he died to the wife he adored. He managed his career wisely, negotiating for royalties in his recording contracts rather than one-time fees, and conducted his business in accordance with legal protocol—even regarding withholding social security and health insurance on his band’s paychecks. He wasn’t a gymnast like Jackie Wilson or a crooner like Smokey Robinson, but affected a fighting-rooster stance and a vocal delivery as dangerously fascinating as that of the beast inspiring his sobriquet. From such contradictions spring compositions now considered classics of his musical genre.

Romantic myth dictates that artists spend their lives fleeing in vain from their demons. Behind his swagger—and at six-feet-six and

300 pounds, *Howlin’ Wolf* onstage could be a terrifying presence—might have been the painful scars of a childhood marred by cruelty and deprivation, but what distinguished Burnett from his self-destructive compatriots was his faith in the promise of relief from past suffering. This is the premise for Jackie Taylor’s script, facilitating the return of Rick Stone, playing the role he created in 2003.

The show’s title, after all, is “*In the Memory of Howlin’ Wolf*”—a distinction affirming our location as the Great Hereafter, in a club on Heaven’s south side, where we share in the reminiscences of the songwriter/performer who died in 1976. His recollections are mostly pleasant ones—but truth demands antagonists, here personified by protege guitarist Hubert Sumlin and legendary rival Muddy Waters serving as devil’s advocates, flanked by a bandstand chorus participating in the action with Sophoclean congeniality.

The necessity of placing Robert Reddick’s combo down on the checkerboard-tile floor to craft their endless variations on the three-chord 12-bar progressions at the foundation of *Da Blues* soon becomes apparent. Like with most Black Ensemble biodramas, music dominates the evening. Stone’s replication of Wolf’s midnight prowling and gravel-throated bark (with a few sweet high notes creeping in, nevertheless) is flawless, but he can’t do two hours all by himself, mandating full-cast dances and solo turns by other luminaries of the era—Big Mama Thornton, Bobby Bland and Muddy himself. “As long as they remember you,” our host reminds us, “You can live forever.” Amen and “Aaah-oooo-wooo!” to that.



Uncle Bob. Photo by Lev Kalmens

THEATER REVIEW

Uncle Bob

Playwright: Austin Pendleton
At: Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Angel Island, 731 W. Sheridan Rd.
Tickets: 773-871-0442; www.maryarrchie.com; \$15-\$25
Runs through: July 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Plays incorporating AIDS into their plots during the 1990s typically portrayed the then-incurable disease as a tragically unforeseen calamity, but a helluva way to bring families together. AIDS viewed as a weapon—to be used in the destruction of others, or oneself—was strictly the stuff of urban legend and paranoid fantasy.

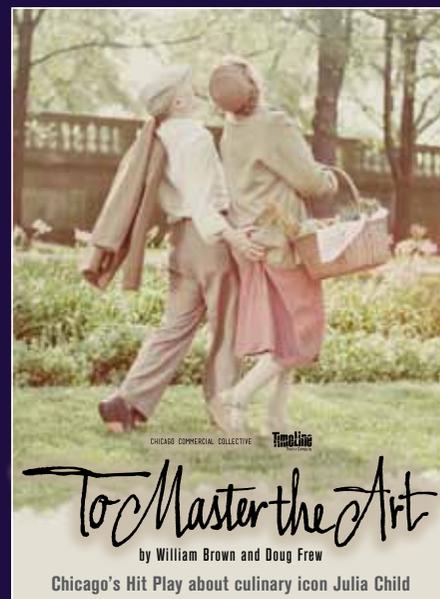
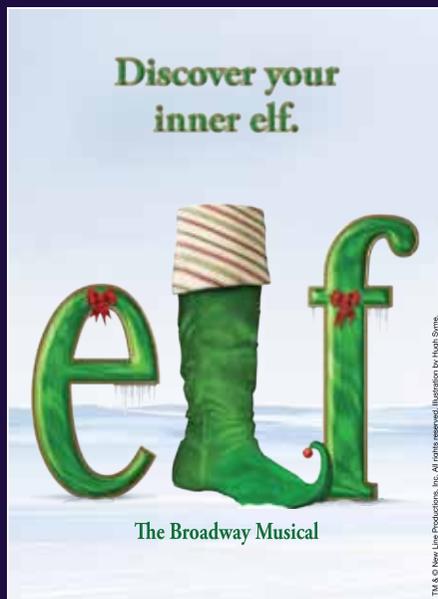
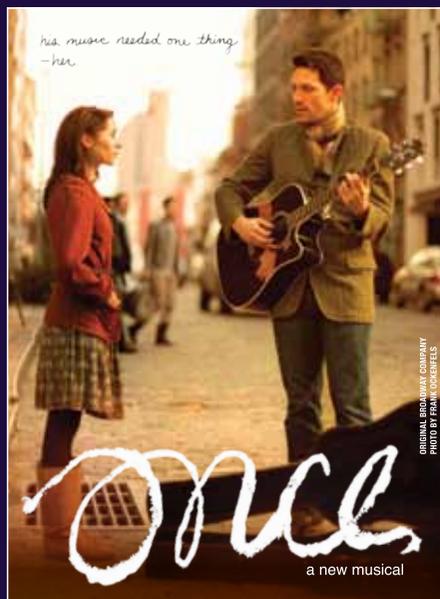
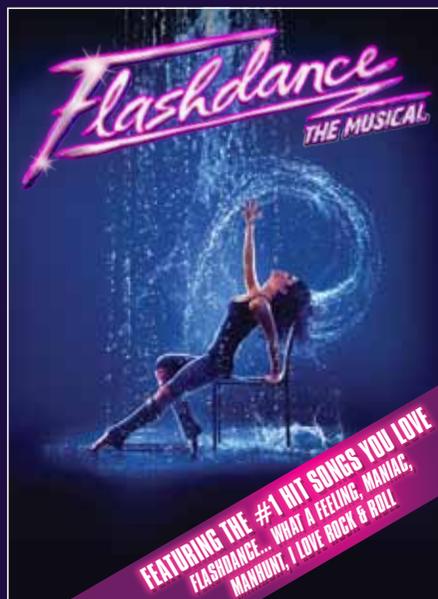
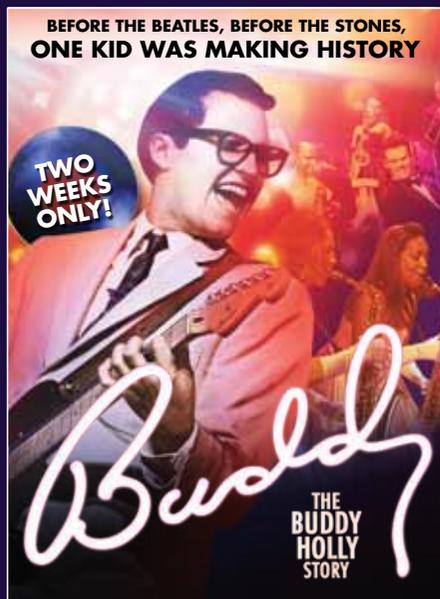
Our title character is a writer of mediocre novels, now living in seclusion, ranting at his estranged would-be comforters under guise of recording his memoirs. A target of inflated expectations, Bob's guilt over the undeserved admiration of his kin has rendered him determined to prove his unworthiness by dying as ignobly as he declares he has lived.

What he doesn't anticipate is that his carefully crafted martyrdom will meet with equally matched opposition in the form of his nephew, Josh, a slacker in his late teens already as peevish and nihilistic as his uncle, and whose reverence for life is no less cavalier.

If this dynamic is to work, the characters' courtship of the Grim Reaper must be clearly discernible as the petulant ruse that it is. What sabotaged the play's premiere in 1995 was Stephenwolf's insistence on playing both men as pasty-faced wraiths, when the vigor with which they debate the validity of self-orchestrated final-days scenarios belies their professed eagerness to shuffle off their mortal coils.

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SPOTLIGHT



The Illinois House of Representatives may have failed to give the LGBT community full marriage rights, but that hasn't stopped GayCo from going ahead and naming its new Pride Month show Married, But Still Slutty. Chicago's oldest LGBT sketch comedy troupe presents Married, But Still Slutty as an improv show based around stories told by a different special guest "Gay-lebrity" each night.

# CULTURE CLUB

PHOTO: JONATHAN BURGER AND JOSHUA BANKS PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRISLOW.

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— Washington Post

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PHOTO: JONATHAN BURGER AND JOSHUA BANKS PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRISLOW.

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## THE Q LIST

# Janie Stamm: Spotlighting a queer visual artist

BY NICO LANG

Earlier this year I attended a wonderful exhibit by an emerging queer artist, Janie Stamm, who showed her work at the AdventureLand Gallery on 1513 N. Western Ave. The exhibit featured "works on paper featuring relics, specimens, and curiosities from travels to islands within the deep folds of the mind" and announced Stamm as an important voice in Chicago's queer art scene.

The Q List sat down with the effervescently buoyant Stamm at Edgewater's Metropolis Cafe to discuss the exhibit and unpack the personality behind the pictures.

**Nico Lang: How long have you been creating art?**

Janie Stamm: I've drawn ever since I could remember. I began taking watercolor lessons in second grade and did that for 10 years. I'd get in trouble in school a lot for doodling all over my homework and notes.

**NL: As a young artist, what motivated you to be creative? Do you find any of those same patterns in your work today?**

JS: I have an overactive imagination and a desire to live in a world where I can talk to animals. This has led to my obsession with drawing imagined creatures and beasts—picturing how they sound and move, what they eat, and how they interact.

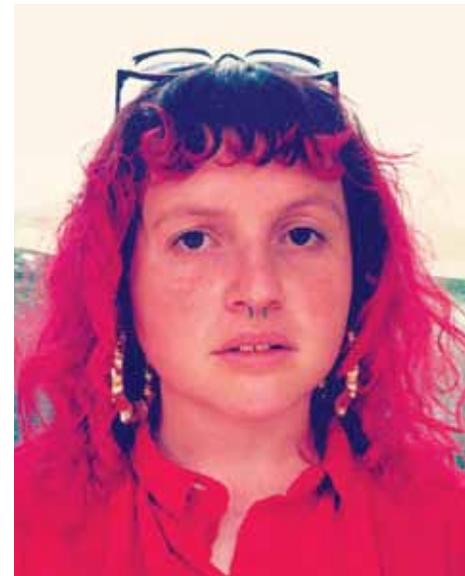
**NL: You came up through the Savannah College of Art and Design [SCAD], and you've mentioned your relationship with SCAD was often rocky. How did your experiences in the institution of academia change you as an artist and what did it tell you about yourself?**

JS: I originally went there to study stop-motion animation. As a student, I was really unhappy with the animation department. After taking an intro to printmaking class, I realized that I was born to be a printmaker. I decided to double major in printmaking and animation. Printmaking came very naturally to me and it just felt right.

**NL: In working with printmaking, what speaks to you about the medium of print? How does it fit your creative mind?**

JS: While I was at SCAD, I had a drawing professor tell me that I should look into the printmaking department because of my mark making skills. When I draw, I tend to make a lot of hatch marks and aggressive lines. This translates really well into printmaking, specifically etching which is now my specialty. Also, printmaking is attractive to me because it is so process driven. It requires a lot of concentration and following precise steps. I find the repetition in printmaking very therapeutic.

**NL: Your recent exhibit blended your background in print and animation. Archipelago: Lost Islands of the Atlantic featured sketches**



Janie Stamm.

**of animals and islands of your own creation, a manifestation of your own fictional universe. What comfort do you find in creating these worlds? As an artist, why do you need them?**

JS: The islands that I create are places of sanctuary. They are isolated from the rest of the world, inhabited by my creatures, and have yet to be discovered. They're places—safe spaces in my mind for me and people like me, my friends. I

needed them because they take me out of reality. They give me hope that there are places that might never be discovered. Somewhere that people can't destroy.

**NL: While attending the exhibit, I gleaned a very positive reaction from the audience, who lingered in the gallery for much longer than traditional artgoers do. It was more like a party. What was the experience of exhibiting in that environment like for you?**

JS: Since this was my first solo show, I honestly wasn't sure what to expect. The show was in a fairly unknown gallery and it was the middle of January. I was elated when I saw how many people showed up and stayed. The gallery was packed the entire time and everybody seemed happy and appreciative of the artwork.

Many people were coming up to me and talking about how they felt, how the work made them smile and reminded them of their childhood. I noticed that people spent a lot of time with the art, and revisited it several times throughout the night, rather than quickly looking at it and moving on.

**NL: How do you personally hope to be transformed through these dialogues with an audience? What do you get out of it?**



A few in a series of lithographs by artist Janie Stamm. Images from www.janiestamm.com



Turn to page 40



Adam Guerino. Photo courtesy of Guerino

## Adam Guerino: Life is a laughing matter

BY ROSS FORMAN

When Adam Guerino started as a comedian, he was one of about three gays locally in the field, along with Cameron Esposito and Bill Cruz.

Flash-forward to the present, and there are at least 30—with about 10 or 15 of them trying to make careers in comedy, Guerino said.

"I'd like to think I've helped [the gay comedy field grow,]" said Guerino, 28, who is openly gay and lives in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. "I've made a conscious effort to create more shows and get more people paid, and to get audiences for those people who are performing because, without audiences, it doesn't matter how talented your comedians are. I also have helped [the local market] with contests, so people who are just starting out can get their feet wet."

Guerino certainly is one of the most talented, and funniest, locals on the circuit—with high-profile work at Zanies aboard his resume of laughs.

"Zanies has been incredibly supportive, and it's clear that gay and straight [customers] love the [gay] shows there," he said.

Guerino writes, talks, hosts and coordinates for the local gay comedy community, certainly with a tie to the national comedy world. He hosted Spring Soiree on May 28 at Zanies, which benefitted The Night Ministry, which supports Chicago's homeless and impoverished. The event featured headliner Chris Doucette, along with Ever Mainard and Rebecca O'Neal.

Guerino also has other major events in July and September.

"It's more terrifying to play smaller rooms," than larger, established venues, he said. "The bar shows, especially those that are free [to customers] are unpredictable [and challenging.] There might be people in your audience who did not know there was going to be a show, and thus, they don't mind talking through it. Plus, they might get really drunk and feel like they can contribute to the show by talking."

His latest fear on stage is, well, just being there while also running the event at the same time.

"I'm very happy that I'm able to use performance, and publicity with social media, to help get the word out about such a great cause," such

as The Night Ministry, Guerino said. "It's always funny [that] people often assume that production and performance makes a lot of money, but it doesn't really. You often have to sacrifice and do things for less than you would if you were to work in another job [earning] per hour."

Still, Guerino writes a storytelling blog, *Before The Story*, which often tells of people who have made it. "I like to ask them questions that reveal what fame actually is like, how long it took to get there, etc.," Guerino said.

"There is no middle class for comedy. You're often incredibly impoverished and you're making a lot of sacrifices to do what you love and then, hopefully, if you make it, you will be, kind of, [become] upper-class as far as income is concerned. But, if your motivation is to get rich, art, such as comedy, is usually a horrible way of going about it."

OutLoud Chicago is a series created by Guerino in July 2011 to bring queer entertainment to mainstream Chicago venues. Queer Comedy at Zanies showcases the best queer and straight comedians from across the U.S., some who have appeared on Comedy Central, Comedy Bang Bang, BET, TBS Just For Laughs, A Night At The Apollo and Last Comic Standing, among other outlets.

The Advocate is sponsoring Guerino's show at Zanies in September "so that will be a real cool national stage," he said. "I don't worry too much about the perceptions of my show, but I really like the idea that the comedians who I work with are going to be able to have that national stage."

"And sexuality should not define quality; I'm very proud of a lot of the queer comedians in the city."

Guerino said his list of all-time favorite comedians includes Beth Stelling, who now lives in Los Angeles after performing in Chicago for about a decade. He also praised openly gay James Adomian, who has appeared on Last Comic Standing, among other venues, "and is a great example of someone who's just funny, regardless of his [sexual] orientation," Guerino said.

Guerino tagged Candy Lawrence as a must-hear comedian, and a potential breakout star who he said is "part-Gilda Radner, part-Cheri Oteri."

For more information about Guerino, go to [www.adamguerino.com](http://www.adamguerino.com).

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## MUSIC

# Aubrey O'Day on Pride Fest and 'Celebrity Apprentice'



BY JERRY NUNN

Aubrey O'Day rocketed into spotlight as a member of the girl pop group Danity Kane. P. Diddy created the group that was featured on its own reality television show for MTV called Making the Band 3. Their first album debuted at number one on the Billboard charts.

When the group split O'Day started her own reality show on the Oxygen network then competed on *Celebrity Apprentice* season five.

She hits Pride Fest this month bringing new tunes and a brand new O'Day.

**Windy City Times:** Hello, Aubrey. The last time we spoke for your reality show *All About Aubrey*. How have you been?

Aubrey O'Day: Great!

**WCT:** Who do you keep in contact with from *Danity Kane*?

AO: I'm proud to say finally all of the girls. We are sisters.

**WCT:** How do you feel you were portrayed on *Celebrity Apprentice*?

AO: Smart, creative, impatient, talented and kinda bitchy—which are all accurate.

**WCT:** I have gotten to know Lisa Lampanelli over the years through interviews. She became a great friend of yours from doing that show, correct?

AO: Lisa was my sanity during filming. It was nice to constantly have her mind to use and experience!

**WCT:** Thanks for picking GLSEN as your charity. How do you feel about Trump's stance on gay marriage?

AO: I try to find honesty and inspiration in everyone. ... His stance on gay marriage isn't those things, so I disregard him on that issue. Equality is equality. You can't pick and chose between categories of people, you either believe in it or you don't.

**WCT:** Favorite memory of being on *Broadway with Hairspray*?

AO: Sitting on the floor in Jenifer Lewis' dressing room during every intermission with my new [at the time] puppy Ginger planted in her bosom, while she told me wild industry stories—sex, love, and assholes to stay away from!

**WCT:** You have done so many musicals. Do you have an all-time favorite one?

AO: I enjoy so many for such different reasons. I can give you top five favorite classics: *Rent*, *Cats*, *Evita*, *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom of the Opera*.

**WCT:** I imagine lots of dance music on the new EP. Any guest stars or producers you can talk about?

AO: Between Two Evils for me was an expression of a period of time in which I was so deep in the pain of a bad relationship that all I could do was write. Therapy nor exercise was getting it out of my body. There is some dance, there is more midtempo, it is all heart. I'm sick of making radio songs or music that other people consider popular. For once I just wanted to sing and write music for myself. With that being said, I hope it can touch many people and possibly help them heal from their struggles.

**WCT:** Speaking of people's struggles, you have been a big activist for AIDS over the years. Is there a personal connection to it, maybe friends or family?

AO: Yes. My moms close friend, who was also my first live-in babysitter was a man with AIDS. He lived in my home until he died. I liked him more than anyone I played with in school. We sang. We danced. Our energy was electric. Before he got to a point where he didn't want me to see him anymore, he asked me to perform for him one last time and then said, "If you could be anyone in the world who would you be." I said, "me." He then replied with his last words to me "don't ever forget that response, always be you and choose you." So I do. He taught me that. That was in the late eighties. I've seen AIDS education and awareness change so much since then but it's always been personal I suppose.

**WCT:** What kind of set list are you planning for the Chicago one?

AO: Obviously some of my new records, some DK and then I will do an acoustic set of music that's inspired me. It'll probably be whatever I feel that day. [Laughs]

**WCT:** Will you sing "Automatic" or "Wrecking Ball"?

AO: Yes.

**WCT:** Are you ready for the hot sweaty crowds?

AO: Definitely.

**WCT:** Will you be blonde or burgundy for the show?



Aubrey O'Day. Publicity photo

AO: Blondes have more fun.

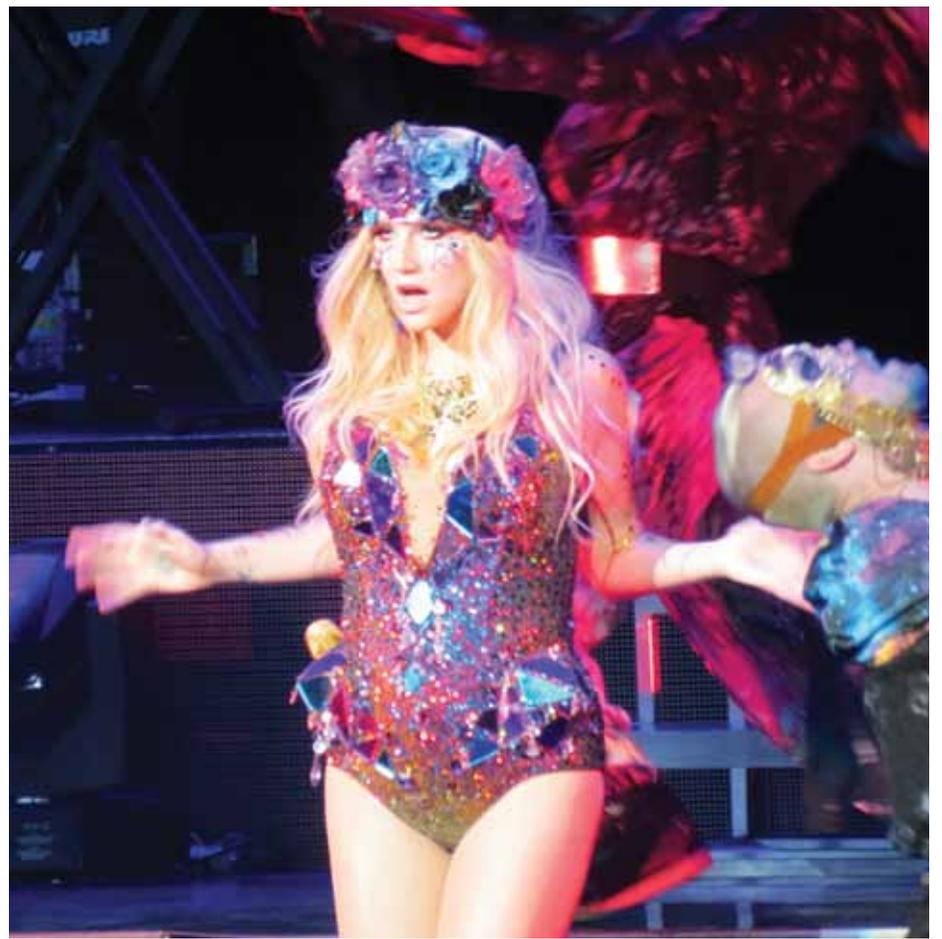
**WCT:** How are your pets, and aren't they on a reality show: *A-List Celebrity Pets*?

AO: Yes, and they are as wonderful and loving as always!

**WCT:** What are you doing to celebrate when you hit 1 million Twitter followers?

AO: Already there, but who cares about Twitter when we've got Pride here!

**Look for O'Day on June 22 at 2 p.m. on the North Stage on Halsted Street. Details of the festival can be found at [www.northhalsted.com](http://www.northhalsted.com).**



Ke\$ha. Photo by Jerry Nunn

## CONCERT RECAP

### Ke\$ha and Pitbull: The odd couple

BY JERRY NUNN

Pop superstars Ke\$ha and Pitbull are an odd duo to go on tour together, but somehow the fans mixed and mingled without a rumble.

Ke\$ha brought the glitter and the gays, with many young teens thrown in for good measure. The parents must have been missing when some of these scantily clad kids left their houses June 9.

The Midwest Bank Amphitheatre in Tinley Park provided the perfect location for the early summer concert with only light sprinkles on the lawn attendees at the end of the night when Pitbull rapped on Marc Anthony's "Rain over Me."

Ke\$ha began the summer evening with "Warrior" and she seemed ready to fight with glitter bombs. She sang current single "Crazy Kids," then launched into her hits "We R Who We R" and "Blow." She did a little costume-changing and swung on the monkey bars, posing all over the place. Her drag-queen backup dancer couldn't get her jacket on correctly so she tossed it on the floor. There were many messy moments, like the one where she rolled on the stage or sprayed whipped cream into the audience. She had fun with new songs like "Gold Trans Am" and "Dirty Love," but sometimes looked bored. That may be just part of the act or it could be the result of staying up late the night before partying.

During a break between songs, Ke\$ha described once visiting a "tranny bar" where everyone was naked by the end of the night; she then belted her tune "Take It Off." Big K should be careful about using the T-word with her huge LGBT demographic listening. She's already in trouble with the community in Newtown, Conn. (site of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School) because of songs like "Machine Gun Love" and "Die Young."

Although she is not the most cautious performer, being unpolished seems to be part of her charm.

Speaking of charm, before "C'mon" she stated, "It's a song about being fucked-up and falling in love." Isn't that sweet?

"Your Love is My Drug" and "Tik Tok" were

favorites from the crowd, judging by reactions, and she breezed through them.

The title track of her reality show, "Crazy Beautiful Life," was nowhere to be heard—maybe she'll sing it in August when the Warrior Tour comes back to the Midwest.

In between sets, remixers Jump Smokers took over with a version of Adele's "Someone Like You" that kept the party going. Speaking of which, "Don't Stop the Party" with Pitbull has done well for them—and they were proud to say Chicago is the Smokers' hometown.

Pit finally arrived—a little later than scheduled but not on Rihanna's clock, luckily.

He may be the hottest man in show business with his classic black suit and gyrating hips making him the Cuban Elvis. He even made a comment about his suit-wearing style to all the haters.

Pitbull basically has created one long megamix with all of his tracks molded together at a nonstop pace for concertgoers.

Videos played of the multiple artists he has worked with over the years from Shakira and Jennifer Lopez to The Wanted.

Some songs were woven in that the Latin rapper hand-picked, such as Iona Pop's "I Love It" and Guns N' Roses "Sweet Child O' Mine."

"Mr. Worldwide" noticed all the flags being waved in the air by the fans and gave shout-outs to all the local Latinos. (Mexicans outnumbered the other countries with their cheers, as he mentioned different countries.) He kept to his Miami roots with "Echa pa'lla" and a tossed in Spanish phrases along the way.

He wasn't scared to name-drop and use those talented friends during the set, mentioning people like Ne-Yo, Christina Aguilera and Enrique Iglesias in a set that lasted a little more than an hour.

While this wasn't the livest concert in this venue (because of backing tracks), it was certainly lively and the teens dancing in the pavilion didn't seem to care about vocals, it was more about being entertained.

Maybe after this tour this dynamic duo will make a hit together, but until then this party won't stop!

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## The Secret Disco Revolution; fairy-tale action movies on DVD

Canadian filmmaker Jamie Kastner—who is known for his irreverent documentaries, starting with his debut film, *Kike Like Me*—finds another seemingly wacky subject matter in **The Secret Disco Revolution** (which has played a number of gay-film festivals and is now available VOD). Considering the hallmarks of the era—the flamboyant polyester garb, platform shoes, hairdos and over-the-top nightclubs, with their spinning mirror balls and neon dance floors—any examination of the period is bound to be inherently campy. Add in musical icons of the era like The Village People and it's no wonder that Kastner takes a "tongue-in-cheese" approach to his history of the disco era.

To set the tone, Kastner utilizes a fictitious framing device to trace the steady rise and swift decline of disco—three Mod Squad-type figures dressed in silver funky glad rags, sprinkling glitter onto a swirling mirror ball as they wonder around an urban landscape, and metaphorically pulling the strings that defined the period. As the three figures enact their plan to conquer American culture beginning at the outset of the '70s, a series of interviews with performers (Gloria Gaynor, Martha Wash, Thelma Houston, Kool from Kool and the Gang, the Village People, etc.) and others who remember the impact of the music accompany the tour. These are interspersed with copious helpings of delightful retro foot-



Martha Wash in *The Secret Disco Revolution*.

age, fleshing out the history lesson.

Kastner's "secret revolution" thesis—that the ascent of disco into the mainstream subtly changed attitudes about sexuality, the women's movement and African-American culture—comes courtesy of author Alice Echols' book *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture*. (Echols is also on hand—and, frankly, seems a bit batty.) Yet the anecdotal evidence to back up this seemingly wacky theory—that Donna Summer simulating orgasms during "Love to Love You Baby" and K.C. and the Sunshine Band exhorting all and sundry to "Get Down Tonight," for example—has plenty of facts and figures and makes perfect sense in retrospect. It wasn't so much the music itself but rather the sudden prominence of the disenfranchised (gays, women, Blacks, Hispanics, etc.) who created and propelled it into the forefront that wrought long lasting cultural changes. One has to look no further than the mainstream popularity of gay icons The Village People as proof that disco brought us to them.

Love them or hate them, disco music and the

hedonistic culture it spawned did make a lasting impact on American culture before its fall from grace at the end of the decade (which the film pinpoints as the moment The Knack's "My Sharona" went to number one on the charts). Kastner's movie tracks each and every step of the genre's evolution with a soundtrack that, of course, pulses with an electricity and vibrancy that has never lost its power to enthrall. Though the kitschy framing device wears out its welcome, *The Secret Disco Revolution* is an affectionate tribute that is entertaining and surprisingly thought provoking.

Hollywood has always provided the greatest examples of the maxim "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," simultaneously producing multiple pictures inspired by the same subject or genre. In the last little while, for reasons that cry out for examination by cultural theorists, the major studios have released a spate of big-budget blockbusters that fairy tales inspired. (To be honest, Tim Burton's phenomenally successful *Alice In Wonderland* kick started the mad

dash to duplicate its success.) Reimagined for adults—kids are a secondary audience here—these movies have had mixed box office and critical success and are now finding their second life on featured packed Blu-ray/DVD combinations and VOD.

Although I had more than a few doubts about the miscasting of James Franco in the title role, Sam Rami's *Oz the Great and Powerful* (Disney) is a visual stunner that manages to get past Franco's phoned-in, condescending performance, thanks to its many positive aspects. The story, which follows the same trajectory as MGM's *The Wizard of Oz* (replacing Dorothy's journey with that of the Professor Marvel character) is a plus, as are the performances of Michelle Williams, Rachel Weisz, Mila Kunis and many others in the cast. Also, the technical aspects of the movie are matched by the enduring power of the Oz mythology over audiences. This is also a film that parents and kids can equally enjoy. The movie was a financial dynamo and a sequel is in the works.

Decidedly thinner but still visually dazzling and just as enjoyable in its own way is *Jack the Giant Slayer* (Warner Bros.), with Nicholas Hoult (*Warm Bodies*, *A Single Man*) as the cute-but-dimwitted hero, along with Ewan McGregor, Stanley Tucci and Ian McShane in a reimagining of the Jack and the Beanstalk story. Out director Bryan Singer chose this over continuing with the X-Men series (although he'll be back for the next in the series). Due to the film's so-so reviews and less-than-spectacular box-office take, he's taken some media-dribbling but I found Singer's movie, another good bet for both adults and kids, a delightful surprise.

The same cannot be said for **Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters** (Paramount), with Jeremy Renner and Gemma Atherton as adult versions of the fairy-tale siblings, now grown into witch killing mercenaries. Charmless and violent in the extreme with too many gaps in logic to list, this fairy-tale reboot is hardly for kids—or adults, either. (Much more fun is the campy *Who Slew Auntie Roo?* from 1971 with Shelley Winters, which the fairy tale also inspired.)

The genre has also recently seen competing *Snow White* pictures: **Snow White and the Huntsman**—with Charlize Theron as the evil queen, Kristin Stewart as a tougher variation on the usual pure-as-the-driven-snow heroine, and Chris Hemsworth as the hunky huntsman who falls for her—and **Mirror Mirror** with Julia Roberts as the evil queen. I have yet to take in the latter but Theron's icy performance alone makes the former worthwhile. (It, too, is getting a sequel.)

## James Dean film screens at the Siskel

James Preston, who stars as James Dean in *Joshua Tree, 1951: A Portrait of James Dean* was in town June 11 for an appearance in conjunction with a screening of the film at the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Preston, a former Abercrombie & Fitch model as well as a star of the ABC TV series *The Gates*, entertained the audience with stories about his in-depth research into playing the iconic actor. The film, a homoerotic take on the early days of James Dean before he became a star, was written and directed by Matthew Mishory.

Producer Randall Walk, a Chicagoland native, also regaled the audience with tales of making the indie that won raves on the gay festival circuit and is just out on DVD from Wolfe Video. Actress Rusty Schwimmer, who attended New Trier High School with Walk, surprised him by attending the screening. Scrooge & Marley executive producer David Strzeppek and partner Tod Tatsui and Reeling Film Festival Board President Greg Salustro were also at the screening.

Windy City Times film critic and Queer Film Society President Richard Knight Jr. moderated the post-screening discussion. Photos and text by Knight



James Preston at screening. Photo courtesy of Richard Knight Jr.

## 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](http://www.wiaonline.org) for more info.

## NewTown Writers featuring WCT publisher June 20

NewTown Writers presents publisher and journalist Tracy Baim at Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago, Thursday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.

Baim will discuss her 2013 Lambda Literary Award Finalist Publication: *Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community News-*

papers in America.

Baim is publisher and executive editor at Windy City Media Group, which produces *Windy City Times*, *Nightspots*, and other gay media. She co-founded *Windy City Times* in 1985 and *Outlines* newspaper in 1987. She has won numerous gay community and journalism honors, including the Community Media Workshop's Studs Terkel Award in 2005. She started in Chicago gay journalism in 1984 at *GayLife* newspaper.

## Cheyenne Jackson to release CD June 25

Actor singer and songwriter Cheyenne Jackson (*Behind The Candelabra*, *30 Rock*, *Glee*) will release *I'm Blue, Skies*, his first full-length album of original music, June 25.

The 12-track pop-folk CD includes songs such as "Mr. Lonely Boy," "You Get Me" (featuring Charlotte Sometimes), "Back Pocket" and the title tune.

The first video for the song "Don't Look At Me," co-written by Jackson and SIA, is available on Jackson's YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/cheyennejacksonmusic](http://www.youtube.com/user/cheyennejacksonmusic).

## TELEVISION

# Ana Ortiz gets 'Devious' with WCT

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Marc Cherry has done it again.

The man behind *Desperate Housewives* has crafted *Devious Maids*, a deftly produced Lifetime series debuting June 23 that features Ana Ortiz (*Ugly Betty*), Dania Ramirez (*Entourage*), Roselyn Sanchez (*Without a Trace*), Edy Ganem (*Livin' Loud*) and Judy Reyes (*Scrubs*) as five Latina maids with ambition and dreams of their own while working for the rich and famous in Beverly Hills. ("*Housewives*" star Eva Longoria is also an executive producer.)

Windy City Times spoke with Ortiz last week when she was in town for a press junket, covering everything from class distinction to *Ugly Betty* to the men of "Maids."

**Windy City Times: How has your stay been in Chicago?**

Ana Ortiz: I wish I had more time. I mean, can you believe this [incredibly sunny] day? My flight landed in Indianapolis last night, and we had to drive here. I got in Chicago at two in the morning—but, driving in, I got to see the city at night, and it's stunning.

**WCT: First of all, some of our readers are still upset over the cancellation of *Ugly Betty* [which happened in 2010].**

AO: I feel their pain, trust me, but thank you for saying that.

**WCT: The show seemed like it had plenty of steam.**

AO: It had plenty of steam left. [The cancellation] was really disappointing; the show was the best experience of my life. I made friends and family for life; America [Ferrara, the star of *Ugly Betty*] is my son's godmother and Mark Indelicato is at NYU. He's a genius. Judith Light, Vanessa Williams...

**WCT: Ah, Judith—with the win at the Tonys this year...**

AO: Second win in a row, and that's only the second time in history that's happened. Also, I just did an independent movie with Michael Urie.

**WCT: I saw the first two episodes of the show alone. First, the title alone...**

AO: [Claps] "You had me at hello..."

**WCT: But it also has the comedy and the drama, and it's definitely a Marc Cherry show.**

AO: Yes; it's definitely in his wheelhouse. I will say that he's been really wonderful about listening to us and including us in the development of the show. It's been great to have a little collabo on that. Listen: There are five Latinas on this show, and we're definitely not shy. [Laughs]

And can I just tell you something? Susan Lucci is just...

**WCT: She had me when I saw her under the bed.**

AO: What is so funny is that she's known for being so dramatic, but she's really funny on this show. She gets to do all this comedy. She did some comedy on *All My Children*, but this is a whole other level.

**WCT: Let's talk about your character [Ortiz laughs]—the woman of mystery.**

AO: Marisol is definitely a woman of mystery. She comes into the maids' world under the guise of being a maid, but she has a more important goal—to find out who really murdered Flora [another maid]. She meets these women, but doesn't expect to form all these beautiful friendships and have these incredible experiences. But she's lying to them the whole time. Eventually, that comes to a head—you know how we Latin girls are: We don't play. There's a lot of fun, juicy drama.

**WCT: Tom Irwin's character [one of the Beverly Hills husbands] creeps me out.**

AO: Oh, I know! He really takes it there.

**WCT: I don't know how much more I can take. I might need my heart medication.**



Ana Ortiz at *Devious Maids* screening. Photo courtesy of Lifetime

**[Both laugh.] I'm not a whippersnapper like you.**

AO: I'm 42, my darling. This is what 42 looks like now.

**WCT: Well, I'm what 92 looks like now. [Ortiz laughs loudly.]**

AO: Well, I look forward to it—it looks fabulous! As for Tom, he's such an exceptional actor. He really struggled with it and, to his credit, he committed fully. Wait until you see the rest of it. They all bring it.

**WCT: One of the things I like about this show is that shows Latinas as multidimensional—as more than just maids. Your character has the line, "You just see me as someone..."**

AO: ...who opens your door." I welcome the conversation. I think we got some controversy because of the title of the show, which I understand. When I first got this script, I said, "Really!" But I read the script and I enjoyed it. I then had a meeting with Marc and he told me his vision of the show; then I found out the other girls who were circling the parts. They are some of my favorite actresses on the planet; I've been auditioning with them for 10 years.

We do realize that the controversy is legitimate, but I'm truly honored to bring these stories to life. My grandmother was a domestic worker; Judy Reyes' mother was one her whole life—and these are women who had full, exciting and wonderful lives.

**WCT: I was about to say: There certainly is nothing wrong with being a maid, but there's so much more to...**

AO: Absolutely—and I appreciate you saying that. Really, these are the women in charge. They're the ones raising your children and cleaning your house, so don't trip. Don't sleep on the maid—and don't sleep *with* the maid, either! [Laughs] I hope we get a nice, long run so we can tackle more issues.

**WCT: How much do you think the show reflects the reality of Beverly Hills?**

AO: [Laughs] Well, it *is* television; nobody's going to watch something that's sedate. It reflects it, for sure, but it heightens everything. It's a *novela*, it's Beverly Hills-plus. Right off the bat, it's super-heightened, but this is when you're starting to learn who we are as characters. We settle into it, and things start getting really intricate. There's that Upstairs, Downstairs vibe—but here, downstairs is running the show.

**WCT: Then there's that line when you're interviewing with the family: "You don't have an accent." I would last 30 seconds in that place.**

AO: You and me both. But I've actually heard that, and I hear, "You don't look Puerto Rican. You don't sound Puerto Rican." But this is what Puerto Rican looks like.

**WCT: What's it like for a New Yorker like yourself to be in L.A.?**

AO: It's good because I have two babies. It was hard to have a baby in New York. In L.A., I have a big yard and they're running around like little hippie children. That being said, when they're in first, second or third grade, I think I'd like to come back home.

**WCT: For a second, I have to mention the men of this show: Tom Irwin, Grant Show, Brett Cullen and Drew [von Acker]. I've been watching *Pretty Little Liars*, so I know about him.**

AO: Drew von Acker. He comes with his own built-in audience of young, fabulous girls. Can I just tell you he's the sweetest, most mellow, down-to-earth, cool guy? You're like, "Could you have a flaw, because you're perfect and you're, like, 12?"

**WCT: And he looks like a Kennedy.**

AO: [Laughs] Yes, he does. Grant Show is a California surfer guy, super-happy to be on the show. He and Dania Ramirez's character have a smokin' storyline.

**WCT: What do you want viewers to take away from your show?**

AO: First of all, I want people to have fun. I want them to turn off for a while and get into these lives. Another thing I'd like people to take away is that everything is everything—that you don't have to be who people think you are because of your bank account or your job. Everyone is complex, and the hero can be the person who captures your heart and tells your story.

## Burlesque star Dita von Teese July 11-13

Dita Von Teese will bring her "Burlesque: Strip, Strip Hooray!" variety show to the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., on July 11-13.

According to a press release, "the 90-minute spectacle treats audiences to four of Von Teese's most impressive performances, including her new Swarovski Martini Glass act. Also featured in the revue is Von Teese's lavish "Opium Den" show which features her as a smoldering and exotic dragon lady."

The July 11 and 13 shows are at 7:30 p.m.; there will be two performances on July 12 at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. General-admission tickets are \$40; see [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Comic Cameron Esposito in Chicago July 5

L.A.-based lesbian comic Cameron Esposito will return to her hometown, Chicago, on Friday, July 5, for a one-night-only performance at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

She won the OutLoud Chicago Queer Comedy at Zanies in 2012, and has performed at the Chicago Women's Funny Fest and the Bridgetown Comedy Festival.

Tickets are \$10 each; see [www.hideoutchicago.com/event/281695-cameron-esposito-chicago](http://www.hideoutchicago.com/event/281695-cameron-esposito-chicago).

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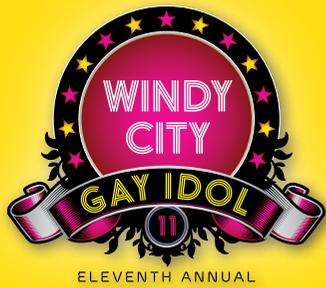
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# 2013 VOTING GUIDE

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**JASON**  
Mary's Attic

1

**Age**  
24  
**Relationship Status**  
Single ... and in LOVE with it!  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Lady GaGa: She donates so much of her time and celebrity to helping the gay community.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"Desperado" by The Eagles would definitely be on [the list].  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
Music and performing are my life, and through my art I really want to better the world and inspire people to make positive changes.



**JENNIFER**  
The Sofu Tap

2

**Age**  
29  
**Relationship Status**  
7 years taken.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
I idolize my two friends who just got married after being together for 14 years! Congrats, Heather and Tara.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"People Like Us" by Kelly Clarkson. It explains itself.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I have the drive and talent to be a wicked awesome singer, plus I'd be a great representation of the femme ladies!



**JULIO**  
The Call

3

**Age**  
30  
**Relationship Status**  
Smitten and attached.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Judy Garland: She gave me my vibrato and strut.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
Something written by Puccini. Wait, too tragic ... how about "Part Of Your World"? I love serving up fish realness.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
Because I have the charisma, uniqueness ... uh, I mean, I can sing good?



**TIMMY**  
Crew

4

**Age**  
23  
**Relationship Status**  
Happily taken, hopelessly devoted, totally gay for Jonathan.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"Tomorrow" from Annie. It's basically my life: ginger; optimist; a singing, dancing little girl.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
"Gay Idol," what a tremendous title! I could only hope to achieve this title and represent our community well!



**DAVID**  
Jackhammer

5

**Age**  
27  
**Relationship Status**  
Taken.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Harvey Milk: The amount of courage it took to take a stand and become visible is inspiring.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"Don't Panic" by Coldplay.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I've always loved singing and getting others to sing. If I can make people happy through singing that's good enough for me.



**JD**  
The Sofu Tap

6

**Age**  
34  
**Relationship Status**  
Taking applications.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
All the men and women who came before me paving the way for me to be able to just walk down the street holding my partner's hand and not feel ashamed.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"No Drama" by Mary J. Blige.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I have the talent and personality for what it takes.



**MATTHEW**  
Jackhammer

7

**Age**  
25  
**Relationship Status**  
Single.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Ellen DeGeneres  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
The Muppet Show theme song.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
Because I work hard, I learn from my mistakes, and I never forget what's really important to me.



**JAMES**  
Joie De Vine

8

**Age**  
29  
**Relationship Status**  
Married.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
My husband, Dustin, for always supporting my choices, and making me feel like a rock star every single day!  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"That's Life" by Frank Sinatra, etc.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
With it being my sixth year in a row as a finalist, I like to call myself the Susan Lucci of Gay Idol. It's time for me to win my Emmy!



**RYAN**  
DS Tequila Co.

9

**Age**  
28  
**Relationship Status**  
Single.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Does margaret cho count? She works double for me: Gay idol and Asian idol.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"Hoppipola" by Sigur Rós: Just because you can't understand something does not mean it is any less powerful!  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
Performing has always been a dream of mine and any opportunity to do so is a gift.



**JONATHAN**  
Crew

10

**Age**  
24  
**Relationship Status**  
Totally committed to and with the one and only "Timmy Willy" :)  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Quite honestly, probably Ian McKellen, moreso to do with Shakespeare than Gandalf.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
Probably "That's Life": I've done so many different things up to this point that it just fits.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I plan to become the next Sinatra and this is the best place to start!



**MARIA**  
DS Tequila Co.

11

**Age**  
26  
**Relationship Status**  
Single.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Beth Ditto for strength in living unapologetically and Ellen for keeping a positive attitude in the face of hate.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"Move In the Right Direction" by The Gossip.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I'd bring some diversity to the title, along with powerful pipes that don't quit. I'm a bundled up package of fat, fabulous fierceness.



**NICK**  
Mary's Attic

12

**Age**  
32  
**Relationship Status**  
In a relationship.  
**Your Gay Idol?**  
Tough choice, but I must say Freddie Mercury for being the amazing rock front man he was.  
**Life's soundtrack?**  
"In My Life" by The Beatles.  
**Why should you be the next Gay Idol?**  
I want to represent the gay rockers of Chicago!



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# On doing what you love: Coach Jody Michael

BY ROSS FORMAN

Where were you when you decided what you were going to do with your life?

Maybe you were in a college class and you figured it out while you were engaged in a project. Maybe it was an “aha moment” during one of your better (or worse) days at work. Maybe it was after a major life event and you realized you were meant for more.

Jody Michael was in a floatation tank.

A successful leader in the finance industry, Michael purchased a 10-pack of sessions in a sensory deprivation floatation tank. “My first float was claustrophobic; I almost didn’t go back. The second was deeply relaxing. During my third float, I became deeply aware and alert, yet completely relaxed. While in that state, I heard my inner voice very clearly naming what I should do—coaching.”

And Michael knows what she is talking about. With a background in neuroscience, mindfulness, and cognitive psychology, she uses the principles and metrics of hard science to help people achieve change. She understands now that she was experiencing alpha brain waves, which one attains through meditation, in that third float.

Her brain was literally telling her what she should do with her life.

## One of the first (non-sports) coaches

In 1996, when the openly gay Michael founded Jody Michael Associates, no one knew what a career coach was. “People would always ask me, ‘What sport?’ not knowing it was something else completely.” Though she loved sports, it was the people aspect of career coaching that kept her attention.

“When I launched [the business,] I never for a minute thought it would grow to more than just me. I had already been coaching internally in the financial industry for years. I was leading large floor operations and used coaching in my management style, but it didn’t have a name. I had been trained by one of the grandfathers of coaching, Fernando Flores, and so, I was one of the earliest coaches in the country.”

Michael’s desire to be a coach comes from two main drives: her passion to effect personal and professional transformation in others and her compassion to help relieve their pain.

## Do no harm

Michael is insistent that mental health and physical health go hand in hand. Understanding oneself and being free of mental suffering helps the physical body. That’s why her emphasis is on complete transformation.

“So many people are in so much pain. All you have to do is look at the billions of dollars we as a country spend on psycho-pharmaceuticals and you can see how we are medicating and deadening ourselves to the pain that we feel. To be a catalyst for those individuals who are stressed, stuck, depressed, over-worked and confused and to coach them to perceive, react and live differently is truly a gift that they honor me with. That opportunity to inspire them to create their lives instead of just responding to what life throws them is a privilege.”

While she offers four distinct types of coaching, Michael works with a range of clients, including corporate executives and leaders, entrepreneurs, career professionals, high school and college students and individuals looking to create the life they want.

And that includes clients under the rainbow flag. “While I wouldn’t say that I specialize in coaching the LGBT community, I did purposely seek out training at the Howard Brown Health



Jody Michael.

Center under Theo Pintzuk, who was a fabulous supervisor and mentor,” she said. “The 18 months that I spent there gave me the opportunity to work exclusively with the LGBT community.”

## An empathic observer

Michael’s desire to help others stems, in large part, from her early childhood experiences.

“My mother was mentally ill and spent most of her life in a mental hospital. In fact, from the time I was 18 months old, she spent far more time in the hospital than at home with me. So I was exposed to mental hospitals at a very early age,” Michael said.

Michael described her mother as “very warm, gentle and loving.” Seeing her overmedicated, put through an “ungodly number” of electric shock treatments, and placed in two different mental hospitals made an impression on her as a child that she holds onto. “Witnessing the emotional pain, isolation, stigma and hopelessness that mental illness can often bring created tremendous empathy in me,” she said.

“I became a very keen observer of individuals’ personal pain. I have always been driven to help people alleviate it—something I could not do with my mother, although the day I turned 21, I did take her out of Elgin State Hospital and cared for her until her death in 1986.”

Because of her personal experience with suffering, Michael understands the burdens that some of her clients carry. In fact, one of the things she is most proud of is “processing my challenging childhood without negative residue or scars that may have otherwise impeded my capacity to trust, risk, love, grow and thrive.”

## Healthy competition

However, the softer more empathetic side of Michael is joined to a rather competitive personality. As a young girl, Michael was, admittedly, a tomboy most likely to be chosen to be the quarterback of neighborhood touch football games or defeating boys in pickup games of basketball.

She credits this with some professional success. “Growing up playing with the neighborhood guys really helped hone my skills, made me a better player and gave me an intimate glimpse into the competitive psyche of the male world. Later, it translated into an ease in connecting

with men and helped me navigate the business world and the trading pits,” she recalled. Even though, in the pits, physical jostling was normal, she found herself comfortable with the extreme competitiveness.

This competitive nature showed up in other arenas. Besides the three sports she played in college and the semi-pro basketball (before the new professional women’s teams), Michael has proven she doesn’t shy away from the road less traveled.

As she thinks of the times she’s been an early adopter, she ticks them off on her fingers: “first girls’ class of Lane College Prep High School (that was an all-boys school for about 100 years), one of the first women traders on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange trading floor, one of the earliest career coaches in the country, also she took one of the earliest Internet courses: an Ontological Design Course in the mid-’80s.”

What she wasn’t first in? “My mentor encouraged me to purchase 5,000 dot com names for \$5 a piece back then. Did I listen? No! Ha! I would have been a millionaire.”

## Coaches of the coach

Ironically, Michael never had a sporting coach she had a deep connection to. However, she had teachers at every level of school “who made a significant impact by making me feel seen and special and who shaped my world lens in a powerful way.”

Teaching was one of the first professions that other people suggested to her. In fact, Michael had several opportunities for teaching, even at a young age. In high school, she had three teaching jobs. At 16, she worked for a non-profit called BUILD, teaching drug prevention to 8th graders in the Chicago Public Schools. She was paired with one of her former teachers and “after a few classes, she saw that I could handle her class, so she often left while I conducted the hour-long class unsupervised,” Michael recalled. She continued volunteering and being placed into teaching roles. In keeping with her love of sports, whenever there was a female gym teacher out and a substitute wasn’t available, she was pulled out of her other classes to step in.

Although she got a teaching degree, the allure had started to fade. She recalls the final straw while working in CPS: “One day, when I was assaulted in the halls of Wells High School and the principal did not stand up for me, I decided my teaching days were over.”

She never went back to teaching, other than a class here or there at the University of Chicago while in the PhD program.

“While I certainly value my teaching experience, I think that the traditional Western model of education is becoming rather antiquated,” Michael said. “There are more dynamic methods of learning than the prominent hierarchical model of an expert imparting knowledge to pupils. Much more interesting to me is a more generative conversation, an organic or Socratic method of learning—and coaching allows for this. There is something to be learned from everyone.”

As a true Chicagoan, when asked who her favorite coach is, she replied: former Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson. “He had a holistic approach to coaching that was influenced by Eastern philosophy and spiritual practices, which I connect to deeply. I admire his masterful application of psychology, philosophy, strategy and high emotional intelligence in his coaching.”

## The power of coaching

And, as a coach who wants to apply the same principles as Phil Jackson, she strives to help her clients transform their lives. Much of her

business comes from word-of-mouth, and while the firm offers executive, career, trader and life coaching, most of her clients seek executive or career coaching. “Work accounts for such a great portion of our lives; feeling fulfilled by that work and knowing that it is contributing to some greater purpose can have a profound impact on people’s quality of life,” she said.

Throughout her coaching career, Michael has helped clients achieve extraordinary success, but one story stands out. “Six years ago, a client came to me who was depressed, having a hard time in his marriage, but mostly hating his job every day. He had been working for a few years in what he considered to be a menial job selling a product that he couldn’t care less about. He came to me for ‘What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?’ career discovery coaching. We worked through our process and came to the conclusion that his best career fit was software and web design.

“Unfortunately, because of financial constraints, he couldn’t leave his current position and go back to school. So, we designed a strategy for him to learn the required skills in a matter of months, with minimal in-person schooling. During those months, he was working all day, studying all night, studying all weekend, and starting it all over again the next week.

“Soon after, a boutique web design company offered him a fantastic job with a great starting salary considering he had no prior work experience. They took a chance on him, and within one year, he received multiple raises and promotions and was sought after within the industry. Later that year, he took another job, was promoted to chief technical officer within four years, and was then recruited by a well-respected Chicago company.”

## Doesn’t feel like work

It might be stories like that one that help Michael keep her passion strong. Eighteen years later, Michael has amassed more than 30,000 one-on-one coaching hours, and her fuel to help others achieve their best is still burning.

“I still wake up every morning loving my job and looking forward to my 14-hour workday. People don’t understand how I can work that long and see so many people day after day for so many years. But that’s because they’ve never had the experience of loving something so much that it doesn’t feel like work.”

Jody Michael Associates has grown, too. There are now eight full-time team members plus more subcontracted coaches, and she sees her company continuing to grow strategically without compromising quality.

One of the newest members of her company is Cathy Cullen, Michael’s partner of 18 years and love of her life. Michael explains that Cullen is filling the role of COO at Jody Michael Associates. “She has a wonderful linear and intelligent engineer’s mind, which is a nice compliment to my visionary, creative mind!”

## No slowing down

Michael emphasizes that she is nowhere near the end of her coaching career. “I still find this work engaging and challenging. I am continually fascinated by what it means to be human.” And as reflected by her interest and expertise in the fields of neuroscience, mindfulness, human behavior, cognitive psychology, systems theory, ontology, change models, and leadership and organizational dynamics, she has been doing her homework.

In the coming years, Michael would like to focus more on speaking engagements and large workshop events, and she also plans to publish at least one book. But her overall motivation remains the same as always: “There’s nothing more rewarding than seeing people achieve their greatest goals—creating the life they want.”

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## Takito Kitchen

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Regarding my writing process concerning restaurants, I usually wait a few days after going to the eatery to process the experience—or to let it digest, if you will.

After experiencing the Mexican eatery **Takito Kitchen** (2013 W. Division St.; <http://www.takito-kitchen.com>), I can safely say that my memories of that place are as fond as the night I went there.

The 1,600-square-foot space is unique in several regards. A relatively narrow area leads to a larger space in the back that features a large skylight that allows for a show, rain or shine. There's no separate bar, so spirits are on shelves on the right of the first space, and the kitchen is just past the liquors on the right as well. (I especially like the latter concept, as most patrons can actually see what the cooks are doing, keeping them on their toes.) Lastly, don't be put off by the decorations on the doors of the two restrooms, as they're both unisex.

The menu is as interesting as the space. Takito specialized in shared plates—although you'll want to hog several of the items for yourself. I really liked the Three Sisters polenta with Brunkow cheddar, smoked bacon, pickled chilies and Urban Till cilantro as well as two of the

types of tacos (pork belly and lamb chorizo). And save room for desserts: The arroz con leche and the chocolate ganache

The margaritas are the best I've ever had, hands down. You must experience the chipotle margarita, a wonderfully complex concoction that produces sweetness, acidity and smokiness.

By the way, there's also a takeout menu with many of the items I previously mentioned.

Owner Mario Ponce told Savor that his aim was to create a "modern Mexican" restaurant that's without the "stereotypical" sombreros, pinatas and even tortilla chips. The difference of the place even extends to the spelling of the establishment (as opposed to "taquito") and the music—which is not traditional Mexican but a mix of U.S. pop and rock.

Takito Kitchen proves that being different can be a very good thing, indeed.

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# calendar

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## Wed., June 19

**Little City Foster/Adoptive Parent Orientation** Informational orientation for those with time and desire to partner with Little City Foundation as a foster/adoptive parent caring for children with special needs. 1pm-3pm, 773-916-4091, Little City Foundation, 1760 W. Algonquin Rd., Palatine, <http://littlecity.org/foster>

**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](mailto: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>

**Fundraising for state Rep. Kelly Cassidy** \$50-\$1000. 6pm-8pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., <http://repcassidy.com/>

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

**The Gay Divorcee - Cabaret Show** With gay marriage, comes gay divorce... and great gay break up songs by Melissa Etheridge, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, Pink, Adele, Cher. One woman turns to her musical

divas for guidance and strength through her breakup. \$12, 2 drink minimum; 8pm-9:30pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave., <http://davenportspianobar.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. 9pm-10pm, The Glenwood, 6962 N Glenwood Ave., [www.outatwrigley.com](http://www.outatwrigley.com)

## Thursday, June 20

**Chicago House 2013 Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party** Join Chicago House for their annual Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party. Proceeds benefit Chicago House's ongoing efforts to provide housing and support services to Chicago's LGBT and at-large communities. 6pm-9pm, Room & Board Chicago Store, 55 E. Ohio St., <http://www.chicagohouse.org>

**Howard Brown's Women Like Me Support Group** Are you a woman who, after having been married to or partnered with men, is coming out later in life? This FREE drop-in support group discusses: coming out to family & at work, the parent/child relationship, marital separation & divorce, meeting other women, sexual & mental health. 6pm-7:30pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd., [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org)

**NewTown Writers features WCT publisher** NewTown Writers presents publisher and

journalist Tracy Baim. She will discuss her 2013 Lambda Literary Award-finalist book: Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America. 7:30pm, Sulzer Regional Chicago Public Library, 4455 N Lincoln Ave., <http://go-pride.com/z8cw>

**ChicagoPride.com's Pride Kickoff Party** ChicagoPride.com celebrates its 11th anniversary as the Midwest #1 news and entertainment network for the LGBT community. Join ChicagoPride.com and 103.5 KISS FM for the Pride Kick-Off Party. 7pm-9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., [www.chicagopride.com](http://www.chicagopride.com)

**Asians and Friends Chicago Dining Club** 7pm, 312-409-1573, Las Tablas, a Columbian restaurant, 2942 N. Lincoln Ave.

**Cram's Pride Party** Celebrate Pride with Cram Fashion, while checking out all their new arrivals from 2(x)ist, Ames Bros, T.Rains, G Star Raw, Superdry, Ben Sherman, Emporio, Penguin and more. 8pm-10pm, Cram Fashion, 3331 North Broadway, <https://www.facebook.com/events/379190512191765/>

## Friday, June 21

**Spirit of 76. A Jerry Pritikin Time Capsule** Celebrating the month of LGBTQ Pride, one of Chicago's nationally recognized photographers. 6pm-10pm, 312-646-0627, HumanThread Gallery, 1200 W. 35th St, 5th floor, <http://lovewithpride.eventbrite.com/>; Tickets: <https://www.facebook.com/events/160515534115863/>

**Pride Fest Kick-off** Join 93XRT, Terri hemmert and Tito's Handmade Vodka for giveaways and the kick-off to Chicago's new Pride week. 6:30pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., [www.sidetrackchicago.com](http://www.sidetrackchicago.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](http://www.aboutface theatre.com)

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Friday Cocktails:** A casual evening of cocktails with 30 years of CGMC alums. 7:30pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave.,

<http://cgmc.org>

**Shall we Kiki? Ana Matronic Live!** Roscoe's presents Ana Matronic from Scissor Sisters, live on the dance floor. Including a performance of the iconic "Let's Have A Kiki!" 8pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., [www.roscoes.com](http://www.roscoes.com)

**Cosmix Pride Fest Weekend Kick-off Party** Part of The Art of Celebration: 30 Years of Berlin series. This month: "Slaves of Rhythm: An Ode to Grace Jones and Keith Haring," with infamous Chicago artist and nightlife legend JoJo Baby and friends. Performance art, live on stage beginning at 11pm DJ Greg Haus. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., [www.berlinchicago.com](http://www.berlinchicago.com)

## Saturday, June 22

**Chicago Pride Fest** It's all about LGBTQ pride at Chicago Pride Fest held June 22-23, 2013; a week before the Annual Pride Parade. Performers include Debroah Cox, Aubrey O'Day, Xelle, Dev, and Jessica Sutta, among others. 11am-10pm, Between Addison/Halsted and Broadway/Halsted, <http://www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=142>

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Reunion Sing, pre-performance lunch and rehearsal** Chorus alum will join the Chorus to sing selected music. Register online. 1pm, Lakeview Presbyterian Church, corner of Addison and Broadway, <http://cgmc.org/>; Tickets: <http://gopride.com/z8bu>

**GayCo Pride show 'Married, But Still Slutty!'** New improv and storytelling extravaganza aims to remind the LGBT community to enjoy a fun, frisky summer of freedom before they get married and move to Oak Brook. Once a Gay-lebrity tells a slice of their life, GayCo will use the story to inspire a raucous, titillating improv show. Schedule of Gay-lebrities online. Tickets by email [reservations@the-playground.com](mailto:reservations@the-playground.com) or by phone. BYOB. 10pm, Playground



## BIRDS OF A FEATHER Thursday, June 20

Chicago House's annual birdhouse auction will take place at Room and Board, 55 E. Ohio St.

Photo from 2012  
by Steve Starr

Theatre, 3209 N Halsted St, Chicago, <http://www.gayco.com>

**Dollhouse feat. RuPaul's Drag Race stars** See Monica Beverly Hillz and Jade, along with Saya Naomi, for this special edition of Spin's Dollhouse drag show. Show times at midnight and 1am Two dance floors spinning until 3am; 11:30pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

## Sunday, June 23

**Pamper Me Fabulous** Inspirational programming for mind, body, spirit for women. Workouts, workshops, shopping,

Turn to page 41

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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## STAMM from page 28

JS: It makes me want to create more art knowing that I can make other people happy. I want to make art not just for myself but to stimulate other people's imaginations. I had conversations with people from different generations, especially older generations and it was comforting to hear that they felt the same as I do about the work. I hope to inspire other people to create their own worlds.

**NL: As you move past your most recent exhibition, how do you hope to push yourself as an emerging visual artist? Where would you like to see your work take you?**

JS: I would like to have at least one solo show a year. I want people to know my work but still have it be accessible and affordable to everyone. I want my work to promote inclusivity in art without being pretentious. Even though everybody at the show was very impressed by my work, it was sad to see that none of the critics who were invited showed up. I was even stood up by one critic from New City who left me waiting in the gallery for hours. Most critics don't support emerging artists or give them the press that they so desperately need.

**NL: What projects are you currently working on?**

JS: At the moment, I'm creating an archipelago called the Lost Islands of Lake Michigan. Each island is inspired by the childhood of a different queer person in Chicago. I'm trying to create an archipelago of queer people who have impacted my life since moving to Chicago almost two years ago. Some of the people included in this project are Joe Varisco, Jesus Plaza, Mar Curran, Lindsey Dietzler, Jessica Neria, Jeremy Sorese, Kiam Marcelo Junio, H. Melt, Cassandra Warren, and several others who I have yet to interview. I'm planning to exhibit this project in late fall or early winter.

Find out more about Stamm and her work through her website, [www.janiestamm.com](http://www.janiestamm.com). For contact and inquiries, email [janiestamm@gmail.com](mailto:janiestamm@gmail.com).

# BILLY MASTERS

"I've had a lot of men come into my life as father figures. I'd fall in love with them and then they're just gone."—Brandon, a 26-year-old painting contractor from Costa Mesa, sobs this confession on *The Bachelorette*. Although he's talking about having a single mom who dated a variety of men, something tells me he's had first-hand experience with many men who came and went out of his life.

With all the gay-pride festivities around the country, I can't possibly hit them all. Although I'm known for breaking the rules (or at the very least, bending them), not even I can break the rules of physics and be in two places at the same time. Last weekend, I was in Boston on Saturday and Los Angeles on Sunday. After stating that Boston Pride played a part in his coming out, Jason Collins marched alongside his one-time Stanford roommate, Massachusetts Congressman Joe Kennedy. Earlier in the week, the openly gay former Boston Celtic was wearing the jersey of a different team. Collins was invited to throw out the first pitch at the Red Sox game on Pride Night.

Meanwhile in Los Angeles, there was scandal a-brewing. Ciara was booked as Saturday night's headliner for LA Pride. However, local hot spot The Factory planned a special pre-Pride party on Friday and advertised there would be a "special performer." Although I didn't see it, allegedly Factory had some flyers touting Ciara's appearance. Once the Pride committee got wind of this, they made it clear that her engagement with them superseded any other appearances (especially the night before at a club two blocks away). Factory threatened to sue Ciara for \$10K. Her people said that there wasn't a signed contract (which I somehow doubt).

Come Saturday night, Ciara's in the middle of her performance and shaking hands with people by the stage when all of a sudden someone handed her something. She took one look at it and dropped it—she had been served! The wise process server made sure to have a video of Ciara taking it, which you can see on BillyMasters.com. The tragedy of this event is that I wasn't hosting. I suspect I would have gone out on stage, picked up the summons and called back to Ciara, "Honey, I think you forgot something." Perhaps I would have done a dramatic reading of the summons aloud, adding: "I'm only trying to help. That Ciara's not much of a reader!" On second thought, maybe it's best I wasn't there.

If you didn't have a local gay-pride event going on, you were probably watching the Tony Awards. As usual, Neil Patrick Harris was a brilliant host. Not too much, not too little—just right. I believe I was the first person to tell Andrea Martin she'd not only get nominated for a Tony but would also win it, and she did. My darling Jerry Mitchell and Kinky Boots took the lion's share of awards. I shouldn't take pleasure in someone losing, but it's nice to see that Tom Hanks doesn't win every award he's nominated for. Kudos to dear Judith Light for winning two years in a row, and giving the best speech (including thanking her manager and our pal, Herb Hamsher).

Just so you don't think we've lost our taste for hot naked men, last week Ian Ziering made his debut with the world-famous Chippendales in Las Vegas. He'll be appearing with the boys at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino through the end of June. After several weeks of intense workouts, the 50-year-old Ian turned flab to fab. He reportedly lost 25 pounds and the results are impressive—as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

Far more predictable is Patrick Schwarzenegger, who Tweeted a shirtless photo of himself with the caption, "Early morning pump! Who is getting into shape for summer??!! Gonna gain 7 pounds this summer." Really? I just gained seven pounds since I started writing this week's column. But I'll still post the pic (his, not mine).

One more hottie, Derek Theler from *Baby Daddy*, posted a sweaty selfie after an intense

workout. I don't know anything about him, but someone this gorgeous and showing so much skin deserves to be on BillyMasters.com.

Our question is from Jerry in Seattle: "Ask Billy, I'm in love with the new Superman, Henry Cavill. Don't you think he gives off a gay vibe? Please tell me he is. A friend of mine said you knew someone very close to him."

This is a story which I can relate second- or, possibly, third-hand. Apparently, one of Henry's closest friends in L.A. is actor and writer Corey Spears (a former paramour of Dan Renzi, of "Real World" and daytime moviegoing fame). Even when Henry was making decent money as an actor, he'd stay on Corey's sofa whenever in LA. What makes this interesting is that, according to Renzi, Henry had a penchant for walking around the apartment naked. If you check out his scribblings at DanRenzi.com, you'll find



**Man of Steel's Henry Cavill stayed in the nudes, according to Billy.**

some stories about Henry—where he's affectionately referred to as "The Hen" (personally, I'd go with "The Cock"). With so many gay people close to Cavill, you'd think that if there were any real gossip, I'd know about it. Apropos of your question, I don't think it's a gay vibe he gives off—it's a British vibe; they're often mistaken for each other. Regardless, he always delivers, like in that scene from the first season of *The Tudors* where he's endlessly plowing away with such zeal. I've never before been jealous of a scullery maid. There's even a tantalizing glimpse of the goods, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When we're hoping Cavill is not faster than a speeding bullet, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I didn't even get to tell you that Curtis Stone and Lindsay Price got married, Graham Norton and his beau broke up, and Jennifer Love Hewitt is engaged to and carrying the child of her latest boyfriend/co-star/soon-to-be ex. WOW, I slipped those in when you weren't looking. Well, I'm good in a tight squeeze—much like Cavill. You can see him and so much more on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site that is always gentle with you. For a bit of the rough stuff, you'll have to contact me directly. If you don't see me on an app in your locale, you can always write to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Ciara shows up on Judge Judy! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**JOIN 93XRT,  
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## CALENDAR from page 40

beauty, spa, health, bubbly, desserts, gift bags, motivational speakers, fitness classes, photo-booths, taste-testing class, crafts, lunch, drinks, desserts, retail therapy, spa treatments, beauty, fitness, fashion, health and wellness. Age 21 with valid ID. 11am-5pm, River East Art Center, <http://pamperme fabulous.com>

**GLAAD Pride Brunch** Four-course sharing menu and one cocktail for \$18.50 per person, and a complimentary Gummy Bear Bar, courtesy of Candyality, live DJ, and rainbow-colored party favors for all guests. Proceeds from sale of Tavernita's candy-themed cocktail benefit GLAAD. 11:30am-3:30pm, Tavernita, 151 W. Erie St., [www.glaad.org/events/pride-brunch](http://www.glaad.org/events/pride-brunch)

**Chicagoland Pride Worship** Come early to the reception. Stay for the Chicagoland Pride Worship bringing together 60+ member congregations and more. Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches; 7pm, First United Methodist Church at Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St., <https://www.facebook.com/events/617250431636031/>

### Monday, June 24

**TPAN Complimentary Therapy Programs** Reiki is offered the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1pm to 3pm on a first come first serve basis. 1pm-3pm, TPAN, 5537 N. Broadway, <http://www.tpan.com>

**Sapna Kumar** Stand-up comic from India to Indiana to LOGO TV's "One Night Stand-Up" and NBC's "Last Comic Standing 4," lesbian film and theater and now before Pride OutLoud Chicago at Zanies. 8pm, Zanies Old Town, Chicago, <http://sapna-kumar.com/comedian>

### Tuesday, June 25

**State's Attorney's 4th Annual Pride Awards** All are invited to join Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez at the State's Attorney's 4th Annual Pride Recognition and Awards Ceremony honoring two people for their leadership and contributions to the Cook County LGBT community. Awardees will be selected prior to the event. 5:30pm-7:30pm, 312-603-1859, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.statesattorney.org>

**GLAAD's Fly with Pride!** Indoor cycling ride to ben-

efit GLAAD. Flywheel indoor cycling classes challenge you to transform your body and have fun doing it. 6:30pm-7:30pm, Flywheel Sports, 710 N. State St., [www.glaad.org/events/fly-pride](http://www.glaad.org/events/fly-pride)

### Wed., June 26

**Howard Brown's Under 35 Health Drop-In Night** Are you a woman or transgender person under the age of 35 and have no insurance? Stop by our drop-in night for a FREE pap test and breast/chest exam, counseling intake session, HIV/STI testing, and health and wellness information! 5pm-8pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd., [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org)

**11th Annual Windy City Gay Idol finals** Levi Kreis joins the judges as Windy City Gay Idol concludes the 2013 search for the top amateur GLBT singers in the Chicago area. 6pm doors, 7pm start. 6pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., <http://gopride.com/z81w>

### Wed., June 26

**30 Under 30** Windy City Times each year recognizes 30 outstanding LGBT individuals and allies under the age of 30. Windy City Times, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted and Chicago House sponsor the event. 5:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://gopride.com/z833>

**Back Lot Bash 2013** Uh Huh Her, Melissa Ferrick, Whitney Mixer and more. The hottest, most rockin' and most attended outdoor women's party taking place ALL Pride Weekend in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. 6pm, 5238 N. Clark St., behind Cheetah Gym, <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com>

**Music with Pride: A Tribute to Gay Comp honors LGBT composers, benefits AFC** Young and talented local musicians honor classical and contemporary LGBT composers including Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber. Aimed at a casual music audience with educational talks about the composers and how their homosexuality affected their lives and music. \$10 suggested donation at the door to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Team to End AIDS endurance training program. 7pm, Lake View Presbyterian Church, <http://www.musicwithpride.splashthat.com>

# Force players proud to represent U.S.

BY ROSS FORMAN

Liz Okey struggles to put into words her thoughts of making Team USA, which will compete in the second International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Women's World Championship.

Okey said the honor of being selected as the Americans look to defend the title they won in 2010 is a mix of "joy, gratitude, excitement and humility."

Okey, 28, who lives in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood, is in her fifth season on the offensive line of the Chicago Force—and she is one of nine Force players selected, of 45 overall team members, spanning 15 states, for the 2013 U.S. Women's National Team.

The eight-nation football tournament, held every three years, runs June 28-July 6 in Vantaa, Finland. Force head coach John Konecki of Schererville, Ind., is the Team USA head coach.

"As an athlete the opportunity to represent your country in international competition is truly the highest honor," said Okey, who was a four-year volleyball player at Kalamazoo College and a two-sport (volleyball and basketball) standout at Manchester (Mich.) High School. "Growing up, I've always been in awe of the athletes who competed in the Olympics. To know that I now have the honor of wearing the red, white and blue ... I still can't believe it."

Added Konecki, "There is no higher honor than representing your country in international competition. Additionally, I am fully committed to advancing women's tackle football, and competing on a world stage allows for women to continue on with the mission of being ambassadors for the sport."

Okey, an out lesbian, is one of many under the LGBT banner set to represent the U.S.

"My greatest personal sporting moment [was] not winning a game, earning a trophy, breaking a record, or being named MVP. For me, my greatest sports moment was finishing Team USA trials," Okey said. "I had major surgery nine months [earlier after breaking] my fibula in the 2012 [Force] season and had 17 pieces of metal put in my leg. To be able to heal, rehab, train and compete with the top athletes in the nation [less than] a year after surgery ... that was my greatest personal accomplishment."

Here's a look at the Chicago Force players named to the U.S. Women's National Team:

## Liz Okey

Age: 28  
Relationship status: Engaged  
Orientation: Lesbian

A few facts: Has 12 years of classical ballet experience and six years on drum line.

Favorite sport (beside football): Volleyball

Favorite pro athlete: Israel Idonije

Cubs or White Sox: "Neither; I'm a [Detroit] Tigers fan."

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know ... "That one of my biggest Team USA sponsors outside of my family is a German couple who live in Berlin. Dagmar and Paul have been family friends for decades through a high school exchange program in my hometown. I'm lucky enough to have support all across the world, and thus, our game against Germany on July 4 is even more special."

## Sami Grisafe

Age: 28  
Lives in: Evanston  
Relationship status: Single  
Orientation: Lesbian

Sporting background: Was, in 2000, the first girl in California to play quarterback in a varsity Division I high school football game. Was captain of the boys freshmen football team in high school, was a two-year varsity softball and two-

year varsity volleyball player. Plus, she played one year of junior varsity water polo and one year of JV basketball.

Schooling: Redlands High School, class of 2003; Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, class of 2007.

Years on Force: Seven

Position: Quarterback

On making Team USA: "I feel honored to have the opportunity to represent my country playing the sport I fell in love with when I was a little girl. It's a dream I couldn't even imagine as a child. That being said, we will be writing the history of women's tackle football and that is a huge responsibility. Not only will the whole world be watching this summer, but the whole world will look back at us in the future as the trailblazers for this game. It's a great charge and I think all 45 of us are up for the challenge."

Favorite sport (beside football): Volleyball

Favorite pro athletes: Joe Montana and Colin Kaepernick

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know: "When I get frustrated in a game, their support means the world to me and it helps me move forward. Not sure if they will ever know how much they mean to me or how much they've taught me, but I love them dearly and they truly are my family."

## Tami Engelman

Age: 30  
Lives in: Avondale  
Relationship status: "Taken"  
Orientation: Bisexual

At Crystal Lake Central High School: Competed in track and field, and was a conference champion, school record holder and fourth-place in state in the shot put in 1999.

At Western Illinois University: Was a nine-time medal winner in the shot put, discus, hammer and indoor weight throw.

Years on Force: Four

Positions: Offensive guard and defensive tackle

On making Team USA: "I was initially shocked. After coming off a serious injury [last season,] I was not sure that I would be [for] the tryouts. I will be representing the USA in a game that

I absolutely love. I think about walking out onto the football field with USA on my head and chest and it gives me chills every time."

Greatest personal sports moment: "One of the greatest moments, yet hardest, was walking out of the tunnel onto Heinz Field [in Pittsburgh] with my team for the [2012] WFA Championship. Although I was injured in the previous game I was still so proud to be part of the Force and be able to make the historic trip with them."

Favorite sport (beside football): Track & field

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know: "I'm super shy when put in awkward situations with people I don't know. I don't think 'Tami' and 'shy' would ever be in the same sentence, if my teammates were talking about me."

## Brandy Hatcher

Age: 27  
Lives in: Andersonville  
Relationship status: Single  
Orientation: Lesbian

Sports background: Competed in high school track & field, and bowling

Years on Force: Four

Position: Running back

On making Team USA: "I successfully tricked them into letting me on the team, now I just have to trick the world into thinking I deserve it."

Greatest personal sports moment: "Making team USA."

Favorite sport (beside football): Beach volleyball



Force's Team USA members. Photo from Chicago Force

Favorite pro athlete: Barry Sanders

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know: "I've flown around the world; I speak German and I was little Miss Michigan."

## Dawn Pederson

Age: 38  
Lives in: Andersonville  
Relationship status: Married  
Orientation: Gay

Sports background: Was varsity MVP for field hockey, soccer and track during her junior and senior seasons. Played field hockey for Ohio State University. Won a bronze medal at the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1991 and was an alternate for the under-21 U.S. National Team.

Years on Force: Seven

Position: Left tackle and long snapper

On making Team USA: "I am thrilled to be able to defend the championship we won in 2010 and I consider myself so lucky to have the honor of representing the United States again. The 2010 team made history and laid the groundwork for the future, and I hope to continue to build on what we started in 2010."

Greatest personal sports moment: "Scoring the game-winning goal in sudden-death overtime against the University of Iowa. It was the first time in 16 years that Ohio State had beaten Iowa."

Favorite sport (beside football): Field hockey

Favorite pro athlete: "I don't really have a favorite. I like the class acts who let their actions on the field speak for themselves."

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know: "What I have accomplished on the field with football is all because of my wife. If she hadn't pushed me to be better I would not be where I am today."

## Ashley Berggren

Age: 36  
Lives in: Evanston

Sports background: All-American high school softball player, All-area volleyball, all-state basketball. All-American collegiate basketball player and conference player of the year.

Schools: Barrington high school, class of 1994; and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, class of 1998

Years on Force: Three

Positions: Wide receiver and defensive end

On making Team USA: "It is the highest honor an athlete can achieve in any sport, and I'm grateful to be associated with such an amazing, inspiring group of female athletes and coaches."

Greatest personal sports moment: Winning a Big Ten championship."

Favorite sport (beside football): Basketball

Favorite pro athlete: Walter Payton  
Cubs or White Sox: Cubs

## Jeanette Gray

Age: 32  
Lives in: Highland, Ind.

Relationship status: In a Relationship

Sports background: Played volleyball, basketball and softball, and also was a golfer in high school. Played basketball in college.

Schooling: Valparaiso High School, class of 1999; Valparaiso University, class of 2003

Years on Force: Four

Position: Wide receiver

On making Team USA: "Absolutely humbled to represent my country, [and am] extremely excited to compete with and against the best players in the world."

Greatest personal sports moment: "Taking my Valparaiso University basketball team to [its] first-ever NCAA Tournament [appearance] as a senior year. That and playing in the WFA Championship game in Pittsburgh in 2012."

Favorite sport (beside football): basketball

Favorite pro athlete: LeBron James  
Cubs or White Sox: White Sox

## Jamie Menzyk

Age: 29  
Lives in: Portage, Ind.  
Relationship status: Single  
Orientation: Lesbian

At Whiting (Ind.) High School: Played four years basketball, two years volleyball, four years softball, and one year of football.

At Calumet College of Saint Joseph: Played four years of basketball, two years volleyball, and three years softball.

Years on Force: Seven

Position: Right guard

On making Team USA: "Am honored to have had the best coaching over the last several years to make me a top candidate to represent our great country."

Greatest personal sports moment: "Winning the gold medal in Sweden in 2010, and being named MVP of the Gold Medal Game."

Favorite sport (beside football): Hockey

Favorite pro athlete: Rebecca Lobo  
Cubs or White Sox: White Sox

Even my Force teammates will be surprised to know: "I was the first female basketball player to score 1,000 points at Calumet College of Saint Joseph."

## Kimberly Marks

Age: 31  
Lives in: Bucktown  
Relationship status: Married  
Orientation: Gay

At Rich Central High School: Played volleyball, softball, basketball, and competed on the gymnastics team.

Years on Force: Seven

Position: Defensive line

On making Team USA: "This is an amazing honor. Having participated in the tournament in 2010, I look forward to sharing this experience with all of the new players, as well as the returning players. I anticipate bringing home the gold again."

Greatest personal sports moment: "Has not happened yet; it will be celebrating after the Chicago Force wins the 2013 WFA Championship."

Favorite sport (beside football): Basketball

Favorite pro athlete: Ray Lewis  
Cubs or White Sox: White Sox

# CONNEXIONS

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

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