



WCT TALKS WITH
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MCDONALD

PAGE 23

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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**KAMENY AMONG
THOSE HONORED
AT LEGACY
PROJECT'S
DEDICATION**
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Tension increases as veto session nears

BY KATE SOSIN

It's a familiar line from LGBT groups these days. "Our sense is that we're feeling very optimistic headed into veto session," said Ed Yohnka, director of communications for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

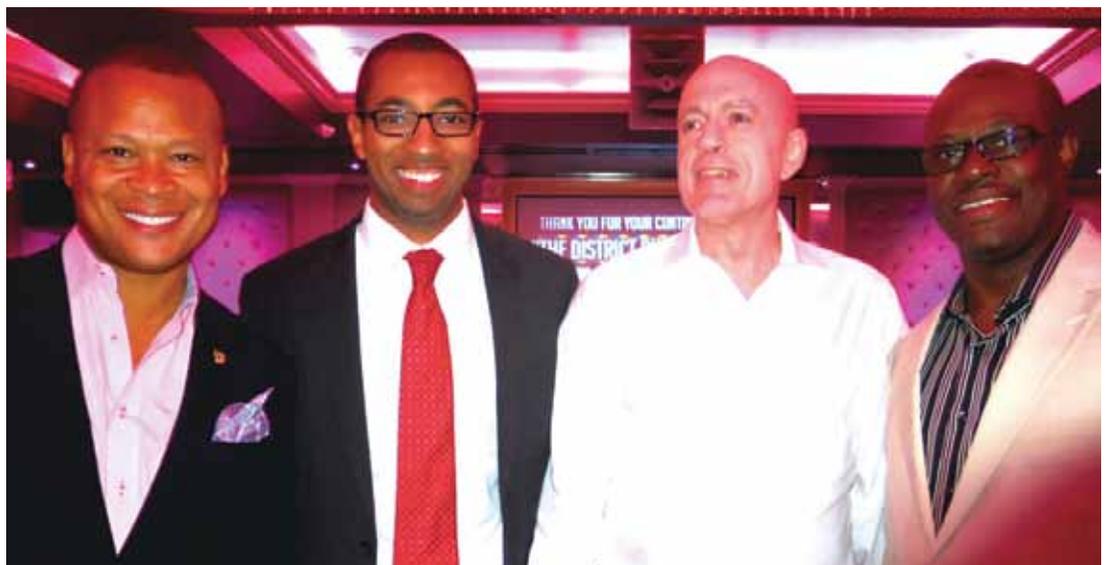
But how close, neither sponsors nor LGBT leaders will say.

"There isn't a lot of new information just yet," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, adding that he does not have a firm roll call. "Springfield sometimes works in mysterious ways."

Sponsors have just two windows of time to pass equal marriage legislation through the house if they want to make good on a promise to call the bill during veto session. They can call for a vote during the week of Oct. 22. Nov. 5-7 will provide the other opportunity.

Rep. Greg Harris, chief sponsor of the bill, predicted a vote during veto session, after spring session ended without a vote May 31. Harris told a packed gallery in the state capitol that night that his colleagues were

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State Rep. Ken Dunkin hosted a benefit for his re-election campaign Oct. 10. He is the chief co-sponsor of the marriage equality bill. He's pictured here with fellow reps at the event, from left: Dunkin, Christian Mitchell (South Side), Greg Harris (North Side, chief sponsor) and Derrick Smith (West Side). Photo by Tracy Baim



**SOCCER'S ABBY
WAMBACH
COMES OUT,
GETS HITCHED**
PAGE 32



**LOCAL GAY
WRITER OWEN
KEEHNEN
DISCUSSES HIS
LATEST WORKS**
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WOMEN IN CHARGE

Windy City Times talks with two powerful women who excel in very different fields: GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard (left) and rapper/actress Eve. Photo of Byard from GLSEN; image of Eve by Amarpaul Kaliari



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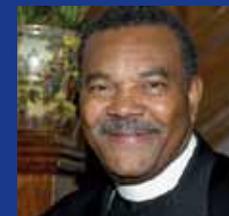
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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Audra McDonald photo by Autumn de Wilde; photo of Tom Waddell's plaque by Tracy Baim; photo of Abby Wambach by Tracy Baim; image of Owen Keehnen from Keehnen



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SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Northwestern Univ. professor E. Patrick Johnson performed excerpts from a work tentatively titled HoneyPot: Black Southern Women Who Love Women—An Oral History.

Photo by Tracy Baim



In his The Fairy Gardener column, Jim Edminster ruminates on high school reunions and squash vines. Photo from Jim Angrabright

Robert Raben talks about what LGBTs can do for civil rights. Photo from Raben

IN FASHION

Gay designers are being spotlighted during Chicago Fashion Week.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

There's even more news on WCT's website, including Campus Pride hosting an LGBT-inclusive college fair.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Orlando Cruz, Adele and Hugh Jackman.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

'SUPPER' CLASS



Patrick Andrews and Meghan Murphy were among those enjoying themselves at About Face's "Black and Tan Supper Club" gala. Photo by Jerry Nunn



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A Queer Agenda

BY ANDRÉ PÉREZ



Coming Out for Community

In honor of National Coming Out Day, I'm coming out as a survivor of domestic violence, as a first-generation college student, as a person who struggles with mental illness, and as an aspiring community leader.

I spent formative years of my life afraid to go home. I worked doubly hard in school because it was the only place in my life where people were supportive of me and my interests. I lived in fear. I carried all of my valued possessions with me in my car so that I could escape if it got too bad. I worried I would not be able to tell when it was too bad. An overwhelming anxiety loomed

ally and socially. I would not be where I am if not for a dozens of people who offered me something I had no idea how to get on my own, people who afforded me their guidance and attention, people who did me small and large favors along the way. Thank you to my roommate who gave me clothes to wear to my first professional job when I was broke. Thank you to the college administrator who let me stay in her spare bedroom for two months when I had nowhere to go. Thank you to the dyke professor whose house I spent Christmas at. Thank you to the queer student organizer who let me use their car to get to my college job. Thank you to the gay man who recommended me for a job even though he only knew me casually, to the queer femme who let me live in her closet when I moved to the city, to the trans ally who taught me how to write a grant. These are each moments when people offered me something that didn't mean a lot to them, but meant the world to me.

"What was the difference between then and now? Community."

over me as I slept in that beat-up Chevy. I drove myself to college like a person on the run. I had panic attacks when I thought about going back home, so I didn't. I got another part-time job and stayed in an illegal apartment. During breaks, I housesat for professors, crashed friends' holiday celebrations, and found summer jobs that provided boarding.

Fast forward to this summer. I was riding home on the blue line after a harrowing visit with my family. I was exhausted when a wave of relaxation swept over my whole body. I felt, for the first time, that I was going to be okay. I had clung to that fear and anxiety even as I moved thousands of miles away. I had spent years projecting self-confidence and talking up my experiences as youthful adventure seeking. In reality, no matter how much I tried to convince myself that I was fine, it always felt precarious, like I was on the precipice of crisis and any wrong move could send me plummeting into it. Somehow I had found my way into the safest home I had ever known with roommates and friends and a partner to greet me.

What was the difference between then and now? Community.

The queer community has been a huge source of support economically, emotion-

ally and socially. I would not be where I am if not for a dozens of people who offered me something I had no idea how to get on my own, people who afforded me their guidance and attention, people who did me small and large favors along the way. Thank you to my roommate who gave me clothes to wear to my first professional job when I was broke. Thank you to the college administrator who let me stay in her spare bedroom for two months when I had nowhere to go. Thank you to the dyke professor whose house I spent Christmas at. Thank you to the queer student organizer who let me use their car to get to my college job. Thank you to the gay man who recommended me for a job even though he only knew me casually, to the queer femme who let me live in her closet when I moved to the city, to the trans ally who taught me how to write a grant. These are each moments when people offered me something that didn't mean a lot to them, but meant the world to me.

Not only do I want to be the kind of adult who came into my life and made a difference, but I want to build a community that cultivates that kind of support as a baseline. In a city so segregated by privilege and cultural difference, we need to reimagine how we as a community can be whole. Part of that equation is people who have more resources contributing them to community organizations that serve the needs of and take leadership from more marginal parts of our community. But that is not enough.

We need to invite one another into our lives. Part of privilege is having a network of people with enough slack to offer you those recommendations, that place to stay, and that opportunity to voice your opinion to the right people.

I feel fortunate enough to have the support I need in order to be out in a world where repercussions are still very real. As a trans person, my outness impacts my ability to have and maintain basic economic stability. It circumscribes the range of places where I can feel comfortable or use the restroom. But the benefits of community have far outweighed any adversity my transness has caused me. I am coming out as someone supported by community, and I am blessed.

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.

Not Marching? 10 ways to help Marriage Equality

Can't make the March on Springfield Oct. 22? Here are some ideas on how you can help marriage equality in Illinois:

- 1) Call or visit your state representative.
- 2) Donate to Illinois Unites or other agencies working on marriage equality.
- 3) Use Twitter #IL4M to tweet messages from @IllinoisMarches to your reps and friends.
- 4) Share messages from the MarchOnSpringfield-ForMarriageEquality Facebook page.
- 5) Check out <http://www.MarchOnSpringfield.org> for ways to participate the day of the events in Springfield.
- 6) Make sure all your friends and family in other parts of Illinois are either going to the March or contacting their reps, or both.
- 7) Post letters to media across the state, especially in your voting district.
- 8) Print out the posters on the March website and post them at work and home.
- 9) Tell your work colleagues about the March and tell them how to engage.
- 10) Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

Legacy Project unveils newest history plaques

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The second year of Halsted Street's Legacy Project—the only outdoor LGBT museum walk in the world—kicked off Oct. 11 with a dedication to five more individuals who have made a lasting contribution to LGBT history.

Plaques this year were added commemorating poet Walt Whitman; playwright and activist Lorraine Hansberry; physician and athlete—and Gay Games founder—Dr. Tom Waddell; businesswoman and activist Ruth Ellis; and civil-rights pioneer Frank Kameny.

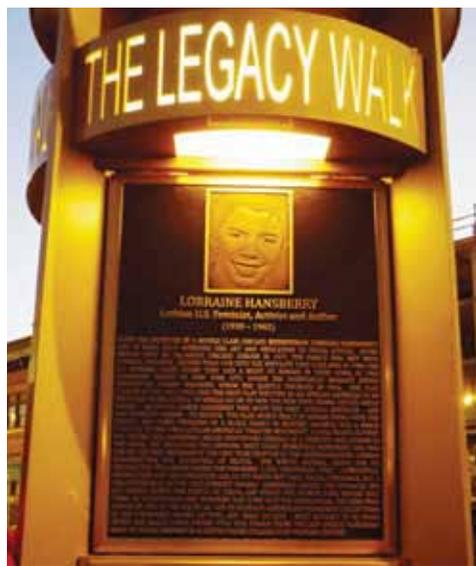
About 25 people gathered for the dedication, which began at 3342 N. Halsted St., and featured remarks from community members, some of them close to the honorees, as well as dedications read by LGBT youth.

Dick Uyvari—a prominent figure in the Chicago sports scene who, along with his late partner, Joe La Pat, was instrumental in bringing the Gay Games to Chicago—spoke about Waddell, whom he said he had first learned about when Waddell placed sixth in the decathlon competition in the 1968 Summer Olympics.

"I wish I had known back then that he was go-



Executive Director Victor Salvo speaks at the dedication.



Top left: Plaque of Lorraine Hansberry. Top right: Plaque of Tom Waddell. Photos by Tracy Baim

ing to be the man he turned out to be," Uyvari said.

Uyvari was happy to have his partner's name on Waddell's plaque.

"He's going to live on forever on this plaque, alongside me, where he should be," Uyvari said of La Pat. He then added that Waddell is the first professional athlete to be honored by the Legacy Project.

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, spoke when the plaque honoring Ruth Ellis was unveiled. The executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit had been planning on being at the dedication along with some of the youth it serves. Unfortunately, they had received word that one of the Center's young clients had been shot and killed that morning.

Hunt spoke highly of the Center's work. "The Ruth Ellis Center is a beautiful space, and I think the largest LGBTQ youth center in the Midwest at least," she said. "They were so happy to know that she was being honored here today."

She further noted the irony that Ellis, who

lived to be over 100 years old, had a youth center named after her.

"We should all be so lucky," Hunt said. "She has a youth center named after her so that all, with all the things she was able to do with her life, there will be young people who will be able to do the same things and more."

While speaking at Hansberry's plaque, Legacy Project founder and Executive Director Victor Salvo, who led the ceremony, mentioned a sentimental attachment he had to the plaque and its honoree.

"Lorraine Hansberry was the very first biography that I wrote, almost six years ago, when this project started," he said, adding that Hansberry is the first inductee who was born in Chicago.

"Most people think this whole project is a celebration of Chicago, but it really is a celebration of national and world culture," Salvo said.

The evening concluded with a celebration of the dedication at Center on Halsted. A benefit reception was held Oct. 12 at Sidetrack bar.

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GLSEN's Byard on speaking at Elmhurst College

BY ROSS FORMAN

Eliza Byard will be at Elmhurst College Wed., Oct. 23, for a talk entitled "The LGBT Student and the Culture of Respect," which is this year's William R. Johnson Intercultural Lecture at the west suburban school.

It certainly, too, will be a flashback for Byard. Years ago as a graduate student, Byard was an adjunct teacher for undergraduate students at Barnard College and Columbia University, in history and American studies. That brief teaching gig ended in the 1990s.

"It's an amazing thing," Byard said, laughing. "When I taught years ago, they had to listen to me. Now they've asked to listen to me. That's a very nice difference."

Byard is now the executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a leader in the education, youth development and civil-rights sectors fighting to end bias-based bullying, violence and discrimination in K-12 schools and promote a culture of respect for all.

The annual William R. Johnson Intercultural Lecture is named in honor of Elmhurst College alumnus Rev. Dr. William R. Johnson (Class of 1968), who was openly gay, and one of the first in modern history to gain ordination to the mainstream Christian ministry.

Elmhurst College is a private liberal-arts college, affiliated with the United Church of Christ. It also, in 2011, added a question about prospective students' sexual orientation and gender identity in its admission application.

"[On]-campus speaking engagements are particularly interesting because every campus has a very distinct personality. I love visiting with communities in the way that you do when you speak at a school," Byard said. "I often find that the Q&A session can raise issues that become fodder for future work."

"When I'm talking to faculties or schools, I'm always on the lookout for what's the next topic for concern or the next issues/topics, especially those that we haven't yet taken on at GLSEN."

"This particular speaking engagement seemed really interesting because it's about the dynamics of intercultural life, and then placing that within the world."

The college approached GLSEN in hopes she would speak at the event, Byard said, and she's "honored and pleased" to do so.

"From what I know about Elmhurst College, it is a place that has always fostered interesting dialogue; I'm really looking forward to being a part of that series," she said. "[Elmhurst College] does a great deal to foster real dialogue around issues of cultural difference and community, in a way that is very productive."

"Personally, I particularly enjoy presentations to a college audience, which is so wide-ranging. The thing I particularly love is, the kinds of questions that come up; I always look forward to that aspect of these talks and presentations."

Byard has spent 13 years at GLSEN, first joining as deputy executive director. She lives in New York City with her partner and their two children.

"One of the things that has been a real focus during my time at GLSEN is about putting the LGBT experience in context, in terms of why these issues matter, not just for the individual who is directly affected, but for the community around them," Byard said. "My interest is in drawing some connections for an audience about some of the successes that we have had and why I think we've had them."

"When I was teaching in the 1990s, the exploration of LGBT issues and themes, in the college context, was in its infancy. It was then



Eliza Byard. Photo from GLSEN

called lesbian and gay studies, then queer studies. But it was not part of the everyday undergraduate college existence. Things started to happen through the 1990s that indicted that people were beginning to understand why this mattered, and why this understanding was so important. Now, to be going to Elmhurst College, in this context, is one of the examples of where we've come; people understand this as a key part of the dialogue.

"I can't wait to see what questions they bring to the conversation."

Byard added, "A lot of my time at GLSEN, particularly my earlier years, was about fostering common ground and really working with people who we had very fundamental disagreements [with] in order to find a way forward. Going to a place like Elmhurst feels like a slightly different experience, but certainly increases my sense of community, and what it means to talk to this community."

Byard said the fact that Elmhurst College asks prospective students' sexual orientation and gender identity in its admission application can make "an enormous difference, whether it's [to and for] the person who checks the box, or the person who just notices that it's there and understands this to be a place that recognizes and respects that category."

Thus, forward-thinking schools such as Elmhurst College should be celebrated, she said.

Byard spoke this past August in Washington D.C., in conjunction with the commemorative 50th anniversary March on Washington. GLSEN partner organizations, mostly in the South, nominated Byard to speak at the event, and the King Center selected her.

She said it was "the experience of a lifetime." GLSEN was the lone LGBT organization represented at the event.

"When I got the invitation [to speak at the event], I didn't think it was real. But it was, and it really was an occasion like none other," she said. "To stand on the steps where Bayard Rustin stood, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood, where all of those incredible pioneers and pathbreakers stood, and to honor what they did ... to be a part of that was just amazing. It meant a lot to me to particularly call out the names of LGBT youth that we have lost as inspirations to keep going, and to re-dedicate ourselves to the

struggle for real equality for everyone."

"It was an unforgettable experience, though I also refer to it as the scariest two minutes of my life. It was the most humbling experience of my life, humbling in a good way, one that left me happier than I was before."

"Plus, it was the first time my work has interfered with a family vacation—and yet my part-

ner completely understood."

Byard's speech starts at 4 p.m., in the Frick Center of Founders Lounge (190 Prospect Ave.). Admission is \$10 for the general public and free for Elmhurst College students, faculty, staff and alumni. Tickets are available at www.elmhurst.edu/tix.

Forum examines immigration post-DOMA

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

The LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago and the Adler School of Professional Psychology hosted a panel of immigration attorneys and mental health professionals Oct. 7 to discuss immigration law now that a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down.

Affinity Community Services Executive Director Kim Hunt and immigration attorney Robert M. Romero-Perez, both members of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago, moderated the discussion. Hunt began with a history of immigration law as it impacts LGBTQ people.

In 1965, the U.S. immigration law was amended to exclude homosexuals. After the start of the AIDS crisis, people with HIV were similarly denied entry. In 2004, the Bush administration invalidated all legal marriages between two individuals where one or both parties claimed to be a transsexual. Over the years, immigration restrictions were gradually lifted in a series of case laws that culminated in the U.S. Supreme Court Decision regarding section three of DOMA this past June.

However, according to the panelists, immigration remains a complex issue for LGBTQ people with few concrete guidelines to be found. Even the Department of State, and the USCIS disagree when it comes to interpreting aspects of immigration law such as where the marriage of an LGBTQ immigrant was celebrated versus where the couple lives.

Esther Baruja, a Paraguayan national who arrived in the U.S. three-and-a-half years ago talked about her own experiences trying to enter the United States as a permanent resident with her Ohio-born wife. Owing to the restrictions placed on them by DOMA, it was impossible for Baruja to get any kind of stamp on her passport other than a B-2 tourist visa, which allowed her a maximum stay of six months.

Starting in 2006, Baruja applied faithfully every year for the Diversity Immigrant Visa (green-card lottery) costing the pair upwards of \$2,000 in application fees and interviews. In 2010, she was granted permanent residency, but not because the U.S. recognized that

she was married to a U.S. citizen. "The way that I got here was alone," Baruja said. "It was so dehumanizing, because I was with my partner already for many years."

Angela Fadrugas, a licensed psychotherapist specializing in immigration and bicultural issues, noted that the immigration process disrupts the natural development of the family due to involuntary separation, extreme stress and fears of deportation.

For LGBT families going through the labyrinth, there can be even higher levels of anxiety. The repeal of DOMA may have edged open the door for people like Barujas and her wife to enter the country as a couple but they still face tremendous obstacles.

"Proving your marriage is *bona fide* harder for LGBT couples," said Vanessa Esparza-Lopez, a supervising attorney for the Immigrant Legal Defense Project. By example she noted one of the documents needed to prove to the Department of Homeland Security that a marriage is genuine is a joint tax return. In many cases, fear of discrimination keeps an LGBT couple from filing together. If a marriage is deemed to be fraudulent, then the immigrant is barred from petitioning again. LGBT immigrants in detention, prior to deportation proceedings, face solitary confinement (in the case of transsexuals for 24 hours per day) even if they have no criminal record.

Ultimately, confusion still reigns as to whether an LGBT applicant should or should not be considered a legal immigrant in the eyes of the law, and decisions are often at the discretion of the Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Elena Quintana, the executive director of the Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice at the Adler School, said there is still a long way to go. "As a country, we're celebrating a movement from 'what do you think you're doing in America?' to simply, 'hi'. Somehow we need to get to 'I'm so happy you're here.'"

Additional panelists were immigration attorneys Andres Cerritos and Solomon Myers.

See the complete discussion on the Windy City Times Youtube channel, www.youtube.com/WindyCityTimes.

PASSAGES

Bruce Catt

Bruce Howard Catt, 48, passed away unexpectedly at home Oct. 9.

After earning bachelor's degrees in both computer science and Chemistry from Towson State University, he went on to enjoy a long career as a client representative for Owens and Minor Medical Supply.

He was a dedicated NOH8 campaign activist and longtime member of Lincoln Park Lagoons.

Bruce was the beloved husband of 23 years to John Alexander Pucker; loving father of Rick Laughery; and honorary father figure of many. In addition, he was the cherished brother of Judy, Roy, and Donna (Marlene) Catt; son of Roy Catt, Sr. and Jean Catt; and faithful companion of Flippy, Dickens and Bear.

Bruce will be missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the fam-



Bruce Catt.

ily to offset funeral expenses are greatly appreciated.

Visitation took place Oct. 14 at Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com

THE CULTURAL SEASON ELMHURST COLLEGE FALL 2013



Long Live the Queen! The Persistence of Gay Culture

David Halperin

What does Joan Crawford have to do with being gay? Quite a bit, says David Halperin, a professor of the history and theory of sexuality at the University of Michigan and the author of *How to Be Gay*. He describes how gay men develop a “conscious identity” and “a common culture”, and explores why Crawford, Broadway and Judy Garland came to matter so much to so many gay men.

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.
Frick Center, Founders Lounge; admission \$10



The LGBT Student and the Culture of Respect

Eliza Byard

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is the largest organization in the nation working to ensure safe and decent schools for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. Its executive director, Eliza Byard, is an innovative leader in advancing efforts to create a culture of respect for all students.

Wednesday, October 23, 4:00 p.m.
Frick Center, Founders Lounge; admission \$10



For tickets, go to www.elmhurst.edu/tix. After the event, many of these and other lectures at Elmhurst College can be found online in audio or video form or both. Go to www.elmhurst.edu/campus_speakers.

190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

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From left: Ilya Sokin, Stephen Heyman (who moderated), Katherine Baker and Carolyn Shapiro. Photo by Matt Simonette

Legal panel looks at SCOTUS marriage decisions

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Three legal scholars marked Constitution Day Oct. 10 at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law with a panel concerning the legal implications surrounding the Supreme Court's decisions overturning Proposition 8 and parts of the Defense of Marriage Act.

The panel built their talks around a question Justice Antonin Scalia asked during oral arguments in the Prop 8 case: "If gay marriage is unconstitutional, when did it become unconstitutional?"

Ilya Somin, professor of Law at George Mason School of Law in Arlington, Va., focused on the the 14th Amendment and how it applied to discrimination on the basis of gender, which is a key issue at the center of same-sex marriage litigation.

"At the time the amendment was written in 1868, it's certainly true that people accepted forms of sex discrimination that we would today say are wrong or unconstitutional," said Somin.

Indeed, some litigation around sex discrimination had taken place even by the 1870s, he added. Those proceedings generally found that the discrimination was acceptable because of cultural norms about women's roles and perceived abilities, and "over time those viewpoints changed as accepted knowledge about women's capabilities came to light."

But Somin acknowledged that trying to imagine what the amendments' authors would have reacted to same-sex marriage would be impossible.

"The dominant view was that same-sex relations were a sort of temptation that heterosexual people would fall into as a kind of sin," he said. "...People did not think of same-sex orientation as an orientation, much less recognize it as a category the 14th Amendment might have something to say about."

Carolyn Shapiro, associate professor of law at Chicago-Kent, discussed looking at the Constitution as a "living document," a process she said that is often derided by legal scholars.

"They see it as an admission that judges can make stuff up," Shapiro said. "Historically, though, that hasn't happened."

She said that looking for a "right answer" is

often not the right approach when applying the constitution to legal questions, as it was a broadly written document. "Judges have to apply their own perspectives," she added.

"We don't live in a world where each case is decided in a vacuum—it's not," according to Shapiro. "...Judges can't move too far from the last precedent without having a very good reason—if you look through Supreme Court briefs, there is an awful lot about case law."

Katherine Baker, professor of law at Chicago-Kent, focuses much of her work on family law issues. She said that she had long perceived marriage as more than a simple collection of benefits. "If that is the case, than civil unions do the trick."

Several years ago, she wrote an article discussing the emotional and psychological components of marriage that many people report.

"Nowhere did I say marriage should be restricted to a man and a woman," said Baker. "But I got this response from anti-same-sex marriage folks—and they loved this article, which made me a little nervous. To this day, I'm on the mailing lists of these people."

She entered into a correspondence with a man who was against same-sex marriage. "He was using this term, 'genderless marriage,' as an oxymoron, and I was using it—with a wedding ring on my finger—as an ideal," Baker said.

The correspondence led her to the conclusion that many people valorize opposite sex-marriage because of a commitment to gender roles. The male archetype is a slovenly and uncouth man who will be softened by a woman. The female archetype is a woman who can be cared emotionally and financially for as she does a tremendous amount of unpaid labor.

"The typical liberal response is that the model is outdated and it violates legal norms of gender equality," Baker said. "...But marriage today is (still) an incredible gender factory."

"When I am home on the weekend, wearing jeans and a T-shirt, I have been referred to as 'a man' many times," she added. "I don't care, but the people calling me that are mad as hell."

Marriage court hearings resume

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Hearings resumed Oct. 8 in the lawsuit brought against the county clerk's office last year on behalf of same-sex Cook County couples wishing to marry.

The proceedings, presided over by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Sophia Hall, were marked by frustrations on both sides when trying to agree on a timeline for the case.

On Oct. 4, Lambda Legal and ACLU Illinois, representing the plaintiffs, filed a motion to show cause, in order to accelerate the discovery process. But Special State's Attorney Paul Benjamin Linton said the defendants were not being given enough time.

"They want us to have experts by next week," Linton said. "We don't have any ex-

perts yet. This is a steamrolling operation as far as we're concerned."

John Knight, director of ACLU Illinois LGBT and AIDS Project, told Hall that the plaintiffs had hoped to complete discovery by the end of the year; the defendants wanted to go until May.

Hall set the date of the next hearing for Nov. 14, when oral arguments on the motion to show cause will be heard.

Darby v. Orr and *Lazarro v. Orr* were filed against Cook County Clerk David Orr in mid-2012. Orr, who is in favor of marriage equality, has refused to defend the state's marriage ban, so the Thomas More Society, a conservative law firm, is representing five opposing county clerks in the matter.

On Sept. 27, Judge Hall, who is openly lesbian, dismissed three of the original five complaints and left in place complaints that the couples were being denied equal protections and due process.

Help available to navigate Obamacare choices

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Even as the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, has been at the center of the government shutdown, the Health Insurance Exchanges nevertheless came online Oct. 1, drawing thousands of Americans who are shopping for affordable insurance options.

A number of local and national agencies are making themselves available to help consumers navigate the marketplace and make the choice that is best for consumers and their households.

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, will help residents sign up for the new health insurance exchanges at an information session Oct. 17 at 6-8 p.m. at the 19th District Police Station Community Room, 850 W. Addison St. For more information, contact 773-296-4141 or email sara@staterepsara.com.

"With the skyrocketing costs of health care, insurance has become more necessary than ever," Feigenholtz said in a statement Oct. 9. "That is why it is important for the uninsured to take advantage of this new health insurance option and enroll in the new health-insurance exchange. I encourage anyone who has individual concerns or needs assistance enrolling to come by and learn more about how the Affordable Care Act can help them."

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) also launched an initiative Oct. 1 in order to educate community members about their options and help them enroll. AFC representatives will be on hand on hand at various locations throughout the community, including organizational meetings, clinics and bathhouses. People interested in utilizing the enrollment counselors should phone 312-784-9060; someone will be able to direct them to a convenient enrollment event nearby. Because the counselors will be fairly mobile, AFC won't be able to maintain a calendar of

their whereabouts online.

Meanwhile, Out2Enroll, a coordinated national effort to educate the LGBT community about Affordable Care Act and direct the community to enrollment resources, celebrated National Coming Out Day Oct. 11 by releasing a video message featuring Jason Collins, the first active player in one of four major U.S. men's professional sports leagues to come out as gay. Out2Enroll also launched new online resources to provide millions of LGBT people with easy-to-understand information about health insurance and new options under the Affordable Care Act, according to an Oct. 11 statement.

In the video, Collins said, "With these new protections, insurance companies can't treat you differently because you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Our health is important and I'm happy to be part of the effort to make sure we all get covered."

The Out2Enroll initiative is based on a new study revealing that one in three lower-income LGBT adults is uninsured, and that the majority of these individuals are not aware of the new coverage options that will be available. This research also shows that targeted assistance from consumer assistance entities familiar with LGBT community concerns will be crucial to the success of efforts to enroll uninsured LGBT individuals in coverage.

"Contrary to popular stereotypes, many LGBT people are struggling with a lack of insurance and difficulty accessing health care," said Kellan Baker at the Center for American Progress, which commissioned the study. "The new coverage options available under the Affordable Care Act will be critical to ensuring that LGBT people can get the care they need, when they need it."

For more information, and to see the video, go to www.out2enroll.org.

Kirsten Gillibrand at Nov. 4 Personal PAC luncheon

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will be the keynote speaker at Personal PAC's 20th annual luncheon.

The 20th Annual Awards Luncheon will be held at 12 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

In addition, Personal PAC will honor Bette Cerf Hill. She is a founder of the Young Women's Leadership Charter School of Chicago and

has served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Personal PAC will also honor Laura Tucker. Tucker is an Illinois and national Planned Parenthood Board member who has worked side by side with Personal PAC recruiting and electing pro-choice candidates.

Tickets are \$150-\$250 each; call 312-422-0005 or visit www.personalpac.org.

Personal PAC is a bipartisan political action committee (PAC) dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local offices in Illinois.

VETO from cover

unready to vote for the bill and but said they would do so in the fall. The Illinois senate passed the measure in February.

But despite those vows, reports suggest that sponsors are still scrambling to put together the 60 votes they need.

"We're in the upper 50s, let's put it that way," said Rick Garcia, policy advisor for The Civil Rights Agenda.

Those reports come just a week before veto session starts Oct. 22.

Sponsors can also push the measure in early November. Failing that, they will have to move the bill in January, when regular session resumes.

But LGBT leaders say they are anxious to see a vote in veto session.

"I don't see a reason why we should wait any longer," said Cherkasov.

"I believe we're going to get this done in veto session," said Richard Carlbom, director of state campaigns for national LGBT organization Freedom to Marry.

Carlbom and others in the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition boast that due to a large field campaign, lawmakers have heard from thousands of constituents who support equal marriage.

Organizers hope that outpouring from voters will push wavering lawmakers into the yes column. But whether that work will result in a vote this fall remains to be seen.

John Kohlhepp, Illinois Unites Campaign Manager, previously told Windy City Times that organizers had considered waiting to call for a vote until January.

Harris has been reserved in his predictions—declining repeatedly to give a head count or timeline for the bill.

"I take my temperature on this issue constantly, every hour," Harris told Windy City Times. "But I feel very good about where we're at."

Rep. Christian Mitchell, another sponsor of the bill, had a similar outlook.

"I think support and momentum is building," said Mitchell.

But where that leaves a vote remains to be seen. Organizers won't release a vote count or target list. A timeline, they say, depends on Harris.

"Illinois Unites for Marriage has an aversion to telling our community and especially our media what's going on," noted Garcia.

While LGBT groups have expressed optimism in recent weeks, that enthusiasm has been met with some skepticism by community members. Forecasts for a win in the spring proved premature, and LGBT groups have been working to rebuild momentum and trust within the community ever since.

Asked about his plans in the event the bill falls short this fall, Harris stated simply that he is planning on thousands attending the March on Springfield Oct. 22, the first day of veto session.

The march, scheduled to kick off at noon outside the capitol building, has been organized by an independent group of activists, Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim among them.

That group is anticipating 4,000-5,000 attendees said Kevin Boyer, a longtime LGBT activist and spokesperson for the march. Boyer said his group wants to put the heat on lawmakers to call for the vote the community was promised.

"The purpose of the March on Springfield is to create pressure on the House of Representatives to vote for marriage equality," said Boyer. "This is not the time to stay home. This is the time to take a day off and go to Springfield."

Boyer encouraged attendees to bring food and homemade signs. Attendees can travel by one of several buses being organized by local groups or by Amtrak. Earlier reports suggested that Amtrak would not be running on the day of the march. But, Boyer said, Amtrak has confirmed that service will be available to transport demonstrators.

A counter march against the bill has been organized for the following day.

More on Illinois Unites for Marriage is available at Illinoisunites.org.

Details on the march can be found at marchon-springfield.org.



Top: Vernita Gray (left) and partner Pat Ewert. Above: Alma Izquierdo (left) and partner Mishelle Figuero. Photos by Tracy Baim

Center on Halsted hosts women's event

The Center on Halsted By Women For Women program hosted a benefit fashion show featuring the creations of True Blessyn, designed by Shani Brown (www.trueblessyn.com) and Sara Jane Boutique (www.shopsarajane.com); the music of the energetic Covergirls women's violinists; great DJ music; art and food. The benefit took place Oct. 11 at the Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier and was coordinated by Renauda Riddle and a committee of volunteers.

The event featured honored three lesbians for their work on behalf of the Chicago LGBT community: Vernita Gray, Pat Ewert (who also was in the fashion show) and Alma Izquierdo. The awards were presented by judicial candidate Judy Rice and activist Evette Cardona.

Cyon Flare was also among the entertainers for the evening. Photos by Tracy Baim

Sullivan to leave Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

The board of directors for the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Shannon Sullivan. After a two-month transition period, she will be leaving the Alliance at the end of November. The board has implemented a comprehensive transition plan and Loren Linder, currently development and operations director, will serve as interim executive director, with the support of Program Director David Fischer. The Transition Committee will be co-chaired by Mary F. Morten, co-founder and current board vice chair and Jeff Edwards, chair-elect/vice chair. The committee will include board and youth committee members. A community event will be held in late November celebrating Sullivan and the work of the Alliance.



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CENTER ON HALSTED

November Cyber Center Classes

To register or for more information please contact 773.661.0730 or ctc@centeronhalsted.org.

<p>Introduction to Computers \$60 Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 7 weeks; Begins November 2nd</p> <p>Learn Inkscape: The Free Alternative to Adobe Illustrator \$15 Saturday, November 2nd 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Microsoft Word, Level 1 \$30 Mondays, 2:00–4:00 p.m. 3 weeks; Begins November 4th</p> <p>Microsoft Powerpoint, Level 1 \$30 Wednesdays, 5:00–7:00 p.m. 3 weeks; Begins November 6th</p> <p>Using Career Builder and LinkedIn \$15 Friday, November 8th 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Microsoft Outlook, Level 1 \$30 Saturdays, 1:00–3:00 p.m. 3 weeks; Begins November 9th</p> <p>Photo-Editing Using Gimp: The Free Alternative to Photoshop \$15 Saturday, November 9th 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Microsoft Access, Level 1 \$30 Sundays, 1:00–3:00 p.m. 3 weeks; Begins November 10th</p> <p>Microsoft Excel, Level 1 \$30 Sundays, 3:00–5:00 p.m. 3 weeks; Begins November 10th</p> <p>Setting Up Your Own Blog \$15 Thursday, November 14th 5:00–7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Using Google Drive \$15 Friday, November 15th 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Start an Ebay Business \$15 Friday, November 22nd 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Using Social Media for Businesses \$15 Saturday, November 23rd 4:00–6:00 p.m.</p>
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CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED





MARCH ON SPRINGFIELD FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our website has most of the answers to your FAQs, here: www.marchonspringfield.org

Especially handy is the Travel button, where you can find out about:

- Parking
- Buses with seats for sale
- If you are doing a private bus, there are links to maps for drop off and parking
- Train links
- Housing/hotel info

For buses we suggest arriving between 11 and noon and then departure 5 or 5:30 pm, because some political groups will be doing events and lobbying 3-5 p.m. Oct. 22. The bus drop is on Monroe and 2nd Streets, one block from the rally.

MARCH DAY, TUE., OCT. 22

Concert, rally and march starting point are all at 2nd and Capital streets. You may want to bring a chair-in-a-bag if standing is an issue for you during rally and concert.

Schedule for the March

Noon-1 p.m.: Rock the March concert with LGBT singers and choral groups. (Note some acts will be in the 1-2:30 p.m. timeslot)

Artemis Singers and Amasong
Windy City Performing Arts
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
Steve Grand
Sami Grisafe
SONiA of disappear fear
De'Borah
Marcus Terell & the Serenades
Stephen Leonard
KOKUMO!
Sandra Antongiorgi
and MCs will be C.C. Carter and Honey West

1-2:30 p.m.: Speakers and singers

Speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including activists, religious leaders, families and more.

2:30-3:30 p.m.: March around the 4-block expanse of the capital, back to the 2nd and Capital starting point.

Joining us for the March will be:
Jammin' for Justice EarthBeat Drummers
Lakeside Pride Freedom Marching Band

3:30-5 p.m.: LGBT political groups including Equality Illinois may have events inside the State Capital, including lobbying of your elected officials. So make sure to leave time to meet your state reps if you can. Also, bring a state-issued ID, and no signs allowed inside.

SIGN LANGUAGE AND DISABILITY ISSUES

There will be a sign language interpreter.

There will be a roped-off area for wheelchairs, for those needing chairs and for the hearing impaired.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The March will not have food or beverages, but there are places nearby for food and drinks. Come to the rally site at 2nd and Capital for maps and details.

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: There will be free youth bus lunches available one block from the rally site. RSVP for these to tracy@marchonspringfield.com so we know how many.

For adults and families, we have several places providing food.

Options open starting 11 a.m. include:

- Station House bar lunch, with Mama's Kitchen providing \$5 lunch specials, 306 E. Washington St., 217-525-0438
- Augie's Front Burner restaurant, 109 S. 5th Street (lunch specials all day), reservations 217-544-6979
- Maldaner's, 222 S. 6th Street (at Monroe), reservations 217-522-4313
- Boone's Saloon, 301 W. Edwards at College Street, specials \$6.99-\$9.99, 217-679-3752 (10% goes to the March)
- Café Moxo, 411 E Adams Quick Service Lunch 217-788-8084
- Tin Can Pub, bar only, at 225 E. Monroe St., 217-679-2018

MEDIA

There will be a media riser for media, and hookups for broadcast needs. For media sign-up, contact Kevin Boyer, kevinboyer63@gmail.com.

BATHROOMS

There will be port-o-lets, including one which is wheelchair accessible.

WEATHER

The events will happen rain or shine, cold or hot, so come prepared with jackets and umbrellas. We also suggest you bring a portable chair-in-a-bag if you have issues standing for the rally.

WHAT COLOR SHOULD I WEAR?

The March's color is dark purple, but feel free to wear what you want, or join in with your union, school or church colors/uniforms.

SIGNS

Please feel free to bring banners for your groups, and special signs for marriage. Note we will be walking on the sidewalks, so large banners may not work. Make sure your signs are weatherproof if possible. Also, signs are not allowed inside the capital.

We will also have about 2,000 signs for people to carry in the March.

SHOULD WE COME DOWN EARLY/STAY LATE?

There will be several advance events prior to the March on Springfield, Tuesday, Oct. 22.

If you can, we suggest you come down Monday, stay thru the Tuesday March, and then stay Wednesday for the legislative session. Or come even earlier for special events. You can also visit the great tourist attractions of Springfield, especially Abraham Lincoln museums and more. See <http://visit-springfieldillinois.com/>.

The area LGBT and allied groups have events including benefits, bar events, concerts, church services, AA groups and more.

EVENTS IN SPRINGFIELD

We will be posting a full calendar of events, but here are some:

Friday, Oct. 18

- Phoenix Center of Springfield, 13th Annual Fall GAYla Dinner & Auction <http://www.phoenixcenterspringfield.org/phoenix-center-calendar/>.

Sunday, Oct. 20

- Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 10:30 a.m. service, 745 Woodside Rd., Springfield. "Unity and Diversity in the 21st Century" with special guest speaker, The Reverend Mark Kiyimba, minister and founder of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Uganda.
- First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois, Service 10:30 a.m., 321 South 7th St., Springfield. Special guest: Tricia Dykers-Koenig, the National Organizer for Covenant Network, plus members discuss what it has meant to them to be part of an inclusive congregation.

Monday, Oct 21

- The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) for the Springfield area hosts a picnic with PFLAG of Springfield, open to all March attendees, 4-10 p.m., at Lincoln Park, along North 5th from Sangamon Ave. southward.
- Scandals bar, 8 p.m., 1031 S. 11th St., Springfield, 217-381-9514, hosts a concert with some of the March on Springfield musicians, to benefit CORAL and SARA (Springfield AIDS Resource Association).

Tuesday, Oct. 22

- Equality Illinois "Refresh & Recharge" reception open to all at Station House gay bar, 4-6 p.m., \$5 donation, 306 E. Washington St., Springfield.
- Rainbow Sash Movement: Rosary for Gay Marriage Equality at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, 524 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, 4:30 p.m. Just before the 5:15 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The group states: "A rosary for Marriage Equality will be said in silence. By standing up in the Cathedral you will indicate you are there to pray the rosary for Marriage Equality."
- Legacy Project, LGBT history markers, will have a traveling display of the markers both inside and outside the capitol building.
- Rainbow Families event starting 9 a.m., FREE, at Illinois State Museum, 402 S. Spring St., Springfield. All day, including during the march, a place for families to take a break. Changing stations available, next to family-friendly mall for food. Play space for toddlers up to 10 years old, and for older kids, a search-interactive game with their families.
- Station House gay bar, 306 E. Washington St., Springfield, 217-525-0438 late evening, hosts a show featuring drag artists and more.
- Open AA & 12 Step meeting in Springfield, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7-8 p.m., Christ Episcopal Church on 6th and Jackson.

March on Springfield rally speakers to highlight coalition for marriage equality

Leaders from labor, immigration, faith, women's health, business, sports and voting-rights movements will join LGBT families, leaders and allies at equal marriage rally

CHICAGO—Organizers of the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality on Oct. 22 announced the roster of speakers at the rally. The speakers will represent the breadth and depth of the equal marriage coalition in Illinois. All speakers will deliver a common message to Illinois legislators: A majority of Illinoisans support the freedom to marry and the time for marriage equality in Illinois is now.

LGBT organizations, families and faith leaders will be joined at the podium by national and regional coalition partners for the 90-minute rally. They include:

- Michael Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO
- Rudy Lozano, Uniting America director, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Jamie Frazier, senior pastor, Lighthouse Church
- Bonnie Grabenhofer, national action vice president, National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Rev. Mark Kiyimba, leader of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kampala, Uganda

- Toni Weaver, president, Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Northern Illinois Region)
- Scott Cross, Illinois chapter lead, President Barack Obama's "Organizing for Action"
- Brigid Leahy, director, Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Bishop Carlton Pearson, founder and leader, New Dimensions Chicago Church
- Cinda Klickna, president, Illinois Education Association

Families, couples and LGBT youth from groups that are part of the Illinois Unites coalition for equal marriage will also tell their personal stories to the thousands gathered for the March. The coalition, formed by Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, the ACLU, and The Civil Rights Agenda and almost 100 other organizations, is led by John Kohlhepp who will also speak at the rally.

A diverse group of lesbian, bisexual, gay & transgender activists and organizers will also speak, including:

- LZ Granderson, openly gay ESPN senior writer & CNN contributor
- Alexis Martinez, March on Springfield co-chair and Native American transgender activist
- Marquell Smith, African-American gay veteran and founder of the Inclusive Community Project
- Andy Thayer, co-founder, Gay Liberation Network
- Robert Castillo, Latino community activist



LZ Granderson and Liz Thomson will be among the speakers at the rally. Photo of Granderson by Hal Baim; photo of Thomson by Ed Negron

—Vernita Gray, African-American community activist

—Liz Thomson, director, Asian American Resource Center, University of Illinois/Chicago

—Bro. Michael Oboza, founder, Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago

—Tracy Baim, March on Springfield co-chair as well as founder and publisher of Windy City Media Group

More than three dozen elected leaders from state and local government who support marriage equality will be introduced at the rally by Kevin Boyer and Kim Hunt, co-chairs of the March on Springfield. The full list of expected politicians will be available prior to the rally. A full list of all the speakers will also be available at <http://www.marchonspringfield.org>.

"We march on Springfield to make sure that the voices of people from all over our state are heard loud and clear," the 13 co-chairs of the March on Springfield said in a joint statement. "It is time for Illinois to treat all of its citizens equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender, and we call on the Illinois House of Representatives to pass Senate Bill 10, the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, during the fall veto session."

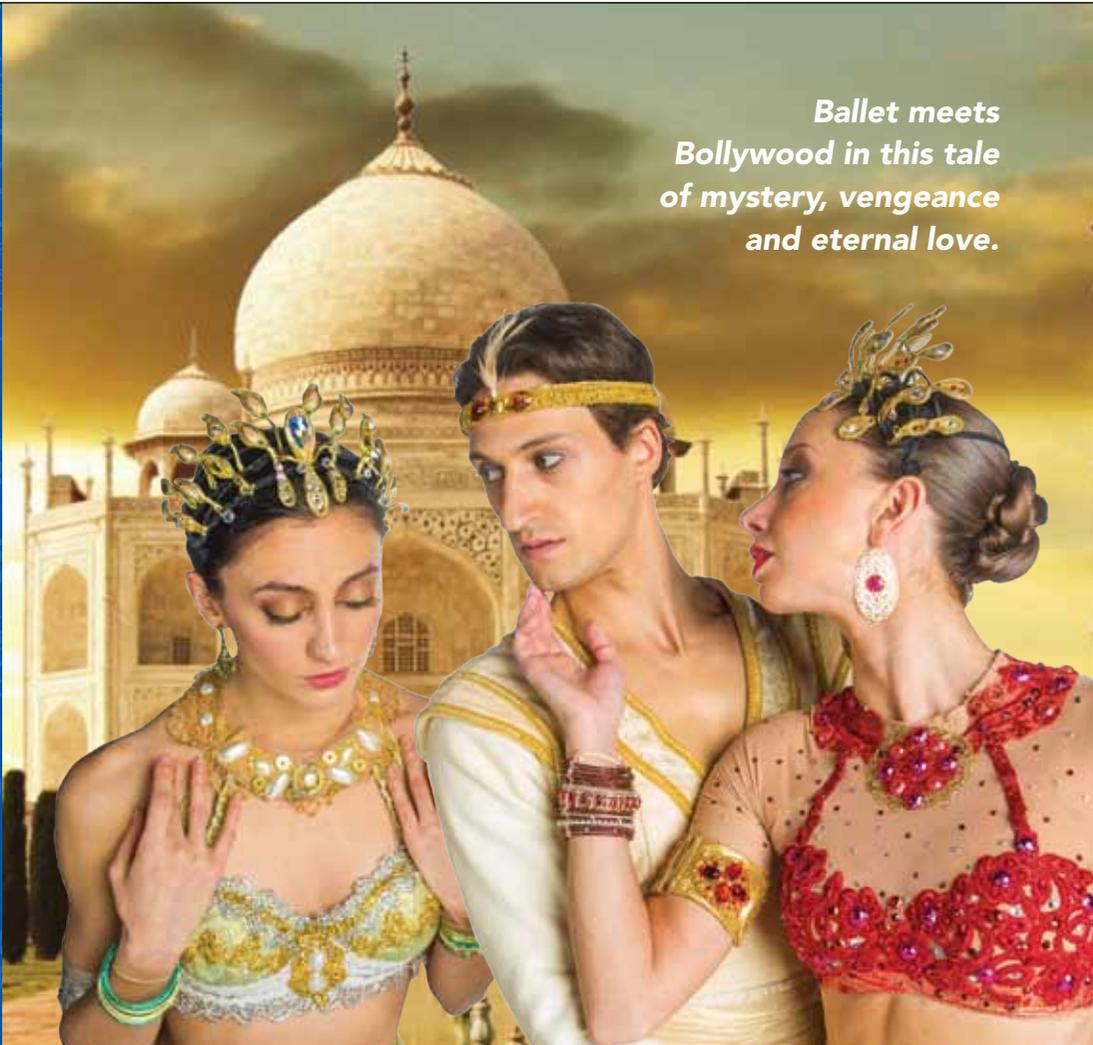
The March on Springfield rally will take place from 1 to 2:30 pm. It will be preceded by Rock The March—a free one-hour concert featuring top LGBT talent with Illinois roots. At the rally's conclusion, Illinois families will lead the attendees on a march around the State Capitol.

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Victoria Jaiani, Temur Suluashvili, April Daly | Photo by Christopher Duggan.

Where reps stand on marriage equality

BY KATE SOSIN

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

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

The Illinois Unites coalition of LGBT and allied groups is keeping their lobbying efforts private, so their own targets for the fall veto session are not known. They also appear to be working all angles, including those who have said they are a "no" vote to push them to a yes by the fall veto session, which starts Tuesday, Oct. 22, the same day as the planned March on Springfield for Marriage Equality.

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

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

Also the Illinois Unites website: www.illinoisunites.org/.

For info on the March on Springfield, which is being organized by an independent group of activists, see: www.marchonspringfield.org/.

Dist. 1, Daniel Burke (D): Burke voted "yes" on the bill in committee and is a sponsor of the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-1117. Email: burkedj2@ilga.gov.

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

Dist. 3, Luis Arroyo (D): Arroyo voted for the bill in committee to help it get to the House floor, but has said he will vote against it on the House floor. He has spoken with several LGBT leaders, but his vote is firm, he told Windy City Times. Still, sources indicate that Arroyo could, in fact, be voting yes. Springfield office: (217) 782-0480. Email: RepDistrict3@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Dist. 7, Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D): Welch was just sworn in. Equality Illinois endorsed him in 2012. District office: (708) 450-1000. Email: repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com.

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

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

Dist. 10, Derrick Smith (D): Smith is under federal indictment for alleged bribery. He returns to office after this winter after his colleagues

expelled him from office over the indictment, and voters then re-elected him. Smith did not return a request to comment. He was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. Springfield office: (217) 782-8077.

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

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

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

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

Dist. 15, John D'Amico (D): D'Amico voted against civil unions in 2010; Equality Illinois did not endorse him in 2012. But insiders suggest that he continues to be a target for LGBT activists. Springfield office: (217) 782-8198. Email: johnd@ilga.gov.

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

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

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

Dist. 19, Robert Martwick (D): Martwick is co-sponsoring the bill. District office: (773) 286-1115. Email: repmartwick@gmail.com.

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

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

Dist. 22, Michael Madigan (D): House Speaker Madigan has stated his support publicly, but LGBT advocates have criticized him for not muscling support for the bill and have asked that supporters contact Madigan and ask for his support. Springfield office: (217) 782-5350.

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

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

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

Dist. 26, Christian Mitchell (D): Mitchell strongly supports the bill and told Windy City Times that he hopes to see a vote soon. Mitchell, who is new to office, was endorsed by Equal-

ity Illinois and scored 16 out of 17 on the Windy City Times candidate questionnaire. He is also sponsoring the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-2023.

Dist. 27, Monique Davis (D): Davis voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. But she has publicly stated that she will oppose the bill. "I want to be an engineer, and we can't pass legislation for me to be an engineer because I just don't have what it takes to be equipped to be an engineer," she told the Chicago Sun-Times. "And two people of the same sex are not equipped to be in what a marriage is." Springfield office: (217) 782-0010.

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

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

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

Dist. 31, Mary Flowers (D): Flowers backed civil unions in 2010, and was Equality Illinois endorsed. But the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Flowers said she will vote against the bill. Still, she remains a target for advocates who believe she could be moved to the "yes" column. Springfield office: (217) 782-4207. Email: maryeflowers@ilga.gov.

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

Dist. 33, Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D): Evans took office in 2012 and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8272. Email: repevans33@gmail.com.

Dist. 34, Elgie Sims, Jr. (D): Sims has been in office since 2012 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. The Chicago Sun-Times reported last February that Sims supports gay marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-6476. Email: Rep-sims34@gmail.com.

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

Dist. 36, Kelly Burke (D): Burke took office in 2011. Equality Illinois did not endorse her. On a Chicago Sun-Times questionnaire, Burke dodged the question. "The citizens of the 36th District are worried about paying their mortgage, funding their children's education and making ends meet. I don't believe this issue is high on the radar of the citizens of my district," she said. Springfield office: (217) 782-0515. Email: kburke@kellyburkerep36.org.

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

Dist. 38, Al Riley (D): Riley voted for civil unions in 2010 and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 558-1007. Email: rep.riley38@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 39, Maria Antonia Berrios (D): Berrios has stated that her vote is not up for grabs. She will vote yes on the bill, and she is pushing her colleagues to do the same. Springfield office: (217) 558-1032. Email: repberrios39@gmail.com.

Dist. 40, Jaime Andrade (D): This recent appointee replaces lesbian Rep. Deb Mell, who left the General Assembly to take her father's Aldermanic seat. Andrade, a former aide to the older Mell, told Windy City Times that he supports same-sex marriage and will work for its passage. Springfield office: (217) 782-8117. Email: staterrep40@gmail.com.

Dist. 41, Darlene Senger (R): Senger voted "no" on civil unions two years ago, but supporters hope that LGBT people and their allies will

press her to vote yes, regardless. Springfield office: (217) 782-6507. Email: sengerstaterep@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

Dist. 46, Deb Conroy (D): Conroy, who took office this year, wrote in her Daily Herald candidate questionnaire that, "I believe no one should be discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, just as no one should be discriminated against based on their race or gender. That is why I believe that same-sex couples should be granted the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, which are especially important for financial benefits and medical decisions." District Office: (630) 415-3520. Email: repdebconroy@gmail.com.

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

Dist. 48, Sandra Pihos (R): In a letter to a Windy City Times reader, Pihos said she would vote against the bill because the vast majority of her constituents are against the measure. Pihos voted against civil unions in 2010. Springfield office: (217) 782-8037. Email: sandrapihos48@gmail.com.

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

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

Dist. 51, Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R): Sullivan is among the bill's sponsors. Springfield office: (217) 782-3696. Email: ILhouse51@sbcglobal.net.

Dist. 52, David McSweeney (R): McSweeney was endorsed by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of anti-gay group the Illinois Family Institute. Springfield office: (217) 782-1517. Email: ilhouse52@gmail.com.

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

Dist. 54, Thomas Morrison (R): Morrison was among a group of lawmakers who introduced a

bill reaffirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage in July. Springfield office: (217) 782-8026. Email: repmorrison54@gmail.com .

Dist. 55, Martin Moylan (D): Moylan was recently sworn into office. He was endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. He did not respond to a request to comment on the bill. Springfield office: (217) 782-8007. Email: staterepmoylan@gmail.com .

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

Dist. 57, Elaine Nekritz (D): Nekritz is among representatives listed as supportive of fundraising blitz by Illinois Unites for Marriage, the coalition backing equal marriage. Springfield office: (217) 558-1004. Email: enekritz@repnekritz.org .

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

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

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

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

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

Dist. 63, Jack Franks (D): Franks voted for civil unions in 2010 but told the Daily Herald in an interview before that he opposed same-sex marriage. He was also the target of a protest against the bill recently. According to Richard Small, a gay constituent, approximately 50-100 people demonstrated, urging him not to pass the bill. In 2012, he was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Insiders suggest he is a "yes" vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-1717. Email: jack@jackfranks.org .

Dist. 64, Barbara Wheeler (R): Wheeler believes marriage is a union between a man and a woman, she told the Daily Herald. Springfield office: (217) 782-1664. Email: Repwheeler64@gmail.com .

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

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

Dist. 67, Charles Jefferson (D): Jefferson voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois in 2012. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Jefferson said he plans to vote no on the bill. Still, LGBT advocates are targeting his district. Springfield office: (217) 782-3167. Email: staterepckuck67@aol.com .

Dist. 68, John Cabello (R): Cabello, who took office in 2012, made headlines recently when he

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dist. 75, John Anthony (R): Anthony took office in August, replacing Pam Roth, who had been recommended by Illinois Family Action, the political arm of Illinois Family Institute, an anti-gay organization. Anthony is the first Black GOP lawmaker in the General Assembly in three decades. He could not be reached to comment, and his stance has not been made widely public. Springfield office: (217) 782-5997.

Dist. 76, Frank Mautino (D): Mautino voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-0140. Email: patti76th@ivnet.com .

Dist. 77, Kathleen Willis (D): Willis' stance is not widely known, but Equality Illinois endorsed her Republican challenger Skip Saviano over her last year. Springfield office: (217) 782-3374. Email: repwillis77@gmail.com .

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

Dist. 79, Katherine Cloonen (D): The Daily Journal reported in October that Cloonen was against gay marriage. District office: (815) 939-1983. Email: staterepcloonen79@att.net .

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

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

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

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

Dist. 84, Stephanie A. Kifowit (D): Asked in Oswego Patch candidate questionnaire about same-sex marriage, Kifowit said she believes everyone should enjoy the same rights, but added, "I believe the intent behind Illinois' recently en-

acted civil unions law has done just that." She was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-8028. Email: stephanie.kifowit@att.net .

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

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

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

Dist. 88, Keith Sommer (R): Sommer sponsored an anti-gay "Defense of Marriage" bill in August. Springfield office: (217) 782-0221. Email: sommer@mtco.com .

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

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

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

Dist. 92, Jehan Gordon (D): Gordon voted "yes" on civil unions and was endorsed by Equality Illinois. Still, LGBT activists have targeted her district heavily. She is, however, rumored to be a "yes" vote. Springfield office: (217) 782-3186. Email: repjgordon@gmail.com .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dist. 101, Bill Mitchell (R): In 2004, Mitchell introduced a bill that sought to limit the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman in the Illinois constitution. Windy City

Times reported at the time that Mitchell's bill "attempted to nullify existing laws, saying that 'civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Illinois.'" Springfield office: (217) 782-8163. Email: repmitchell@earthlink.net .

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

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

Dist. 104, Chad Hays (R): Hays' position has not been widely publicized. On his website he writes, "Chad is Pro-Life as well as a strong supporter of family values." Springfield office: (217) 782-4811.

Dist. 105, Dan Brady (R): Brady voted against civil unions and was not endorsed by Equality Illinois. Springfield office: (217) 782-1118. Email: dan@rep-danbrady.com .

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

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

Dist. 108, Charles Meier (R): The Belleville News-Democratic reported this fall that Meier is against same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-6401. Email: repcmeier@gmail.com .

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

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

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

Dist. 112, Dwight Kay (R): Kay was among a group of lawmakers to sponsor a bill re-affirming the state's ban on same-sex marriage last year, after 25 LGBT couples sued Cook County for the right to marry. Springfield office: (217) 782-8018. Email: dwightkay112@gmail.com .

Dist. 113, Jay Hoffman (D): Hoffman voted for civil unions but was not endorsed by Equality Illinois two years later. The Belleville News-Democrat reported last October that Hoffman backed civil unions but opposed same-sex marriage. District office: (618) 394-2211. Email: repjayhoffman@gmail.com

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

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

Dist. 116, Jerry Costello, II (D): NBC Chicago reported in October that Costello was against

Marriage in Illinois: The urgency of now

VIEWPOINT BY TRACY BAIM

While the Illinois LGBT community and our allies are more powerful in 2013 than we have ever been before, there is still a question of whether there are enough votes in the Illinois House to pass SB 10, known as the marriage equality bill.

This is despite the fact that Democrats have a supermajority in the House; that the bill has passed the Senate; that the Democratic governor has said he will sign it; that some Republicans are in favor of the bill; and the majority of Illinois citizens support marriage equality.

Outsiders (to politics and to Illinois) wonder: What is wrong with Illinois? If you give a politician an inch, they will delay it a mile.

There are myriad factors holding up the bill in Springfield, not the least being the timing of a vote three weeks prior to the filing deadline for candidate petitions. When colleagues of the bill's sponsor, Rep. Greg Harris, asked him for a delay in the vote to the veto session, they claimed they wanted more time to take this back to their constituents for discussion. Well, no public forums have taken place, so it's clear the main reason for the delay was to make the vote happen closer to the deadline for election petition signatures.

This means some politicians still have cold feet and want a further delay, to the January legislative session. But, of course, there are no guarantees that courage will strike them, because then they will be just a few weeks away from the primary election in March. It is odd that other people are saying it is OK for elected officials to wait on this issue when they continue the drumbeat for a vote on other issues no matter what—pensions, gun control, you name it, the pressure is for politicians to act, not delay. Why is it OK to say wait on this issue?

Another factor is based on power and money, things that are of course reality in politics. It's a crass part of the game, and it is playing a role in how people are responding to the push for marriage equality: When do they get some of the gold at the LGBT rainbow's end?

There are also divisions along class, race and geography that can't easily be overcome, even for an issue of economic equality. A lot of work has been done to build bridges in communities these past few months, but ultimately, win or lose, our own LGBT community has a lot more work to do to be true partners in the social justice movement. Those who do intersectional work need to be more out as LGBTs in that work, and those who have remained single-issue focused on LGBT rights should take a lesson from the coalition work that has been done this year, and make it stronger for future battles.

But despite all of the problems, and potential for a delay, the vast majority of the LGBT community and its allies are pushing for a veto session vote. Some strategists believe it is better to wait "if the votes are not there," but many admit that the "yes" votes on a bill like this may not even be fully known until the actual vote is taken. This has been the case in other states, where the momentum created during the casting

of the votes actually sways some members to cross the finish line for equality.

So what is at stake if the vote is taken and it fails? Well, if it fails in the veto session there is still time to target at least some of the more vulnerable representatives in districts with large LGBT and allied constituencies. We would at least know what reps to target where the community is strongest—because in every district of the state, marriage equality is polling in our favor. Some of the most vulnerable reps will be those on Chicago's West and Northwest sides (with districts extending into near suburbs), and those in the North, Northwest and West suburbs.

And for those who do vote yes, our community's votes and dollars can be funneled just to those candidates, and not wasted on those "maybes." We can shore up our true allies.

We have to be realistic and know that the community can't influence races in every House district, but targeting a few key districts for support of pro-marriage incumbents and challengers is the effective route taken in other states.

If the vote fails, our strategy will include advising all LGBT couples in Illinois to go to Iowa or Minnesota for marriage licenses, so that they immediately can take advantage of the benefits and responsibilities afforded by the federal government. Perhaps Lambda Legal and the ACLU can coordinate bus trips for couples who need help getting there. These couples will still have Illinois benefits related to civil unions, but most of the gaps have been filled with the partial dismantling of the Defense of Marriage Act by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lambda and ACLU also have a strong legal case pushing for marriage equality, and that decision should come down in 2014. If it wins, that will make marriage equal in Illinois without a vote.

Another question is what a legislative loss will do for the marriage movement nationally. I believe this is an unanswerable question, and one we really can't base our own actions on. The marriage movement has massive success and momentum in its favor, including victories at the voting booth, in legislatures and in the courts.

In fact, those marriage-equality wins fuel our need for a vote now in Illinois. Because of those victories, we now have more strength to demand a vote than ever before.

When is a good time to vote on an issue of justice? Those who are scared will always say "tomorrow." When is equality convenient for those without courage? The answer is never. So the solution is to push for a vote now. Giving the politicians the ability to delay means we agree that this issue is a liability. If they believe justice is a "liability," if they do not have the fortitude for this, then they can vote "no." They can stand up for their beliefs and say to the world "I am afraid of justice." For those with the courage to vote "yes," they will be counted in the history books as taking a stand for their brothers and sisters, and standing up to the bullies who would restrict rather than expand who is fully equal in the Land of Lincoln.

Queer South Asian activist wades into marriage battle

BY KATE SOSIN

It's hard being an activist and a person, harder if the community you identify with and want to organize for is small.

But Naomi Anurag Lahiri has learned to build. And the longer she is active in organizing in Chicago, the more she creates.

Lahiri is not among Chicago's best-known LGBTQ organizers. At age 24, she cannot boast decades of organizing. She has been in the city just two years, and her activism has been of the variety to fall out of mainstream eyesight—the kind passed around support groups and small organizing meetings.

But that is about to change. Lahiri is among a group of grassroots activists planning the March on Springfield, a massive rally on the state capitol calling on Illinois lawmakers to pass equal marriage legislation scheduled for Oct. 22.

The march, aimed at pressing for a vote on marriage equality during the General Assembly's fall veto session, has been organized in part by Windy City Times publisher Tracy Baim.

Marriage has not been at the top of Lahiri's priorities in queer South Asian organizing. Her work has tended to focus on communities not represented in mainstream LGBTQ movements.

"In the South Asian community, I think it's more split, but in some of the East Asian organizations, people that I've spoken to, they're a little more aligned with the Black and Latino queer communities where [marriage is] not helpful for certain segments of the population," Lahiri said. "Or if it is, it's not the first priority when someone's homeless or thinking about killing themselves."

Lahiri's work, both professionally and in organizing, has tended to deal with those other priorities—from honoring activists before her to interrupting the violence facing others in her community.

Her latest project is a digital archive that honors the work South Asian queer women. The site, yet unfinished, will be published as part of the South Asian American Digital Archive (saadigitalarchive.org).

Lahiri is also a case manager and shelter advocate at Apna Ghar, the Chicago-based domestic violence shelter that primarily serves South Asian and immigrant families.

But it was her work with Trikone Chicago, an organization for queer South Asians, that got her hooked into the marriage issue.

Lahiri had mixed feelings about organizing for marriage.

"When I first was asked to be a part of it I openly said I don't know if I should," she said.

Marriage had not been a top agenda item in Lahiri's organizing or queer community. But other activists she respected—Affinity's Kim Hunt and transgender organizer Alexis Martinez were involved, she said. And there other reasons Lahiri saw value in taking up the issue as a queer South Asian.

"When we're not present at mainstream events and organizations, they think we don't exist," she thought.

Now, Lahiri is tasked with mobilizing her peers to attend the march.

She has built that community intentionally since she moved to Chicago less than two years ago.

Lahiri, whose parents are Bengali, grew up in Wivenhoe, a college town in Essex County, England. When she was 13, she and her family moved to the U.S. She went to high school in Carbondale, Ill and attended University of Missouri.

It was during her time in undergrad that



Naomi Anurag Lahiri. Photo by Ashwin Shahani

Lahiri started coming out. Her family was largely supportive.

Lahiri attended graduate school at the University of Illinois before moving to Chicago in January 2012 and starting work at Apna Ghar.

She found queer South Asian friends over time through Trikone and other queer events.

"They weren't necessarily activists," she noted. But they bonded in small ways—dancing to the same songs their parents played when they were little.

But becoming involved in Chicago's queer South Asian community also came with challenges. For one, Lahiri struggled to navigate the difference between her social life and her growing work as an activist.

"It used to be like, me seeing my friends was seeing them at a meeting," Lahiri said.

Still, she had met her goals—to live independently in the city and to get a social work job. And her activism expanded, in part, she says, because of the examples of older queer South Asians.

Everything came together for Lahiri recently when she attended DesiQ, Trikone's national conference in San Francisco. Lahiri admits that meeting other activists, many of whom she read about or knew through media, left her a little star struck.

"Meeting everyone in person and not feeling like everyone was a celebrity, like people who I think are famous were talking to me like I was just another peer," Lahiri said. "There was just something special about it being queer South Asians. We all felt connected, and there was no hierarchy."

The March on Springfield is scheduled for Oct. 22 outside the Capitol Building at noon.

minibar's wedding contest is March on Springfield benefit

The Boystown nightspot minibar, 3339 N. Halsted St., is doing a benefit for the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality, which is Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Springfield, Ill.

The bar is running the contest "Eat, Drink and be Married," offering a free wedding valued at \$20,000. The wedding will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. at minibar for two couples.

Tickets are \$30-\$100 each, and 100 percent of the proceeds will go the March on Springfield; visit www.minibarchicago.com/#!benefit-for-march-on-springfield/c9jx.



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REPS from page 13

same-sex marriage. Springfield office: (217) 782-1018. Email: staterepcastello@gmail.com .

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

Dist. 118, Brandon Phelps (D): Phelps is against same-sex marriage. Two years ago, he co-sponsored a constitutional amendment to limit marriage to a man and a woman. "This constitutional amendment will reinforce the values and beliefs that I feel encompass the sacred institution of marriage, and will help keep it strictly between one man and one woman here in the state of Illinois," he said in a statement on his website. Springfield office: (217) 782-5131. Email: bphelps118@gmail.com .

Predictions**Yes- 34**

1. Daniel Burke (D-1st)
2. Ken Dunkin (D-5th)
3. Cynthia Soto (D-4th)
4. La Shawn K. Ford (D-8th)
5. Ann Williams (D-11th)
6. Sara Feigenholtz (D-12th)
7. Greg Harris (D-13th)
8. Kelly Cassidy (D-14th)
9. Lou Lang (D-16th)
10. Laura Fine (D-17th)
11. Robyn Gabel (D-18th)
12. Robert Martwick (D-19th)

13. Michael Madigan (D-22nd)
14. Elizabeth Hernandez (D-24th)
15. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-25th)
16. Christian Mitchell (D-26th)
17. Robert Rita (D-28th)
18. Elgie Sims, Jr. (D-34th)
19. Maria Antonia Berrios (D-39th)
20. Jaime Andrade (D-40th)
21. Keith Farnham (D-43rd)
22. Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R-51st)
23. Scott Drury (D-58th)
24. Carol Sente (D-59th)
25. Sam Yingling (D-62nd)
26. Mike Smiddy (D-71st)
27. Camille Lilly (D-78th)
28. Ron Sandack (R-81st)
29. Naomi Jakobsson (D-103rd)
30. Deb Conroy (D-46th)
31. Natalie Manley (D-98th)
32. Elaine Nekritz (D-57th)
33. Kathleen Willis (D-77th)
34. Arthur Turner (D-9th)

Likely Yes- 18

1. Edward J. Acevedo (D-2nd)
2. Esther Golar (D-6th)
3. Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-7th)
4. Derrick Smith (D-10th)
5. Michael Zalewski (D-23rd)
6. Will Davis (D-30th)
7. Andre. Thapedi (D-32nd)
8. Frances Ann Hurley (D-35th)
9. Kelly Burke (D-36th)
10. Al Riley (D-38th)
11. Martin Moylan (D- 55th)
12. Michelle Mussman (D-56th)
13. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84th)
14. Emily McAsey (D-85th)
15. Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-86th)
16. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-83rd)
17. Jehan Gordon (D-92nd)

18. Jack Franks (D-63rd)
- Yes or likely total: 52

No- 41

1. Monique Davis (D-27th)
2. Renee Kosel (R-37th)
3. Jeanne Ives (R-42nd)
4. Patti Bellock (R-47th)
5. Sandra Pihos (R-48th)
6. Mike Fortner (R-49th)
7. David McSweeney (R-52nd)
8. Brandon Phelps (D-118th)
9. Thomas Morrison (R-54th)
10. JoAnn Osmond (R-61st)
11. Barbara Wheeler (R-64th)
12. Timothy Schmitz (R-65th)
13. Michael Tryon (R-66th)
14. Charles Jefferson (R-67th)
15. John Cabello (R-68th)
16. Joe Sosnowski (R-69th)
17. Robert Pritchard (R-70th)
18. Patrick Verschoore (D-72nd)
19. David Leitch (R-73rd)
20. Don Moffitt (R-74th)
21. John Bradley (D-117th)
22. Frank Mautino (D-76th)
23. Katherine Cloonen (D-79th)
24. Jim Durkin (R-82nd)
25. Rich Brauer (R-87th)
26. Keith Sommer (R-88th)
27. Jim Sacia (R-89th)
28. Tom Demmer (R-90th)
29. Michael Unes (R-91st)
30. Norine Hammond (R-93rd)
31. Jil Tracy (R-94th)
32. Wayne Rosenthal (R-95th)
33. Tom Cross (R-97th)
34. Raymond Poe (R-99th)
35. Bill Mitchell (R-101st)
36. Josh Harms (R-106th)
37. John Cavaletto (R-107th)

38. Charles Meier (R-108th)
39. David Reis (R-109th)
40. Mike Bost (R-115th)
41. Jerry Costello, II (D-116th)

Likely No -9

1. Darlene Senger (R-41st)
 2. David Harris (R-53rd)
 3. Adam Brown (R-102nd)
 4. Chad Hays (R-104th)
 5. Dan Brady (R-105th)
 6. Brad Halbrook (R-110th)
 7. Daniel Beiser (D-111th)
 8. Dwight Kay (R-112th)
 9. Jay Hoffman (D-113th)
- No or likely no: 50

Target List- 16

1. Silvana Tabares (D-21st)
2. Thaddeus Jones (D-29th)
3. Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D-33rd)
4. Fred Crespo (D-44th)
5. Kay Hatcher (R-50th)
6. Rita Mayfield (D-60th)
7. Anthony DeLuca (D-80th)
8. John Anthony (R-75th)
9. Sue Scherer (D-96th)
10. C.D. Davidsmeyer (R-100th)
11. Mary Flowers (D-31st)
12. Luis Arroyo (D-3rd)
13. John D'Amico (D-15th)
14. Dennis Reboletti (R-45th)
15. Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D-114th)
16. Michael McAuliffe (R-20th)

Contributing to roll call: Casey Cameron
See related story **Veto session looms at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Veto-session-looms-as-marriage-organizers-push-for-last-votes/44317.html** .



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TIMES

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 Community Marketing, Inc.

A civil matter

Dear Editor:

Last June 28, when we went online to make reservations for our July 23, 2013, wedding in San Francisco's City Hall, my partner of 15 years complained of a sideache, which he attributed to having overdone the weights at our last workout. We'd been waiting on the Illinois legislature, hoping to have our ceremony here in Illinois, but decided it would be better for us to get married sooner rather than later. These are the private vows we exchanged with each other following our official ceremony on that Tuesday in July:

Know that my life is devoted to looking out for your best interests, that I will treat your needs and desires as equal to my own, that I will not consider anything good for me if it is not good for us and the life we share; and know that I am secure in the knowledge that the same is true for you with regards to me. Our interactions with others will always be conducted so as to maintain and strengthen the trust we have in each other.

You are the first person with whom I will share a joy or a sorrow, a fear or a conviction. You are the first person to read the story of me as it is written each day, the only person with rights to access all the words as they are laid down, unedited and uncensored, the person I most trust to know, understand and protect the truth of who I am. And I want you to know without question that you may rely on me to be that same person for you. To be true to myself, I must know, understand and protect the truth of who you are.

I gladly make known to the world that you are the keeper of the artifacts of my life, an equal partner in the business of the life we share, an equal voice in how we make and manage our home and all of our belongings. I gladly enter into the annals by which our society is ordered the declaration that you are the person whom I trust to make my decisions and handle my affairs if I am unable to do so for myself, that you are the person to whom I give control even of my body if I am unable to manage it for myself, that you are the person to whom I entrust the closure of my life should you outlive me.

In as many ways as I am able to devise I will bring you pleasure and delight, I will seek to nurture and enliven your spirit, I will celebrate and appreciate your self-expression, I will meet your creative spirit with my own so that together we may discover new ways to explore and understand our connection with Creation and the Creator, the many and one whose soul we share, in whose expression and endurance we participate with our every breath.

We are the known in the unknown. Together we will share unknown blessings, and together we will address unknown challenges. Together we reach beyond ourselves to embrace our shared destiny, whatever that will be. For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, come what may we are together until death do us part.

While in San Francisco that week, my new husband called his doctor back here in Chicago because the pain in his side was getting more intense. Based on his description, his doctor suggested it might be an ulcer or possibly something with the gall bladder. She scheduled an ultrasound for him for the week that we returned to Chicago. The ultrasound showed a large tumor in his liver. We soon learned that he had a stage four case of liver cancer which had developed, undetected, from a symptomless case of hepatitis B. He'd had blood tests periodically over the years, one as recent as June, but his liver functions had always tested normal, and still do.

My point in sharing our story is this: Civil unions are not the same as marriage and are not adequate. Because we were married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage, my employer is able to interpret federal law so as to grant me leave to care for my husband under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), but is not obli-

gated to do so. Nothing has been established in Illinois law to require an employer to do so. Christ(ie) knows how likely either his or our state legislatures are likely to change this. FMLA would not be available to me had we settled for being joined in a civil union here in Illinois. Leave to take care of my husband would be left completely to the good will of my corporate employer. Corporate and good will are not always found together in the same sentence, much less the same HR office. Also, despite having lived in the same home with joint finances, supporting each other in our careers and sharing all of the other interpersonal commitments of being a couple for 15 years, as of this year we are only now beginning the countdown to the required ten years of marriage before being eligible for each other's social security benefits. How likely we are to make it through that countdown is very much in doubt. Those in civil unions haven't even begun the countdown.

Last spring I was impassioned about the Illinois legislature approving same-sex marriage as a matter of principle and respect. Little did I realize how soon just how very tangible the legal disparity between marriage and civil unions in Illinois would be made to me. This must change now.

*Name withheld for privacy,
from a North Side gay man*

Replacing George

Open letter to Chicago's LGBT community and our allies:

I think we can all agree that Cardinal Francis George is no friend of the LGBT community. At every opportunity he has attacked our community with the smugness of judgment. Many would even say he is responsible for the demise of the last attempt at marriage equality in Illinois.

Now he is preparing to leave his job as archbishop of Chicago. Pope Francis will appoint his replacement, and that could happen as soon as this coming January.

A church service and going away dinner is being planned for him Dec. 18. There will be an exceptional gathering of Church leaders to celebrate George's retirement. As many as 150 cardinals and bishops from the United States and beyond are expected at Holy Name Cathedral. Most of these men have played a significant role in the war on Chicago's LGBT Community along with our national community. Will we remain silent as this speckle unfolds before our eyes?

There will be a gathering at Holy Name Cathedral with lunch to follow at Roy's, a restaurant across the street, and a dinner and reception at the Drake Hotel. George will turn 77 next month, and his replacement will also be Pope Francis' first significant U.S. appointment. I will not go through the list of possibilities because I don't even think the Pope knows who it will be yet. But, needless to say, this is an opportunity for the Chicago's LGBT community to make a statement that would be heard in the Vatican.

This has nothing to do with whether you are Roman Catholic or not, but rather an attempt to set the record straight in the court of public opinion as to the damage this man has done to our community. He is not a good man contrary to what the straight media are trying to project him as.

We have a very diverse community, and I believe if we do have response to this situation it should be a very diverse response.

Joe Murray

Political chicanery

To the editor:

The title of Illinois' SB 10, now languishing in the Illinois House, reads, "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act." What did the bill's drafters, Greg Harris and company, have in

mind when they drafted so much of the bill (44 lines of text) just to tell the Catholic Church and its ilk that they are protected under the Constitution of the United States?

The U.S. Constitution already affirms the freedom of religious practice. History has shown that kowtowing to the opposition will not bring us any closer to equal-marriage rights. It only strengthens the position of those legislators dearest on denying us our rights at the same time it makes us look weak. What civil-rights legislation of the '60s ever acknowledged the First Amendment rights of the KKK? Did legislation protecting the civil rights of women bend over backwards to appease the misogynous arrogance of some American males?

I can see, as a last-minute bargaining tactic, adding language to SB 10 to mollify the religious conservatives in exchange for a "yes" vote on marriage equality. This was done at the last minute in several states where we now have the freedom to marry. However, it has been months since Greg Harris promised SB 10's passage. Now, new delaying tactics are being proposed, with the offensive language cast in concrete and not available as a bargaining tool.

These politicians are insulting LGBT families in Illinois, and activists of the past and present, in particular those dedicating their time and money for the March on Springfield. Wouldn't it be convenient for Greg Harris' homophobic colleagues if gay marriage were to slip through the back door by judicial fiat?

On Oct. 22, when we assemble in Springfield for a mass rally in support of our marriage rights, let us tell these politicians that the church already has equal rights, but we do not.

*Craig Teichen
and Jeff Graubart*

Commenting on commentary

To the editor:

Unfortunately, Joe Murray's recent commentary concerning SB10—legislatively known as "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act"—is another sad example of how blatantly politically ignorant some Illinoisans are about Illinois' legislative process!

Murray states, "I am sure state Rep. Greg Harris is sincere in his efforts to work for LGBT marriage in Illinois. However, we need more than his sincerity to move same-sex marriage forward. He must honor his word to the LGBT community about introducing the gay-marriage bill this fall."

Murray's self-entitled political kamikaze style of legislative political strategy is legislatively dangerous to the passage of SB10, especially right before the Illinois House of Representatives' veto session!

Furthermore, Murray states, "Harris' apparent lack of leadership skills to get this legislation passed can only suggest to reasonable people that it would be prudent on our part to consider a course correction."

This political neophyte's "course correction" viewpoint is precisely what legislative opponents to SB10 hope will happen; they are politically salivating at the mouth in the hopes that the legislative sponsor of The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act will not utilize legislative options in gaining passage of this legislation! The only "course correction" that is needed during the Illinois veto session is 71 votes!

Supporters of The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act should specifically concentrate on attaining the required goal of 71 legislator's votes and cease being blatantly politically ignorant about Illinois' legislative processes.

*Michael O'Connor
Former legislative staffer
State of Illinois, 34th Legislative District*

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from CIFF website

'RAIN' MAKERS

Snails in the Rain is one of the LGBT-themed films in this year's Chicago International Film Festival. See page 30.

DISH

The beet goes on.
Page 34

Photo of the beet salad
at The Bedford



THEATER

'China' love.
Page 24

Photo from The North China Lover
by Liz Lauren



SPORTS

French twist.
Page 32

Photo of Gay Games' Tom Dobbe and
Kurt Dahl by Bob Olayas



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A Broadway bounty

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Two major Chicago-area suburban theaters are producing musicals with notable Broadway ties starting in the next two weeks. Tony winner Karen Ziemba stars as Dolly Levi in Drury Lane Theatre's revival of Hello, Dolly! in Oakbrook Terrace, while out Broadway director Gary Griffin helms the regional theater premiere of Mary Poppins at The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire.

Hello, Ziemba!

Karen Ziemba has loads of Broadway credits on her resume, notably her featured Tony win for playing the put-upon Wife in Susan Stroman's 2000 dance revue Contact.

Ziemba has also appeared as Peggy Sawyer opposite the late Jerry Orbach during the original Broadway run of 42nd Street, and she has been a favorite among the songwriters John Kander and Fred Ebb, appearing in New York productions of their musicals Curtains, Steel Pier, Chicago and the revue And the World Goes 'Round.

Yet Ziemba doesn't have that much experience performing the work of out composer/lyricist Jerry Herman—save for a Broadway concert of Mack and Mabel that was performed in the 1990s as a benefit for The American Foundation for AIDS Research. It's a charity close to Herman's heart, since he has publicly acknowledged that he is HIV-positive.

"When I met [Herman] for the concert, he was overjoyed and said, 'Why haven't we worked together before?'" said Ziemba during a telephone interview following a recent Hello, Dolly! rehearsal. Although Ziemba hasn't sought out Herman's advice for tackling the role that has been previously inhabited by a roster of famous leading ladies ranging from Carol Channing to Barbra Streisand, she hopes word will get back

to him and that he'll approve of her in the role.

As a musical theater triple threat who often stands out for her amazing dancing skills, performing Dolly Levi is something of a change for Ziemba. Playing the lovably scheming widowed matchmaker from Yonkers, N.Y., Ziemba's dancing as Dolly is more about choreographing love couplings for other people rather than physical dexterity.

Still, it's an acting challenge Ziemba is happy to take. And though Herman is known for his infectious and hummable tunes, Ziemba said "they're a lot harder to perform than you think."

Ziemba hasn't performed in a fully staged musical at Drury Lane before, but this isn't exactly her debut in Oakbrook Terrace. Back in the 1990s, Ziemba appeared at a Jeff Awards ceremony at Drury Lane and even took home the prize for Best Actress in a Musical for playing Polly in the national tour of Crazy for You.

"I'll be presenting at the Jeff Awards ceremony this year, too," Ziemba said, happy that she will be able to spend time with Chicago-area relatives from her mother's side of the family while also playing one of musical theater's most iconic leading ladies.

Hello, Dolly! runs Thursday, Oct. 17-Sunday, Jan. 5, at Drury Lane Theatre, 10 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Previews run through Oct. 23, with an official opening night at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24. Regular performances are at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 and 8 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35-\$49; call 630-530-0111 or visit www.drurylane.com.

Get personal with Poppins

Gary Griffin is riding high on a wave of rave reviews for directing composer Jason Robert Brown's world premiere musical Honeymoon in



Karen Ziemba.

Vegas, now playing at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. But Griffin's more pressing concerns are tied to helping Mary Poppins to soar in Lincolnshire.

"One of the great things about doing the show here is that everything is exposed," said Griffin when asked about the challenges of staging the special effects-heavy show for The Marriott's intimate in-the-round setting. "We're doing a massive projection design—something the Marriott hasn't done before in order to change the visual perspectives all night long, but mainly it's to bring out the vivid heart of the characters."

Griffin previously directed Mary Poppins for the nearly 11,000-seat MUNY in St. Louis, so he's already familiar with the 2005 Disney/Cameron Mackintosh stage adaptation of Walt Disney's classic 1964 film that features a script adaptation by Julian Fellowes and additional songs by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe on top of the original songs by Richard and Robert Sherman.

Griffin also feels the timing of the Marriott's production is fortuitous since it will coincide with the upcoming film Saving Mr. Banks, which has Tom Hanks starring as Walt Disney trying to convince author P.L. Travers (played by Emma Thompson) to give him the rights to her Poppins books.

"People are starting to think about the larger questions of Mary Poppins," Griffin said, adding that the magical nanny doesn't just help the naughty Banks family children, she arrives to help rescue the troubled father. "It's a very universal story about connecting parents with children and I think you're going to feel that more intensely at the Marriott."

Mary Poppins begins previews on Wed., Oct. 23, at The Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Previews run through Sunday, Oct. 27, with an official 8 p.m. opening-night show on Wed., Oct. 30. Regular performances are at 1 and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 4:30 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 5 p.m. Sundays. A family-friendly holiday schedule will run from Thursday, Dec. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 5. Tickets are \$40-\$48 (excluding tax and handling fees); call 847-634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.

Internationally queer

The Queer New York International Arts Festival is teaming with Defibrillator Gallery for a performance art festival and workshop called QUEER CHICAGO. The workshop is ongoing through Thursday, Oct. 17, but QUEER CHICAGO culminates with two performances featuring an international group of queer performances artists. One the bill is the Polish group Suka Off (consisting of multimedia artists Piotr Wegrzynski and Sylvia Lajbig) performing tranSferra, dance artist Bruno Isakovic of Croatia performing Denuded, Gabriela Mureb of Brazil offering an untitled performance dealing with physical pain and U.S. multimedia artist Keijaun R. Thomas with a piece about two groups sucking on popsicles.

QUEER CHICAGO is at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, at Defibrillator Gallery, 1136 N. Milwaukee Ave. Admission is a \$10 donation at the door. There is also a roundtable discussion on New Queer Aesthetics moderated by Frederic Moffet 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. For more information, call 773-609-1137 or visit www.dfbrl8r.org.

Read theater reviews on page 24-25.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Rapper Eve gives WCT some 'Lip' about CD, gay fans



BY JERRY NUNN

Like Madonna and Cher before her, Eve only needs one name to make it in the music world. The Grammy-winning rapper has sold millions of records and teamed with some big names such as Prince and Gwen Stefani in the process.

The world of rap wasn't enough for Ruff Ryder's First Lady as she starred in both Barber-shop films and her own sitcom on UPN with the self-titled Eve.

Her latest album, *Lip Lock*, breaks new ground with singles like "She Bad Bad" and a track named after her. Collaborations continue on it with Snoop Dogg, Missy Elliott and Chrisette Michele.

Windy City Times met up with the talented wordsmith to talk *Lip Lock* and hip hop.

Windy City Times: Hi, Eve. Let's talk about this long career you have had. You made it in a male-dominated world [rapping]. Have you changed over the years?

Eve: I still am the same but definitely more ladylike. I am a woman but when it comes to business I always more aggressive because you have to be. Like you said, it is a male-dominated field. It still is. Even the execs are males so I still have to be aggressive and hold my ground.

WCT: What do you think of Nicki Minaj?

Eve: She is doing her thing. I think she found a lane and a niche. She is living in it really amazingly.

WCT: You were a singer before you started rapping.

Eve: Yes; I started singing first. I was in a little singing group; we did talent shows, and

wrote songs and sang to Color Me Badd and En Vogue. [Laughs]

WCT: I just saw En Vogue perform at Gay Pride in Canada.

Eve: Oh, I love it. I was really young when I was singing like that but then I discovered hip-hop and that was my thing.

WCT: Your name is a bit confusing. Is it Eve or EVE?

Eve: EVE came from a song where I spelled it out; then people started calling me that. I say both. My name is obviously Eve but you can say Eve or EVE.

WCT: You have a self-titled song on the new album. How was it creating that song?

Eve: Oh my God, honestly creating that record... Well, I remember that night because I had a session booked to work with this producer and I was exhausted. I called him and apologized. I told him I would come to the studio but was really tired and we might not do much. When I got there and he played the beat, I woke up. I was like, "Oh, we are going to make this fucking song tonight!" We finished the record and called the Jamaican girl that is on the song, Miss Kitty, who I called at one o'clock in the morning. She went to the studio and did her part.

WCT: How did you know her?

Eve: Through Shaggy. I told him, "I know you know a rude Jamaican girl." He said, "Give me a minute..."

WCT: I was thinking of someone like Lady Saw.

Eve: She is my girl, too. I just wanted someone to talk more than DJ I guess. I needed someone to rap. Once the song was mixed then he added the EVE stuff to it.

WCT: The single "She Bad Bad" is a different style for you.

Eve: Very different. The guy that did Eve, his cousin did "She Bad Bad" so that was another funny situation, too, where I wasn't sure how I was feeling but when I went I thought it was amazing. I loved it because it was different and had that African vibe. I go to Africa, like, two times a year. I love their music so I thought, "Why not?" I knew it was a gamble but I wanted to do it.

WCT: The whole thing is a different sound for you.

Eve: Totally, completely. I felt I had been in



Eve. Photo by Amarpaul Kaliari

the game for so long that I needed to take a risk at some point, whether people get it or not. I am not trying to relive any moments. I have had an amazing career. I own my own label. I've waited to express myself artistically and the way I wanted to do it. I just feel lucky that I am able to do that.

WCT: Are you throwing shade to other rappers with this new music? People are saying that...

Eve: Not really. That is not my thing. I don't care. No one else exists in my world. I'm kidding.

WCT: I wore out your song "Tambourine."

Eve: Oh, thank you. I love that record.

WCT: Do you like having short or long hair

better?

Eve: It depends on my mood. Literally in the next few weeks I might be bald! I am so over it all.

WCT: How was it being on the television show *Glee*?

Eve: It was so good. It was funny when I did *Glee* because it was the beginning and the kids—I call them kids but they are grown—were all excited. It was infectious. Being on that set you could feel how excited they were. It was nice.

WCT: How do you feel about your gay fans?

Eve: Oh, please: I always say if the gays don't

Turn to page 35

CULTURE CLUB

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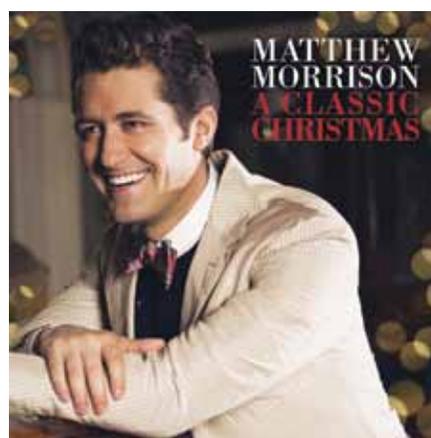
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Matthew Morrison has songs, show out in November

Emmy, Tony and Golden Globe-nominated star Matthew Morrison (from TV's *Glee*) will release his first-ever holiday collection, entitled *A Classic Christmas*, Nov. 19.

Morrison turned to the late legendary producer Phil Ramone (who also produced Matthew's collection of Broadway standards, *Where It All Began*, out earlier this year)

to create the six songs featured on the EP (including "Jingle Bell Rock" and "O Holy Night"). This marks Morrison's second release from 222 Records, the newly formed label from Adam Levine.

In addition, Morrison will be performing Nov. 29-30 with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Fans can also catch a special performance by Morrison on PBS beginning Nov. 30 in a program entitled "Matthew Morrison: A Classic Christmas Live From The Bushnell." The network will air a live concert recorded at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford, Conn.

Erasure releasing 'Snow Globe' Nov. 11

Erasure has announced a new album, *Snow Globe*, that will be released Nov. 11.

The first single, "Gaudete," is Erasure's take on the traditional Latin carol.

The duo of Vince Clarke and Andy Bell has previously released hit singles such as "A Little Respect," "Chains of Love," "Blue Savannah" and "Breathe." The act has had five consecutive number-one albums in the United Kingdom.

See www.ErasureInfo.com.

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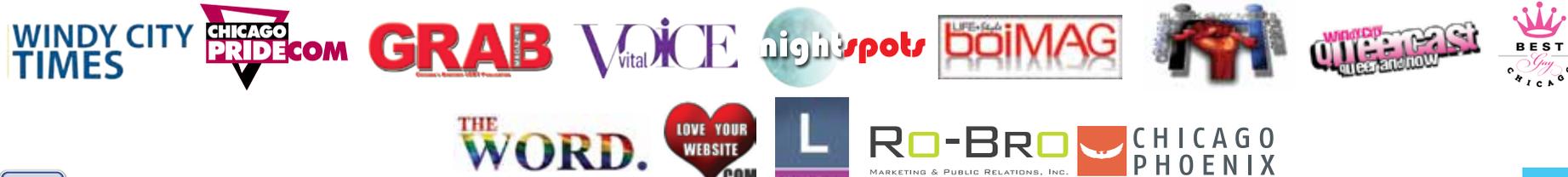
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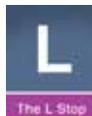
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(American Sign Language)

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خانواده استيم (Persian)

Nou se fanmi (Haitian Creole)

យើងជាគ្រួសារ (Khmer)

Ми родина (Ukrainian)

(Haitian Creole)

Sme rodina (Slovak)

Család vagyunk (Hungarian)

Jemi familje (Albanian)

ما از يك خانواده هستيم (Farsi)

Mi smo porodica (Montenegrin)

Tiri mhuri

Chúng ta là gia đình (Vietnamese)

Nous sommes famille (French)

imwe chete (Shona)

Ние сме семејство (Bulgarian)

Είμαστε οικογένεια (Greek)

Ons is familie (Afrikaans)

Wir sind Familie (German)

Netāenawemākanak (Menominee)

우리는 가족이에요 (Korean)

Vi är familjen (Swedish)

هم ایک خاندان ہیں (Urdu)

Biz ailayik (Azerbaijani)

Мы действительно семья (Russian)

Suntem familie (Romanian)

ਅਸੀਂ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨੇ (Punjabi)

KAMI AY PAMILYA (Filipino)

हम परिवार हैं (Hindi)

Ми смо породица (Serbian)

אנחנו משפחה (Hebrew)

我们是一家人 (Simplified Chinese)

Somos familia (Spanish)

Биз уй-булобуз (Kyrgyz)

Ni estas familio (Esperanto)

Te wamoza (Chitonga)

ᠳᠤᠬᠠᠨ ᠠᠮᠤᠰᠤ ᠶ᠋ᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠠᠭᠤᠨ (Hmong)

เราคือครอบครัวเดียวกัน (Thai)

Is teaghlach sinn (Irish)

Me olemme

Við erum fjölskylda (Icelandic)

JSME RODINA (Czech)

perhe (Finnish)

MI SMO OBITELJ (Croatian)

私たちは家族です (Japanese)

Vi er familie (Norwegian)

كلنا عائلة واحدة (Arabic)

Raga makejang menyama (Balinese)

Somos familia (Portuguese)

Sisi ni jamii (Swahili)

Tuli baluganda (Luganda)

Teulu rydyn ni (Welsh)

Մենք ընտանեկան (Armenian)

Kita keluarga (Malay/Indonesian)

Jesteśmy rodziną (Polish)

Som familia (Catalan)

YAKWAWATSI (Oneida)

Ndife amodzi (Cichewa)

Siamo famiglia (Italian)

Kiiloona ktulaangoomatihna (Munsee-Mahican)

מיר זענען משפחה (Yiddish)

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Audra McDonald: Multiple Tony winner on musicals, TV projects

BY JERRY NUNN

The multitalented Audra McDonald has already become legendary in the Broadway world in a short time. By the time she was 28 years old she had won three Tony Awards for *Carousel*, *Master Class* and *Ragtime*, placing her among the very few to accomplish that feat. She won her fourth one for *A Raisin in the Sun* and her fifth with The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess* tying her with Julie Harris and Angela Lansbury.

McDonald's television roles have included being a regular cast member of *Private Practice* as well as *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

She was nominated for an Emmy for the HBO film *Wit* with Emma Thompson and will star in *The Sound of Music Live!* for NBC as Mother Abess.

She has recorded many albums with the most recent being *Go Back Home* and she brings a concert tour to Chicago where Windy City Times spoke with her about it.

Windy City Times talked with McDonald shortly before her Oct. 12 concert in Chicago.

Windy City Times: You were here not too long ago to perform at The Arts Club of Chicago.

Audra McDonald: I was there for the Sarah Siddons Society. I believe that was the last time.

WCT: This is a full-on concert experience. How do you choose the set list for this?

AM: It will basically be a mixture of songs from the American musical theater songbook from about 1929 all the way up to 2011. A lot of it is based on my most recent album, *Go Back Home*. I have a lot of stuff from that and a few favorites that I have never jettisoned from the set list.

WCT: How do you protect the voice that has been dubbed one of the best of our time?

AM: I am not a very social person and stay really quiet when I am traveling. I look like a drug addict on a plane because I have my Neosporin ointment, my Mucinex; I've got my EmergenC I am pouring in, and the nasal drops. I am sure I am some sort of pharmaceutical nightmare in terms of keeping myself healthy.

When I get to the venue, I don't go out. I wish I could say that I see all of these wonderful cities but I really don't. I see the inside of my hotel room, then from there I go to the theater. I do my sound check and then I am super-quiet until I go out onstage.

A lot of people who know me who have been with me from soundcheck to the concert stage think I am mad at them. I tell them, "I am not mad but I have gone inside my head until concert time."

I am pretty much a little monk!

WCT: So when I meet you after the show then I will just wave at you.

AM: No, after the show I am great. I can be as chatty as anybody but prior to a show, no.

WCT: Can you talk about your journey to *Porgy and Bess*? How was the whole experience?

AM: It was a role I wanted to do my entire life. It was a show I had been listening to since I was about 10 years old. I became really obsessed with it when I was at Juilliard. I studied, memorized it, and knew every single note. Then at some point I knew I wanted to do it but I was never sure that it would happen. I never thought I would do it in an opera house but I knew I wanted to play that part at some point. Then I got a phone call from Diane Paulus asking me about it. It all fell into place.

It was all incredibly rewarding but challenging. It is the most difficult role I have ever had but I wouldn't trade that time for anything. It is a bucket-list role for me.

WCT: What is your opinion when musicals are revamped such as when *West Side Story* has Spanish added to it for an updated version?

AM: A lot of times these composers themselves do the changing. Stephen Sondheim is still around. Arthur Laurents was alive when he put all of the Spanish back into *West Side Story*. To me, that shows me there is room for that. Ours was done with people that wanted to evolve and improve.

I remember doing a production of *Sweeney Todd* with Sondheim back in 2000 and Sondheim was still tweaking, so you never know.

Read the entire interview at www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/Audra-McDonald-Multiple-Tony-winner-on-musicals-TV-projects/44748.html.



Audra McDonald. Photo by Autumn de Wilde

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Directions for Restoring the Apparently Dead. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Directions for Restoring the Apparently Dead

Playwright: Martin Casella
At: Pride Films & Plays at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-327-5252;
www.stage773.com; \$25-\$30
Runs through: Nov. 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

"What would have happened if I'd kissed him?" "Would things be different if I hadn't let him leave?" "Why do I feel he wanted something more from me?" Most of us have asked these questions in hindsight about a particular moment with a particular man (or woman). This play, in a substantial way, addresses those questions.

Jinx and Griff have been best friends from boyhood through adolescence, young adulthood and into their forties. Now living far apart, they stay connected via telephone several times a year. (Internet communications aren't mentioned.) Jinx is gay and Griff is straight, married and a father. After Jinx's longtime partner dies suddenly, Griff joins Jinx on a buddy trip to the English Lake District where a lot of things come out in the wash, Griff himself chief among them.

Playwright Martin Casella uses flashbacks going back to boyhood to tell the story, and it becomes apparent that Jinx and Griff have had many of those "what if" moments. A series of revelations, mostly by Griff, finally brings Jinx and Griff into each other's arms and to personal fulfillment, one presumes. The play's title refers mainly to Griff as the one who finally opens up about himself and makes choices that might revive his moribund emotional life.

This world premiere is part of Pride Films & Plays' (PFP) ongoing commitment to seek out, develop and produce quality scripts on LGBT themes. I support that commitment, but nonetheless I have issues with this particular play. Some issues are simple and secondary. For instance, the English Lake District setting is an arbitrary choice of which Casella makes little use. There needs to be a reason for a setting so specific and so far from home (Griff lives on the West Coast). As it is, any old cabin in the woods would serve.

Much more difficult is the fact that Jinx and Griff are so ordinary. They're not bad guys, but they're not special. I'm a little exasperated that

it took Griff so damn long to face himself and I wonder precisely what has kept Jinx attracted to him all these years, especially as Griff has used several anti-gay crutches along the way. They need not be as witty as Oscar Wilde characters, which would be false to whom they are, but they *do* need to have an elevation of spirit and passion that lifts them above the commonplace and serves to inspire viewers.

PFP co-founder David Zak ably has directed Patrick Gannon (Jinx) and Patrick Rybarczyk (Griff), supported by Nick Stockwell and Alanda Coon (in the least-rewarding role) as their mates. They are sincere and smoothly competent but only Stockwell has vivacity in a play needing more color.

CRITICS' PICKS

Cyrano de Bergerac, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Nov. 10. Harry Groener is masterful as the poet-chevalier of the title in a lavish and vigorous production. The Anthony Burgess translation is unnecessarily potty-mouthed, still don't miss this by a mile or a nose. JA

The Killer Angels, Lifeline Theatre, through Oct. 27. The Battle of Gettysburg was what forever ended home-ground warfare in the U.S., and this adaptation of Michael Shaara's novel ensures that we know why. MSB

To Master The Art, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, through Oct. 20. Julia Child's kitchen is the setting for this oh-so-romantic bio-drama of the woman who revolutionized cooking in the United States and paved the way for today's celebrity chefs. MSB

Wrecks, Profiles Theatre Alley Stage, through Nov. 17. John Judd gives an impassioned performance of a grieving widower unloading a hidden secret in this one-man show by Neil LaBute that mines classical theater for a "shocking" conclusion. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The North China Lover

Playwright: adapted by Heidi Stillman from the novel by Marguerite Duras
At: Lookingglass Theatre Company at the Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave.
Tickets: 312-337-0665;
www.lookingglasstheatre.org; \$36-\$70
Runs through: Nov. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The fashion for Parisian Courtesans as the models for romantic heroines ended with the devastating realities of World War One, but even in 1930, the Adventuress myth continues to beguile three bored adolescent French schoolgirls in what was then known as Indo-China. Helene's curiosity is restricted to her imagination, and Alice (whom we never meet) turns tricks for small sums behind the kitchen. The precocious teenager called only "The Child" in our narrative has bigger aspirations, however, in service of which she dresses provocatively to draw attention to her youth and European lineage. Soon she has seduced an expatriate Manchurian millionaire's son—a lad considerably older than herself, but far more sexually vulnerable than the gamine whom he will come to love.

Whether The Child is viewed as a budding artist seeking experiences to fuel her future writing career or as a resourceful virgin ex-

plotting her exotic charms to better her family's fortunes, her motives are questionable, necessitating devices designed to distance us from the cold facts: to begin with, it's a memoir, occurring long ago, during the waning days of not one, but two regimes (French and Chinese). Furthermore, its setting is a foreign country—the Mysterious East yet! Oh, and since The Child must soon return to France, and The Lover is forbidden marriage with a caucasian, their liaison is brief—circumstances permitting us to revel in amoral eroticism without uncomfortable considerations of immigrant citizenship, age-of-consent laws, or, God forbid, mixed-race children.

Heidi Stillman's adaptation of Leigh Hafry's translation tempers the rhapsodic passages with backstory on The Child's unwholesome family—absent father, bankrupt mother, spoiled-bully older and clingy boy-toy younger brothers—as well as observations on pragmatic Mandarin parents and slavishly obedient offspring. Rae Gray and Tim Chiou are a suitably decorative pair of odalisques, while Amy J. Carle, Walter Owen Briggs, JJ Phillips and Allison Torem deliver sturdy portrayals of their ground-gripper colonialist archetypes. Their progress is recollected for us by its now-aged author, identified only as "M" (but who may be The Child in real life), played by Deanna Dunagan with a delicate charm inviting us to shelve our cynical modern sensibilities and surrender to the heady effervescence of post-Belle Époque nostalgia—harmless enough, when savored, like absinthe, in small doses.

THEATER REVIEW

Lydia

Playwright: Octavio Solis
At: National Pastime Theater at the Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.
Tickets: 773-327-7077;
www.nationalpastimetheater.com; \$15-\$25
Runs through: Nov. 9

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Our first sight is of Ceci Flores huddled on a floor mattress like a baby in a playpen. She suffers from brain damage, inflicted in an automobile accident two years earlier, on the eve of her *quinceañera*. Her family doesn't know—or doesn't *want* to know—how she came to be hiding in the car occupied by her brother Rene and her cousin Alvaro when it crashed into a light post. Though we in the audience can hear the thoughts coursing through her active teenage mind, she is unable to convey them to the guilty survivors—at least not until the arrival of Lydia, the new housekeeper.

National Pastime Theater's newly reconfigured auditorium in Uptown's landmark Preston Bradley Arts Center boasts alley-style seating arrangement making for improved lighting and visibility, as well as a compact stage reducing the propensity of actors to become dwarfed by the cavernous room. Ceci's physical placement at the center of the stage picture draws attention to her rhapsodic soliloquies initially, but these soon give way to family strife: abusive papi Claudio immerses himself in a surly alcoholic isolation. Pious mama Rosa consoles herself with prayer. Angry Rene goes on gay-bashing prowls. Little brother Misha prefers writing poetry to playing football. Alvaro returned from Vietnam (this is 1972), and now works as a guard in the border patrol—employment making him understandably unwelcome in this immigrant household.

After introducing his unhappy clan, Octavio Solis proceeds to slowly reveal the reasons behind their malaise—revelations facilitated by the clairvoyant Lydia acting as a medium for the wordless Ceci. Playgoers versed in classical tragedy will recognize the "evil in our hearts" that Mama Rosa's pastor warns her is the source of Ceci's affliction, as will LGBT-savvy playgoers, but classical tragedy also mandates libera-



Lydia. Photo by Meghan Kransberger

tion for victims through exorcism of festering secrets. In this case, no sooner is the truth exposed than it is swiftly suppressed by Rosa's banishment of all those complicit in its discovery.

It's not easy maintaining gravitas sufficient to prevent the action spinning out of control when emoting in telenovela proportions at a speed restricting the running time to a little over two hours (with intermission). Cecile Keenan's precision-drilled ensemble possesses the verbal dexterity to render the story's disparate elements immediately comprehensible, as well as the disciplined stamina to keep the intensity flowing smoothly and seamlessly right up to a deliberately cynical ending reflecting the futility of resolution in a world defined by its unspoken confessions.



Once.
Photo by
Joan Marcus

THEATER REVIEW

Once

Playwright: music & lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, book by Enda Walsh
At: Broadway in Chicago at the Ford Oriental, 24 W. Randolph St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000; www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$27-\$95
Runs through: Oct. 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Does anybody know of a performance space similar to The Storefront or the Lookingglass Water Works that happens to seat two thousand spectators? If the laconically titled *Once* were an old-school Broadway musical (“*Once!*” or “*Once: The Musical!*”), replete with chorus lines river-dancing and Moiseyev-kicking to a synthesizer-heavy orchestra hidden behind a video-scrim, it could have fit snugly within any of the rehabbed movie emporiums downtown—but it’s not, and since we’re probably going to see many more shows like it, Broadway In Chicago will need a different kind of room to display them properly.

Once began as a humble little film about an Irish boy and a Czech girl who make music instead of love—how’s *that* for an original premise? It swept the Oscars, then the Grammys (for its smash hit single “*Falling Slowly*”), then the Tonys. Its setting is a Dublin pub and imagined forays into nearby environs, its story acted by

onstage musicians—or onstage music provided by actors, if you prefer. The hoofing is closer to synchronized movement than formal terpsichoreal arrangements—no surprise, since director John Tiffany and movement designer Steven Hoggett are the duo that constructed manly ballets from military drills for The National Theatre of Scotland’s *Black Watch*. Besides, the actor/musicians are also the dancers. (Could *you* turn pirouettes while simultaneously playing the cello?)

The performance currently occupying the drafty Oriental Theatre was not without a few opening night missteps, but the cast led by Stuart Ward and Dani de Waal, portraying the star-crossed composers, rallied behind Enda Walsh’s surprisingly spartan book and Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová’s exquisitely stripped-down score to deliver bittersweet romance as brief and unfulfilled as such memories tend to be. Don’t mistake this for tragedy, however—the art constituting the legacy of our platonic lovers endures far longer than cheap happy-ever-afters.

For now, Chicago audiences are forced to deal with a 1925-vintage auditorium effectively distancing them from the fun and camaraderie of this intimate musical non-musical. Go see it, anyway—the experience outweighs the obstacles, if for no other reason than to whet our appetites for later, smaller, productions (perhaps at House Theater, where all company members are required play an instrument, even if it’s just cowbell).

SPOTLIGHT



England’s Blind Summit Theatre is famous for its massive puppet creations in Danny Boyle’s opening ceremonies of the 2012 London Olympics and for creating the child “*Trouble*” for Anthony Minghella’s Oliver Award-winning production of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. But if you want to see Blind Summit’s work on a more intimate scale, then don’t miss the two-week run of *The Table*, an acclaimed 2011 show that shows a cantankerous puppet having an existential crisis. *The Table* runs through Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Upstairs space of Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are \$20-\$35; call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo by Lorna Palmer

A Church 4 Me MCC holding Oct. 19 ‘Gong Show’

A Church 4 Me MCC is sponsoring an amateur talent contest based on the iconic 1970’s Gong Show on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. at Club 3160 Piano & Cabaret, 3160 N. Clark St.

Rodrigo Carillo will emcee the event, and Windy City Times’ Jerry Nunn has signed on to

be one of the celebrity judges.

To register as a performer (21 and over), email gongshow@achurch4me.org. Limited VIP seating is available for \$10 per person through advance registration at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/474302.

The event will benefit both the church and The Crib, a shelter for at-risk LGBTQ youth. Call 773-951-4268 or email clerk@achurch4me.org for more info.

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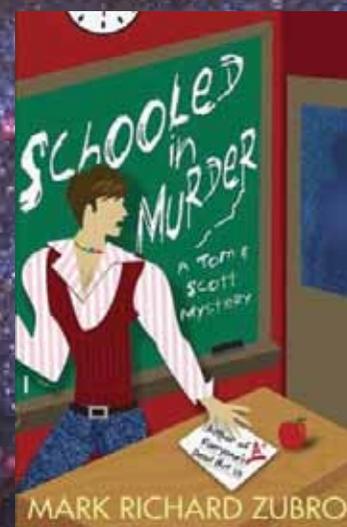
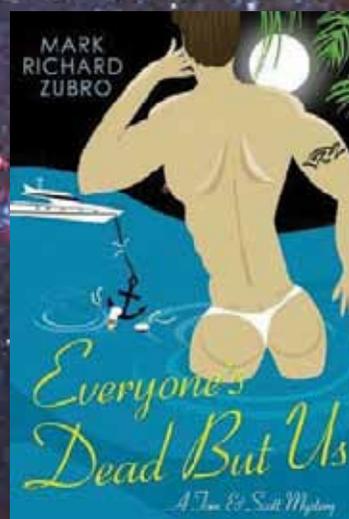
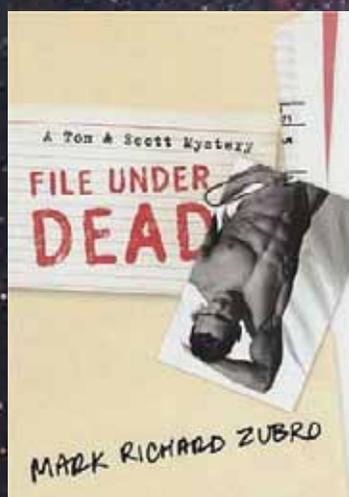
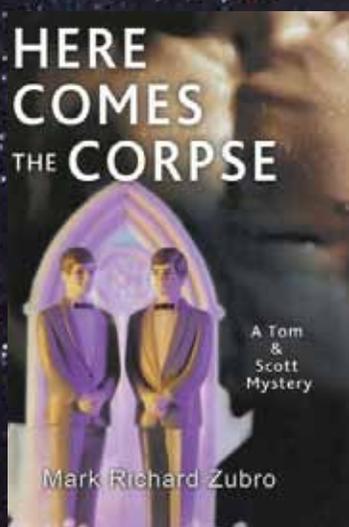
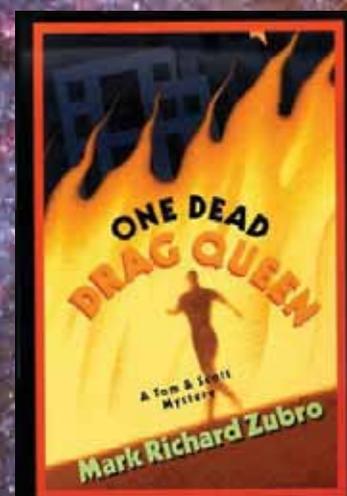
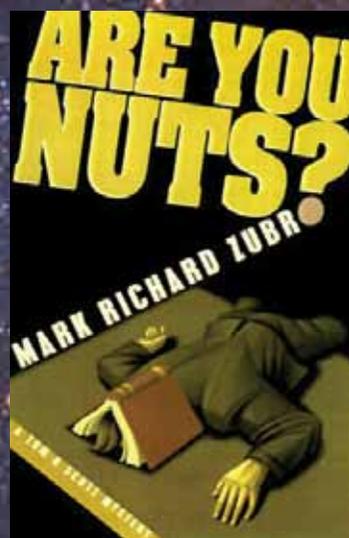
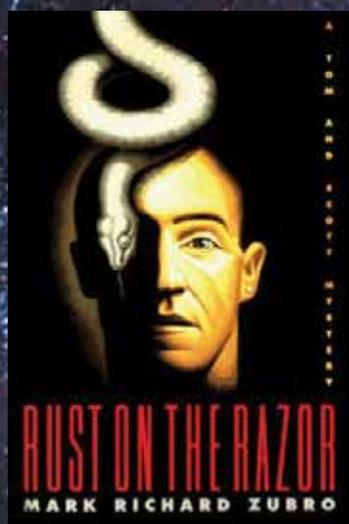
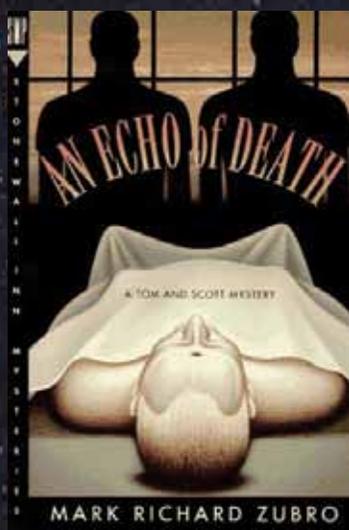
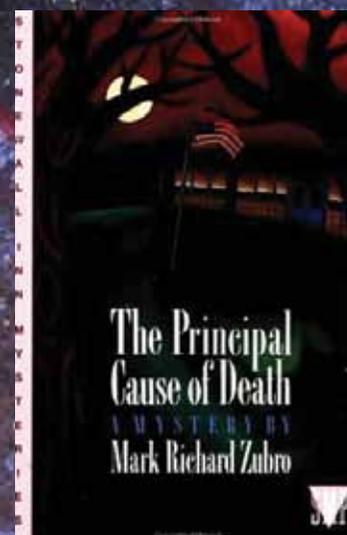
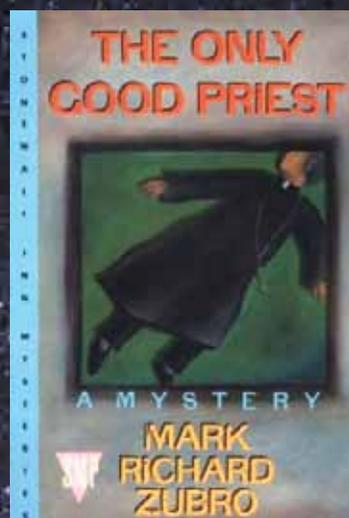
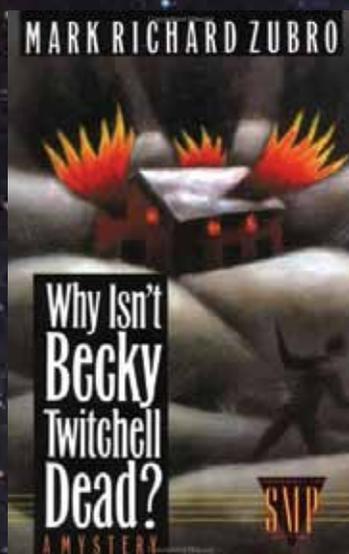
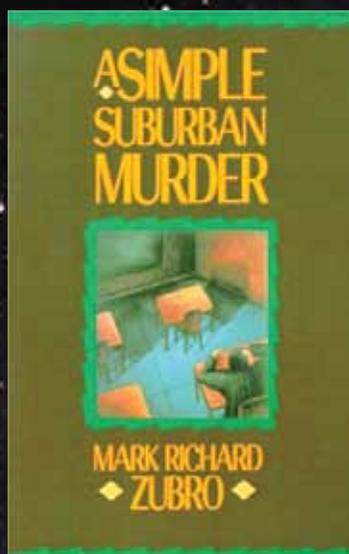
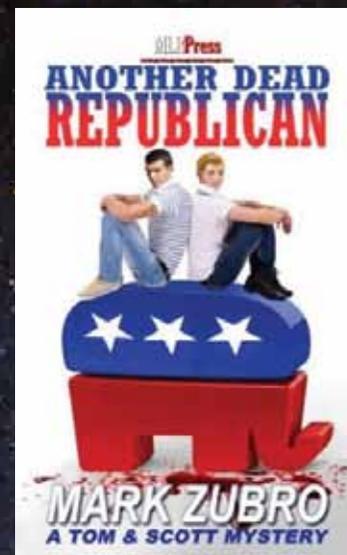
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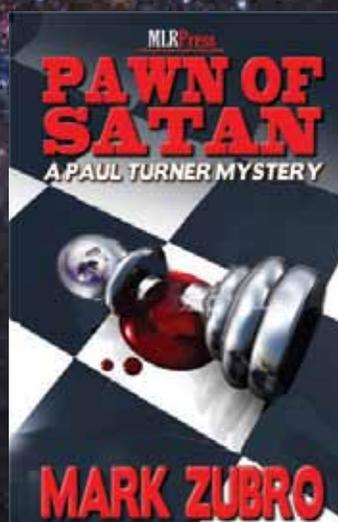
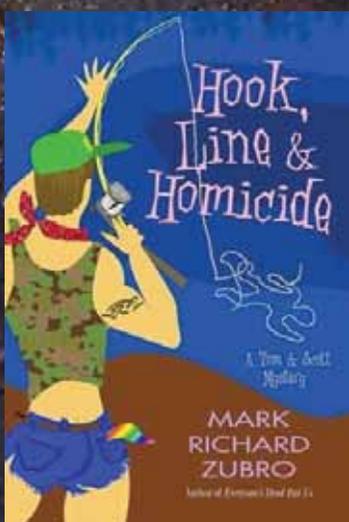
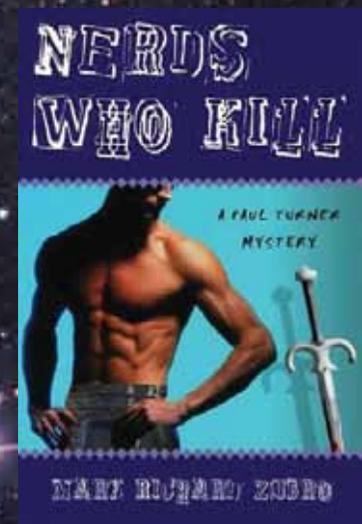
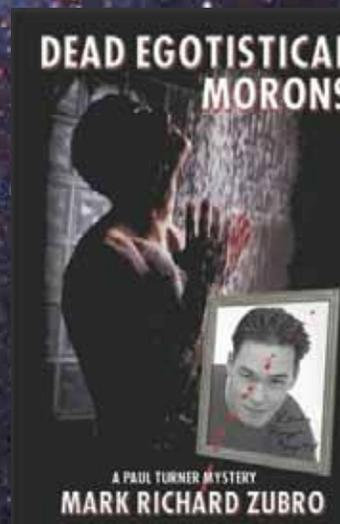
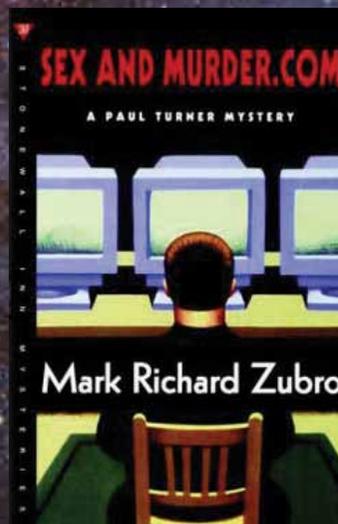
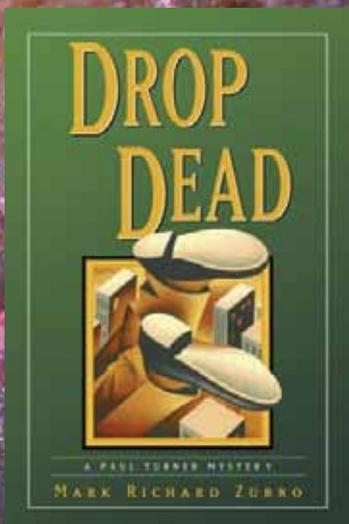
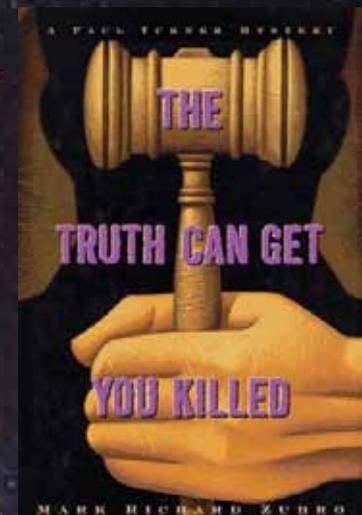
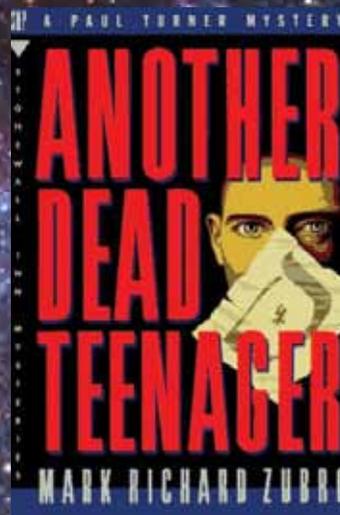
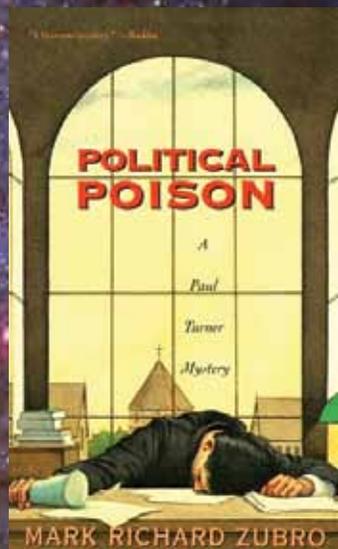
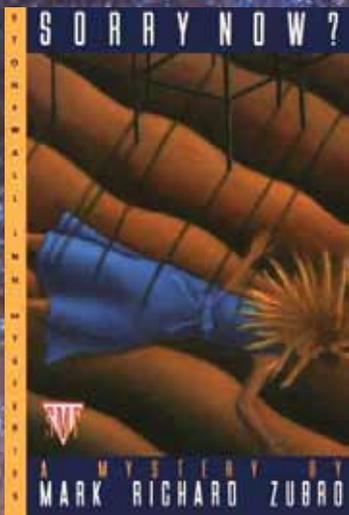
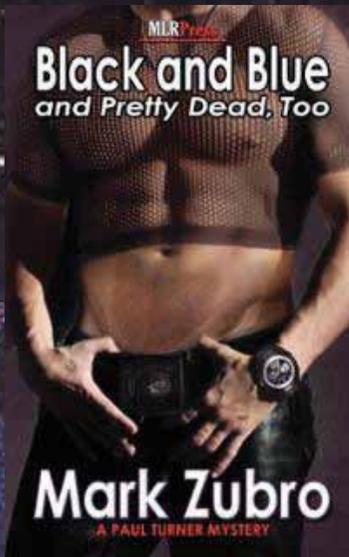
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BOOKS

Owen Keehnen: Fact and fiction—a winning formula

BY SALLY PARSONS

Owen Keehnen cares about words and language and the power they hold. He wrote his first book at the age of 7—a bio of James K. Polk, inspired by a series of presidential books given out at as a promotional item at the A&P.

He loves history, as both his first book and one of his latest two attest. The LGBT Book of Days is a reference, a fun trivia compilation, and a tool for further investigation into gay history. His new novel is *Young Digby Swank*, about a young gay boy growing up in a very Catholic world.

Keehnen's working style caroms his brain from a meticulous, fact-based endeavor (such as *The Book of Days*) to a creative work such as *Digby*. It's all about balance, the author/historian pointed out: "I'm happiest when I have two things going at the same time like that. When I get tired of one, there's always the other."

In *Digby*, which is rich in humor, we follow the adventures of an unusual young gay boy from birth to age 15, much of his life facing challenges from the Catholic Church and school system. His journey through a troubled childhood, a quest for popularity, and dreams of becoming Pope and/or a beauty queen are all lovingly laid down. We meet *Digby's* overbearing relatives, a few bullying nuns, some eccentric neighbors, and the parish gossips of Running Falls, the small blue-collar town in which *Digby* lives. At

the end, *Digby* has an encounter that makes him realize his own worth. There is whisper of a sequel. One hopes it will be forthcoming.

Digby and Keehnen have some traits in common. They were both raised Catholic and went to Catholic schools. They both were aware of their difference from other young boys. As a gay kid growing up in the '60s, Keehnen stated, "[T]here was huge pressure to be someone you aren't really." He knew he wasn't quite what a normal boy was. He felt he was role-playing. He is quick to note, however, that his youth spent trying to understand and abide by the strictures of the Church is much parodied in the book. Keehnen's upbringing, was "... not quite as Gothic as *Digby's*."

Writing *Digby* was cathartic for the author in that it allowed him to see that some of the demons you wrestled with as a kid you still carry around as an adult, like free-floating guilt. "It's really easy to still have that if you're raised in a Church that is very much shaking a finger at you." He added, "On a positive note, I will say it [Catholicism] sparked my imagination."

Here's an example from the book:

"As *Digby* understood it, God was basically Liberace and His pad was nothing short of a Vegas show palace. He didn't see God dressed in white robes carrying a staff, as He was so often depicted in paintings and religion books. After seeing several of His lavish homes, *Digby* instead pictured God in silk lounging pajamas with a monogrammed G."

"At its core [religion]," Keehnen said, "there is something very positive about feeling spiritually consoled and confident and able to be yourself, which is what *Digby* finds out in the end."

His other new book, *The LGBT Book of Days*, goes back to B.C. with the birth date of Alexander the Great and runs on up to current times. It is organized by day, not by year. Jan. 1, for instance, has eight entries from 1632 up to 1994. The reference book brings a different kind of satisfaction than *Digby*. Victor Salvo is creator and executive director of the Legacy Project, which installs bronze plaques along the North Halsted Street corridor to honor LGBT historical figures. In his introduction to the compendium, Salvo said, "Mr. Keehnen has done an impressive job of culling through vast reams of obscure data." Salvo wrote that the entries remind the reader that each day of the year commemorates something or someone that "... altered the trajectory of LGBT advancement."

Keehnen, who was on the founding committee of the Legacy Project, now works the media pages and writes many of the bios that appear on the Project site (legacyprojectchicago.org). As



Owen Keehnen.

Lori Cannon, another co-founder, recalls, "Owen has always been in the foreground of LGBT history, education, and honoring those who came before—paying close attention to their contributions despite the schoolbooks expunging their sexuality."

"Sometimes history can be kind of intimidating to get people interested in," Keehnen said. "But if you can look at it and say, 'Oh, that's kind of neat. Look what happened on this day,' it might inspire you to research it."

Keehnen explained it only took four months to pull the book together. He already had a lot of the information from his Legacy Project work. Plus, he confessed, "I'm obsessive-compulsive. It was like therapy spending a day looking for dates. It's so geeky but I found that so entertaining and gratifying."

The conversation also turned to physical recovery. Keehnen, who is recovering from a recent mild heart attack, urged people who think they might be having a heart attack to get over their denial and get to the ER. Reflecting on how the incident has affected him, Keehnen observed, "It makes you more appreciative and grateful for the simple things. ... There's nothing wrong with just taking it easy. That's kind of where life is."

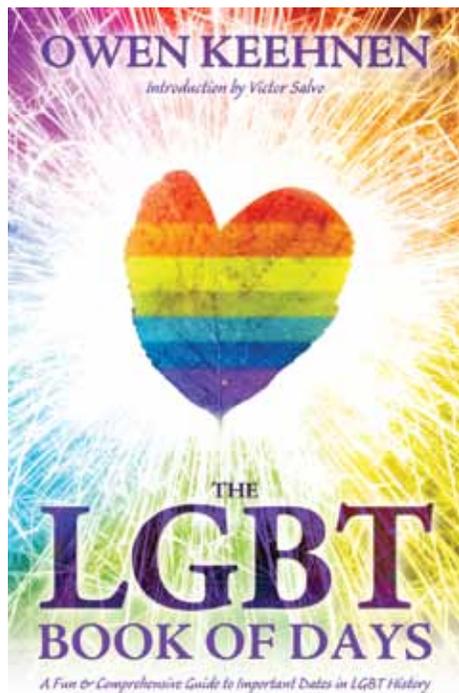
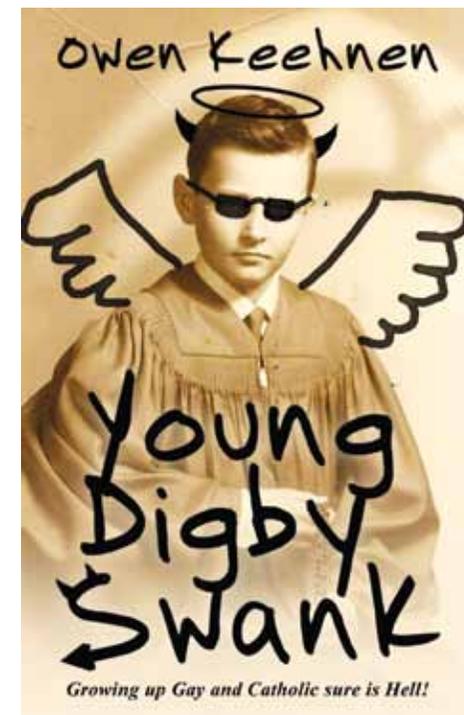
Keehnen has co-authored two bios with Tracy Baim and has a third in final stages about Vernita Gray. Baim has said, "What I really

like is his range, because he can write fiction and non-fiction, and works hard to make it all relatable for readers."

Keehnen lives in Chicago with his partner, Carl, and his two ridiculously spoiled dogs, Flannery and Fitzgerald. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2012.

The LGBT Book of Days by Owen Keehnen, Wilde City Press and Amazon Kindle, ebook, 334 pages, \$5.99

Young Digby Swank by Owen Keehnen, Wilde City Press and Amazon Kindle, ebook, 351 pages, \$8.99



Trans/gender-queer poetry event Oct. 19 at Outer Space

Red Rover Series {readings that play with reading} will hold its 68th literary event Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Outer Space Studio, 1474 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Experiment #68—"Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics"—is a special event for the Chicago release of the new anthology by Nightboat Books. Local writer Jen (Jay) Besemer will guest-curate, and the event will feature national writers Oliver Bendorf, Ching-In Chen, Meg Day, TT Jax, Tim Trace Peterson and Stacey Waite.

There is a \$4 suggested donation. The schedule for upcoming events is listed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/redroverseries> and on the Red Rover Series facebook page.

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THEADVOCATE
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Matthew Shepard movie screening at Sidetrack Oct. 29

BY ROSS FORMAN

Born and raised in Chicago, firefighter Eddie Budz wanted to make sure the city—particularly the LGBT community—could remember, reflect and come together around Matthew Shepard, as Oct. 12 marks the 15-year anniversary of his tragic death.

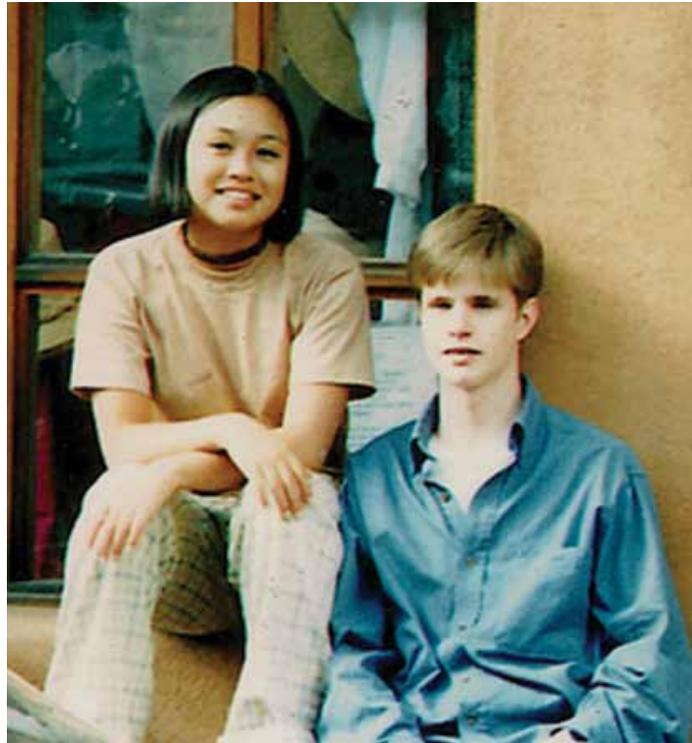
It was the night of Oct. 6, 1998, when two men lured Shepard, a gay freshman at the University of Wyoming, from a bar in Laramie. He was kidnapped and driven to a field where he was tortured and tethered to a fence and left to die.

Shepard died at age 21. "Matthew Shepard means a lot to me," Budz said. "I personally did not know him, but, what his story has done for the LGBT community is something we need to always remember. His story was international news and brought to the forefront exactly what many people in the LGBT community face every day.

"With the 15th anniversary of Matt's death on Oct. 12, it makes me think about where my life was 15 years ago. Matt Shepard and I were born three months apart. When I heard the news of the attack and his subsequent death, it was devastating to me. I was 21 and a college student with my whole life ahead of me, just like Matt. I put myself in his shoes and think that his story could very well have been my story. I would like for everyone to see this film to help remember Matt, told by the people who knew him best, his friends and family."

Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine is an 89-minute emotional tale of Shepard's life and tragic death, told by his friends, teachers, mentors, policemen and family members.

The movie made its world premiere Oct. 4. The Chicago premiere of Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine is Oct. 29, at Sidetrack in



Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine filmmaker Michele Josue and Shepard.

Lakeview.

"I've been very supportive of this film because, as the title states, Matt Shepard is a friend of mine. I could see myself being friends with Matt," Budz said. "Friendships and family mean the world to me. Helping in the small way that I am with this film is more for my friends and family than it is for me. I want them and everyone else to be able to see themselves in Matt Shepard and the friendships he developed. A

true friend never gives up on someone and I see that in Matt's story and this film."

For the Chicago screening, there are two ticket options. The gold ticket (\$35) includes a pre-screening reception with food, plus a meet-and-greet with the film's staff, and more. The silver ticket (\$20) includes the screening of the film.

Both ticket options include a post-screening Q&A with the filmmaker, Michele Josue; the film's producer, Liam McNiff; and others.

"I came across the film's initial Kickstarter campaign a couple of years ago when they were trying to get the movie made. I believe I gave them around \$100," Budz said. "Then earlier this year I noticed they had their second Kickstarter campaign, which would help them get the film shown in as many communities as possible. I [donated] more this.

"I think we have come a long way as a country after Matt's death. Thanks to [Matt's parents] Judy and Dennis Shepard, we now have better legislation regarding hate crimes. I think what we still lack is a compassion for one another. We need to continue to learn to embrace the differences in each and every one of us."

To purchase tickets online for the Chicago screening Oct. 29, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/451629>.

'Geography Club' to screen at law firm Oct. 18

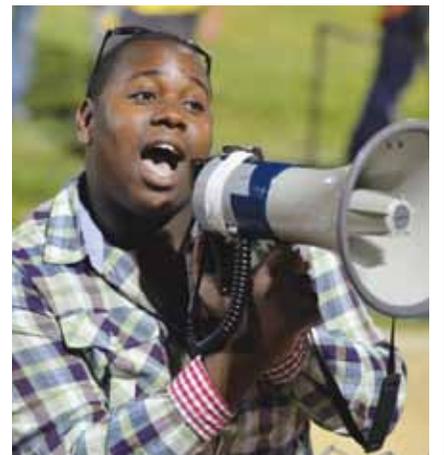
The LGBT-inclusive film Geography Club will screen at Baker & McKenzie LLP, 300 E. Randolph St., Suite 5000, on Friday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.

Producer Bryan Leader will be on hand to discuss the film, and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance is holding the event.

Starring Cameron Deane Stewart (Pitch Perfect), Justin Deeley (Drop Dead Diva, 90210), Scott Bakula (Behind the Candelabra) and Nikki Blonsky (Hairspray), the 83-minute movie looks at contemporary teenagers as they discover their own sexual identities, dreams and values.

It will also screen at the Reeling International LGBT Film Festival Nov. 10.

For more information about the Oct. 18 event, email lawrence@illinoisafeschools.org or visit www.illinoisafeschools.org/geography-club-movie-preview.



Alex Newell in Geography Club.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

LGBT highlights from CIFF; After Tiller; film notes

By the time you read this the 49th Chicago International Film Festival (CIFF) will have already screened several of the most hotly anticipated LGBT films of the fall—including *Kill Your Darlings* and *Blue Is the Warmest Color*. But there are plenty of movies for queer film audiences to look forward to before the fest wraps up Oct. 24. Highlights include the following (film descriptions come from CIFF press materials):

Elaine Stritch: Just Shoot Me USA (Director: Chiemi Karasawa)—A ferocious, funny, and poignant portrait of the one-of-a-kind Broadway legend still belting out Sondheim numbers at age 87, this documentary tribute showcases the brash, uncompromising Tony and Emmy winner both onstage and off. Stephen Sondheim, Tina Fey and Nathan Lane are among the interviewees. Screens Friday, Oct. 18, and Sunday, Oct. 20

Floating Skyscrapers Poland (Director: Tomasz Wasilewski)—When the self-assured Kuba, a promising swimmer who lives with his girlfriend, meets shy young student Michal, he finds himself falling in love. But his family's overwhelmingly negative response to his new relationship compounds his own deep-seated internal conflicts and insecurities. Screens Sunday, Oct. 20 and Wed., Oct. 23

Illiterate Chile (Director: Moisés Sepúlveda)—For 50 years, Ximena has managed to get by without being able to read. When Jackeline, a young unemployed teacher, comes into her life, Ximena's isolation is disturbed. Jackeline's efforts to teach Ximena how to read prove almost Herculean as they clash, but it soon becomes evident that the two women need each other in ways they could never predict. Screens Tuesday, Oct. 22

It's All So Quiet Netherlands/Germany (Director: Nanouk Leopold)—Stifled by his ailing father's oppressive presence, Helmer moves him to the second floor of their isolated rural farmhouse. Free from his father's judgmental gaze, Helmer finds himself developing increasingly warm relationships with the milk truck driver and an attractive young farmhand who moves into the house. Screens Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20

The Nun France/Germany/Belgium (Director: Guillaume Nicloux)—Forced to join a convent against her will at 16, Suzanne describes, in a series of letters written in secret, her yearnings for freedom and her persecution and mistreatment at the hands of her fellow nuns—including Isabelle Huppert in an electrifying performance as her Mother Superior. Screens Sunday, Oct. 20 and Wed., Oct. 23

Philomena UK (Director: Stephen Frears)—Stephen Frears' latest focuses on the efforts of Philomena Lee (Judi Dench), mother to a boy conceived out of wedlock and given away for adoption in the United States. After starting a family years later in England and, for the most part, moving on with her life, Lee meets Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan), a BBC reporter with



Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?

whom she decides to discover her long-lost son. Screens Thursday, Oct. 17

Snails in the Rain Israel (Director: Yariv Mozzer)—In the summer of 1989, beautiful yet melancholy linguistics student Boaz finds his quiet life with his devoted girlfriend Noa derailed when he begins receiving amorous letters from a closeted secret male admirer. Both flattered and troubled, Boaz is thrown into a profound internal conflict, questioning his own sexuality and alienating Noa in this tender, affecting drama. Screens Sunday, Oct. 20, and Tuesday, Oct. 22

Stranger by the Lake UK (Director: Director: Alain Guiraudie)—In a secluded cruising spot tucked away on a picturesque lake, Franck notices the muscular Michel and quickly falls for him. Franck's desire continues to grow even as he witnesses Michel commit a terrible, violent act. Screens Sunday, Oct. 20

Voyage Hong Kong (Director: Scud)—Young psychiatrist Ryo attempts to find catharsis by ruminating on the stories of his patients who have taken their own lives. While on a lone voyage off the coast of Southeast Asia, he writes about each patient, the film staging each of these vignettes in a beautiful surrealist landscape. Screens Sunday, Oct. 20 and Tuesday, Oct. 22

Scud is the recipient of the fest's Q Hugo Award, which will be bestowed on Monday, Oct. 21, at an evening celebrating LGBTQ film, music and dance at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., beginning with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. (The awards follow at 7 p.m.) The evening will also include special performances and the presentation of the jury awards (of which I'm a member) for the fest's LGBT-themed films. An after-party will be held at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., beginning at 9 p.m.

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? Taiwan (Director: Arvin Chen)—Introvert Weichung's measured life as a family man is shaken when a chance encounter revives feelings from his long-suppressed gay past, forcing him to choose between love and security. Meanwhile, his sister, engaged to the nicest of men, begins to question her own desire for conventional family life. Screens Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20

For tickets, festival passes and theater information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

Briefly noted: Directors Martha Shane and Lana Wilson fearlessly tackle the controversial subject of third-trimester abortions in **After Tiller**, a compelling documentary that has made the festival rounds since its debut at Sundance earlier

this year, including several LGBT fests (because one of the only four remaining doctors performing the procedure includes the openly lesbian Dr. Shelley Sella).

The movie tries hard to be non-judgmental and never wavers from its sympathetic approach, which, given its often-sensationalized subject matter, is quite an achievement. The title refers to the vow made by the four physicians profited to continue the work of their murdered colleague Dr. George Tiller. It opens Friday, Oct. 18, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. www.musicboxtheatre.com

Film notes:

—**Music Box of Horrors 2013:** Get out your pajamas because it's time for the Music Box Theatre's, 3733 N. Southport Ave., annual 24-hour horror-movie marathon. It gets underway Saturday, Oct. 19, at 2:45 p.m. Highlights include 1933's creepy classic *Island of Lost Souls*; the original *Chucky the evil-doll* movie *Child's Play*; Susan Strasberg menaced by an evil Indian spirit aka *The Manitou*; Patricia Arquette in *A Nightmare On Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*, arguably

the best of the Elm Street's many sequels; and the horror-camp *Slumber Party Massacre* (written by Rita Mae Brown). Check the Music Box website for news of additional films, guests expected to attend and to purchase advance tickets. www.musicboxtheatre.com

—**A little Sondheim music:** It's safe to say that Broadway legend Stephen Sondheim's score for 1980's *Merrily We Roll Along* hasn't had any trouble surviving the infamous fiasco from which it came. Sondheim's typical gorgeous melodies and acrid lyrics are leavened by moments of lush romanticism and energetic, uptempo numbers in his sensational score. Yet, dozens of revivals of the show have yet to be nearly as memorable as Sondheim's score though reports out of London's current West End production seem to suggest that director Maria Friedman has finally managed to solve the show's creative problems. Film audiences can see for themselves when Fathom Events presents a one-night-only presentation of the London production Wed., Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. at the ShowPlace Icon, 150 W. Roosevelt Rd. <http://www.fathomevents.com>

'Corpus Christi' doc to screen Nov. 10

The documentary *Corpus Christi: Playing with Redemption* will screen Sunday, Nov. 10, at 12 p.m. at the Logan Theatre, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., as part of the Reeling International LGBT Film Festival.

The film tells the stories of the touring company for 108 Productions' *Corpus Christi*, the controversial 1998 play by four-time Tony winner Terrence McNally, which imagines Jesus as a gay man living in modern-day Texas. Michael Leppen is sponsoring the event.

Tickets are \$12; see www.ReelingFilmFestival.org.

'Center on Culture' through Oct. 26

Center on Culture, a new theater series coordinated by Center on Halsted, will begin this fall.

The New York City-based, all-male, classical string and singing quartet Well-Strung will be putting their own spin on the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Rihanna, Adele, Lady Gaga and others Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, at 6 p.m.

Lastly, there will be a special preview performance of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* produced by Timeline Theatre Company at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. The special performance will be Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m.

For more information on the series and to purchase tickets, visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/culture>.

CGMC's 'Lipstick & Lyrics' Nov. 2 at Mayne Stage

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' annual "Lipstick & Lyrics" event will take place Saturday, Nov. 2, at The Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

The theme this year is "Sex Is in the Heel"—a song featured in the musical-theater production of *Kinky Boots*. According to the chorus' website, the event will feature "choreography by Chicago's top choreographers, fabulous costumes, and some of the greatest hits of pop music."

Tickets are \$25-\$50; visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/481959.

MOVIES

'The New Black' colors marriage-equality talk

BY DERRICK CLIFTON

The New Black made its Chicago premiere on Oct. 7 and 8 during screenings held at The Logan Theatre and the Chicago Urban League. Guests also heard from speakers with Illinois Unites for Marriage, along with panel Q&A following each screening.

The speakers Oct. 8 were the film's producer Yvonne Welbon; Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity; William McNary, co-director of Citizen Action Illinois; and Bishop Carlton Pearson of New Dimensions Chicago. The previous night, speakers included Chicago Urban League's Roderick Hawkins, Welbon, McNary and the Rev. Jamie Frazier of The Lighthouse Church of Chicago.

Flashback to Election Day 2008, when voters in California elected the country's first Black president while denying same-sex couples the right to marry. Exit polls reported an overwhelming majority of the state's African-American voters decided "yes" on Proposition 8, enraging LGBT activists and supporters nationwide—many who quickly noted the dissonance and blamed Blacks. Although new data soon invalidated the widely cited poll, the perception stuck. And a new appeal to align gay rights with the Civil Rights Movement was borne of an emerging, yet hotly-contested phrase: "Gay is the new Black."

Shocked and angered while witnessing the divide from San Francisco on election night, filmmaker Yoruba Richen decided to explore the marriage issue in the Black community, soon embarking on a three-year filming process that culminated in this summer's premiere of The New Black.

"I felt angry that African-Americans were

being scapegoated ... and that the campaign didn't work well with communities of color and then the blame was put on the Black community," she said.

Richen—the film's writer, director and producer—said she also wanted to find out why white and Black LGBT communities were being placed at odds. As California headed towards another potential referendum on same-sex marriage in 2010, Richen sought to understand how the relationship was being repaired and efforts to include more African-American voices.

But proponents failed to get it on the ballot. Months later, a federal judge issued the first in a string of court rulings that would ultimately strike down Proposition 8 and legalize same-sex marriage in California. After more than a year of filming, Richen set her sights on Maryland as a battleground for marriage equality in the African-American community.

"People were blaming Black folks in California, which is crazy because Black people are only 7 percent of the state," said Yvonne Welbon, the film's producer. "But Maryland was an actual opportunity to see if the [Black] vote was actually going to matter." According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Blacks account for 30 percent of Maryland's population.

The New Black follows African-American advocates on both sides of the 2012 campaign for Maryland's Question 6, a referendum launched by opponents of the state's same-sex marriage bill. Richen profiled Black organizers, ministers, public figures and groups supporting marriage equality, including Sharon Lettman-Hicks, executive director and CEO of the National Black Justice Coalition.



The New Black filmmaker Yoruba Richen. Photo by Luke Rattray

After following Lettman-Hicks and her organization's work, Richen said she soon understood their efforts to promote understanding of LGBT issues in Black communities.

"I thought the focus would be on looking at white LGBT groups and what they weren't doing," said Richen. "The focus soon became looking in our own community and how we were handling LGBT issues."

The New Black also recalls footage of scathing criticisms from activists and ministers such as gospel singer Donnie McClurkin, Bishop Eddie Long and the late Fred Shuttlesworth, all of whom decried LGBT issues as matters of civil rights.

As a filmmaker, Richen felt it was important to include voices of Blacks who oppose marriage equality.

"I always wanted to include the other side," she said. "I think it makes for a more complex understanding of what's happening in the community around this issue... and challenges us to consider the arguments of the other side."

The presence of various voices in the film extends to discussions within families, which the film identifies as a key focal point in understanding how African-American opinions are shaped on LGBT issues.

"The issue of family for the African-American community has been a contested space for us given that we weren't allowed to marry and have family. Family has been a refuge from our experiences of racism and being an oppressed group within society," said Richen. "Being able to film those discussions and debates around family gives people a real intimacy with what's going on... and ultimately, the political is personal."

Ultimately, Maryland voters decided in favor of same-sex marriage. And, after making the film, Richen understood "the new black" as a phrase with multiple meanings.

"In the end, the young activists who have dedicated their lives to pushing for LGBT rights, they are the 'new Black,' she said. "I came to realize that it's the youth who are pushing the issue and have made this a part of the conversation."

Although the marriage issue still remains to be decided in the Illinois legislature, Richen hopes the film provides a space for dialogue.

"Have a conversation with people in your family and people in your community," said Richen. "If we want to create more fairness for folks, then we need to understand each other."

For more information including upcoming showings, discussion guides and details for hosting a screening, visit thenewBlackfilm.com. "The New Black" will broadcast on PBS in 2014.

To read about the Oct. 8 showing at the Chicago Urban League, visit <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Panel-discusses-African-Americans-and-marriage-push/44721.html>.



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Emy Ritt (left) and Kurt Dahl (second from left) with Paris bid committee leaders. Photo by Bob Olayas

Paris wins rights to host Gay Games X in 2018

BY ROSS FORMAN

From the Eiffel Tower to the Louvre, and all points in between, the city of Paris will be waving one enormous, welcoming rainbow flag in 2018.

Paris, the capital and most populous city of France, was awarded the rights to host Gay Games X in 2018. The announcement was made live by Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson during ceremonies held Oct. 7 at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, host city of Gay Games 9 next August.

The international delegates and board of directors of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) voted at the end of a three-day meeting, featuring site inspection reports, question-and-answer sessions, committee reviews, and an oral presentation by each bidding organization. There were 74 total eligible votes for the 2018 site, FGG co-President Kurt Dahl confirmed.

Paris won over bids from Limerick, Ireland, and London.

There also had been 2018 bids from Amsterdam and Orlando, Fla., though neither of those cities advanced to the finals.

David Killian, co-chair of the FGG Site Selection Committee, said in a statement:

"The vote is the result of dozens of individual choices, but during discussions, some points stood out for many voters. Paris proposed a wide range of sports in quality venues, many of which offer good visibility for the event. French LGBT sport organizations have a great deal of experience hosting international multisport tournaments. And Paris is a great destination to visit or revisit. They are already well advanced in planning, for example with the designation of a dedicated sports manager. And they arrived with demonstrable political support, including the Minister for Sport, who was part of the presentation team, as well as elected officials and civil servants from the municipal and regional governments."

Dahl, who lives in the Chicago area, said in a statement that with Paris announced as the presumptive host, "we open a 90-day window to execute our license agreement, with the support of law firm Fox Rothschild on the FGG side. We

entered this process close to agreement with all three bidders, so we're convinced that we will be able to confirm Paris as the host of Gay Games X very shortly."

In an exclusive interview Oct. 7, Dahl said he was most impressed with the organization of the Paris bid committee, which included about 25 attendees in Cleveland, including the French Sports Minister Valérie Fourneyron and double Olympic gold medal winning fencer Laura Flessel.

Paris had the most support from its city of the finalists, Dahl confirmed.

"This was a difficult decision for everybody," Dahl said. "I don't know what the final count was, but people really had a tough time deciding, I believe, on which city to pick as their No. 1 choice."

This was Paris' second bid to host the Games, having been defeated in 2005 by Cologne for the 2010 Games.

Dahl a signed license agreement should be executed between FGG and Paris "well within the 90 days; we're very close."

FGG co-president Emy Ritt in a statement said, "It's been such an enriching experience to discover so many new people through this bidding cycle. The talent, energy, and enthusiasm of these men and women was inspiring to all of us at the Federation. We are convinced that all involved will continue to contribute to the Gay Games movement, and we would be fortunate to benefit as an organization from the participation of such outstanding individuals."

Chris Fanuel, the co-chair of Paris 2018, told Windy City Times Oct. 7, "We're very proud, it's such an emotional moment for us. Hosting the Gay Games in Paris is really an honor for us."

Same-sex marriage was passed earlier this year by the French government. The first same-sex ceremony in France took place May 29 in the city of Montpellier.

"Paris is a wonderful city and we're very excited to host Gay Games X," Fanuel said.

Dahl said FGG officials have already had initial discussions with cities interested in hosting Gay Games XI in 2022, though he did not mention any potential cities that will or might bid for 2022.



Abby Wambach. Photo by Hal Baim

Soccer superstar Abby Wambach comes out, weds teammate

BY ROSS FORMAN

Abby Wambach, one of the most successful and decorated female soccer players in history, confirmed Oct. 9 that she is gay—and that she married fellow soccer player Sarah Huffman.

Wambach tweeted, "Sarah and I wanted to thank everyone for all the love and support. We couldn't be happier. What an amazing week it's been. #honeymoon."

They were married Oct. 5 in Hawaii, it was first reported by TMZ, which said the event was held at the Villas at Po'ipu Kai on the island of Kauai.

TMZ added that the intimate wedding was held on the beach at sunset in front of the couple's family and closest friends. Several members of the Team USA soccer team were in attendance, including Alex Morgan and Sydney Leroux.

A longtime supporter of LGBT rights, Wambach had never previously spoken publicly about her sexual orientation. Huffman came out earlier this year with an announcement in support of Athlete Ally.

Wambach, 33, is a two-time Olympic gold medalist and the 2012 FIFA World Player of the Year. She now plays for Western New York Flash in the National Women's Soccer League and for the U.S. Women's National Team.

Wambach is a five-time winner of the U.S. Soccer Athlete of the Year award, and she holds the world record for international goals (161) for both female and male soccer players.

Huffman, 29, played at the University of Virginia before turning pro. She has played for the U.S. National Team since 2010.

They previously were teammates with the Washington Freedom and magicJack, and now with the Flash.

"I knew about Abby's engagement, I played with Abby for years," Brandi Chastain told USA TODAY Sports on Wednesday. "I'm very happy for

her like I am for all my teammates and friends who get to experience that love that goes along with getting married. I'm thrilled for her."

Casie Campbell, an out lesbian from Chicago who also is married (to Katie), said Wambach is a "total inspiration and an awesome athlete." Plus, Campbell said Wambach's announcement was "brave, too; it takes a ton of courage to come out on the public stage."

Cyd Zeigler, the co-founder of Outsports.com, said Wambach's coming-out, though not a shocker, certainly is a "big deal."

"She's one of the biggest female athletes to ever come out. Certainly Billie Jean [King] and Martina [Navratilova] are legends, but after them, it's hard to think of bigger female athletes to come out," Zeigler said. "I can't think of a bigger female soccer player right now than Abby Wambach. She's a superstar."

Robin Lee, an out sports fan and memorabilia collector from San Francisco, said Wambach's coming-out is "wonderful news" for the LGBT community.

"Abby's been a superstar from the beginning. She's been an exemplary role model for soccer players in the U.S., and is the all-time leading goal-scorer," said Lee, the owner of Girl-Jocks.com. "Abby's autographed jerseys, [signed] soccer balls and photos are consistently great sellers. And she's one of the top four most-sought-after women's soccer players. I wish Abby and her wife all the best."

Sam Hamilton, the commissioner for the 2012 women's soccer league in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), added: "I'm happy for them; it's great to see. They will help lead others to follow footsteps for equality."

The U.S. Women's National Team also features Megan Rapinoe, who came out a few weeks before the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.



From left: Tracy Baim (of Windy City Times) and Catherine Jefcoat (then of Lesbian Community Care Project) with Abby Wambach and Megan Rapinoe at a WCT-sponsored LCCP benefit in 2009. Photo by Hal Baim

Chicago women's rugby team invited to tourney in Kenya

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ron Bukusi, coach of the Chicago Sirens women's rugby club, wanted his team to have something to work toward that was bigger, more significant than its league matches.

He went worldly.

Originally from Kenya, Bukusi helped start the Safari Sevens Tournament in 1996, and it's been held for 18 years, though only three years with women's teams.

The Sirens are the first women's team outside of Africa to be invited to participate.

"Coach wanted us to have something to focus on," said Sirens player Janet Fitzpatrick. "He wanted us to feel like there was something big to shoot for, and [to] light a fire under us to take our rugby to the next level. The thought of playing against national teams of countries from all over the world is definitely helping us step up our game."

Added teammate Becky Roberts, "One of the biggest challenges facing women's rugby in the U.S. is a lack of matches. Up until this year, we were scheduled in four league matches per year, then we were on our own to plan matches for the rest of the year. We can only improve by playing."

The Sirens had 40 players on their roster during the 2012-13 season, ranging in age from 18 to 37, with the majority falling in the 19 to 27 range.

The 2013-2014 season features several new players as this is the only women's team that was able to field two full teams at the CARFU Ball Tournament last spring.

Several University of Illinois-Chicago graduates founded the team in 2006.

The Sirens recently joined with the Chicago Westside Condors and the Frogs to form a mixed-gender rugby club, following European style club organization. "We are the only teams to do so in the Chicagoland area and one of the few to do so in the U.S.," said Kelli Blanchard of the Sirens. "All three teams have come together to form the Chicago Rugby Club."

Fitzpatrick, a Sirens' founder, club treasurer and assistant coach, added: "On the field, we have goals of a winning season, beating our rivals both times we play them, and playing as a more cohesive team. On a grander scale, we want to be the team that everyone in Chicagoland wants to play for."

Added Roberts, who is the club vice president, "Our team has a goal for both our on-field and off-field presence. As a newer team, our on-field goals are to secure a winning season; play good, clean rugby; and develop our playing skills. Off the field, our goals are to promote women's rugby throughout Chicago, to become the largest team in Chicago and to maintain a team that respects each of our members and the sport."

International experience

Chicago players and coaches alike are thrilled for the Kenya opportunity.

Bukusi said the trip will help the team's "growth and development."

Fitzpatrick said, "Our team has come so far in a short amount of time. Nerves are there, but most of all it is a tremendous honor. When we started the team, we wanted to get some new blood into the Chicago rugby scene. So, to be invited to play in an international tournament is such a privilege. We are so lucky to have this opportunity. It's so awesome for our sport in America, but even more so as women in rugby."

Blanchard said the team is "beyond excited."

"We are all so incredibly passionate about our team and the sport of rugby, [thus] the opportunity to represent both on an international stage, in front of 20,000-30,000 people, is mind-blowing for us," she said. "Typically, we are lucky and happy if we play [in front of] a couple dozen friends and family. I don't think it's possible for

us to be any more excited to experience international rugby and to represent the U.S., and Chicago."

The team already has 25 players who have committed to going on the tour, though fundraising will be an issue. At least 12 are needed to participate in the tournament.

"The tournament was started to raise the stan-



Chicago Sirens. Photo from the team

dards of rugby in Kenya and act as a fundraiser," Bukusi said. "It was developed along the lines of the Hong Kong 7s, the biggest and most prestigious rugby 7s tournament in the world."

"We want to play our game and make everyone we play against remember the Chicago Sirens," Fitzpatrick said. "We are a great bunch of ladies. We play with heart and play cleanly. I hope that we can show people on an international stage how fantastic we are."

Roberts added, "Off the field, we hope to be gracious to everyone we meet and we intend to partner with a local youth organization to help them learn about rugby."

The Sirens need to raise about \$70,000.

The inaugural Sirens Scramble Golf Tournament, which took place last month, was the first in a series of fundraisers for the Kenya tournament.

More than 60 percent of the Sirens self-identify as LGBTQ, though it varies year to year, Blanchard said.

"Rugby is widely known as a very accepting sport and acceptance is a core value of the Sirens," Roberts said.

"I have played boys' football, volleyball, softball, basketball and track. I have never, ever played a sport, or hung out in any group of people where heterosexuals and LGBTQ community feel equally comfortable being themselves around each other," Blanchard said. "We have several people on the team dating each other and several of the straight girls dating male rugers from other teams. Being bisexual, I often find that I don't fit perfectly in the hetero or homo world. Each group has certain expectations and limits. This is the first time in my life I have been part of a group of people where it is perfectly acceptable to be my 'whole self.' I can't even begin to express how liberating it is. In my discussions with others in the LGBTQ community, I say that our sport, and our team, is neither heteronormative, nor, homonormative; rather, it is both."

Blanchard works as a bilingual therapist/youth re-entry program coordinator for Alternatives, Inc., and lives in Rogers Park.

"I joined the Sirens, and started playing rugby, in February, 2011," Blanchard said. "I was already 31 years old and had three previous knee surgeries on the same knee—not ideal for a rugby player. [Still], I was relatively new to Chicago and wanted to get back into competitive sports. Over the years I had played boys' football, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track. I always enjoyed football most because of the contact. In the other sports, I was often in trouble for

being 'too aggressive' and 'too physical.' I was sure I wanted to seek out a contact sport. I looked into women's football, but the financial and time commitments were too demanding. I looked into roller derby, but it would take me a year of full time skating to even attempt to qualify. Then I found rugby.

"I explored several Chicagoland rugby teams, online and in person. I chose the Sirens because they seemed to be the perfect mix between competitive and social. It was clear that they

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NEXT LECTURE

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GOLDIE GOLDBLOOM

Working For Queer Acceptance:

Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right

Goldie Goldbloom is a writer, a professor, a mother of 8, a trans mentor and a queer activist. Goldbloom's award winning fiction has been published internationally. Her novel, *The Paperbark Shoe*, won the AWP Novel Award and was the Independent Publishers Literary Novel of the Year. She is a professor of creative writing at Northwestern University, and the mother of eight children. Goldie was a contributor to the groundbreaking anthology *Keep Your Wives Away From Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires*, and continues to work as an activist in the Orthodox Jewish community for queer inclusion. She is a mentor for transgender youth.

Lavender University is a 9-month lecture series featuring top academic and activist LGBTQs working on a wide range of research and interests. It is sponsored by Windy City Times and Center on Halsted.

SAT., 12/7/13

Owen Daniel-McCarter

Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners

SAT., 1/4/14

Hyacinth Piel

Ethical Problems in Gender Identity Construction

SAT., 2/1/14

Beth Richie

Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation

SAT., 3/1/14

Lourdes Torres

Making Familia from Scratch: Towards a History of Latina Lesbian Organizing in Chicago

SAT., 4/5/14

Anne Balay

Steel Closets: Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers

SAT., 5/3/14

Timothy Stewart-Winter

From Civil Rights to Gay Rights in Chicago

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the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



The Bedford

BY MEGHAN STREIT

I thought my days of actually being able to enjoy a meal that is served in a club-like atmosphere—with a DJ playing songs by bands I don't know and hipsters drinking PBR, not because they have to but because they want to—were long gone. Well, either I've still got it or **The Bedford** manages to pull off the impossible. This place is at once a restaurant where thirty-somethings want to pay big bucks for swanky farm-to-table style cuisine and a cool lounge where twenty-somethings want to drink until 2 a.m. Everyone wins. Well, at least everyone under age 40.

Located at the corner of North Avenue and Division Street in Wicker Park, The Bedford occupies a basement that used to be a bank. Original vault doors and a dark, sexy lounge lined with shiny copper safe-deposit boxes make you feel like you're hanging out in an old-timey bank after business hours. If the restaurant banged you over the head with the bank theme, it would be tedious, but it doesn't, so the space feels cool rather than contrived.

Behind the scenes is Chef Mark Steuer, who put in time at Hot Chocolate and The Gage—and his culinary experience is evident at The Bedford. The menu uses 1920s supper-club staples as a jumping off point (think steaks, oysters and deviled eggs), but Steuer brings his food firmly

into the 21st century with some clever but subtle updates. The deviled eggs are sprinkled with bacon powder and the gnocchi gets mixed with black kale.

While cocktails are front and center here, the drink list is short. The cucumber cooler is made with either vodka or gin, Aperol, lime and fresh cucumber. It was light and refreshing on an unseasonably warm early autumn night. I also enjoyed the St. Germain cocktail, a straightforward mix of bubbly, elderflower liqueur and soda water. While I can't necessarily credit the bar staff with a ton of ingenuity on that drink, I will say that it pairs perfectly with the classic American food that's served at The Bedford.

The cheese board is nice to nibble on while you peruse the menu. The cheese portions are predictably on the small side, but tasty nonetheless. The oysters from the raw bar were my favorite starter. They were remarkably fresh and are the perfect little bite to accompany a glass of champagne. There's nice dry Prosecco for just \$9 a glass on one end of the spectrum and bottles of Moët for \$79 on the other.

I also enjoyed the roasted beet salad. Oranges and walnuts are familiar sidekicks for the juicy beets, but blue cheese crème fresh is a welcome stand-in for the goat cheese you'd normally expect to see on this salad. A drizzle of sherry vinaigrette adds some tangy sweetness.

While the entrée list is on the short side, there's no lack of temptation or imagination. At first glance, the dishes all seem rather simple: steak, scallops, chicken breast. But, upon further inspection, you'll find they've all got an element of intrigue. The scallops have a citrus peppercorn sauce, for instance, and the chicken comes with fried shaved Brussels sprouts. The ribeye was expertly cooked, juicy on the inside and ever-so-slightly charred on the outside with



Enjoy the beet salad (left) in the Vault Lounge (right) at The Bedford. PR photos

just a sprinkle of sea salt. While I thoroughly enjoyed the steak, at \$45, it felt a little big for its britches. I suspect that price is a bit inflated because of the accompanying marrow compound butter, which frankly I could have done without. It did lend a decadent richness to the first few bites, but then became unnecessary and almost too much. I recommend the sturdy Malbec to accompany this sizable steak.

If you do order the ribeye (and even if you don't), the creamy polenta side dish is a must-have. Mascarpone is the secret ingredient here and it takes the polenta to a whole rich and creamy new level. The delightful mixture is baked in a little crock until a golden brown "crust" bubbles up on top. This outstanding polenta makes mashed potatoes as a side dish with steak seem almost antiquated and irrelevant.

Vegetarian options on the night I visited were limited. There was one meatless dish to be exact—but it was a good one. Gnocchi was given an autumny update with sweet potatoes. While they weren't the absolute fluffiest gnocchi I've ever eaten, they were pretty darn good. Sage brown butter sauce pairs perfectly with the sub-

tle sweetness of the potatoes. Crisp black kale adds an earthy contrast to the sweeter elements and savory shards of Manchego cheese round out the flavor profile.

If given the choice, I almost always choose salty foods over sweet ones. I enjoy dessert, but don't go wild over it—not so with the salted caramel pot de crème at The Bedford. It's salty and then it's sweet and then it's salty again. The texture is so silky and smooth that it beckons you to dip your tiny spoon into a tiny jar over and over again, without even a passing thought of your expanding waistline or the toned and stylish twenty-somethings avoiding carbs over at the bar. Bottom line: This is one place where you should definitely save room for dessert.

The Bedford is at 1612 W. Division St.; call 773-235-8800 or visit www.bedfordchicago.com.

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

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. Registration Number: D13135824 on September 30, 2013 Under the Assumed Business Name of NINE BLACKMON with the business located at 3170 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60657. The true and real full name and residence address of the owner is Myron Spencer Davis, 3170 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago IL 60657, USA. (10/23/13-3)

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RUGBY from page 33

knew how to have fun. I also liked that they were the only team that seemed to have several players of color. Although I am white, diversity and inclusion are extremely important to me. It wasn't until later that I learned about the LGBTQ values of the sport and the team."

Blanchard's memories as a Sirens' player date back to her first practice. That day, her coach said, "Your teammate is going to stand in front

of you. When she jumps, I want you to grab her just above the knee and lift her up over your head," Blanchard recalls. "I thought, 'This is not a skill I possess,' but I've played enough sports to know that you don't question your coach."

"It turns out [that] I'm pretty [good] at lifting girls over my head, and that our coach knows our skills/abilities better than we know ourselves. It's nice to trust him that much. It's nice that he looks out for me and protects me from going too hard and too fast as I recover from knee surgery."

Bukusi added, "We need all the support we can get. Our primary focus is to play good and exciting rugby and be the best rugby team in Chicago. We wish to take our brand of rugby to Kenya, which will be an eye-opening experience for all of us on many levels."

To support the Sirens on their journey to Kenya, go to <http://sirensafari7s.webs.com/apps/donations/>.

Donations for the Sirens' Kenya trip can be made at <http://sirensafari7s.webs.com>.

EVE from page 18

like you then you are not cool! I feel lucky to have that support. I support them back as much as I can whenever I can. I love them.

WCT: I can get you booked at a gay event if you like.

Eve: Please do. I just did an after-party in San Francisco for Gay Pride. It was called EDEN. I have done San Diego before and I love it so let me know.

WCT: How many tattoos do you have?

Eve: Fourteen. I still want one more I think.

WCT: Have you ever thought about model-

ing?

Eve: Aw, I love you. No, I actually never thought about it. I never looked at myself as pretty. I never thought of myself as the pretty girl when I was younger. I was always the homey to my guy friends. All of my guy friends had the pretty girlfriends. I was one of the boys.

WCT: Are you doing more acting?

Eve: I have a very small role in the movie Animal that Drew Barrymore is producing for her company. I leave for Connecticut to go film it tomorrow. I also did a movie called Bounty Killer that I did last year that is coming out in September. It is kind of like Mad Max. I play a

crazy gypsy chick. I love acting and want to get back into it.

WCT: How about more reality shows? I know you were on LA Hair with Angela Christine Stevens.

Eve: That is my girl! Angela is from here.

WCT: I drove her around town after our interview for the first season.

Eve: You did? She is so sweet, which is why I did the show in the first place. As far as other reality shows not as of yet but we will see.

WCT: How do people keep up with you?

Eve: My Twitter and Instagram are @TheRealEve and my website is eve-world.com.

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BURN, BABY, BURN!

Sidetrack's Disco-Gl-Gl-Gl heralded the start of the Gay Christmas season we know as Halloween.
Page 17

CALENDAR

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
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nightspots

Wed., Oct. 16

Foster and Adoptive Parent Orientation

Attending an orientation is a great way to learn more about what it takes to become a licensed foster parent and to help you determine if foster and/or adoptive parenting is the right decision for you and your family. 1pm-3pm, Phone: 855-WeFoster, Little City, 700 N Sacramento Ave., #201, <http://www.littlecity.org/foster>

Adult Education Classes for Fall 2013

Join Congregation Or Chadash for their Fall adult education classes. There is no charge. 7pm-9:15pm, 773-271-2148, Congregation Or Chadash 5959 N. Sheridan Rd, <http://www.orchadash.org/>

A Play Date with Dyke Drama

Pride Films and Plays presents an evening of new lesbian shorts written by Chicago playwright Allison Fradkin and directed by David Zak. 7:30pm-8:30pm, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. <http://pridefilmsandplays.com/>

Q&A Trivia with Kwizmaster Kirk Williamson

Join Nightspots' own Kirk Williamson as he challenges the audience with a variety of questions while bartender Jeff serves up \$5 ROKK cocktails. Get your team together, because the first place team receives a \$25 @mosphere certificate. Drink prizes for second and third place teams as well. 8pm-10:30pm, Atmosphere Bar, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/qatrvia>

Thursday, Oct. 17

Center on Halsted: National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Join the Center on Halsted in celebrating National Latino AIDS Awareness Day for a national community mobilization and social marketing campaign to unite the Hispanic/Latino community to raise awareness of HIV, promote HIV testing, prevention and education, in addition to other critical health issues. 3pm-8:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Master Class Terrence McNally's stage biography of legendary opera diva Maria Callas.

Inspired by a series of master classes conducted by Callas at the Juilliard School; 7:30pm-9:30pm, 800-595-4849, No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, <http://www.theo-u.org/>

Centro de tu Noche (Center of your Night)

Centro de tu Noche (Center of your Night), the weekly, HIV outreach and testing initiative for the Hispanic/Latino community in partnership with Center on Halsted. 10:30pm, Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N Hal-

sted St., <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/nlaad>

Friday, Oct. 18

Center on Culture Fall Event Series: Well-Strung

The Center on Halsted hosts Well-Strung, a New York City based all-male quartet of classical string musicians that sing, putting their own spin on the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Rihanna, Adele, Lady Gaga, and others. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/culture>

Veto Session Kickoff Party

Join individuals such as Adam Burling, Christian Daugherty & Matt Trauner, Anneke Diem, Kris Gibbons & Will Lopez, Kevin Hauswirth, Jordan Heinz and Leah Israel; 6pm-8pm, 312-527-3667, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <https://secure.ilunites.org/page/contribute/party>

Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

An array of acclaimed artists from Chicago and beyond tell the powerful story of an African-American family living in a crowded apartment on Chicago's South Side during the 1950s. Through Nov. 17. 8pm, TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave, Chicago, <http://timelinetheatre.com>

Don't Blink: A Doctor Who Burlesque

Travel through time and space with The Doctor and his companion, Cort, in their silliest, sexiest and most "lady-like" adventure yet. \$28-35. 9pm-10pm, 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Burlesque, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., <http://www.gorillatango.com/who>

Queer Chicago

An international festival of performance, art that aims to create a new understanding of "queer" that redefines the preconceived, expected and stereotypical notions presented by Defibrillator Performance Gallery and Queer New York International Arts Festival through Oct. 19. \$10 donation; Defibrillator Gallery, 1136 N. Milwaukee Ave.; 773-609-1137 or www.DFBRL8R.org

Saturday, Oct. 19

Sappho's Cinema Spooktacular

The Hunger, 7:30pm, \$7-10 sliding cover includes food and wine. Proceeds benefit the Women's Voices Fund. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Anthology of Trans & Genderqueer Poetry

Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics. \$4 suggested donation 7pm. Outer Space Studio, 1474 N. Milwaukee Ave, 3rd floor.

Love, Vision and Women Runway Show benefitting Family Rescue. FashionBar Chicago presents a mix of women's wear, fine jewelry and wearable art created by Chicago Fashion Designers who have been in the industry for over 10 years. \$45. <http://lvrunwayshow-eac2.eventbrite.com/>

MEGL: all about being gay & lesbian Te esperamos este sabado en nuestra sesion informativa sobre los GAYS y LESBIANAS; por que somos como somos? seran cierto todos los estereotipos? Hacia donde vamos? que nos une? que nos separa? 6pm-8pm, 773-658-5420, DePaul U. 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., Suite 102, <http://ministerioegl.weebly.com>

Minibar's Wedding Event & Charity Drive for March On Springfield Ever been to a LGBT wedding? Are you a supporter of The March on Springfield? Come cheer on two amazing couples as the tie the knot! A charity drive for the March on Springfield. 7pm, Minibar, 3341 N Halsted St., <http://www.minibarchicago.com>

Margaret Cho: MOTHER Emmy- & Grammy-nominated comedian and actress Margaret Cho is returning to the road in support of her new stand-up comedy show: MOTHER. MOTHER is a complicated and completely original take on sex, queer politics, drugs, guns, identity and madness, proving time and time again, boundaries uncrossed are meaningless. 8pm, The Chicago Theatre, 175 N State St., www.thechicagotheatre.com/

Sunday, Oct. 20

Beers, Boys, Burgers, and Beats Who Needs A's When You Can Get B's! Beers, Boys, Burgers, and Beats at Roscoe's. 11am-11:45pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St., <http://www.roscoes.com>

2013 Summer Softball Party & Trophy Ceremonies, CMSA. 2 -5pm Spyner's Pub, 4623 N. Western Ave.

Jazz Service with Lucy Smith Quartet Every Sunday jazz service with communion. Pre-service music begins at 3:50 pm. Validated parking, \$8, available at 900 N Michigan lot. Entrance on Walton or Rush streets. 4pm-5pm, 312-787-4570, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Michigan & Delaware, <http://www.fourthchurch.org/jazz/index.html>

Northalsted Sunday Funday! North Halsted comes alive with Sunday-Funday festivities and activity. See what all of Chicago Land is enjoying. Come straight to Halsted! 11am-11pm, Halsted/Belmont to Halsted/Waveland, <http://www.northalsted.com>

The Kindness of Strangers Forty storytellers will converge in this three-week festival featuring first-time and experienced tellers nightly. 7:30pm-9:30pm, 773-340-0140, The Side Project Theatre, <http://www.thesideproject.net>

Gogh Gogh Dancers Join Bonsai every Saturday night and see some of the hottest

boys on Halsted. \$5 Long Island Pints and beats by DJ Laura Bee. No cover. 10pm-11:30pm, 773-248-0100, Bonsai Bar & Lounge, 3503 N Halsted St., <http://bonsaibarchicago.com>

Monday, Oct. 21

Dragzilla Amateur Drag Contest Come party with RuPaul's Drag Race Season 4 Fan Fave DIDA RITZ as she hosts Spin's Dragzilla Amateur Drag Contest every Monday! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Tuesday, Oct. 22

March on Springfield for Marriage Equality The March on Springfield for Marriage Equality will take place on October 22, 2013, the scheduled first day of the fall veto session of the Illinois State Legislature. 12pm-5pm, Springfield, Ill., <http://www.marchonspringfield.org>

Drag Queen BINGO Join Drag Comedienne Mercedes every Tuesday for Drag Queen Bingo! Win fun prizes and stay for the grand prize at the end of the night! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Wed., Oct. 23

Horatio Sanz Live The 2013-14 season will put a spotlight on comedy for Columbia College Chicago's Conversations in the Arts series, starting with actor, comedian and Columbia College alumnus Horatio Sanz. 6pm-8pm, Film Row Cinema of Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S Wabash, 8th Floor

Being OUT in the Workplace Panel and Networking Event Panel discussion will focus on current legislation, workplace relationships/ communication, professional development, and personal experiences of being a member of the LGBTQ community. 6pm-8pm, 708-235-3974, Governors State University, <http://www.govst.edu/diversity/#lgbt>

Night of 100 Drag Queens: "100 Shades of Drag" Join Equality Illinois for the two-night extravaganza that is Night of 100 Drag Queens. Now in its 21st year, this year's theme is "100 Shades of Drag". 7pm-11pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <http://www.eqil.org>; Tickets: https://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35010/p/salsa/event/common/public?event_KEY=2625

Thursday, Oct. 24

Documentary Film Screening: Gideon's Army Gideon's Army, an award-winning 2013 documentary by Dawn Porter follows idealistic young public defenders in the Deep South, where lawyers face particularly difficult challenges due to high bonds and mandatory sentencing in a culture that is traditionally "tough on crime.". 6pm-8:30pm, 312-369-7355, Film Row Cinema, Columbia College Chicago, <http://www.colum.edu/events>



'DRAG' DOLL

Wed.-Thurs, Oct. 23-24

The annual event "Night of 100 Drag Queens" returns to Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Photo from the 2012 event by Jerry Nunn

Friday, Oct. 25

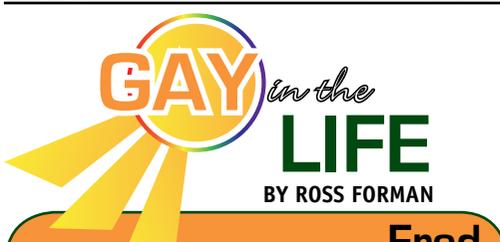
Will You Step Into My Parlour? Opening reception with the artist Celebrating Chicago artist and living legend Nicole Hollander. Blending literature, performance, and visual art, this exhibition aims to amuse, inspire creativity, and embrace personal exploration by inviting audiences into a replica of Hollander's living room. On Nov. 2, 9 and 16, Hollander will appear to conduct readings, workshops, and discussions, completing the interactive picture of her life as an artist. 6pm-8pm, Lillstreet Art Center, 4401 N. Ravenswood Ave., <http://lillstreetgallery.com>

Giordano Dance Chicago Fall Engagement

Giordano Dance Chicago presents world premieres by Israeli-born, Philadelphia-based choreographer Roni Koresh and GDC Assistant Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer Autmn Eckman as part of GDC's 2013-2014 "Escape Ordinary" season engagement. 7:30pm-9pm, 312-334-7777, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph St., <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org>

Saturday, Oct. 26

The Normal Heart By Larry Kramer Set between 1981 and 1984, The Normal Heart follows Ned Weeks, a gay activist enraged at the unresponsiveness of public officials and the gay community. While trying to save the world from itself, he confronts the personal toll of AIDS when his lover dies of the disease. Through Dec. 22, 2013; 7:30pm, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., <http://timelinetheatre.com>



Fred

Age 2

Doghouse location Lakeview

Breed Yorkshire terrier

Weight 8 pounds

Favorite toy "Anything bigger than me that I can pick up. I have an obsession with pigs. I have at least 20 stuffed pig toys at home."

Favorite food Chicken Chew Sticks

Job titles Philanthropist and mascot of the charity Fred Says, which raises money for HIV-positive teens

A few favorite Chicago dog friends "Brad Gerber's dog is my best bud. Darren Snow takes me on walks every day. Craig Neumann at Sidetrack gives me treats on my walks."



Fred, one of Chicago's favorite four-legged supporters of the annual Ride For AIDS Chicago, is ready to be a big part of the 2014 event.

Team Fred, with its furry mascot, is aiming to raising \$100,000 for the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) in 2014, Fred said through his owner/dad, Robert Garofalo.

The 2013 Ride, held in mid-July, featured two teams (Team Cheetah and Team CUR) that each raised more than \$100,000.

Fred will accompany Garofalo on the 2014 Ride.

"My dad is kind of a nut when it comes to the Ride," Fred said. "Much like the magic he says I brought into his life, the Ride has been part of his own healing process in dealing with his HIV [status]. Team Fred is our way of combining the excitement we have for our charitable work with the amazing work that TPAN does for our community. There is such a diverse group of people doing the Ride For AIDS Chicago, [including] women, men, straight, gay, old, young, etc.

"Why not add a cute pup to the mix."

Fred said, with a little help from Garofalo, that Team Fred will support the work that TPAN does for those affected by HIV. "In line with the mission of Fred Says we would like to work with TPAN to highlight the work and services they provide to young people and hopefully produce some co-branded public service announcements that shed light on issues related to adolescent HIV, including access to care and stigma."

Fred claims his work in the HIV field is, at times, exhausting. Still, he added, "It's kind of cool being part of something that is both creative and meaningful. It's like being one of those Calvin Klein billboard models, except [focused] on a good cause and not underwear."

Fred appeared unexpectedly to Garofalo at the closing ceremony to the 2013 Ride—Garofalo cried when he saw Fred.

"I was so proud of him and of all the riders," Fred said. "My favorite part [of the closing ceremony was] being part of the Poz Peddlers procession, with the rider-less bike honoring those who have lost their lives [from] HIV/AIDS. I know that it was a big step for my Dad to be so public and be part of that."

Fred said the best part of his job with Fred Says is "knowing I can help make a difference in the lives of young people living with HIV; that is just fantastic. I hate the stigma [surrounding HIV/AIDS], mainly because I think everyone deserves the same love and support that my dad gives me and that I give him. Stigma blocks that and it isn't right. Unconditional love is what we pups bring to the table."

Fred Says is hosting a launch party for the inaugural 'Men of Fred' calendar on Oct. 29, starting at 7 p.m., at Room Service in Andersonville. Complimentary wine and food will be provided, and some of the models—as well as Fred—will appear. Calendars will be available for purchase at the event. Models for the calendar include Terrence Chappell, Brandon Walt, and Richard Cordova, among others.



BILLY MASTERS

"I would probably list myself as mostly straight. But who knows? In a fucking year, I could meet a guy and be like, 'Whoa, I'm attracted to this person.' I think defining yourself as 100% anything is kind of near-sighted and close-minded."—Josh Hutcherson tells Out magazine his thoughts on sexuality being fluid.

This week's column is being filed hours after performing, with the glorious Jenifer Lewis at Sheryl Lee Ralph's "Divas Simply Singing." This is the longest continuously running AIDS fundraiser in the country. Over the past 23 years, the



Sheryl Lee Ralph (above) hosted her annual "Divas Simply Singing," and talent was there in abundance, Billy says.

stunning Sheryl Lee has not only raised countless dollars for the fight against AIDS, but also brought together some amazing artists. This year, we had Martha Wash, Amber Riley, Karyn White, Kelly Price, Alex Newell and many more.

Just before we walked onstage, Jenifer casually mentioned that she asked the band to join in our performance. This meant I'd not only be playing the piano, but also leading the band—with no rehearsal! One of the joys of "Divas" is that all of the performers are in the wings, cheering you on. So we just went out there and worked it. You can see the results on BillyMasters.com.

Because of my responsibility to "Divas," I wasn't able to attend the wedding of Greg Louganis and Johnny Challiot. The ceremony took place in Malibu and was attended by a number of celebrities—including Bruce Vilanch and Barbara Eden (forever squelching rumors that they are the same person). The couple got engaged in April and met just about a year ago ... on Match.com! See? The Internet's not just for hooking up for hot sex (or for looking at hot sex on BillyMasters.com).

Last week, TR Knight married his boyfriend of three years, Patrick Leahy. The ceremony (which a source described as "small and quiet") took place in upstate New York and was attended by two of his former "Grey's Anatomy" co-stars, Katherine Heigl and Kate Walsh. The nuptials necessitated Knight taking two days off from appearing onstage as Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet—not the Broadway version with Orlando Bloom, but an off-Broadway version with Elizabeth Olsen and William Hurt.

In other romantic news, Glee star Dot Marie Jones has announced her engagement to girlfriend Bridgett Casteen. The proposal took place a couple of weeks ago at GayDays Anaheim. The twosome were strolling through Disneyland and when they arrived at Sleeping Beauty's Castle, Dot popped the question. I guess the happiest place on Earth is also one of the most romantic. Congrats.

Alas, the course of true love never did run smooth. With that Shakespearean quote, we an-

nounce the second break-up of designer Marc Jacobs and gay porn star and male escort Harry Louis. Louis shared this news via Instagram in prose worthy of the bard: "So I would like to be the first one to share with you all the news... Me and Marc have decided not carry on with our relationship as boyfriends... The distance and lack of time because of work schedules aren't really something realistic, and he's such a beautiful and amazing person, that I think he deserve a bf who will stay at least in one of the cities that he leaves in." Yes, that is verbatim. With his disarming command of the Queen's tongue, I think Harry might seriously consider returning to his former profession.

Months ago we told you that legendary porn performer Lukas Ridgeston was contemplating a return to work in front of the camera. (His last performance was in 2005.) After a series of test shots (which you can find on our website), Ridgeston determined that he could live up to the standards of his prime. If you ask me, he tops himself, which is pretty damn hard to do. The new flick, Forever Lukas, is expected to drop Oct. 23, but we can whet your appetite right now with a little preview (and a shower scene) on BillyMasters.com.

In the midst of the government shutdown came some good news from a federal agency. The U.S. Post Office (which is virtually self-sufficient) just announced that it will issue a Harvey Milk stamp sometime in 2014.

Joan Rivers has found herself in the midst of a struggle at Fashion Police. As I'm sure you recall, the writers of the popular E! program walked out on strike back in April because they were not being paid overtime or getting benefits that would be standard if they had union contracts overseen by the Writers Guild of America (WGA). Going against the network, Joan publicly stated that she supported the writers. However, as the strike dragged on, the writers realized that their efforts against the network were being undermined by Rivers, who was writing her own material—and she's been a WGA member for decades. The union launched an investigation and determined that Rivers was relatively blameless, but she would have to refrain from writing until the strike was resolved. Joanie conceded, saying, "As a lifetime member of the WGA, I have always supported the writers and want what's best for them. In further support of the striking writers, I've decided not to render any writing services, even though as a comedian and a SAG-AFTRA host, I often write material for myself." Stay tuned.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Justin in Cincinnati: "Have you seen *Witches of East End*? It kinda looks like a rip-off of *Charmed*, right down to the set. Thoughts?"

Of course it looks familiar—the new Lifetime series is using the same house as *Charmed* for the exterior! But that's not where the similarities end. Instead of three sisters, we have two sisters and a mother. So it's still the power of three. Both shows have mothers with vaguely British accents. (Compared to Julia Ormond, the heavenly Finola Hughes is an Oscar winner.) Both shows begin with the girls just learning about their powers. Both feature a Black detective. There's even a Book of Shadows. (In the new show, it's called Grimoire.) When Freddie Prinze Jr. shows up in a few weeks, his character's name is Leo. And the premiere of this new show took place on the eve of the 15th anniversary of *Charmed*. Coincidence? Or are they just paying homage?

When Joan Rivers is gagging herself, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Don't forget to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site with no gag reflex. If you've got a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Harry and Lukas teach Joan how to avoid gagging! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Proud To Run, which comprises Chicago's Pride Weekend 5 and 10K runs, is accepting applications from organizations wishing to be considered as beneficiaries for next year.

Proud To Run's board of directors will consider applications from organizations that serve the Chicago-area LGBT community; clearly define the need or have a project with a specific timeline and budget; are community-based and -driven; and are grassroots in nature or do not receive a large part of their budget from state or federal grants.

See www.proudtorun.org. The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 30.

'CLLAW XVII' Nov. 2

The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CLLAW) is resurrecting past champions (and a few new souls) in celebration of The Day of The Dead on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Sideshow Theatre Company is presenting the event.

All proceeds from CLLAW XVII will benefit Sideshow and this match's partner charity, Barrel of Monkeys. Tickets for CLLAW XVII are \$10 with a cash bar available. Doors open at 10 p.m. with the first match beginning at 10:30 p.m. Visit www.cllaw.org.



CLLAW. Photo by James Rand

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

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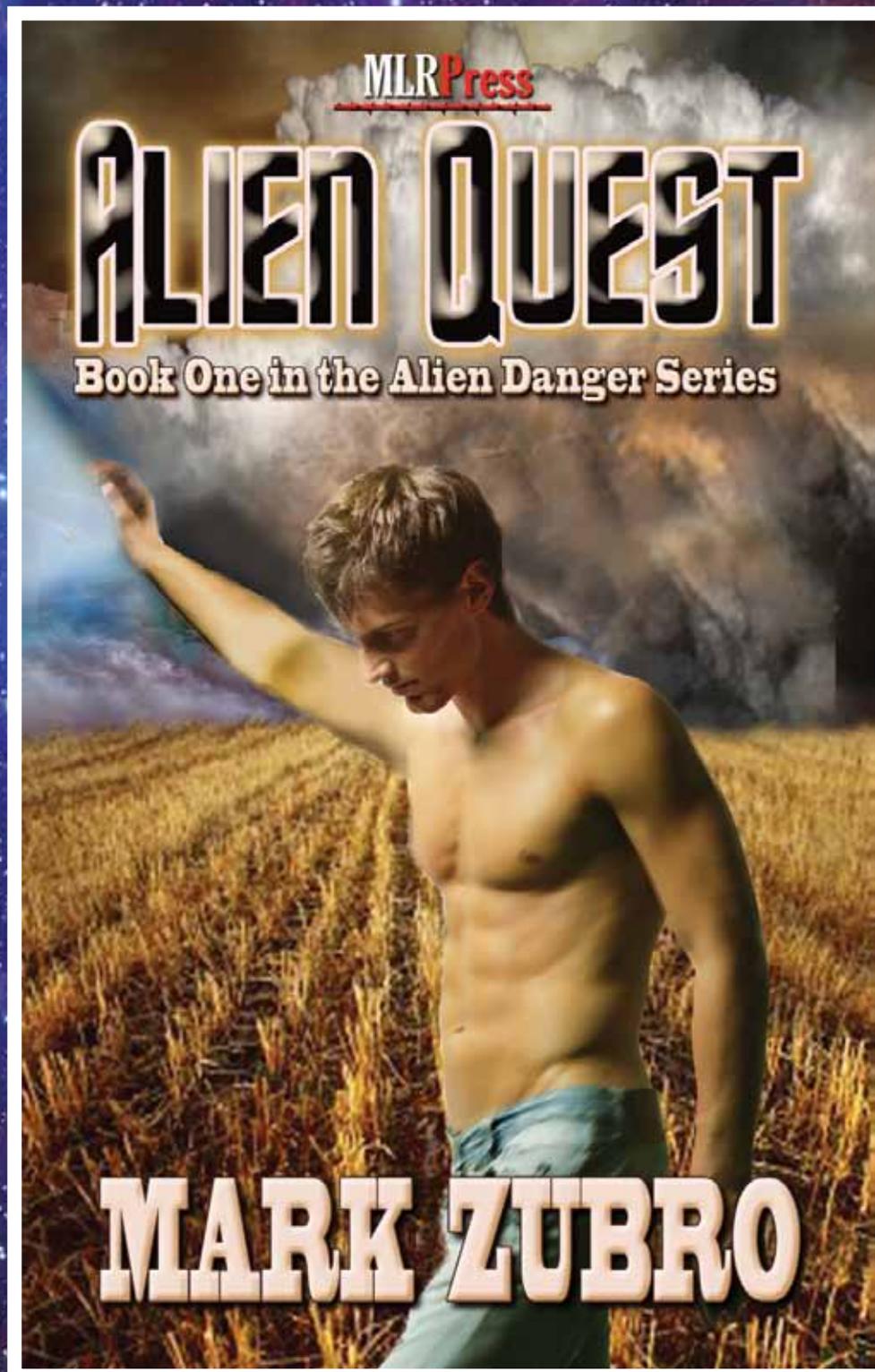
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