

GOV. PAT QUINN IS PART OF WCT'S ELECTION COVERAGE

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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



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'80S ICON MOLLY RINGWALD CHATS BEFORE VISITING CHICAGO  
PAGE 24

# Group helps asylum-seekers

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

The recently launched Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP) stands as a source of support and safety for LGBT people escaping a life of persecution in their home countries and arriving in the United States for a new life.

Established toward the end of January, CLASP comes from a partnership between the national coalition LGBT Faith & Asylum Network (LGBT-FAN) and Broadway United Methodist Church located in Chicago. Currently, Broadway United Methodist Church is acting as a hub and fiscal agent through which people can make donations.

"I think we understand the thru line of God's word is the word of love," said Rev. Lois McCullen Parr, pastor at the Broadway United Methodist Church and CLASP Co-Founder. "I think we have a responsibility to speak loudly and clearly that what we believe about God and God's people is true and that love is greater than fear—that God's intention is for people to love and live together and not to do harm."

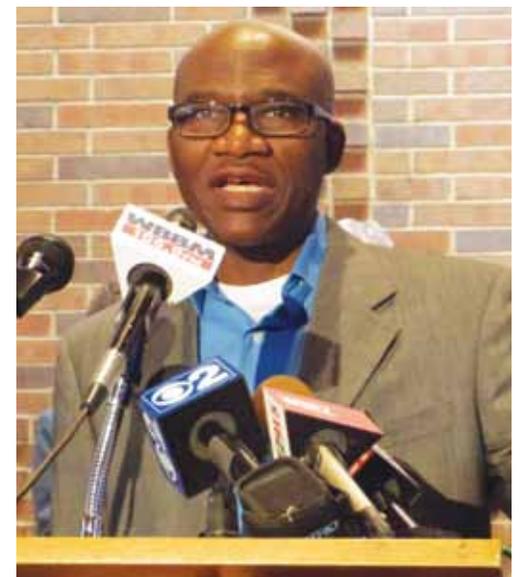
LGBT-FAN's overall mission is to help people seek-

ing safety in the United States because of persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity in their home countries. CLASP reflects that mission as it aims to provide direct living support and welcoming environments to asylum-seekers.

"We're certainly not reinventing the wheel for things we don't have the capacity to do," said Parr. "We're congregations; we're not lawyers, but what we can do is to kind of support what is tangible and physical for asylum-seekers who arrive here with nothing. We're trying to use our network of welcoming churches to do that."

The group's founding members include Parr; LGBT-FAN Coordinator Max Niedzwiecki; National LGBTQ and Faith Communities Consultant Ann Craig; Daniel Weyl of Heartland Alliance; John Ademola, a Nigerian refugee; and Dennis Ojiyoma, a Nigerian asylum-seeker.

"I just feel a huge responsibility as a global citizen and for me personally, as a Christian pastor," Parr said. "I feel a huge responsibility to be part of what's life-giving and to be part of a community of faith that's faithfully listening to God's leading in saying 'This is



Turn to page 10 John Ademola Adewoye at a CLASP press conference. Photo by Tracy Baim



WRITER JACKIE COLLINS' 'CONFESSIONS' PAGE 23



JOE KAISER EXCELS ON, OFF TRACK PAGE 30



Keyshia Lay Morris (left) and Bonn Wade. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

## Pansexual woman's journey empowers her to help others

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDERFER

In 2013, when 24-year-old pansexual woman Keyshia Lay Morris first met Chicago House TransLife Center director Bonn Wade, she hadn't closed her eyes in more than three days. Wade made her a spinach smoothie and, as they were talking, Morris fell into an exhausted sleep.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., Morris said her father moved her family to Chicago and left when she was 2. By the age of 4, her mother had moved Morris, her brother and sister into a home they shared with a woman named 'Mother Thomas.' Morris claimed the woman physically abused Morris and her brother while her mother was at work. "She used to beat on us," Morris remembered. "They found scars on my brother when he was going to school."

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) removed her from the household. Morris' mother fought unsuccessfully to get them back and no one in her extended family would take her.

Morris said she went through 37 placements as a part of "the system," as she calls it. "I am very skeptical of white people because of what happened to me in those foster homes

Turn to page 6

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### TED OF THE CLASS

Celebrity Ted Allen (left) talks about Dining Out for Life and his former show, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.

Photo by Peter Ross



Actress Sarah Jessica Parker caused chaos on Michigan Avenue recently. Photo by Jerry Nunn



Openly gay Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes spoke at Elmhurst College. Pic by Carrie Maxwell

### FOR THE RECORD...

John Arnsdorff and Nick Kuttin talk about their vintage record store, Audio Archaeology.

### MAKING A 'DIFFERENCE'

DIFFA held its second annual "Kiss for a DIFFerence" winter ball at Center on Halsted.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Zac Efron, Keith Haring and k.d. lang.

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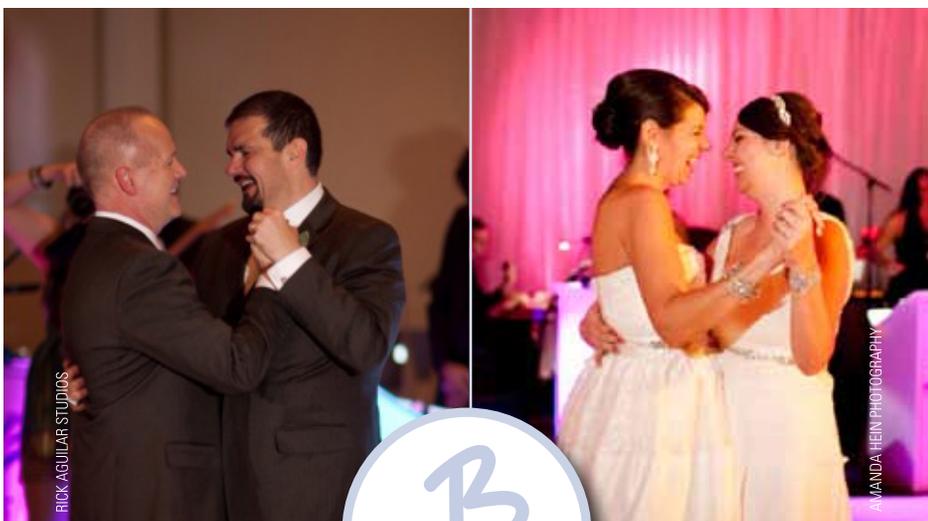
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## Cultural Q's

BY FRANCESCA ROYSTER



### Is CeCe McDonald Free?

In January 2014, CeCe McDonald, hate-crime survivor and transgender activist, walked out of prison.

McDonald served 19 months for second-degree manslaughter for stabbing the man who physically assaulted her and made transphobic, homophobic and racist slurs against her and her friends.

Since she was released, she's described her life on the outside as one of the celebration of everyday things: hugging her family without a prison guard watching, the everyday details of transitioning, getting her career back on track, and especially using her public platform to teach other people about transgender rights, the prison industrial complex, and, as she puts it, "to help people understand what

lost son and friend Trayvon Martin.

CeCe McDonald still isn't free when transgender people face brutality and discrimination by the healthcare system, ranging from lack of access, to violence by hospital staff, to ignorance by many doctors and medical schools of specific health concerns for transgender people. The 2001 film *Southern Comfort* documents the last year of the life of Robert Eads, a female-to-male transsexual who died of ovarian cancer. More than a dozen doctors turned down Eads's case because they were afraid that treating him would hurt their reputation. By the time that Eads found a doctor who would treat his cancer, it was too late.

CeCe McDonald still isn't free when the judicial system operates so unjustly. In her own case, the court ignored as admissible evidence her gender, race and class, even as she, a 23-year-old African American transgender woman, was assaulted by a 47-year-old white man bearing a swastika tattoo. The court admitted as evidence

"Can we rely on this public conversation about transgender people's lives and rights to continue without some serious cultural and political change?"

it's like for me and for other trans women who are in prison, and people in general who have to deal with the policies and the martial law of prison."

She has used an experience of great trauma and injustice to bridge multiple identities and causes, to sculpt from her pain new knowledge, and to free others. This is most definitely the work of a free woman.

But is CeCe McDonald truly free? What is the quality of one's freedom, when transgender people are still at a high risk for hate crimes, harassment by the police, bullying violence and domestic violence? According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, in 2011, the year that McDonald was attacked, the murder rate of LGBTQ people was at an all-time high. There were 30 hate-related murders of LGBTQ people; 87% of those anti-LGBTQ murder victims were people of color and 40% were transgender women of color.

As Laverne Cox, actor, producer, activist and CeCe supporter, put it in an interview on *Democracy Now!*, for transgender people, "The act of merely walking down the street is often a contested act, not only from the citizenry, but also from the police."

McDonald's case underscores the everyday brutality and violence faced by transgender people. Moreover, her case is part of a larger pattern of surveillance of and violence on bodies of color, made hyper-visible by their perceived wrongness: the wrong gender, the wrong color, the wrong age, caught in the wrong neighborhood, too loud, too queer. I think here of murdered transgender women of color Lorena Escalera and Paige Clay. I think here of

the fact that McDonald had written one bad check, even as it dismissed the fact that her assailant had faced past criminal charges for assaulting his girlfriend. This also suggests a strong link between transphobia and the larger culture of violence against women—even when transphobic culture attempts to create a gulf between the experiences of cis-gendered women and transgender women.

McDonald's case has brought renewed awareness of the violence faced by transgender women of color. We are in the midst of an energized public conversation about transgender rights, due in part to McDonald's own activism, and that of supporters Laverne Cox, Janet Mock, Leslie Feinberg, GLAAD, The Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and others. But there are still so many stories that need to be told in order for all of us to be free—including McDonald's forthcoming documentary, *Free CeCe*, produced by Laverne Cox and Jacqueline Gares.

Can we rely on this public conversation about transgender people's lives and rights to continue without some serious cultural and political change? As Mock points out, "[S]adly, the reality is that a black trans woman is not society's ideal subject. ... We are not invited to contribute to the national conversation, we are told to stay in the dark, live our lives at night, never to be heard from unless we're found lying dead on a street corner."

As a queer, cis-gendered African American woman, I claim CeCe McDonald's and other transgender women of color's struggle to be free as linked to my own. We are on the edges of one another's battles. Her fight reveals the importance of coalition building for social change.

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

# Black lesbian couple killed in Texas

BY TRACY BAIM

In Port Bolivar, Texas, authorities believe a Black lesbian couple was murdered, according to KTRK.com.

Crystal Jackson, 24, was a mother to a 5-year-old girl. Her girlfriend Brittany Cosby was also 24, and they were a couple for two years. Jackson was a security guard, and Cosby



Crystal Jackson (left) and Brittany Cosby. Facebook photo

worked at Starbucks. Their bodies were found next to a convenience-store dumpster.

Investigators are looking for Cosby's vehicle, a silver 2006 Kia Sorrento with paper tags. It's missing and could be a crucial part in finding

out who killed Cosby and Jackson.

They reportedly had gone to Galveston, Texas, for Mardi Gras.

Police have released a sketch of the suspect, posted at <http://elixher.com/suspect-sketch-released-in-murder-of-texas-lesbian-couple/>.

The women both had active Facebook pages. Cosby's is listed as Itain'tez Bnbreeze Cosby and Jackson's is Rainbow Barbie. They shared photos of family and friends, and on Jackson's page, people posted the wanted poster for the suspect, as well as heartfelt wishes for the families of those killed.

One poster wrote: "Talked to the family of Rainbow Barbie they are ruling it robbery and targeted for sexuality. ... On behalf of the Chicago LGBT we extend our hearts and prayers to them and [their] families."

Rev. Ivan Jackson, father of Crystal, told Fox News in Houston: "I barely found out yesterday morning but I forgive whoever did it but let God take his course."

Cosby's Facebook page said she was in the class of 2010 at the Texas School of Business, and class of 2008 for University Park Academy. Jackson's page said she worked at Vinson Guard Service and the MCA, the Motor Club of America. She was in the 2009 class at Everest Institute.

In a Feb. 24 post, Jackson wrote this to her girlfriend: "I will like to take the time out and to say Happy Anniversary to me nd bae. Today makes 2 yeaes since me and my bear been together. We been threw alot, but yet we stayed strong. I love you bae and only you, no matter who gots anything to say about it, im always going to be here. Now go run nd tell that lol. — feeling lovely with Itain'tez Bnbreeze Cosby."

## Genetically modified cells may be effective in treating HIV

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to a March 5 White House statement, researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases have reported successful results from a study where-in cells from HIV-infected individuals were genetically modified to slow the progress to AIDS. Scientists hope that strategy might eventually lead to a drug-free treatment for HIV infection.

Researchers removed key cells from HIV-infected individuals, modified the cells to resist infections and returned them to the subjects' bodies. Sangamo BioSciences funded the trial, which Carl H. June, M.D., led with co-investigators Bruce L. Levine, Ph.D., and Pablo Tebas, M.D., all of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, according to the statement.

Individuals with a natural genetic modification in a cell-surface molecule, or receptor, called CCR5 are often resistant to many infections that appear in persons with HIV. Researchers extracted CD4+ T cells from 12 HIV-positive subjects and altered the DNA that codes for the CCR5, in order to introduce the resistant modification.

The cells were then multiplied and returned to the patient. Four weeks later, half of the subjects stopped taking their anti-retroviral medications for eight to 12 weeks. Researchers found that those subjects appeared to be protected from infection, even without their medications.

According to the statement, researchers will continue the study on more volunteers and increase the persistence of the modified cells to achieve a therapeutic effect.

## Report: LGBTs are disproportionately food-insecure

According to a new Williams Institute study that demographer Gary J. Gates has authored, 2.4 million (29 percent) LGBT adults experienced a time in the last year when they did not have enough money to feed themselves or their family—a condition known as "food insecurity."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 49 million residents (nearly 16 percent) were food-insecure in 2012.

The survey says that LGBT people experience disproportionate levels of food insecurity and higher participation rates in SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), especially those raising children. This is reportedly a risk that persists despite possible differences in demographic characteristics between LGBT and non-LGBT individuals like gender, age, race/ethnicity and educational attainment.

Among the key findings are that:

—More than one in five LGB adults aged 18-44 (21 percent)—or approximately 1.1 million individuals—participated in SNAP through receipt of food stamps in the past year;

—LGBT adults are 1.7 times more likely than non-LGBT adults to not have had enough money to feed themselves or their family in the past year; and

—Same-sex couples raising biological, adopted, or step children under age 18 are 2.1 times more likely than comparable different-sex couples to receive food stamps.

The full report is at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Food-Insecurity-in-LGBT-Communities.pdf>.

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## PANSEXUAL from cover

and what they got away with."

Morris asserted that she suffered physical abuse at the hands of some foster families. "I was being passed around," she recalled. "A lot of foster parents would try to tell me 'we're your moms now. Your mom doesn't want you. That's why you're here.' I used to get into fights because I'd disagree with calling them that because I knew my real mom was still out there. People was trying to change me to what they wanted me be. Then they started beating me."

Morris' experiences with the DCFS are apparently not unique. James McIntyre is a motivational speaker and youth advocate who spent 17 years in DCFS placements. "I was adopted at five years old," he told Windy City Times. "Everything was fine for a couple of years then the adopted homes started to physically abuse me. So her story is not rare. They are more common than we would think if you talk to wards of the state."

McIntyre said that a lot of these cases are unreported because the children in the DCFS system do not know where to turn. "The system placed them there, so they thought they could trust the system," he said. "So when they get hurt like that it affects them on a mental and emotional level to not trust anybody. When they turn into young adults, they start acting out in behavioral and aggressive ways."

During one of her visits to her mother, Morris announced that she thought she was different. "My mother used to always tell me to go out and play with my brother and I was not the type of girl who wanted to play with him. My mother used to ask if I was gay and I said 'no mom, I'm not gay.' I had feelings for guys but I didn't know how to admit to it." She was 8.

Ten years later, while a student at Nicholas Senn High School, Morris came out as a woman. She did not graduate with her class because of problems she said she was having with her teachers. "When they came at me and didn't respect me as a she, I was like how dare you, as an adult, sit up there and tell me my sexuality is wrong," she said.

She had already been dressing for four years. "At night, for money," she explained. "I was in a group home and I used to run away with the girls. Then the drugs started coming." Morris said she found her clothes by stealing from stores like Macy's: "It was easy for me to rip them off. I used to hang out with a lot of white people. I was getting away with it because they was getting away with it."

Morris said the scariest moment of her life came when she was 14. She and a friend were



**Keyshia Lay Morris. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer**

arrested for shoplifting: "They sat me in this big receiving room and there was a whole lot of people around me. That's the most hell I went through."

After Morris was released, the arrests continued. "I kept on hanging with this girl, we called her Jamaica, and every time I got locked up I was with this chick," she said. Morris described one such incident at a local Dominick's: "I got nabbed because I was with her. She stole something and ran out the back door. They caught me because I was walking slow because I didn't steal anything!"

The most serious charge—according to Morris, the theft of a large amount clothes and purses from Macy's—landed her in jail for six months. While at the Cook County lockup, she was placed in an area with other transwomen inmates. Morris said that rape in that facility was a regular occurrence. "There was straight people coming over just to fuck us," she said.

Morris was transferred to the Illinois Department of Corrections minimum security facility in Vienna, Ill. Despite her gender identity, Morris was placed in a male prison. There, Morris said she was sexually harassed. "I had boys hitting on me. This guy grabbed my ass," she added. "They got away with more shit. I went crazy."

Morris was placed on medications for post-traumatic stress disorder. "It took me a long

time to get myself back together," she said.

When she was not in jail, Morris spent nights in low cost apartments provided by child welfare nonprofits. She was kicked out of one at 79th and Avalon because Morris said her roommate was a member of the military who had gone AWOL, something she said she did not know. She was subsequently arrested for hiding him.

According to Morris, this occurred when she was 18.

She left the DCFS system after her nineteenth birthday and went into a life of prostitution and drugs. "I bounced around from hotel to hotel," she remembered. "That was my way of living. I couldn't get a job, or my G.E.D." She would sometimes spend nights going back and forth on the CTA Red Line. This was her life until she was 22. Even in areas like Lakeview, Morris said she was stopped, accused of prostitution and threatened with either ticketing or arrest.

In 2013, she was arrested for criminal trespassing—something Morris is at a loss to understand. She claimed she was sitting in the backseat of a friend's car that was parked at Cicero and Madison. "I got out to smoke a cigarette, then the police rolled up. First they asked me what I was doing. They said 'did you know there's a high prostitution rate out here?' They asked me for ID and then searched the car," she said. The police officers—one male and one female—ran the plate of the car and it came back as stolen. Morris was arrested.

During the entire process, Morris alleged that the male officer continually accused her of prostitution. "He's saying that 'all you gay people and drag queens do is come out here all the time and want to prostitute. Why don't you stay your asses at home?' He's calling me a faggot and I'm thinking what does that mean? Does that make me different because I'm gay?"

Morris was diagnosed as HIV-positive. She had been receiving therapy at the Howard Brown Health Center and was finally referred to Wade and the TransLife center via the City of Chicago's Central Referral System—designed to provide supportive housing for chronically homeless youth. She met Wade in June of 2013.

"A lot of case workers know about the CRS list," Wade explained. "So they help get people on it. Keyshia had been running and trying to make sense of what was going on in the world."

Wade said that they immediately noticed that Morris had power, passion and energy. "When she came to the TransLife center, she threw herself into trying to build on her strength and resiliency. She knew where she wanted to go from day one."

Her eyes lit up and Morris nodded: "My passion is doing motivational speaking and talking to other people who don't know that you can still live and be out and be HIV-positive."

She is in training as an outreach worker at the Howard Area Community Center. "I was not handed everything," Morris said. "There's no one teaching me what kind of woman I should be. I'm one of those girls who came from being quiet, came from being pushed over, came from the streets. But I believe in being assertive-aggressive. Being passive gets you nowhere. I want to tell people that you can still be the best you can be. You can stand up and you have choices. I don't do it for fame or money but my heart is what's in it."

Wade and Morris are a part of a committee that is organizing a three-day summit in early May, hosted by Tracy Baim of Windy City Times. Kim Hunt of Affinity Community Services is summit director. The first day will be all for LGBTQ youth, hosted at Lurie Children's Hospital May 2. The other two days of the summit will be at other locations, including the final day for reporting results, held at the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

"It focuses on homelessness," Morris explained "It's about having more housing for LGBT youth to go to."

"Our vision is that no LGBT young folks in Chicago should be on the streets," Wade added. "We need to ask how we are addressing the issue of homeless LGBTQ youth with both short- and long-term strategies, some that don't cost any money. This community is brilliant beyond measure. We have the resources and the capacity. We need to stand in solidarity with each other."

"This time we are giving young people a voice to speak," Morris smiled.

Windy City Times reached out to Karen Hawkins—a spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services regarding Morris's story about her treatment under foster care.

"While privacy laws prevent me from speaking specifically about any one child or family's case, I can generally say that we, at DCFS, find stories like this heartbreaking," Hawkins wrote in a statement. "Our caseworkers and investigators have dedicated their lives to child welfare—to ensuring safe, loving, permanent homes for every child. One story like this is one too many, and we continue to do all we can to do right by the diverse communities of children and families we serve."

Hawkins is helping to coordinate DCFS participation in the May youth summit. Windy City Times will be announcing more details on the summit soon.

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# Why the March judicial primaries should tick you off

VIEWPOINT BY SUSANA DARWIN, CHUCK LITTLE AND FEDERICO RODRIGUEZ

It's hard to be a fan of elections without opposition. They seem essentially undemocratic, and where's the fun when there's no suspense? Seven Chicago-area judicial races in the March 2014 primary feature single candidates, so when the candidate's mother casts her vote, as it were, the election's done.

Fortunately, all seven candidates running unopposed in March did voters, their fellow members of the bar, and the judiciary the courtesy of presenting themselves before the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening to have their credentials evaluated. Kudos for appearing anyway to David W. Ellis, Maritza Martinez, Daniel J. Kubasiak, Patricia O'Brien Sheahan, Caroline Kate Moreland, and Thomas J. Carroll. All are running for the Circuit Court of Cook

County except for Ellis, who is running for the Illinois Appellate Court.

It is the six candidates who are seeking election this month who consciously chose not to appear before the Alliance we are calling out. They earn the wrath of the voter.

When candidates decline to be evaluated, each is saying to the voter, "Go ahead. Do your research. You can decide for yourself whether to vote for me or not."

Except who has the time or the resources to undertake this, when as many as 33 judicial candidates could appear on a voter's ballot? Even lawyers who regularly practice in the Circuit Court may be unfamiliar with some of these candidates, so how can the general electorate be expected to have experiences or the time to develop informed choices?

The Alliance's mission is to bring together attorneys with overlapping interests as practitio-



Susana Darwin and Federico Rodriguez. Photos courtesy of Darwin and Rodriguez

ners and a variety of perspectives that reflect the values and priorities of the people of Cook County to consider the qualifications of judicial candidates. The Alliance has many voices, and although its members may not sing in unison or even harmonize at times, because of the Alliance's work voters can listen to the voices they care about.

Every member of the Alliance volunteers time because we feel so strongly about the need to educate Cook County voters on casting an informed vote when it comes to our judiciary. Candidates and judges who choose not to participate in the Alliance screening strip from the electorate an opportunity to address the ballot in an informed way.

Voting is a privilege we dare not treat lightly. People around the world continue to fight and die for the vote. Even within our own country there are concerted efforts to roll back hard-won voting rights victories.

We hear the hand-wringing about how low voter turnout is likely to be in an off-year election, with no one compelling or dynamic at the top of the ticket to drive interest in the election. But how about this: there are six candidates whose campaign choices suggest not just poor judgment but also contempt for the voter and the very judicial system they are attempting to join.

All of these candidates have been found "not recommended" or "not qualified" by all eleven members of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening for failing to participate in the Alliance's screening process. They include:

- Kelly Maloney Kachmarik (Countywide—to fill vacancy of the Hon. Pamela E. Hill-Veal)
- Nyshana K. Sumner (Second Subcircuit—to fill vacancy of the Hon. William D. O'Neal)
- Lauren Brougham Glennon (Third Subcircuit—to fill vacancy of the Hon. Christopher J. Donnelly)
- Owens J. Shelby (Seventh Subcircuit—to fill vacancy of the Hon. W. Taylor)
- Sondra Denmark AND Robbin Perkins (Fifteenth Subcircuit—to fill vacancy of the Hon. David Sterba)

The good news is that voters have options in each of these races. Please visit [www.voteforjudges.org](http://www.voteforjudges.org) and cast an informed vote in March.

**Susana Darwin, Judicial Evaluation Committee Co-Chair, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago**

**Chuck Little, Judicial Evaluation Committee Co-Chair, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago**

**Federico Rodriguez, Judicial Evaluation Committee Chair, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois**

**Executive Committee Co-Chairs, Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening**

This is a companion piece to Windy City Times' election 2014 section that begins on page 12 of this issue.

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ON PAGE 16





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## ASYLUM from cover

our goal as people of faith, to help people who are in danger. That's what God would want us to do. So I feel humbled and honored to be invited into the launching of this network and I feel like it's urgent."

CLASP also builds on models previously implemented in Worcester, Mass., and Toronto, while currently seeking to connect with local human service providers, develop fund-raising and service supply strategies and to share resources.

"We've just been moving quickly to try to make connections with those in the Chicagoland area who are already doing a lot of work with asylum and immigration, particularly targeted to supporting LGBTQ persons," said Parr. "We're trying to use congregational support to get housing and some resources for folks who don't have anything."

Partnership extends further as CLASP networks with organizations such as Chicago LGBTQ Immigration Rights Coalition, Heartland Alliance and its National Immigrant Justice Center, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants, as well as individual out-reach between people who have already achieved asylum and people looking to achieve asylum.

The group has existed through conference calls in the past few weeks and a press conference set for March 6 at 10 a.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church will be held to announce its launch in Chicago. As Parr described, "The wheels are on the road, but there is not a lot of velocity."

With people coming from Uganda and Nigeria and arriving in Chicago's polar vortex, the group collected winter coats. Then, using some networking through congregational support, they obtained additional clothes, inflatable mattresses, sheets and towels and pillows and some basic supplies.

According to CLASP's preliminary flier, the

organization calls an urgent need for:

—Social support and fellowship to help LGBT asylum seekers feel welcome and learn about living in Chicago;

—Volunteer and mentorship opportunities for LGBT asylum seekers;

—One or more furnished bedrooms in a home, apartment, or church property for at least six months; and

—Donations to support housing, food, local transportation and other basic necessities.

"It's not adequate, but at least they're safe and they're inside," said Parr. "Most urgently we're asking for housing because, right now, for example, there are five guys from Nigeria who are crammed into one apartment with one bedroom and one bathroom. So, we're hopeful people of faith will say 'I've got a room, I've got a basement' and then we can get some housing for folks immediately."

Ojiyoma is one of these five Nigerians. In coordinating the organization, Ojiyoma largely draws on his own experience as an asylum-seeker. Arriving in the United States in September 2013, one of his main concerns, he recalls, was where he was going to stay.

"It's been a really challenging experience," said Ojiyoma. "One major challenge I had was integration—integrating into the community here. The lifestyle here is entirely different from the lifestyle back home in Nigeria. I knew the language and food were a very challenging thing for me."

Most of the asylum-seekers, Ojiyoma explained, become very vulnerable when they enter because they do not have access to services like housing as most of them may not know anybody in the United States and therefore may not have anywhere to stay, making them homeless.

"For me it's a great joy to be co-founder of this group because this group provides safety and provides comfort for every asylum-seeker that comes here," said Ojiyoma. "The way we welcome people, we let them know that we understand what you're going through. We also

have people who have sought asylum in the past, so let them share their experiences and let them understand that they're not alone and that we are here to guide them through the process because a lot of people don't know what to expect when they get here because they are not familiar with the system here."

According to the issued flier, it is illegal to be gay in nearly 80 countries around the world and the death penalty is implemented in seven of them. While hundreds of asylum-seekers reach Chicago, they come to realize it is illegal for them to be employed for at least six months, after they file for their asylum applications and they are prohibited from most government-supported programs.

"We are learning how people in Uganda and Nigeria and other areas where they're in danger are finding ways to get here," said Parr. "I don't know the answer to what the future will bring in terms of CLASP's function, if we will end up trying to assist people in actually getting here or not. For now we're just trying to provide the support most people get here. I would say that through international communication, people who are already here, who have already achieved asylum, are in communication with people from where they came from."

For more information, to make a donation, or to contact Parr, visit: <http://www.broadway-churchchicago.com> or <http://www.lgbt-fan.org/community-support>.



From left: Dennis Ojiyoma Akpona, John Ademola Adewoye and Victor Aweke. Photo by Tracy Baim

## CLASP holds press conference

Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP) had its inaugural press conference March 6 at Broadway United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr of Broadway United Methodist Church hosted the event. Speakers sharing their own stories and views also included Gay Liberation Network's Andy Thayer; Dennis Ojiyoma Akpona, an asylum seeker from Nigeria and co-founder of the Center for Courageous Living and CLASP; John Ademola Adewoye, a permanent resident through asylum/ Asylee Service provider and co-founder of the Center for Courageous Living and CLASP; Victor Aweke, an international HIV and human rights advocate who recently moved from Nigeria and is seeking asylum in the U.S.; and Rachele Brown from the Metropolitan Community Church movement.

"I think the most significant thing is to hear the stories of John, Dennis and Victor and also to know that every story is unique," said Parr. She said it was good to hear "the through-line of three gay guys from Nigeria whose way of getting here was different, whose experience is their own and the experience of those they know and love in Nigeria. I like the way John said 'finding the freedom to be who they are here in the land that's known as the land of the free.' I like

it that he said the land of the free and the home of the brave because from my perspective, the courage, the bravery of these people is really humbling and moving to me."

"It's not just a matter of keeping people in my house," said Adewoye. "Giving them some comfort and relief from the experiences they had that lead them to leave home, is very important. I have supported people with my salary. When the number becomes bigger I believe we need more hands on deck and clasp is coming in at a good time to do that. It's just to make sure when they come here they have access to whatever they want, whatever services are available, they have home over their head and we can get more support and do a better job through CLASP. For these people I think no sacrifice is too big to offer. At the same time I want them to be comfortable."

Clergy members from various denominations showed their support of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers. Among those standing on stage in support of the new group were Rev. Liala Beukema of Lakeview Lutheran Church; Rev. Wesley Door of United Church of Rogers Park UMC; Rev. Randall Doubet-King of Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ; and Rev. Carol Hill of Epworth United Methodist Church.

For video coverage of the press conference, visit: <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/CLASP-group-forms-for-LGBT-asylum-seekers/46523.html>.

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# Truth Wins Out casts light on anti-gays

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Truth Wins Out (TWO) founder Wayne Besen held his organization's first Chicago meeting March 6 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., to introduce community members to his organization's mission of debunking the myths and lies spread by anti-gay organizations. Besen moved TWO to Chicago from Vermont this past November.

Among TWO's initial goals are keeping an eye on "ex-gay" organizations and therapists. Though some states have outlawed such therapies for young people—Illinois legislators Kelly Cassidy and William Delgado recently introduced such a bill—they still are a prevalent enough to cause harm to community members, Besen said.

"They're definitely in a weakened state, but I don't think we can ever answer the question of how many of those organizations are out there," Besen said.

He also noted that TWO vigilantly watches anti-gay organizations that are spreading their hate in other countries. Many organizations, finding that their messages are often falling on deaf ears in the U.S., are finding receptive audiences in nations such as Russia, Nigeria and Uganda. In order reach out to other nations, those organizations often have shady and convoluted financial structures that TWO wants to study and expose.

"Every time we put down one of these guys, another materializes," Besen said, adding that two was looking for volunteers to help them carry out this research. "We're going after some pretty big fish, so we're going to need a pretty big pan."



Wayne Besen. Photo by Michael Murphy

TWO has two full-time employees, one of whom is Besen. He is tentatively planning an April 24 presentation, "Meet the Global Right-Wing Conspiracy," at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. For more information, visit [www.truthwinsout.org](http://www.truthwinsout.org).



## Get Covered Illinois brings tour to Humboldt Park

The Get Covered Illinois Road 2 Coverage statewide mobile tour made a stop at the Erie Family Health Center in Humboldt Park on March 6. Nearly 50 people showed up for help with enrollment, and nearly half successfully completed enrollment at the event.

Featuring a branded Get Covered Illinois recreational vehicle (RV), the tour provides ways to reach uninsured residents and encourage health insurance enrollment during the final month of open enrollment.

The Road 2 Coverage RV is visiting communities throughout the state with high numbers of uninsured residents. During the beginning of March, the RV will be visible in Marion, East St. Louis, Rockford, and other locations.

Photo courtesy of Lara Philipps

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

# ELECTIONS 2014

## Guide to the gays

The next primary elections, to be held March 18, feature a number of openly gay and lesbian candidates. The following individuals have publically stated that they were a member of the LGBT community and were on the ballot as of March 3.

—**Kelly Cassidy**

**Race:** Illinois state Representative (14th District)

**Website:** CitizensForKellyCassidy.com

**The skinny:** Cassidy, who defeated another lesbian candidate, Paula Basta, in March 2014, is this time running unopposed in the Democratic primary. Republican candidate Denis Detzel, a consultant, is also running unopposed in that district. Before taking office, Cassidy was an activist and a staffer for state Sen. John Cullerton.

—**Sam Yingling**

**Race:** Illinois state Representative (62nd District)

**Website:** SamYingling.com

**The skinny:** Yingling, running unopposed in the primary for his second term, is a native of central Lake County and lives in Round Lake Beach. He is the first openly gay House mem-

ber from outside metropolitan Chicago. The night after SB10 passed, Yingling proposed to his longtime partner, Lowell Jaffe, at a party in the executive mansion. Republican Rod Drobinski of Wauconda is also running unopposed in the race.

—**Greg Harris**

**Race:** Illinois state Representative (13th District)

**Website:** GregHarris.org

**The skinny:** Harris, who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that will bring about marriage equality in Illinois beginning in June, 2014, has a district that includes Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville. He was first elected in 2006 and is currently running unopposed in the Democratic primary. Republican Jon Joseph Hartmann is running unopposed as well.

—**James Crawley**

**Race:** Cook County Circuit Court Judge (Pamela E. Hill Veal vacancy)

**Website:** crawleyforjudge.org

**The skinny:** Crawley, a native of Joliet, attended Loyola University Chicago and received his law degree from St. Louis University, where he started doing legal work on HIV/AIDS issues. He has had his own practice for more than 12 years, and has developed a specialty in food poisoning personal injury cases. Also running for the vacancy are Andrea Michele Buford and Kelly Maloney Kachmarik.

—**Judy Rice**

**Race:** Cook County Circuit Court Judge (7th

Subcircuit, W. Taylor vacancy)

**Website:** www.judyriceforjudge.com

**The skinny:** Rice is senior vice president and head of community affairs & economic development for Harris Bank. After receiving her law degree in 1988, Rice began her legal career as an assistant Cook County state's attorney. She then began her 17-year-long career with the City of Chicago, initially as assistant corporation counsel.

—**Jorge Zavala**

**Race:** U.S. Representative (4th District)

**Website:** ZavalaForAmerica.com

**The skinny:** At 26, Zavala is the youngest candidate in Illinois to run for Congress—and he is in a very competitive primary against incumbent U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez. Zavala was raised in the Logan Square neighborhood and attended Resurrection Catholic Academy.



James Crawley. Photo from Crawley

### Early voting info

Early voting for the March 18 primary election will be offered through Saturday, March 15.

Voters registered in the City of Chicago may use any early voting site in the city, regardless of where the voters live.

Voters don't need a reason or excuse to use early voting; however, voters do need to present government-issued photo identification.

Ballots cast in early voting are final. After casting ballots in early voting, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

All 51 locations will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. To get a list of sites, visit <http://www.chicagoelections.com/page.php?id=9>.

### Ferrand suspends House campaign

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Out lesbian candidate for state representative Mel Ferrand, who this winter was removed from the ballot after a filing error, said March 9 that she is officially suspending her campaign.

Ferrand was one of several candidates running to unseat incumbent Jaime Andrade Jr. as representative to the 40th district. That post was previously occupied by lesbian Deb Mell, who replaced her father, Dick Mell, on the city council. Andrade had been assistant to Dick Mell and served as the City Council's assistant sergeant-at-arms.

In a statement, Ferrand said, "I am both saddened at the loss of the opportunity to see this campaign through to its end, and also invigorated by the excitement, kindness and conviction of the people of our district. The strength and confidence of principles I felt over and over from each person was infectious. ... [As] the independent progressive candidate, I represented the greatest threat to the status quo, and therefore the greatest challenge at the ballot. For that reason, I was removed from consideration to represent the people of the 40th [District]."



Mel Ferrand.

The choices have now been pre-determined for the voters by those who seek power over progress, and democracy will not be served."

According to the documents challenging Ferrand's candidacy, she submitted a receipt for filing her Statement of Economic Interests from the Cook County Clerk's Office, but not one from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. The filings also alleged that she did not file the Statement of Economic Interests with the Secretary of State at all. Ferrand, who lost a final appeal in the matter in mid-February, said individuals working on behalf of opposing candidate Nancy Schiavone filed the challenge.

Other candidates in the 40th District race include Aaron Goldstein, Wendy Jo Harmston and Mark Pasieka. Many LGBT-rights advocates have endorsed Andrade, largely because he voted in favor of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act in November.

"With the replacement of Deb Mell in the State House in August, Illinois is left with only three openly LGBT members," Ferrand said. "With the removal of me from the ballot, our community has lost the possibility for bringing our number back to four. With such low representation, the rights we have gained, and those yet to be achieved, are in constant jeopardy. As an out lesbian, and active member of the community, I wanted to continue to be an advocate for us. This campaign to succeed Deb Mell was a start at making sure we continue and cultivate the progress we have already won."



State Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Congressional candidate Jorge Zavala Jr. Photos from the subjects

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# Gov. Pat Quinn: 'Everybody in and nobody left out'

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn came into office under the most difficult of circumstances in 2009.

His predecessor, like many Illinois governors before him, had been indicted. The nation's poor economic health wreaked havoc with the state's finances, which were strained by dwindling revenues and mounting pension obligations. Quinn narrowly won a re-election in 2010, and still faced more challenges, among them the state's still-high unemployment numbers and resistance to efforts to finally address the state's long-term financial obligations.

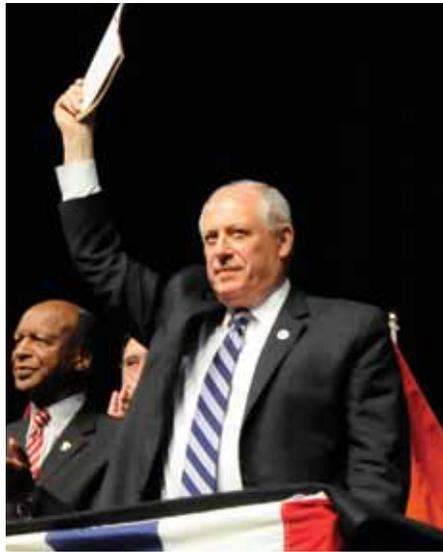
Quinn has been a strong supporter of LGBT rights. He first supported civil unions, then in 2012, publicly came out in gay marriage. He has said that signing the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, along with the December passage of the pension reform package, are the proudest accomplishments of his term.

Four candidates are vying to be his Republican opponent: venture capitalist Bruce Rauner, who is currently the front-runner; state Sen. Kirk Dillard of Hinsdale, who, according to a March 9 Chicago Tribune poll, is Rauner's strongest opponent; state Sen. Bill Brady of Bloomington, who ran unsuccessfully against Quinn in 2010; and Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford, who earlier this year became embroiled in allegations of ethics violations and sexual harassment.

Windy City Times recently spoke with Quinn about LGBT rights, the upcoming election and the state economy. Some remarks have been edited for clarity and space.

**Windy City Times: Gov. Quinn, what are your thoughts looking to the election year ahead?**

Gov. Pat Quinn: We've had to do some tough things in the last five years. When I was sworn in as governor, the state was facing three crises at the same time. One was the ethics crisis—we had one governor in jail and another going to jail. We had to pass strong ethics standards and enforce them. With respect to our economy, the country was in a tailspin and



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn. Photo by Hal Baim

we had to deal with that, and restore Illinois' economy, and, finally, the state budget was greatly harmed by the recession.

We had to make reforms that were long overdue in order to make sure that we could invest in education and healthcare. That involved a great number of complicated decisions, including enacting comprehensive pension reform, something that was long overdue in Illinois. We had a \$100 billion liability and we took steps necessary to straighten that out.

**WCT: What would you rate as your biggest success of the previous term?**

Quinn: The fact that we made hard decisions to restore Illinois' financial position, that was significant and a necessary reform. But as a governor, I believe in a welcoming society, and last November we signed marriage equality into law. Prior to that I signed into law the bill allowing for civil unions. We signed a law disallowing the death penalty. My philosophy is, "Everybody in and nobody left out." We've made progress in those areas in the last five years in Illinois.

**WCT: Every House member and most of the**

**Senate are facing re-election. Are you doing anything to help legislators facing primary challenges, especially ones who voted for marriage equality?**

Quinn: I support all of those who voted for marriage equality. I think that was a courageous vote. Wherever I can, I try to help out the best I can. The key moment occurred when we passed that bill in the House. I won the election in 2010 by 31,000 votes. If I hadn't won, that day in November wouldn't have happened because the person I ran against was an opponent of marriage equality. In fact, in terms of the Republicans running right now, when we passed the bill, Bruce Rauner, in Quincy, Illinois, demanded that I veto the bill.

**WCT: Many legislators are taking heat, especially from some unions, because of their votes on pension reform. Do you think that may add up to more Republican-held House and Senate seats come next term?**

Quinn: No, I don't think so. I think we'll be able to prevail based on issues that matter to everyday people. Clearly there are reactionary forces that are trying to roll the clock back and my job is to move our state forward and not backwards.

**WCT: The past year has been a significant one for LGBT Illinoisans. What do you intend to do in the next year, and in a prospective next term, in order to further support for the LGBT community?**

Quinn: There's a whole movement to address the issue of bullying. We have to take that on; it's something we need to make a statewide mission. Also, we want to make sure that we properly run our AIDS Drug Assistance Program and prevent budget cuts that would harm people that would need access to those prescriptions, and I also believe that we have to take care of those who need housing.

The other day, after the attorney general issued her guidance to the county clerks in Illinois about the effective date of the marriage equality law, our department of public health indicated that we would honor every license issued by county clerks in Illinois, even before June 1. We're happy that the federal court acted in Cook County but we also wanted to make sure that is applicable in other counties in Illinois. I was in St. Clair County the other night and the county clerk told me he was going to issue licenses—that's in southern Illinois. It's important that we move forward in this historic mission. We've made history in a very short period of time and I think it's important that we continue in that progressive path.

**WCT: For the last several months, President Obama has been foregrounding the idea of economic equality. What is the role of the**

**governor in insuring that all the state's residents have an equal shot at prosperity?**

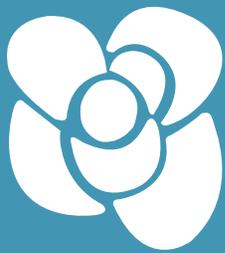
Quinn: It's all about opportunity. If you work hard in Illinois—if you work hard in America—we want you to have a middle-class standard of living moving forward. I believe, along with the president, that we should raise the minimum wage. I think the minimum wage should be raised to at least \$10. Also, as I said in the State of the State Address, we should have earned sick leave. Many workers don't even have a single day of sick leave, especially those making the minimum wage. With respect to the tax system, we've been able to improve the value of the Earned Income Tax Credit. I want to continue to do that; we need to double the value of that. The bottom line is that we have to grow our economy so people can get good jobs and keep those jobs. To me the key parts of that are training and education. There are people on the other side who want to have radical, extreme cuts in our education budget and I'm against that. I think we should invest, not cut back.

**WCT: Regarding job creation, Illinois is still struggling with a high unemployment rate, which is still hovering between 8.5 and 9 percent. What do you view as the biggest stumbling block to getting people back to work in the state, and what do you see as the governor's role in addressing that?**

Quinn: There's no question that the Great Recession harmed our state's economy. That's why after I became governor, we passed Illinois Jobs Now, which is a program of public works to put people back to work, working on our roads, our bridges, our water systems, our rail systems, repairing and building new schools, and laying fiber-optic cable for high-speed internet. There are many components of it. When you count everything together, it's about \$44-45 billion dollars of investment.

**WCT: What has been most challenging part of the Illinois governor's job?**

Quinn: There are always challenges. To give an example, we got word from the federal government that the federal government was not going to provide resources to some of the communities that were hit by tornadoes in November, and so the next day I was on the road to put together a \$45 million package to help the families and governments, everyone who was affected by those tornadoes. That's what you have to do when you're governor. I understand that's a key part of the job—always be there when people need you the most. Another thing I've tried to do from Day One is make sure that Illinois is seen as a welcoming place, that we believe in tolerance and that nobody is left out.



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# Election 2014

## US SENATE

WCT = LGBT scores are the first ones listed in each case (WCT1). Non-LGBT inquiries (WCT2) ask candidates about issues ranging from raising the minimum wage to the environmental topic of fracking.  
 HRC = Human Rights Campaign 112th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 112th Congress  
 PP = Planned Parenthood  
 CAI = Citizen Action/Illinois Policy Council

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	PP	CAI
<b>UNITED STATES SENATOR</b>					
James D. "Jim" Oberweis (R)					
Douglas Lee Truax (R)					
Richard J. Durbin (D)	21/21	5/6	100	Y	Y

## US CONGRESS RACES

WCT = LGBT scores are the first ones listed in each case (WCT1). Non-LGBT inquiries (WCT2) ask candidates about issues ranging from raising the minimum wage to the environmental topic of fracking.  
 HRC = Human Rights Campaign 112th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 112th Congress  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization  
 PP = Planned Parenthood  
 CAI = Citizen Action/Illinois Policy Council

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	IVI	PP	CAI
<b>1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Jimmy Lee Tillman (R)						
Bobby L. Rush (D)			94		Y	
<b>2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Eric M. Wallace (R)						
Robin Kelly (D)					Y	Y
<b>3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Sharon M. Brannigan (R)						
Diane M. Harris (R)						
Daniel William Lipinski (D)			30			
<b>4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Hector Concepcion (R)						
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)			100		Y	
Jorge Gerardo Zavala (D)						
Alexandra Eidenberg (D)						
<b>5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Nancy Wade (R)	19/21	5/6				
Mike Quigley (D)			100		Y	
<b>6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Peter J. Roskam (R)			0			
Michael Mason (D)	11/21	5/6				Y
<b>7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Robert L. Bumpers (R)						
Danny K. Davis (D)			88	Y	Y	Y
<b>8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Manju Goel (R)						
Larry Kaifesh (R)						
Tammy Duckworth (D)					Y	
<b>9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
David Earl Williams III (R)						
Susanne Atanus (R)	6/21	2/6				
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)			100		Y	Y
<b>10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Robert Dold (R)						
Brad Schneider (D)			35		Y	
<b>11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Chris Balkema (R)						
Bert Miller (R)						
Darlene Senger (R)						
Ian Bayne (R)						
Bill Foster (D)	21/21	4/6			Y	
<b>12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Mike Bost (R)						
William L. "Bill" Enyart (D)					Y	
Paula Bradshaw (G)						
<b>13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>						
Rodney Davis (R)						
Michael Firsching (R)						
Erica Harold (R)						
Ann E. Callis (D)						Y
George Gollin (D)	21/21	5/6		Y		
David L. Green (D)						

## 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	IVI	PP	CAI
Randy M. Hultgren (R)			0			
Dennis Anderson (D)				Y		Y
John J. Hosta (D)						

## 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	IVI	PP	CAI
John M. Shimkus (R)			0			
Eric Thorland (D)	20/21	3/6				

## 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	IVI	PP	CAI
David J. Hale, Jr. (R)						
Adam Kinzinger (R)			0			
Randall Wayne Olsen (D)						

## 17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

	WCT1	WCT2	HRC	IVI	PP	CAI
Bobby Schilling (R)			0			
Cheri Bustos (D)					Y	

## COOK COUNTY RACES

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	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	PP	CAI
<b>BOARD PRESIDENT</b>						
Toni Preckwinkle (D)				Y	Y	
<b>ASSESSOR</b>						
Joseph Berrios (D)				Y		
<b>COOK COUNTY CLERK</b>						
David D. Orr (D)	9/9	5/6		Y		Y
<b>SHERIFF</b>						
Thomas J. Dart (D)	9/9	6/6	Y	Y		
Tadeusz "Tad" Palka (D)						
Sylvester E. Baker, Jr. (D)						
William "Bill" Evans (D)						
<b>TREASURER</b>						
Maria Pappas (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 1ST DIST.</b>						
Brenda Smith (D)						
Blake Sercye (D)	9/9	5/6		Y		
Isaac "Ike" Carothers (D)						
Richard R. Boykin (D)			Y			
Ronald Lawless (D)	9/9	5/6				
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 2ND DIST.</b>						
Robert B. Steele (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 3RD DIST.</b>						
Jerry "Iceman" Butler (D)			Y	Y		Y
Rosemary Reeves (D)						
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 4TH DIST.</b>						
Stanley S. Moore (D)			Y	Y		Y
Nicholas "Nick" Smith (D)						
Robert R. McKay (D)						
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 5TH DIST.</b>						
Deborah Sims (D)				Y		Y
Timothy "Tim" Parker (D)						
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 6TH DIST.</b>						
Joan Patricia Murphy (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 7TH DIST.</b>						
Jesus G. Garcia (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 8TH DIST.</b>						
Luis Arroyo, Jr. (D)						
Edwin "Eddie" Reyes (D)			Y	Y		Y
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 9TH DIST.</b>						
Frank L. McPartlin (D)						
Peter N. Silvestri (R)				Y		Y
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 10TH DIST.</b>						
Bridget Gainer (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 11TH DIST.</b>						
John P. Daley (D)				Y		Y
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 12TH DIST.</b>						
John Fritchey (D)				Y		
<b>COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 13TH DIST.</b>						
Larry Suffredin (D)				Y		Y

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD - 16TH DIST.

	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	PP	CAI
Jeffrey R. Tobolski (D)					Y	Y

## COMMISSIONER, COOK CO. BOARD OF REVIEW, 3RD

	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	PP	CAI
Larry Rogers, Jr. (D)					Y	Y

## METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	PP	CAI
Cynthia M. Santos (D)						
Frank Avila (D)						
Timothy "Tim" Bradford (D)			Y			Y
Josina Morita (D)	3/3	4/4	Y	Y		Y
Tom Courtney (D)						
Adam Miguest (D)						
John S. Xydakis (D)						
Frank Edward Gardner (D)						
Kathleen Mary O'Reilly (D)						
Brendan Francis Houlihan (D)						

## IL STATE RACES

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 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC  
 PP = Planned Parenthood  
 CAI = Citizen Action/Illinois Policy Council

	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	PP	CAI
<b>GOVERNOR/ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR</b>							
<b>Bill Brady (R)</b>							
Maria Rodriguez (R)							
<b>Dan Rutherford (R)</b>							
Steve Kim (R)							
<b>Kirk W. Dillard (R)</b>							
Jil Tracy (R)							
<b>Bruce Rauner (R)</b>							
Evelyn Sanguinetti (R)							
<b>Tio Hardiman (D)</b>							
Brunell Donald (D)							
<b>Pat Quinn (D)</b>			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul Vallas (D)						Y	
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>							
Paul M. Schimpf (R)					Y		Y
Lisa Madigan (D)							
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>							
Michael Webster (R)							
Jesse White (D)				Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>COMPROLLER</b>							
Judy Baar Topinka (R)					Y		
Sheila Simon (D)	17/17	5/6		Y	Y	Y	
<b>TREASURER</b>							
Tom Cross (R)				Y	Y	Y	
Bob Grogan (R)							
Michael W. Frerichs (D)				Y	Y	Y	Y

## STATE SENATE RACES

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization  
 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC  
 PP = Planned Parenthood

	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	PP	CAI
<b>3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Mattie Hunter (D)		Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>6TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Stephanie Linares (R)					
John J. Cullerton (D)		Y	Y	Y	
<b>9TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Daniel Biss (D)		Y	Y	Y	
<b>12TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Steven Landek (D)			Y		
<b>15TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Napoleon Harris (D)		Y			
<b>18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Bill Cunningham (D)			Y		
<b>24TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>					
Chris Nybo (R)					
Dennis M. Reboletti (R)					
Suzanne Glowiak (D)		Y		Y	

						WCT1	WCT2							WCT1	WCT2						
IVI	PPAC	EQIL	PP	CAI		WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	PP	CAI	WCT1	WCT2	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	PP	CAI		
<b>30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Don Wilson (R)						John C. D'Amico (D)						Ramiro Juarez (R)									
Terry Link (D)												Fred Crespo (D)									
<b>33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Karen McConnaughay (R)						Lou Lang (D)						Daniel Brinkman (R)									
<b>36TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Seth Lewis (R)									
Neil Anderson (R)						Kathleen Myalls (R)						Christine Jennifer Winger (R)									
Mike Jacobs (D)						Laura Fine (D)						TJ Lewis (R)									
<b>39TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Jenny M. Burke (D)									
Bob Galhotra (D)						Robyn Gabel (D)						<b>46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Don Harmon (D)						<b>19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Heidi Holan (R)									
Y						Robert Martwick (D)						Deb Conroy (D)									
<b>42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Linda Holmes (D)						Michael P. McAuliffe (R)						Julie Cosimo (R)									
<b>45TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Michael T. Yorty (R)						Beth C. Goncher (R)									
Tim Bivins (R)						Mo Khan (D)						Keith R. Wheeler (R)									
						17/17 5/6						William F. Keck (R)									
<b>48TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Jerry J. Acciari (D)						Valerie L. Burd (D)									
Linda Little (R)						<b>21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>51ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Andy Manar (D)						Silvana Tabares (D)						Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R)									
<b>51ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Bob Bednar (R)									
Chapin Rose (R)						Michael J. Madigan (D)						<b>52ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
<b>54TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						David McSweeney (R)									
Kyle McCarter (R)						Michael J. Zalewski (D)						Bill Downs (D)									
<b>57TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
James F. Clayborne, Jr. (D)						Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D)						Mel Thillens (R)									
Y						<b>25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Martin J. Moylan (D)									
						Barbara Flynn Currie (D)						<b>56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
<b>ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES</b>						<b>26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Jim Moynihan (R)									
WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total ques- tions correct for that race. WCT1 refers to a greater number of general questions; WCT2 refers to LGBTQ-specific questions						Jacob "Koby" Hakalir (R)						Michelle Mussman (D)									
IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization						Christian L. Mitchell (D)						David McSweeney (R)									
PPAC = Personal PAC						17/17 6/6						Bill Downs (D)									
EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC						Jhatayn "Jay" Travis (D)						<b>57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
PP = Planned Parenthood						<b>27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Bill Grossi (R)									
CAI = Citizen Action/Illinois Policy Council						Monique D. Davis (D)						Elaine Nekritz (D)									
						<b>28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						Robert "Bob" Rita (D)						Mark Neerhof (R)									
						<b>29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Scott Drury (D)									
						Thaddeus Jones (D)						<b>59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						Kenneth "Kenny" Williams (D)						Leslie Munger (R)									
<b>1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Carol Sente (D)									
Daniel J. Burke (D)						William "Will" Davis (D)						<b>62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						Deyon L. Dean (D)						Rod Drobinski (R)									
<b>2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>32ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Sam Yingling (D)									
Edward J. Acevedo (D)						André Thapedi (D)						<b>63RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						<b>33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Steven Reick (R)									
<b>3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Lynn Renee Franco (R)						Jack D. Franks (D)									
Luis Arroyo (D)						Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)						<b>65TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						<b>34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Steven A. Anderson (R)									
<b>4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Mark Ekhoﬀ (R)						Debbie Miller (R)									
Cynthia Soto (D)						Fatimah "Timah" Macklin (R)						Daniel J. Ugaste (R)									
						Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)						<b>67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
<b>5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Charles E. "Chuck" Jefferson (D)									
Collin Johnson (R)						Victor C. Horne (R)						<b>71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Kenneth "Ken" Dunkin (D)						Frances Ann Hurley (D)						Jeff McKinley (R)									
						<b>36TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Jim Wozniak (R)									
<b>6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Kelly M. Burke (D)						Mike Smiddy (D)									
Esther Golar (D)												<b>72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						<b>37TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Patrick Verschoore (D)									
<b>7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Margo McDermed (R)						<b>77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D)						Gayla Smith (R)						Kathleen Willis (D)									
Antoinette "Toni" Gray (D)						Arthur Lukowski (R)						Antonio "Tony" Favela (D)									
						August (O'Neill) Deuser (D)						<b>78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
<b>8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Camille Lilly (D)									
La Shawn K. Ford (D)						Al Riley (D)						<b>79TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
						McStephen O. A. "Max" Solomon (D)						Glenn Nixon (R)									
<b>9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						<b>39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						15/17 4/6									
Carlos Alvarez (R)						Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios (D)						Katherine "Kate" Cloonen (D)									
Myles Lloyd Tobin (R)						Will Guzzardi (D)						John W. Howard (D)									
Arthur Turner (D)						17/17 5/6						<b>80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Tonya N. Hunter (D)						<b>40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Anthony DeLuca (D)									
						Nancy Schiavone (D)						<b>81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
<b>10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D)						Keith R. Matune (R)									
Mark Calonder (R)						Aaron Goldstein (D)						Ron Sandack (R)									
Pamela Reaves-Harris (D)						17/17 5/6						<b>83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Derrick Smith (D)						<b>43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>						Linda Chapa LaVia (D)									
Eddie Winters (D)						Ariana Flores (R)						<b>84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Antwan D. Hampton (D)						Keith Farnham (D)						Krishna Bansal (R)									
												Stephanie A. Kifowit (D)									
<b>11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>												<b>85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>									
Ann M. Williams (D)												Emily McAsey (D)									
<b>12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>																					
Sara Feigenholtz (D)																					
<b>13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>																					
Gregory Harris (D)																					
<b>14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b>																					
Denis Detzel (R)																					
Kelly M. Cassidy (D)																					



**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Cynthia L. 'Cindy' Pagurski**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN



Cynthia L. (Cindy) Pagurski joined the Lombard office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage this past December after a successful career in office management. She also has long had a passion for some furry, four-legged friends.

She is a lifelong resident of the Chicago area, and her work emphasis now is on the client experience, she said.

Her passion truly is dogs. In fact, Pagurski is an AKC-licensed judge and a breeder since 1996 of Boston terriers. Naturally Pagurski is the right realtor for those relocating with pets.

"It's all about the client and building a relationship of trust," she said. "That trust begins with listening. Listening is the key to understanding and vital to satisfying the unique requirements of each respective client."

Pagurski tagged Lombard as "a nice suburb with all the suburban appeal ... and still close to Chicago."

Pagurski said the real estate market "is on the upswing." She added that, with mortgage prices still affordable, "the American dream of home ownership is a reality for many people."

"Cindy is an enthusiastic and positive agent with great attention to detail," said Peggy Kozak, managing broker at the suburban location. "She is a great addition to our Lombard team of realtors."

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage operates 52 offices with more than 3,300 sales associates.

"My career path led me to administrative positions until 2012," she said. "The self-reliance and flexibility of real estate seemed like a perfect fit."



<b>Age</b> 53	<b>Best part of your job</b> "The people."
<b>Hometown</b> Lombard	<b>Overcoming obstacles</b> "I've had multiple back surgeries."
<b>Job title</b> Real estate broker at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage	<b>Favorite movie</b> Some Like It Hot
<b>Hobbies</b> Boston terrier breeder and judge	<b>Favorite TV show</b> Downton Abbey
<b>Pets</b> Has five Boston terriers, ages 5 to 14	<b>First purchase if you won the Lottery</b> "House in warm climate."
<b>Relationship status</b> Married to Mary; they have been together since 1986. "We met through mutual friends, and actually went to Iowa [this past] November and got married; it was a long time coming."	<b>Favorite pizza topping</b> Mushrooms and olives
	<b>Little-known fact</b> "My childhood nickname was 'Boots.'"

# WILLIAM "BILL" RAINES

**Committed to Service**

Democrat for Judge Neville Vacancy ★



**ENDORSED BY:**

- Personal PAC
- Cook County Democratic Party
- 49th Ward Democratic Organization
- 48th Ward Democratic Ward Organization
- 46th Ward Democratic Organization
- Chicago Federation of Labor
- Numerous elected and community leaders across Cook County

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- Sen. John Cullerton

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## VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 29, No. 24, March 12, 2014

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CALPERNIA  
ADDAMSTrans roles in  
Hollywood

Jared Leto was kind enough to mention me in his 2014 Independent Spirit Awards acceptance speech (as part of a typically "Jared" list of people involved in the film alongside random notable people). Next, he really surprised me by thanking me in his Oscar acceptance speech.

As I've said before, my job was to sit down with him and answer lots of questions about what it's like to be trans, and to make a recording of me reading his lines from the script. From there, Jared did his thing: A brilliant, eccentric artist created his own performance of a movie character—Rayon, one who happens to be some form of trans, in this case.

Some of his follow-up speeches left something to be desired when it came to speaking well on the issues facing his movie character, especially against the backdrops of current politics and social movements. I suppose it's doubly rare to be a gifted artist AND a great political speaker. But, personally, I thought Rayon seemed like a nice person and a real human being. I've known people like Rayon.

Anyone who's followed my 11 years in Hollywood knows that I've always advocated for trans people to play trans roles. But I also refuse to shoot down powerful people who take steps to bring human trans portrayals to the screen, even if they are played by a non-trans female (Felicity Huffman in *Transamerica*, Hilary Swank in *Boys Don't Cry*) or a non-trans male (Lee Pace in *Soldier's Girl*, Jared in *Dallas Buyers Club*). Georges du Fresnoe was not



Calpernia Addams helped Jared Leto (left) to embody the transgender character Rayon in the movie *Dallas Buyers Club*. Photo by Anne Marie Fox/Focus Features

a trans child when he played Ludovic in *Ma Vie En Rose*, but that incredible film continues to resonate with trans people and families of trans children. Good and important portrayals can come from non-trans actors. That may be an inconvenient truth, but there you have it.

Sure, I'd love to get these roles as an actress with a history of transition, or see them go to other trans actors. Heck, I'd love to play non-trans roles! But I'm not so short-sighted that I'll destroy allies and advocates—even less-than-perfect allies, if I think the overall contribution is beneficial. This is a view that comes from long actual experience and familiarity with the business. Some small but vocal groups will disagree; that's just the nature of contentious issues. You can do your thing and I'll do mine. There are many ways to contribute.

But beware: The same logic that leaves zero room for a non-trans actor to try a trans role will then be used to mandate that trans actors should not be able to play non-trans roles. And that would piss me off.

Leto's Rayon is not the rock upon which I'd make my last stand concerning this issue. His performance is just an inspiration for this discussion. I advocate for positive portrayals and opportunities for trans people in the media. Some people are displeased that this particu-

lar portrayal is another trans sex worker role. Another trans addict role. Another trans "mystical advisor/comic relief" role. Another "trans person punished in the end" role. Those are, indeed, over-represented portrayals, and I do want more balance—soon!

But I have known people like Rayon. She is not a made-up grab bag of random hateful attributes. She's a portrayal of an uncomfortable segment of the trans experience that a few LGBT folks would rather be erased and not discussed. I think many of the haters hate Rayon because she isn't beautiful, she isn't passable, she isn't gender-binary, she isn't 2014-political. And when I see that elitist hypocrisy, I'm inclined to push back and write essays like this.

It's hard being trans—moreso in the era and circumstances of *Dallas Buyers Club*. I've known plenty of trans sex workers, self-medicators, wise teachers, hilarious weirdos, and people taken before their time due to violence and lack of healthcare. I've known trans people very much like Rayon, and maybe if some people got up from their remote-activism-devices (computer screens and smartphones) and left their ivory towers and privilege-bubbles, they'd meet a few people like Rayon face-to-face, too.

Then they could see that a human portrayal of this real segment of the trans community is a good thing, even if it's by a non-trans person.

Please do hire trans actors for ANY role, especially trans roles. But please don't shoot trans people in the foot by attacking allies willing to open the door for us as we approach equality.

Calpernia Addams is an out trans actress, musician and consultant, and was Leto's coach for his role as Rayon in the movie *Dallas Buyers Club*.

TERRY  
COSGROVEActivist speaks out  
for Quinn's support  
of women, children

With all due respect to the Governors of California and New York, Pat Quinn is the greatest champion of women and children of any sitting Governor. And Illinois voters should take note when voting in 2014.

The ongoing assaults in other states on women in health care, in the workplace and in government are escalating with each passing day. These attacks include: attempts to de-fund and shut down Planned Parenthood, despite close to 25 percent of U.S. women depending on its services, many for basic primary health care; forced ultrasounds before a woman can obtain an abortion; requiring insurance companies to refuse coverage for birth control and abortion; outright refusal to give rape victims information about emergency contraception in hospital emergency rooms following an assault; the lack of equal pay laws coupled with no family medical leave; and, legislation to make abortion illegal, unsafe and unavailable to millions of women.

These are just some of the horrible circum-

stances now a reality in other states where anti-woman Governors rule. Think of the nightmares that are Rick Perry's Texas or Scott Walker's Wisconsin and you'll get the picture.

Not in our Illinois. Not with our Gov. Pat Quinn. In Gov. Quinn's Illinois, women and children are treated with respect and dignity—not attacked, denigrated and humiliated.

Gov. Quinn's leadership across a board spectrum of initiatives and laws to promote the safety, prosperity and well-being of women and children is unparalleled over his brief tenure in office.

Fought for and signed the law (HB 3634) amending the Equal Pay Act to give victims of underpayment more time to address their claims and make Illinois consistent with the national Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Launched the innovative Birth to Five Initiative providing prenatal care and early childhood support to ensure healthy babies in these critical early years.

Pushed and signed into law the Comprehensive Sexuality Education bill (HB 2675) requiring medically accurate information in public schools to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates.

Signed SB 1037, helping victims of sex trafficking rebuild their lives.

Made assisting victims of sexual assault and providing sexual assault prevention a top priority in signing HB 1645.

Signed legislation eliminating the statute of limitations on civil and criminal child sexual abuse (SB 1399 and HB 1063) giving victims all the time they need to file lawsuits against predators.

Quinn is a leading advocate of earned sick

leave for 2.5 million Illinois workers, of which 78 percent are working mothers and for ending discrimination against women who seek orders of protection from violent partners. Quinn launched the first ever Women Owned Business Symposium. Quinn is a champion of funding for Planned Parenthood to ensure that as many women as possible have access to the full range of reproductive health care. Pat Quinn is 100-percent pro-choice, believing that women, not politicians, should be making their own medical decisions about family planning and abortion.

Illinois voters would be foolish to take for granted the extraordinary leadership and commitment to women, children and healthy families that Gov. Quinn has demonstrated. We are extremely fortunate to have him leading the great state of Illinois.

And let's not forget that. Otherwise, Illinois could end up treating women more like Wisconsin, Texas and Indiana.

Terry Cosgrove is president & CEO of Personal PAC, an Illinois bipartisan political action committee (PAC) dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local office.

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viewpoints to  
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# GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from Fox Searchlight

## HAIR APPARENT

Tilda Swinton (yes, that's her under all that makeup) is in the movie *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. See the review on page 22.

### THEATER

**Tomb raider.**  
Page 20

Photo from *The Roper*  
by Joe Mazza



### DISH

**La dolce vita.**  
Page 26

Photo of triple chocolate mousse cake  
at Fiorentino's Cucina Italiana  
by Andrew Davis



### SPORTS

**Kaiser role.**  
Page 30

Photo of Joe Kaiser  
courtesy of Kaiser



### DANCIN' FEATS

## Philip Elson premieres show on own 'Terms'

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Philip Elson, 27, is a Chicago-based dancer and choreographer hailing from Fort Worth, Texas—“also known as Cowtown ... get ‘er done!” he said in a conversation with *Windy City Times*.

Elson began dancing at 3 with the support of his sisters and his parents, who wanted to expose their children to as many activities and experiences as possible. “I was a ‘jazztrina’... I primarily trained in ballet, jazz, tap. A lot of my early training was geared toward going on to do either musical theater or commercial dance,” he said. Elson’s background brought him to NYU after high school, where he enrolled in the vocal performance program. Although he dated another dancer in high school. “North Central Texas was not a place where you could easily trust people with telling them you’re gay,” he said.

It was in New York that Elson first encountered queer culture. He said, “I thought New York was going to be the place where I found myself as a gay man. I found lots of ‘gayness’ in New York, but when I left there I began to realize that that was not the basis of my identity. I’m an artist, I’m a brother, I’m an employee, I’m a driver, I’m a gay man. I’m also a tax payer ... and shouldn’t that be the most important?!”

New York was also the place where Elson discovered his passion was not with musical theater, but with dance, and his program at NYU was not conducive to a career in concert dance. Returning to Texas, Elson enrolled in a community college, where a dance professor would introduce him to Columbia College in Chicago. “My ballet teacher was the artistic director of a modern dance company... she was very much

a mentor... she told me that I had to leave Texas. She said, ‘you have to experience a place that’s not here.’”

Upon finishing his degree, Elson hit the Chicago dance scene quickly. After a brief hiatus to dance professionally in Portland, he returned and landed a coveted spot with *The Seldoms*. “I will be dancing for *The Seldoms* until the day that I’m done dancing,” he said, but Elson is also breaking out on his own to create his own work. He is clearly a product of *The Seldoms*, including a collaborative creative process and a commitment to similar themes taken on by Artistic Director Carrie Hanson. Specifically, *The Seldoms* explore the artist’s ability to interact with culture and environment, and this, in part, is the basis of Elson’s latest work, “*Terms and Conditions*,” showing this weekend at Links Hall.

What started as an exploration of technology and big data has become a comment on the human condition and the role that technology plays in our interactions with one another. “This show is about people and the fear of losing humanity ... of something that breeches and is threatening what we know about the human experience,” he said.

One of the opening scenes in the 45-minute work shows six dancers on the sides of the stage engrossed in their smartphones. While at first it seems as though his position is that technology is destroying our ability to interact with one another, Elson proposes that technology is a positive thing—so long as we are willing to engage with it. “We can’t avoid technology,” he said. “This show is about privacy in the digital era. Those who are looking to make changes on any level ... you have to know and engage that thing from the inside. There is this



Philip Elson. Photo by Julie E. Ballard

thing that is threatening our way of living as we know it, and this is a force that we have to deal with. ... The way we use the Internet now is not the way the Internet was set up to be used years ago.”

In a way, “*Terms and Conditions*” is a logical blending of Elson’s double life. In addition to being a professional dancer, sound designer, dance teacher and choreographer, Elson is a longtime employee at an Apple store, where he has gained valuable insight into technology and business. Yet, he said he doesn’t know enough to have a sense of where technology could take us. “I have no clue where [technology] could go,” he said. “What it meant to be a human 100 years ago is very different that what it means to be a human today. ... I think the human experience is continually being re-

defined. Maybe the experience, as we know it right now, won’t be the experience we have 100 years from now. Hopefully, we won’t be bionic people!”

**Philip Elson Dance presents “Terms and Conditions” runs Friday-Sunday, March 14-16, at Links Hall. All shows start at 7pm, and live streaming of the show will be at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/terms-and-conditions>. Tickets are \$10, available at the door, or on [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com).**

**Also this weekend in dance:**  
—**Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan**, Asia’s leading contemporary dance company, returns to Chicago March 14 and 16 in an unprecedented co-presentation from three major Chicago institutions: The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University and The Joffrey Ballet. Cloud Gate will perform the celebrated *Songs of the Wanderers*, in which the stage is transformed by a set of three-and-a-half tons of golden rice. Performances take place at the Auditorium Theatre; visit [auditoriumtheatre.org](http://auditoriumtheatre.org).

—At the newly reopened Harris Theater for Music and Dance, **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** performs a highly anticipated program of four works by the Netherlands’ Jiri Kylian. With Kylian dubbed one of the “greatest choreographers of our age” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Hubbard Street will present *Petite Mort* (1991) and *27’52”* (2001) with two company premieres: *Falling Angels* (1989), with onstage accompaniment by Third Coast Percussion, and *Sarabande* (1990). Performances run Thursday through Sunday; for more information, visit [harristheaterchicago.org](http://harristheaterchicago.org).



Mary Williamson and Tom Hickey in Seminar. Photo by Dean LaPrairie

## THEATER REVIEW

### Seminar

Playwright: Theresa Rebeck

At: Haven Theatre Company at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-975-8150;

www.theaterwit.org; \$32

Runs through: April 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There are three reasons for attending writers' workshops: 1) to hustle a lucrative contract/grant/professorship, 2) to pontificate endlessly about your (superior) artistic theories, 3) to get laid. There are three reasons for teaching writers' workshops: 1) to fund your own "research" in exotic foreign locales, 2) to pontificate endlessly about other people's (inferior) artistic theories, 3) to get laid. The four scribblers who meet weekly for mentorly advice from a (once) famous novelist do all of these things, little suspecting that its sole purpose is to reduce the clutter obstructing their pursuit of tangle goals.

Who are these Ivy League-educated, urban-dwelling tyros? Well, Douglas flaunts his extensive publishing connections, but writes to formula. Kate copies the narrative voices of classical authors, but balks at plots. Izzy cuddles up to whomever can boost her fem-fantasy erotica, and Martin refuses to show his peers a single precious word of manuscript. Leonard, their instructor, who boasts of vacations in

devastated Third-World countries and denies his short-term memory loss, is no less flawed.

Playwright Theresa Rebeck has forged her career upon the lifestyles of Manhattan's Upper West Side, where Izzy still lives with her parents and Martin occupies one of the five empty bedrooms in the apartment furnished Kate by her largely absent family. Privilege doesn't prevent fledgling artists behaving any differently from their counterparts in other regions and eras: they squabble, they conspire, they gossip, they whine. They couple, and uncouple. They eat cheap junk food and drink expensive beer. After exhausting these activities, they come to realize—almost by accident—where their talents lie and finish by contentedly embarking on their respective roads to success.

On the roster of boring spectator sports, listening to writers talk ranks right alongside watching writers work, making even more commendable director Marti Lyons—no stranger to the subtleties of lit-chat (cf. Jackalope Theater's *The Peacock*)—and her actors' microcosmic amplification of discoveries lurking beneath what appears on the surface to be mere persiflage. You don't need to have inhabited the world of professional wordsmiths to empathize, though insiders will recognize—perhaps regretfully—references to fashionable print creds (e.g., *The New Yorker*) and literary cloisters (e.g., *Yaddo*). Oh, and however readily we may dismiss Douglas' pompous invocation of "interiority and exteriority," whattaya wanna bet that the next day, we look for an opportunity to use those words?

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Roper

Playwright: Will Dunne

At: The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: www.thedentheatre.com; \$25

Runs through: April 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"These are stupid men, and there's nothing more dangerous than stupid men with a big idea!" we are warned. The big idea in 1876 is to steal Abraham Lincoln's body from its tomb in Springfield and demand ransom for its return. The stupid men are saloonkeeper Terrence Mullen, shipping engineer Herbert Nelson and counterfeiter Jack Hughes. Their new partner is ex-horse thief James Morrissey—in reality, a secret service agent named Lewis Swegles, assigned to infiltrate the conspirators by Captain Patrick Tyrrell, under an experimental law-enforcement program employing ex-criminals as informants called "ropers." The sole non-stupid man in on the scheme is cab driver William Nealy, drafted by Swegles as a supernumerary, who has the wisdom to flee at first opportunity and thus live to tell the tale.

The number of things that can go wrong with a plan cooked up by stupid men makes playwright Will Dunne's speculations thereon (allegedly based in historical fact) almost too easy. Before he commences his procedural, however, he acquaints us with the characters' individual quirks—Mullen's tavern sports a

caged snake on the bar, Hughes harbors superstitious fears, Nelson chafes under anti-Irish prejudice that drives unemployed laborers to dirty deeds, Tyrrell believes in the inherent nobility of his profession and Swegles longs to share in the popular acclaim granted the righteous.

Oh, but as swiftly as the details of the heist are drawn up—choosing the date, gaining entrance to the crypt, unsealing the sarcophagus, concealing and transporting its contents, delivering the ransom note and the all-important division of the money—unforeseen obstructions arise: Nelson recoils from grave-robbing, Tyrrell's guards must stand watch divested of their footgear, locks prove more stubborn and coffins heavier than expected. Most significantly, Swegles' moral compass begins to waver under pressure of his multiple identities.

Reverence for burial is a theme dating to classical tragedy, but when no permanent harm befalls either the living or the dead, director Ron Wells is free to showcase the (literally) ghoulish humor inherent in this stranger-than-fiction docudrama. The dialogue canters along at vaudeville pace rendering its progress safely comedic, and in doing so, allows us to track the evolution of our protagonist—that's Swegles, by the way—from hired snitch to protector of the late president's eternal rest. If his story's end is less lofty than anticipated, Nealy and Dunne ascertain that our hero's service to his country receives recognition as just and well-deserved as those of his ancient predecessors.

## THEATER REVIEW

### A Crime in the Neighborhood

Playwright: James Glossman  
from Suzanne Berne's novel

At: City Lit Theater,

1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Tickets: 1-773-293-3682;

www.citylit.org; \$29

Runs through: April 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

A clean, white Washington, D.C., suburb is thrown into turmoil and fear when a boy is murdered in the summer of 1972, as Watergate makes headlines. Before that, earlier in the spring, Marsha Eberhardt's dad abandoned her and her mother to pursue an affair with Mom's kid sister. Marsha, 12 years old and an acquaintance of the murdered boy, conflates her father's departure with a disintegrating world of death, fear, government scandal and a new neighbor to whom Marsha takes an instant dislike with dire results. She's observant but lacks sufficient life experience to place her observations in a correct context. Her mother, however, understands. "She felt guilty for ever having felt secure," she narrates to us.

Suzanne Berne's novel, which James Glossman adapted, tells the story through Marsha's eyes as a child (crisply dynamic Avery Moss) and an adult (pleasant but rueful Judy Lea Steel). The entire cast delivers narration, but chief duties fall to Adult Marsha, the only individual who's not a character in the story. Looking back 30 or more years later, she now understands her observations, motives and mistakes at 12. Frequently, however, the audience's focus is drawn to Marsha's mom, Lois Eberhardt (lively and nuanced Jennifer T. Grubb), who not only struggles with personal betrayal but also must try to protect Marsha, if she possibly can, from damaging emotional fall-out. It's Lois who recognizes that Marsha's issues with the new, male neighbor are related to Dad's abandonment, and it's Lois who understands that she herself no longer marches in lock-step with her neighbors.

Glossman's stage adaptation preserves much of Berne's piquant descriptive mate-



Avery Moss, Jennifer T. Grubb and Steve Silver in *A Crime in the Neighborhood*. Photo by Tom McGrath

rial, sometimes bordering on humorous in a way which might seem out-of-keeping with the story's seriousness. There are descriptions of an undulating mermaid tattoo, of a boy dissecting a praying mantis with his pocketknife, of Marsha using a different color ink in her journal, etc. The narrative details shape the story's reality, of course, but also keep the first act from gaining much emotional mass. When intermission arrived, I couldn't help wondering when I was going to care about the characters. Fortunately, the pay-off came in Act II.

Director Terry McCabe, a past master of both writing and staging adaptations, effectively mines the subtext of the work, in a crisply-paced staging which never drags and is never too flashy. Dustin Pettegrew's workman-like unit set provides a variety of levels, areas and steps for the smoothly-flowing action but has no dazzle or beauty. Rachel M. Sypniewski's 1970's women's costumes pleasantly encompass chic, frumpy and hippy. Familiar 1970's pop hits nostalgically punctuate the performance. There's a strong personal feel to *A Crime in the Neighborhood*, a well-told contemporary tale about the consequences of our actions.

## CULTURE CLUB





Cheryl Lynn Bruce and Jacqueline Williams in *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*. Photo by Michael Courier

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Gospel of Lovingkindness

Playwright: Marcus Gardley  
At: Victory Gardens Theater,  
2433 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Tickets: 773-871-3000 or  
[www.victorygardens.org](http://www.victorygardens.org); \$20-\$60  
Runs through: March 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Don't accuse the Chicago theater community of turning a blind eye to the city's endemic youth violence. Steppenwolf Theatre and Collaboration both produced thoughtful artistic responses based upon real events last year, and now Victory Gardens Theater enters the fray with the world premiere of Marcus Gardley's *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*.

The *Gospel of Lovingkindness* may be fictionalized, but Gardley draws upon recent and past headline-grabbing Chicago incidents to make his drama feel true-to-life.

Gardley serves up time-shifting vignettes that not only look at the surviving family members of a crime victim (killed for his expensive pair of Air Jordan shoes), but also of the desperation that drove the perpetrator to that senseless act of violence. At times, Gardley's characters speak with so much passion and swagger that they feel like they just stepped off the street. Other times, their dialogue sounds just like editorial page posturing or like elevated poetry.

This odd dichotomy ultimately works with the play's non-linear structure, though there is still a slight remove from some of the emotion in director Chay Yew's chilly production (something designer Kevin Depinet's all-gray set of suspended furniture emphasizes). One gets the sense that *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* is meant to serve as a rallying cry for communities to work together to diffuse the violence, but Gardley's writing tone is more cool and calculated rather than hot-blooded and outraged.

That doesn't mean that the play lacks juicy characterizations or moments that could prod a few tears. And certainly helping to flesh out the heart-tugging emotion is the extremely talented and engaging cast of four actors.

There isn't a wrong note in Cheryl Lynn Bruce's performance of the mourning mother Mary Black, a postal worker initially immobilized by grief and memories of happier times when her talented son, Manny, was still alive. But after experiencing a vision of African-American activist Ida B. Wells, Mary realizes that she can use her position to bring about some change and Bruce's steely performance shows that revelatory change in drive and motivation.

The remaining three actors take on all the other roles, with Tosin Morohunfola bringing a lot of youthful energy to both the perpetrator and victim, while Jacqueline Williams and Ernest Perry, Jr., bring all of their many characters to distinct and vivid life.

The intensions spurring *The Gospel of Lov-*

*ingkindness* are all admirable, and its drive to address a societal problem artistically is one that treads a fine balance between entertaining and educating. But despite the strong performances all-around, this smart and emotionally reflective show might oddly appeal more to audience members' heads rather than their hearts.

## SPOTLIGHT



The Paramount Theatre in Aurora closes out its third season of self-produced musicals with the 1996 Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical *Rent*. Jeff Award-winner Jim Corti directs the late Jonathan Larson's rocking update of the 1896 opera *La Boheme*, which transplants Puccini's struggling artists and lovers to New York during the AIDS crisis of the early 1990s.

*Rent* plays in previews through Friday, March 14, with an official press opening at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora. Regular run show times are 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 and 5:30 p.m. Sundays through April 6. Tickets are \$36.90-\$49.90; call 630-896-6666 or visit [www.paramountaurora.com](http://www.paramountaurora.com) for more information. Photo courtesy of Paramount Theatre

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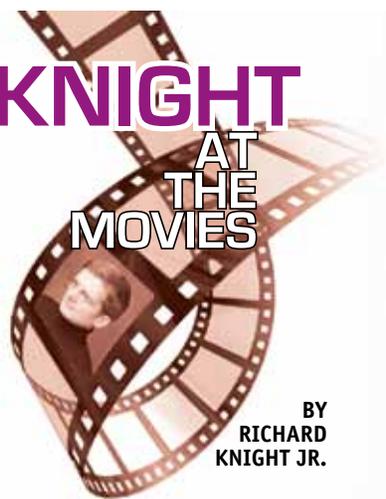
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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## The Grand Budapest Hotel; film notes

Being in the audience for a Wes Anderson film has become akin to the delicious sensation one felt as a child when movie fever first took hold. There is a certain giddy excitement that has increasingly greeted each of Anderson's movies—at least from hipper, more sophisticated audiences. (His comedies are not for those who cite *Identity Thief* and *The Hangover Part III* as laugh riots.) Perhaps Anderson's popularity has to do with the fact that he makes movies that have no truck with the rampant cynicism of the present. (Even the modern-day ones exist in their own alternate universe.) Or perhaps it's because Anderson has also been so good at creating movies that combine whimsy, eccentricity and melancholy without being heavy-handed (a rare feat) and are matched by their delightful visuals.

Whatever the reasons, **The Grand Budapest Hotel**—Anderson's latest and most audacious yet—once again pulls off this sleight-of-hand. Wanna feel pixelated? Get in line for this screwball comedy that's an homage to the genre it so lovingly embraces.

The plot is a story within a story within a story—starting briefly in the present day and then spinning quickly (nothing happens slowly in a Wes Anderson movie) back to 1968 and then further back to 1932. We land in the lobby during the halcyon days of the pale pink-and-white confection known as the Grand Budapest, a luxury hotel in the fictional middle European country of Zubrowka. The Grand Budapest resembles a multi-tiered wedding cake and is run by the impeccably mannered concierge Gustave H. (a droll and very funny Ralph Fiennes), who runs the place with the precision of a Swiss watch.

In between training his staff to meet the exacting standards his rich and titled clientele has come to expect, Gustave finds time to romance an endless parade of wealthy, elderly blonde dowagers who are grateful for his "exceptional service." Chief among these is Ma-

dame D (Tilda Swinton in old-lady makeup so pronounced she's unrecognizable), who spends one last night with Gustave and then dies under mysterious circumstances.

Sensing something's afoot, Gustave and Zero, his newly ensconced Lobby Boy (newcomer Tony Revolori) arrive at Madame D's estate in time to hear the reading of the will. Much to the fierce derision of Madame D's rapacious relatives headed by the snapping Dmitri (Adrien Brody), a valuable painting has been left to Gustave. He and Zero happen upon the painting as they are making their speedy getaway from the estate and decide to take it along with them. Soon, both Dmitri's villainous henchman (Willem Dafoe) and a fascist military force led by Edward Norton are in hot pursuit.

The plots and pratfalls pile up as the movie zips from one fantastical set piece to another. We find ourselves aboard speeding trains and automobiles, locked up in a prison labyrinth, skittering up walls, skiing down mountain slopes and always just one step ahead of whatever latest trial Gustave and Zero find themselves in. Gustave insists on treating everyone—prince and thug alike—with the same level of refined courtesy that he has drummed into Zero's head is a hallmark of the life of a true gentleman. (The role, believe it or not, has similarities to Steed, the upper crust spy Finnes played in *The Avengers*.)

Throughout, actors are often positioned in the center of the frame and speak very quickly (a true hallmark of screwball comedy—in this way the movie honors *His Girl Friday* and *Bringing Up Baby*). The dream cast also includes Jeff Goldblum, Bill Murray, F. Murray Abraham, Jude Law, Saoirse Ronan, Harvey Keitel and many others. They look like a collection of Diane Arbus photos brought to life. With its painted backdrops and use of miniatures, the movie is like a series of dioramas in an obscure museum. The effect of this glittering toy is like looking into tiny dollhouse rooms or the windows of Marshall Field's at Christmas—the artifice is so breathtaking and fun you gasp in endless delight. You're always aware of Anderson's control and attention to the smallest detail—that you're enveloped in a carefully created world.

Who would have thought audiences would respond to this kind of silly made-up stuff—this madcap Marx Brothers-Ernst Lubitsch era kind of thing? Maybe that's the ultimate reason why *The Grand Budapest Hotel* feels fresh and vibrant—it harkens so far back in movie history to find its inspiration that it proves the old "everything old is new again" maxim is true—to which I would add, "*Vyborne*" (Czech for "bravo").

### Film notes:

—**Cinema Q IV**, the fourth annual LGBT-themed movie series, continues tonight with Pawel Pawlikowski's sensual lesbian romance, 2004's *My Summer of Love*. The film stars Emily Blunt (*The Young Victoria*, *The Devil Wears Prada*) in her feature debut. The series continues each Wednesday in March at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Claudia Cassidy



From left: Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan and Tony Revolori in *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Photo from Fox Searchlight

Theater, 78 E. Washington St.

The Queer Film Society (of which I'm president), the Legacy Project, Reeling Film Festival and Affinity Community Services are presenting the series in partnership with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Windy City Times, ChicagoPride and the Reader are media sponsors. The screenings are free. [www.queerfilmsociety.org](http://www.queerfilmsociety.org)

—**CLAW: The Movie** is not, as one would imagine upon first hearing that title, a sci-fi horror flick. "CLAW," in this case, stands for Collective of Lady Arm Wrestlers and this cultural phenomenon—this "massacre in mascara," as it has been described—has been captured in what certainly looks like a free-wheeling documentary. The film will screen at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., on Friday, March 14, at 10:30 p.m. Co-director Brian Wimer will be present for what promises to be a raucous screening event—the evening kicks off with a short wrestling exhibition and will be emceed by one Rokke L. Squelch (aka Karrie Miller) and feature the Sideshow Theatre Company. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

—The Rainbow Alliance of the Unitarian

Church of Evanston (1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston) will present the 2009 lesbian romantic drama **Hannah Free**, from director Wendy Jo Carlton, on Friday, March 21 at 7 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.). Sharon Gless stars in the film, which is based on Claudia Allen's award-winning play, and it was shot locally with many familiar Chicago actors. Windy City Times Publisher/Executive Editor Tracy Baim produced the film and will be part of a panel discussion following the screening that will also feature editor/producer Sharon Zurek and actors Taylor Miller and Maureen Gallagher. <http://ucevanston.org/>

—Four more 2013 LGBT indie festival faves are just out on Blu-ray and DVD (or both) and worth adding to your queer movie collection: Daniel Radcliffe as gay poet in the making Allen Ginsberg who falls under the spell of his blond, handsome and decidedly unhinged college classmate Lucien Carr in out director Jon Krokidas' 1940s period winner **Kill Your Darlings**, the red hot gay German romantic drama **Free Fall**, the twisted and sexy gay crime thriller **Truth** and the winning high-school coming-out dramedy **Geography Club**.



Caitlin Bergh (left) and Laura Zak in #Hashtag. Photo from Bergh

## tellofilms' #Hashtag explores lesbian love online

tellofilms, which calls itself the "HBO of lesbian content," is presenting #Hashtag, a new Web series about the online lives and loves of a pair of lesbian twentysomethings.

#Hashtag stars/writers Caitlin Bergh and Laura Zak, both formerly of Chicago and presently of the West Coast.

#Hashtag follows Skylar (Bergh), who's struggling with the bad effects of her long-term relationship on her comedy career, and her best friend Liv (Zak), whose Instagram obsession is interfering with her OkCupid goals.

The series guest stars Cowgirl Up favorite Marnie Alton, Kate Black Spence (from tello's *The Throwaways*), Jim Bennett, Amy Thompson and other Chicago actors.

New episodes will be released every Sunday starting March 16. See [www.tellofilms.com](http://www.tellofilms.com).

## Powell's fashion show March 14 at Block 37

Fashion designer Boris Powell will unveil his new accessories collection at his "Freedom" show on Friday, March 14, at 8:30 p.m. at Block 37, 108 N. State St.

In 2011, Powell won the Oscars Designer Challenge with his "Black Swan" dress. He has since expanded to ready-to-wear, men's custom suits and handbags.

Powell's fall/winter 2014 collection is "American"-inspired, with dark, rich fabrics and simple cuts with a focus on details, according to a press release.

Tickets are \$40-\$100; see [www.ticketpeak.com/freedomBjP](http://www.ticketpeak.com/freedomBjP). For more info on Powell, visit [www.BorrisPowell.com](http://www.BorrisPowell.com).

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BOOKS

# Jackie Collins: True 'Confessions'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

One might think that, after selling 500 million books, Jackie Collins would change some things in her life. However, sometimes (as the saying goes), "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

"After all these years, I still write in long-hand," Collins said during a recent conversation at Chicago's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. "However, I love the Internet. I do my research on the computer and I [tweet] my own photos, and I'm all over Pinterest. I'm very hands-on."

Collins' latest work (her 30th!) is *Confessions of a Wild Child*, a prequel. "Confessions" is about Lucky Santangelo when she is 15—ready to discover life, love and independence," as the press release related.

"I wrote this as a young-adult book," Collins said. "And I sent it to the publisher and they said, 'Oh, no, no; this is for everyone. It's not as raunchy as my other books. ... I wanted to show how Lucky became the woman she is today. She really is a fabulous character; I've written seven books about her, and two miniseries.'"

Upon hearing about the miniseries, *Windy City Times* mentioned seeing the one starring actress Nicollette Sheridan. "She's beautiful, and an old soul," Collins said. "She brought Lucky's aura to the camera."

Regarding a movie based on "Confessions," we talked about casting the character of Marco, Lucky's brooding, handsome bodyguard. "We can't have Channing Tatum; he's a little too white-bread for the role. What about someone who looks like Bobby Cannavale?"

Something else in the book is the presence

of gay characters—including Lucky's brother, Dario. "Do you like that Dario comes out to Lucky?," Collins asked. "He can't come out to Gino [their father]; he'd pop a button. Gino is a macho man. A gay son? Forget about it. He wants Dario to take over the business, even though Lucky is the one who wants to."

As for Lucky, she "is a chip off the old block; she's got Gino's balls. ... She murders her godfather [in another book] and makes it look like self-defense because he was responsible for [some family] murders."

"Confessions" is partially based on Collins' life, but she said, "I didn't know it when I was writing it, but when I finished I said, 'Wait a minute. I was in the south of France; I was playing ping-pong with those guys; I was on that beach.'"

Collins also based at least one other character—Lucky's friend Olympia—on someone she knew. "I had a best friend when I went to school," Collins said. "She was an American; she and I were, like, the two outcasts and we bonded immediately. We started skipping school and running wild. But her father wasn't a Greek shipping magnate [like Olympia's]."

When asked where she gets the ideas for her books, Collins said, "When I wake up, I don't know what I'm going to write. I usually don't know until I sit down to write. People say they can't put my book down, and I usually say, 'That's because when I start writing, I can't put my pen down.'"

Then, there are Collins' personal interests, which include a healthy dose of television. "I'm really into *The Blacklist* right now," she said. "I also like *The Following*, *Parenthood* (it has great family values). Of course, I love *Dexter*.



Jackie Collins. Photo by Greg Gorman

Emmy Rossum [the lead actress of *Shameless*] would make a *great* Lucky."

When asked about reality TV, things took an interesting turn. After inquiring if she gets any ideas for her books from the shows, she said, "Oh, no—they got their ideas from *me*. Rich kids from Hollywood? Give me a fucking break. *Hollywood Wives*, *Hollywood Husbands*..." However, she does watch a few of them, including *Shahs of Sunset* ("I think it's hilarious.") and the Orange County, New York and New Jersey series of the *Real Housewives* franchise.

An interesting point is that Collins has achieved incredible success despite leaving school. (She was expelled at 15—Lucky's age in her latest book.) "You know how many successful people never went to college? However, I think school today is much better than it used to be, and I'm a huge proponent of education—especially in areas where kids are just running wild. However, I do get 14- or 15-year-old boys saying, 'I never read until I read *Chances*' or girls saying they've learned everything about sex from *me*."

By the way, the extremely busy Collins also has a couple other side projects, including an impending autobiography that promises to be full of tantalizing details. There's also the *Lucky Santangelo* cookbook (coming out in April) and another book, *The Santangelos*.

As a parting gift of sorts, Collins revealed something involving her sister, Joan Collins. Joan's *Dynasty* character, Alexis Carrington, was based on someone in one of Jackie's books. "That character was taken straight from *The Stud* [which Jackie wrote and had Joan starring in the movie role]," Jackie said. "[Producer] Aaron Spelling stole the character and put her in *Dynasty*, but she was originally Fontaine from *The Stud*."

Talking with Jackie Collins can be just as dishy as one of her books—and that's a very good thing.

Follow Collins on Twitter @JackieJCollins. *Confessions of a Wild Child* is available everywhere.

I also like [the gay HBO series] *Looking*; there are certain aspects I love. And then there's *Boardwalk Empire* and *Orange Is the New Black*. I love *Scandal* and I love *Veep*—and then you have *House of Lies* and *House of Cards*.

"*Shameless* is my new favorite program. Now

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NUNN ON ONE

# Don't you forget about Molly Ringwald



BY JERRY NUNN

Many will remember Molly Ringwald from teen movies such as *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club* and *Pretty In Pink*. The young actress was nominated for a Golden Globe at the age of 13 for *Tempest*.

She tackled Broadway with *Cabaret*, *How I Learned to Drive* and the Tony-nominated *Enchanted April*.

The Molly Ringwald Quintet heads to Randolph Street to bring some spring this March with her first jazz album, titled *Except Sometimes*. Included is a cover of Simple Minds' "Don't You Forget About Me" that harkens back to her past along with a variety of jazz standards.

Nunn rang Ringwald to discuss her tour called *An Evening with Molly Ringwald*.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Molly. You are coming to City Winery in Chicago. Have you been to Chicago many times in the past?**

MR: Molly Ringwald: I did two movies there, in the suburbs anyway, in Chicago. Yeah, I have been back a few times.

**WCT: You started singing when you were very young?**

MR: Yes, practically pre verbal. I was a jazz singer with my father's jazz band. I was touted as the world's youngest jazz singer. I don't know if it was me or it might have been Sammy Davis Jr.!

**WCT: What does your dad think about you singing jazz now?**

MR: He thinks it's great. I'm not performing with my dad now and I have my own band. The music my dad does is more traditional jazz. I am a little bit more modern. What is the venue like? I have never been there.

**WCT: City Winery in Chicago just celebrated three years and has a small intimate performance space. There are two floors with a wine room and restaurant.**

MR: Sounds great.

**WCT: Will you get to have any fun while in Chicago?**

MR: I don't know how long I am there for. Usually everything is part of a little mini-tour. I go in and out. I have three kids so I can't stay out for too long. Usually I go out for a few days and it is boom, boom, boom. I don't know how I will be there but I hope to get to have a little fun.

**WCT: Are your kids on tour with you?**

MR: No, they are in school. The only time they went on tour with me was when I went to Australia and New Zealand because it was during the summer. We all went and did a family working vacation.

**WCT: How was Australia?**

MR: I love Australia. It was great and different because I had never been there during the winter months. Their summer is our winter. This was the first time I had been there during their winter.

**WCT: Was it cold?**

MR: Yeah, but cold the way California is cold—not really cold.

**WCT: You lived in Europe for a while, didn't you?**

MR: Yes, I lived in Paris for a few years. I live in California now. I lived in New York for a few years and had my first kid there, met my husband there, and now we are in California.

**WCT: You are very well-travelled!**

MR: [Laughs] Yeah.

**WCT: Growing up you must have listened to jazz music in the house. Do you still own a record player?**

MR: You know, I still have a record collection but I don't have a record player right now. We just moved so I have been unpacking boxes that have been in deep storage for years and years. I am intrigued by the stuff that I find. I was sort of hoping that I would find a record player. I guess I could always buy one too. I have held onto my records but I don't know the condition that they will be in. I miss vinyl.

**WCT: It's making a comeback. Concord Records is a classic label that you recorded *Except Sometimes* on. How was the journey to singing jazz with them?**

MR: It is really the only kind of music that I sing. I can sing other stuff, like when I did Broadway. I have sung with a couple of friends in rock bands before. In terms of music that I sing it is the music that I love. I love the songs and style. It is music comfort food for me. It is just what I enjoy doing right now.

**WCT: Do you sing a Billie Holiday song?**

MR: In concert I very often do a song that she wrote called "Don't Explain." I didn't record that on this album but I am hoping to record it on the next album. I have a really beautiful arrangement.

**WCT: Were there several tracks that didn't make this first album?**

MR: We recorded 13 and we narrowed it down to 10 on the album. We have way more material. We recorded the album in 2009 and then didn't actually release it for a really long time because I became very focused on these books I was writing. Since then I have released it and came up with way more songs. The next album will have more stuff and I am thinking about a live album. I think that would be interesting with a live recording and DVD.

**WCT: City Winery is a good place to film!**

MR: Okay, I will keep that in mind. How are the acoustics there?

**WCT: Very good. I just saw Sinead O'Connor play there and it sounded great.**

MR: Wow. I love her. Did she have hair or no hair?

**WCT: No hair.**

MR: I saw her record at an acoustic session in New York and she had hair then. It was so weird to see her with hair. She didn't quite look like herself.

**WCT: She still has the pipes. At the City Winery they filmed Oprah's *Where Are They Now?* with her so maybe you could do one there.**

MR: They actually filmed one with me at the Grammy Museum in California.

**WCT: I was just trying to get you some work!**

MR: [Laughs] Well, thank you for thinking of me.

**WCT: You have performed in several musicals. What is your favorite?**

MR: My favorite musical that I have done is hands down *Cabaret*. That was an amazing production. Sally Bowles is a great character. I guess Michelle Williams is going to do it pretty soon.

My favorite musical that I have not been in is *Guys and Dolls*.

**WCT: A revival of that would be fun. Speaking of musicals, you have *Stephen Sondheim on your album*.**



Molly Ringwald. Publicity photo

MR: Yes, we do "Sooner or Later" and also an upbeat jazz version of "I Feel Pretty," which is really cool. That is also Sondheim. We are working on a song from *A Little Night Music*. He's very interesting because he's so musically complex. It is not doing a straight ahead jazz standard. It is always a bit different.

**WCT: Your life must be coming around in a full circle.**

MR: It's a parabola!

**WCT: Your novel *When It Happens to You* is coming out in paperback?**

MR: It did—first in hardcover then in paperback after.

**WCT: What inspired that story?**

MR: I just thought it was a universal theme that everyone could relate to, which is the theme of betrayal. It is very deep and layered. You can write about it from so many different angles. My original idea was to do these very short stories.

I always liked the idea of interlinked stories. I don't know why but it is something that appealed to me. When I started writing the stories were longer than I expected and I spent more time with each character. The novels and stories just took place. It was a process. I think I was just intrigued by the theme.

**WCT: Do you have time to write while out on the road?**

MR: No. When I wrote the books it was this perfect moment where I was working on a television show and only had one day every two weeks. It was the perfect job to have while I was writing. Now I find it is much more challenging. I am actually trying to figure that out!

Everyone asks me how I do everything at once but the fact of the matter is you can't do everything at once. I've just been able to do one thing then do everything else. It is very hard to do that simultaneously.

It is hard to start something but once you are in it then I could go away and do stuff. I was already in the novel at that point and knew what I was writing. Once you get in that place you can kind of do it anywhere. Starting a project you need peace and quiet or at least I do.

**WCT: I am sure with twins it is hard to find peace and quiet. What is your secret for staying young? You haven't aged.**

MR: I am always so flattered when someone says that but it is absolutely not true. I think I look very different. I don't know. I guess I have good genes but I also try to take good care of myself. I try to stay focused on being happy. I think that is the main thing. Making

happiness a priority is really good for youth and longevity. Also accepting the fact that you can't stay young forever. Aging gracefully is a really good thing.

**WCT: What was it like being on the RuPaul show?**

MR: I was not on RuPaul's *Drag Race* but on *Drag U*, where they were teaching women to be glamorous. I don't know if they still have that show but it was an offshoot of the *Drag Race*. It was fun.

I haven't seen *Drag Race* in a while. I watched the first three seasons and I think he's amazing.

**WCT: It just started again so you can watch the new one.**

MR: What season are they on?

**WCT: Season six.**

MR: Wow, that's incredible.

**WCT: With me being a gay boy growing up in the '80s, you really represented an outsider and showed it was okay to be different with your movies.**

MR: Aw, thanks; that is nice.

**WCT: I always thought *Duckie* was gay in *Pretty in Pink*.**

MR: Yeah, right? I know! That's what I thought, too. It seemed so obvious to me but everyone thought no because a lot of people wanted to imagine that my character gets together with him. That was not the kind of relationship that they had in my opinion.

**WCT: Back then it was hard for them to tackle the subject but if it were remade things would be different today.**

MR: Yeah, I would like to think that too. On the other hand, John Hughes became more conservative the older he got so I don't know if he would have been able to go there. But that is life and who knows?

I agree that the movies if made now could be much more open. Ryan Murphy took it and went with it. There is a much sharper edge to what he does but *Glee* takes it one step further with having gay characters, different ethnicities, and characters with different bodies. The movies I did were very white, you know? They were specific for a certain time and not sure if they could be made now exactly in the same way.

**WCT: See you in Chicago soon and safe travels too you!**

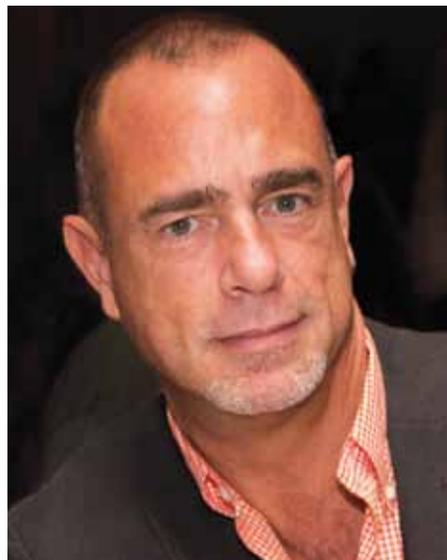
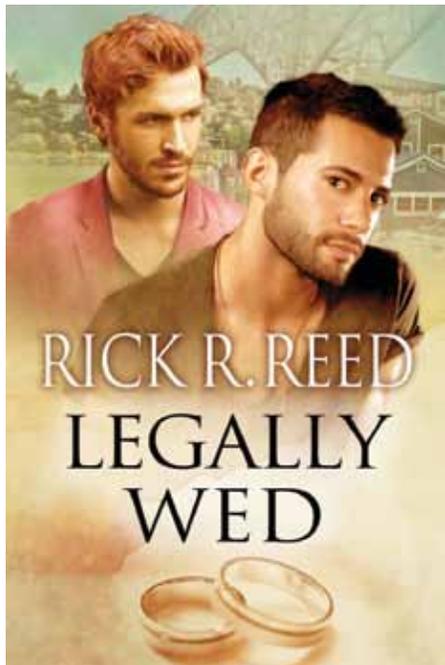
**Ringwald jazzes it up at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St., on March 19 at 8 p.m. Visit [www.citywinery.com](http://www.citywinery.com) for tickets and details.**

# Legally Wed

by Rick R. Reed  
 \$13.49; Dreamspinner Press;  
 216 pages  
 BY SALLY PARSONS

Everyone loves a wedding, right? The author doesn't disappoint, but it's not what you think.

Marriage has just been declared legal in Seattle and Duncan Taylor is in the mood. He proposes to the man he loves and gets turned down. That's where the delightful novel Legally Wed begins. Duncan decides married companionship with a straight woman—no sex involved—might be worth a try to end his loneliness and provide the home life he's been itching for. He places an ad in Craigslist for a gay-friendly woman who might consider such an arrangement. "First off, sister," his ad admonishes, "get the word sexual out of



Rick R. Reed.

your mind. ... This is about a marriage of the minds." And hearts, he adds. He wants kids, but only by mixing egg and sperm in a lab. Duncan goes on to cement his argument for such a union by explaining he loves the ladies. He cites his two sisters and the fact he is more relaxed around women.

Enter Marilyn Samples. She's a gay-man-loving straight woman who knows more gay bars inside-out than Duncan. They hit it off and soon hire wedding planner Peter Dalrymple to help them prepare for the nuptials. Complications ensue when Duncan falls for Peter—hard.

Even richer than one's like of the characters and the sweet tale Rick R. Reed spins are the provocative questions raised about the human need for meaningful connection and the lengths to which some of us will go—or at least think about—to achieve that end:

Can it be fulfilling and authentic to marry (especially if crossing the gay-straight divide)

for reasons other than romantic love? Should one eventually put aside notions of romantic love, after many failed trials, if it hasn't come along? Is there a special someone out there for each of us, or are some of us destined to cultivate our friendships and solitary interests to fill the gap? Can disappointment in love make us contemplate choices ill-suited to our nature?

If you have no need to ponder such questions for your own life, then enjoy Legally Wed for the entertaining story it is. But you may have friends or family for whom these questions resonate. All the more reason to read Reed's newest novel.

The author was once married to a woman and has a son. "My whole life has been guiding me toward accepting myself as a gay man. I hid from myself for most of my early adult life." Reed states he wants young gay people to realize that family and marriage can be a reality for them as well. He has published many novels, novellas and short stories that explore the romantic entanglements of gay men. He has won the eBook Award from The Electronic Industry Publishing Coalition three times, most recently in 2013 for Caregiver. Reed lives in Seattle with his husband and his Boston terrier.

## 'Glee' star to perform at Chicago Pride Fest

Alex Newell, an actor and singer best known for his role as Wade "Unique" Adams on Glee, is officially slated to take the stage as one of Chicago Pride Fest's headliners, according to ChicagoPride.com.

The annual festival is returning to Boystown for the 12th year June 21-22, the weekend before the city's annual Pride Parade that drew 1 million attendees last year. Newell is scheduled to perform Sunday, June 22.



Glee star Alex Newell. PR photo

## Orchid show in Glencoe through March 16

The Orchid Show will take place at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, through Sunday, March 16.

Among other things, there will be classes, hula dances (Feb. 15-16), a weekend marketplace and a rare-book exhibition.

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

## Billy Porter releasing 'Billy's Back on Broadway'

Perhaps best known for his Tony-winning role as Lola in the hit Broadway musical Kinky Boots, Billy Porter is releasing his debut on Concord Records, Billy's Back on Broadway, on April 15.

"The canon of great Broadway songs is so vast and I have so many favorites that the only way I could narrow them down was to choose a theme," Porter says of the songs on Billy's Back on Broadway, in which the title is a nod to Sammy Davis Jr.'s recording Sammy's Back on Broadway.

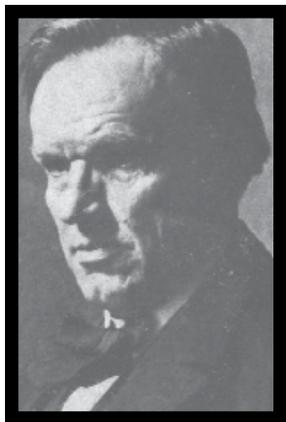
Cyndi Lauper, who penned the score for Kinky Boots, makes a special guest appearance on Billy's Back on Broadway, dueting with Porter on "Happy Days/Get Happy," a tune Barbra Streisand and Judy Garland made famous. Among the other songs are "Luck Be a Lady," "I Am Changing" and "I've Gotta Be Me."

The **Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee** invites you to participate in its annual wreath-tossing and symposium commemorating Darrow.

**Thurs., March 13, 2014**  
 10 a.m.-noon

## The Death of the American Trial

Speaker: Robert P. Burns  
*Plus special Darrow memorabilia display from actor Leslie Nielsen*



Clarence Darrow

The author of several books on the American trial, including "The Death of the American Trial" (2009), Robert Burns makes an impassioned case for reversing the rapid decline of the trial before we lose one of our public culture's greatest achievements. According to one reviewer, "Burns depicts the trial as an institution employing its own language and styles of performance that elevate the understanding of decision makers, bringing them in contact with moral sources beyond the limits of law." Darrow exemplified this. The outcomes of his cases were often attributed to his ability to connect with the hearts and minds of the jurors or judge, more than his reliance on the evidence.

Robert Burns is a Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law. The author of numerous articles and books, including on the importance of the trial, advocacy, evidence, and professional responsibility, Professor Burns has won numerous excellence in teaching awards.

A special unique aspect of this year's event will be several dozen Darrow-related items from the collection of the late actor Leslie Nielsen, courtesy of his widow Barbaree Earl. Nielsen was a fan but also played the attorney in theatrical productions. The collection includes videos, playbooks and other items treasured by the actor, known for his wide range of projects including Airplane!, The Naked Gun series and numerous TV roles.

Please join us at 10 a.m. just **EAST of the Clarence Darrow Bridge** in Jackson Park (the bridge is under construction) for the traditional tossing of flowers and brief speeches to commemorate Darrow; the Symposium begins at 10:45 a.m. in the Museum of Science and Industry: The NEW Columbian Room. Beverages and rolls will be served. (The Darrow Bridge is behind the Museum of Science and Industry: Driving south on Lake Shore Drive, pass the light at 57th Drive and turn right at the next light [Science Drive]. You will come almost immediately to Columbia Drive. If you turn left and follow Columbia Drive there is parking near the bridge. You may park near the OmniMax Theater and walk south to the bridge. Parking is by the bridge.)

**For further information about the speakers, see [www.darrowbridge.org](http://www.darrowbridge.org)**  
 For further info call Tracy Baim 773-387-2394

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**ANNE BALAY**  
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 Drawing from extensive, detailed oral histories taken of a previously silent and invisible population, this lecture investigates how gay, lesbian, and transgender steelworkers interact with their co-workers, communities and families in the context of their physically demanding, risky work.

**UPCOMING LECTURE: SAT., 5/3/14**  
**Timothy Stewart-Winter: From Civil Rights to Gay Rights in Chicago**

**\$25 PER LECTURE**

<https://community.centeronhalsted.org/lavenderuniversity>



# the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

## Fiorentino's Cucina Italiana

BY ANDREW DAVIS

"Would you like to sit on the patio?"

This is the question the hostess asked me when I entered **Fiorentino's Cucina Italiana** (2901 N. Ashland Ave.; <http://fiorentinoscucina.com>) on one of those wonderful "polar vortex" nights.

After I gave the hostess a look that said, "Lady, it's minus-200 degrees outside," she realized my reaction and responded, "Don't worry—it's a heated patio."

Still skeptical (but realizing I could always make a U-turn and stay in the main area of the restaurant), I followed her to the patio. It was, indeed, heated—and looked like a page from a



The orecchiette at Fiorentino's Cucina Italiana. Photo by Andrew Davis

travel brochure on Italy.

This was the first of many pleasant surprises about Fiorentino's, which has been around for seven years.

Fiorentino's is definitely Old World—down to the Sicilian-style cuisine and even the music. It all works wonderfully.

My guest and I started things with Sicilian arancini—rice balls stuffed with with ground meat, peas, mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce. These golden orbs were extremely tasty, and are highly recommended. The calamari fritti also was great, avoiding the rubbery texture some restaurants produce.

As for entrees, the pappardelle alla Bolognese was fantastic—which the wide pasta ribbons immersed in pork, veal and beef. The orrechietti was incredible as well; it's one of the best I've had in Chicago. However, for me, the lobster cappellacci was everything—and I

do mean everything. With the seafood-stuffed pasta immersed in a sumptuous sauce, this dish was absolutely sinful, in a good way.

Now, if by some miracle, you have room for dessert, Fiorentino's has plenty of delicious options available. You could try the white raspberry cheesecake with cookie crush, the cannoli dream, tiramisu, key lime pie or the triple chocolate mousse cake.

Meals like this are the reason I have to work out—but it's definitely worth it.

(By the way, there are several menus available, including a gluten-free version and one for "Sunday Suppa.")

This neighborhood eatery has a ton of options, including salads and even a dish called "Best Italian Meatballs Ever!" (I'll have to try those the next time I go there.) Definitely give this place a go—and don't be afraid to sit out on the patio.

## Celebrations MARRIAGE: Sholl/Burkhart

Longtime couple and LGBT community activists Starla Sholl and Deborah Burkhart were wed March 1, 2014, one week after same-sex marriages were started in Cook County, Ill.

Their first date was June 11, 1997, and their commitment ceremony was on the full moon of March 1, 1999, on their back porch in candlelight with friends and animals.

They held their civil union Aug. 31, 2012, at sunset/moonrise, "Tying the Knot Once in a Blue Moon," at White Pines Forest State Park in Mt. Morris, Ill.

And finally, with marriage legal in their home state, they held their marriage March 1, 2014, at sunrise/moonset, with officiant Susan Grossman, in 15-below windchill on Chicago's Lakefront at Foster Beach, with a reception at Lizard's Lounge.



Couple Starla Sholl (shorter hair) and Deborah Burkhart at their 2012 civil-union ceremony (left, photo by Mark Randazzo of R3MG) and at their recent marriage (right).



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**PRE-NUPTIAL COUNSELING FOR LGBT COUPLES.** To celebrate the Marriage Equality Act, Dr Kiya is offering special rates for any LGBT couple who would like pre-nuptial counseling. **Call for a FREE phone consultation: 773-880-5492. [www.drkiya.com](http://www.drkiya.com) (6/4/14-26)**

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### GAY BARS RESEARCH PROJECT

**I'M A GRADUATE STUDENT DOING RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF GAY BARS.** I'm trying to find copies of Bob Damron's Address Book for 1994 and earlier, and Damron Women's Traveler for 1993 and earlier. If you have any that you would be willing to donate, I'd greatly appreciate it. When the study is complete, all will be donated to the LGBT Special Collection, Northern Illinois University. Thanks for helping further my research on the Gay community and preserving a record of our history! **Please send copies to: Urban Geography Project P.O. Box 1332 Woodstock IL 60098 (3/26/14-4)**

### HELP WANTED

**DRIVERS AND DISPATCHERS WANTED ASAP** MV Transportation, Inc. is hiring for drivers and dispatchers ASAP. On the spot interviews will be conducted to fill 30 open positions. Starting wage for drivers is \$12.50/hr with daily take home pay. Starting wage for dispatchers is \$13.00/hr. We offer medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k plan, paid vacation and paid sick time. We are easily accessible from the PACE 290 bus and the CTA 85A bus. **Come in and apply today to start earning your next paycheck.** MV Transportation, Inc. 6230 W. Gross Point Road, Niles, IL 60714. [www.mvtransit.com](http://www.mvtransit.com) (3/12/14-2)

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**PET FRIENDLY SPACIOUS 2BR** Diversey/Central very clean and secure apartment with fenced dog run and double backyard. Central air conditioner. Laundry in building. Garage space available \$1025. **Call Louie at 773 889-9880. (3/12/14-2)**

### FOR RENT - THREE BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

**BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT** 3 Bedroom 3.5 Bath plus walk out basement studio. Located in Haverly/Bartlett near Metra Station for 1,850.00 p/mos. Available June 1. **For pictures and detail contact [elisabeth.deluca@gmail.com](mailto:elisabeth.deluca@gmail.com) (3/26/14-4)**

### LEGAL SERVICES

**REAL ESTATE ISSUES?** Buying - Selling - Leasing - Landlord/Tenant - Building/Remodeling. Contact The Law Office of David G. Frueh, 3843 North Broadway Street. (312) 492-4261. **[David@FruehLaw.com](mailto:David@FruehLaw.com). [www.FruehLaw.com](http://www.FruehLaw.com) (4/16/14-52)**

### RELOCATION / MOVING

**RELOCATION / MOVING?** FREE Relocation Kit + FREE Buyers Representation! On-line: [WWW.GAYREALSTATE.COM](http://WWW.GAYREALSTATE.COM) or Toll Free 1-888-420-MOVE (6683). **No Cost or Obligation to be Represented by the Nation's Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors. (8/6/14-26)**

# A MOMENTOUS OCCASION

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#### COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

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**5:30PM » COCKTAILS & RECEPTION 7:30PM » AWARDS, DINNER & DANCING**

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# CALENDAR

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## Wed., March 12

**Affinity Forty Plus Meeting** Includes but is not limited to individuals who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or transgender women who are at least 40 years of age. Led by Glynis Morris. Activities defined by participants. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:00pm Affinity Community Services 1424 E. 53rd St. Suite 306 <http://www.affinity95.org>

**GenderQueer Chicago** GenderQueer Chicago is a grassroots, peer-led group that works to create safe spaces for all of us to talk about, think about, explore, and express gender. They are open to those who wish to talk and think about gender. GenderQueer Chicago meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00PM. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Sean Strub: HIV Today: A Discussion, Reading/Signing** Veteran AIDS activist Sean Strub, the nationally recognized founder of POZ magazine, member of ACT UP/New York, theatre producer, pioneering LGBT community marketer and author of the new memoir, *Body Counts*, chronicling his 35 years on the frontlines of the LGBT and AIDS movements, just published by Scribner. Sean Strub will hold two readings and signings for *Body Counts* in Chicago. Admission is free. 2:00pm - 3:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Body Counts: An Evening with Sean Strub, Reading/Q&A** Veteran AIDS activist Sean Strub, the nationally recognized founder of POZ magazine, member of ACT UP/New York, theatre producer, pioneering LGBT community marketer and author of the new memoir, *Body Counts*, chronicling his 35 years on the frontlines of the LGBT and AIDS movements, just published his memoir *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival*. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) 5050 N Broadway, Suite #300, <http://www.tpan.com>

**Merrily We Go To Hell** 11th Annual Dyke Delicious presents one of the earliest films to question traditional hetero-normative marital structures. To escape an arranged marriage, heiress Joan Prentice (Sylvia Sidney) elopes with reporter Jerry Corbett (Fredric March). 6:30pm - 8:30pm Columbia College Chicago Ferguson Theatre, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago <http://chicagofilmakers.org/cf/genre/17>

## Pianist creates music for Langston Hughes poems

Local pianist/composer Stuart Mindeman is releasing *In Your Waking Eyes*, a CD that features musical settings of 11 Langston Hughes poems.

Jazz, soul music, West African and Caribbean musical styles as well as the stories of the poems themselves serve as inspirations for the album.

On the CD, Mindeman plays Wurlitzer electric piano, organ, clavinet and piano. Featured musicians are Sarah Marie Young, vocals; Quentin Coaxum, trumpet; Kyle Asche, guitar; Chris Siebold, guitar and steel guitar; Bryan Doherty, bass; Makaya McCraven, drums; and Juan Daniel Pastor, percussion.

There will be CD-release parties Wed., March 19, at ETA Creative Arts, 7558 S. South Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. (\$10; [www.CharlesHeatherPresents.com](http://www.CharlesHeatherPresents.com)); and Thursday, April 10, at Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave. (\$8; [www.Constellation-Chicago.com](http://www.Constellation-Chicago.com)).

## Thursday, March 13

**2014 Impact Awards** Chicago Foundation for Women will honor five Chicago-area women and men for their dedication to increasing resources and opportunities for women and girls in the Chicago area. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Venue Six10 at Spertus Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave. <http://www.CFW.org>

**Women Building Chicago: An Illustrated History of Women's Activism and Leadership** Mary Ann Johnson, president of the Chicago Area Women's History Council (CAWHC) on decades of Chicago history and remarkable women who made the city great. Women's History Month 6:00pm Harold Washington Public Library 400 S St., <http://www.chipublib.org/events/details/id/122919/>

**Parents of transgender individuals** For decades, PFLAG has been proud to be a resource for transgender and gender non-conforming people, their families, and friends. For more info: [parentsoftransgender.org](http://parentsoftransgender.org) 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://community.pflag.org/transgender>

## Friday, March 14

**Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association: OPALGA Potluck** Bring a dish to share and BYOB. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Private Residence <http://www.opalga.org>

**Designer Boris Powell's "Freedom" Show** Powell will unveil his new accessories collection. \$40 per person for general admission (standing room only), \$100 VIP 8:30pm Block 37, 108 N. State St., <http://www.borispowell.com> Tickets: <http://www.ticketpeak.com/freedomBJP>

## Saturday, March 15

**Frontrunners/ Frontwalkers Chicago Fun Run/Walk** A club for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transsexuals and friends who are interested in running and walking together along Chicago's great open lakefront, meeting twice weekly, on Saturdays at 9am and Tuesdays at 6:30pm 9:00am Totem Pole in Lincoln Park <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52950773133/>

**Chicago Flower & Garden Show: Do Green. Do Good.** Educational seminars, hands-on floral and produce workshops, how-to instructional classes, wonderful cooking demonstrations with leading chefs, marketplace where. Through March 23. Presented by Mariano's. 10:00am - 10:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave <http://www.chicagoflower.com>

## Dustin Lance Black at Elmhurst on May 8

Openly gay and Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*) will be at Elmhurst College's Frick Center Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m.

In addition to *Milk*, Black's credits also include the movie *J. Edgar* and the play *8*, which portrays the closing arguments in the federal trial that led to the overturning of California's Proposition 8 and the establishment of marriage equality in the nation's largest state..

Visit [http://public.elmhurst.edu/cultural\\_events](http://public.elmhurst.edu/cultural_events).

## Chicago Flower & Garden Show on March 15-23

The annual Chicago Flower & Garden Show, presented by Mariano's, will take place March 15-23 at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

With its 2014 theme "Do Green. Do Good," the show spotlights cutting-edge garden designs, products, practices and techniques. Visitors will be able to learn flower arranging

**Women of the Western Suburbs Dance** [wowssevents@yahoo.com](mailto:wowssevents@yahoo.com) 5:30pm Concorde Banquets, 20922 N. Rand Rd., Kildeer, Ill., <http://www.wowschicago.com>

**Congregation Or Chadash Annual Purim Celebration** Arrive by 5:30 for contest set up. Dinner and our annual cooking contest 6pm. For information on the contest, contact Laurie Grauer at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org). 5:30pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd., <http://www.orchadash.org>

## Sunday, March 16

**Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago** Meeting every Sunday from 10:30 to noon, featuring a speaker on a variety of topics - personal ethics, education, psychology, politics, philosophy, medical care, equal rights, the environment, etc., followed by a coffee hour. Free and open to the public. Also Sunday School, weddings, service projects, book group, film group. 10:30am - 12:00pm Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. Skokie, IL 60077 <http://www.ethicalhuman.org>

**Scott Duff hosts LGBT radio talk show** LGBT-specific talk show "Out Chicago" on politics, entertainment, celebrity gossip 11:00am - 1:00pm WCPT 820 AM

**Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Summer Intensive Auditions** Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Summer Intensive auditions in Chicago. Sunday March 16th at 2PM for youth and 4PM for Pre-Professionals. Please register online at [deeplyrootedproductions.org](http://deeplyrootedproductions.org) 2:00pm - 6:00pm, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater 17 N. State St. 19th Flr, <http://www.deeplyrootedproductions.org>

**This Is Not a Cure for Cancer** As part of the "incite change" mission, Collaboration has Community Partners who are supporting the company's upcoming world premiere live theater event attacking cancer, its treatment and the way we live. Representatives from Gilda's Club Chicago will be on hand every Sunday 3:00pm Collaboration - Flat Iron Arts Building 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. 3rd Floor 312-226-9633 <http://collaboration.org>

## Monday, March 17

**Rev. Jesse Jackson to speak at UIC** free and open to the public. For more information or to request disability accommodations, call 312-413-3350 12:30pm - 2:00pm UIC Student Center East Illinois Room 750 S. Halsted St., <http://www.uic.edu>

## Tuesday, March 18

**Primary elections** United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Representatives in Congress, State Senators, Representatives in the General Assembly, Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation, District



## 'BODY' LANGUAGE

### Wed., March 12

**AIDS activist Sean Strub will be at Center on Halsted and Test Positive Aware Network to promote his memoir, *Body Counts*.**

Photo by Greg Gorman

of Greater Chicago (3 to be nominated), President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, County Clerk of Cook County, Treasurer of the Cook County, Sheriff of Cook County, Assessor of Cook County, County Commissioners of Cook County (17 from single member districts), Commissioner of the Board of Review of Cook County (District 3), Supreme, Appellate, Circuit and Subcircuit Judges (to fill vacancies if required). Windy City Times primary election guide printable charts at [http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/WCT\\_2014\\_primarychartsforweb.pdf](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/WCT_2014_primarychartsforweb.pdf). 6:00am - 7:00pm Various polling locations [http://www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/document\\_532.pdf](http://www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/document_532.pdf)

### C.R.U.'s BFF Movie Night! BFF Movie Night!

Treat your best friend to a movie and popcorn! FB Event: <http://on.fb.me/1cve9w1> C.R.U.'s FB Page: <http://www.facebook.com/thevcru> 6:30pm - 9:00pm Project VIDA 4045 W 26th Street <http://www.facebook.com/events/258144367680361>

**Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano** Captured live from Elton's residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, the epic concert experience features all of Elton's greatest hits. List of locations online. 7:00pm Various Illinois movie theaters <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/million-dollar-piano/more-info/theater-locations>

**Lorde** New Zealand singer Lorde, 17 year old who has risen to fame thanks to her single "Royals" 8:00pm Aragon Ballroom 1106 W Lawrence Ave <http://Lorde.co.nz> Tickets: <http://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/tickets/aragon-ballroom/t2240676/lorde-tickets.aspx>

## Wed., March 19

**Cinema Q IV Film Series: Summer Storm (2004)** Free film series celebrates fourth year with 10th anniversary screenings of four LGBT movies. *Summer Storm* (2004): Teams from all across Germany converge on a quiet camping ground for an annual rowing competition - including the defiantly gay team from Berlin whose arrival threatens to shake up the world of the closeted Tobi. 6:30pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/cinema\\_q.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/cinema_q.html)

**Smash Out Cancer Drag Show** RU Proud and Alpha Phi Omega. Hosted by Victoria Vandekamp, a Roosevelt student. Doors open at 6pm. 7:00pm Congress Lounge, Roosevelt University, Chicago [https://www.facebook.com/events/639705402749295/?ref=3&ref\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular](https://www.facebook.com/events/639705402749295/?ref=3&ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular)

**Music for Langston Hughes Poems** Chicago Pianist/Composer Stuart Mindeman creates music inspired by jazz, soul music, West African and Caribbean musical styles and the stories of the poems themselves. \$10. 7:00pm eta Creative Arts Foundation 7558 S. South Chicago, <http://www.charlesheatherpresents.com>

**Achy Obejas, Megan Bayless, editors Immigrant Voices** Anthology of short fiction by immigrants 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## Thursday, March 20

**LGBTQ Happy Hour with Jewish United Fund's Young Leadership Division** Cocktails and learn more about the Jewish United Fund's Young Leadership Division. \$12 advance / \$15 door. Includes one drink ticket. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St <http://www.juf.org/yld/lgbtq.aspx>

**Lesbians Who Tech (and friends) March, Chicago Happy Hour** Lesbians Who Tech is global community of over 3,000 queer women in and around tech. Whether you work at a tech company, have a technical job or are just obsessed with every new app that comes out. Get geeky with techy folks just like you. Enjoy tasty adult beverages, Land gigs, make new friends and connections 6:00pm - 8:30pm Downtown Bar and Lounge 440 N State <https://www.facebook.com/events/655163644540302/>

### Congregation Or Chadash Explores "Judaism with a Queer Perspective"

Free seven-session course, "Hidur Keshet: Strengthening the Rainbow-Judaism with a Queer Perspective," on Thursdays through May 8 (excluding the week of Passover). 7:00pm - 9:00pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd., <http://www.orchadash.org>



Jimmy Carter.

and pruning techniques; and see spreads such as the "New Varieties Garden," presented by Landscape Concepts Management, and a sea of white, yellow, orange, red and deep-purple tulips.

Mariano's also will present the Garden Gourmet cooking stage and an expanded floral market leading into the show's Marketplace, which offers for sale fresh-cut flowers and arrangements, plants and gardening-related products.

For tickets and more info, see [www.Chicago-Flower.com](http://www.Chicago-Flower.com).

## Jimmy Carter coming to Andersonville on March 27

Former President Jimmy Carter is coming to Chicago to promote his new book, *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power*, on Thursday, March 27, 6-8 p.m.

Women & Children First Bookstore is hosting the event at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St. The event will be a signing only.

Tickets are required. A purchase of *A Call to Action* from Women & Children First comes

with a free ticket to the book signing. The book publishes on March 25; the price including tax is \$30.60. Call 773-769-9299 or go to [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com) for more information or to pre-order a book and secure your ticket.

Carter's *A Call to Action* is being published in late March and is a book about women's rights. In the president's travels around the world, he has noted many abuses against women and girls, as well as the religious beliefs that are sometimes used to justify those abuses. The president is the author of numerous other books, most recently the controversial *Peace Not Apartheid*.

# BILLY MASTERS

"I don't know which one was Liam and which one was Chris, but I just know that they're both hot as fucking hell."—Meryl Streep shares her opinion on the Hemsworth brothers, a feeling I suspect we all echo.

I really hoped that staying up until the crack of dawn and including oodles of Oscar dish in the column that came out hours after the awards ended would satiate the need of my readers. But, alas, I was mistaken—at least if I am to believe the deluge of emails that flooded Billy Masters International. So let's address the



**Rosie O'Donnell said she tried to come out publicly back in 1992, but that a certain magazine stopped that from happening.**

most popular questions right off the bat.

1) Why are Barbara Walters and Whoopi Goldberg upset about The View not being included in the Oscars? Since the telecast was on ABC, the network engaged talent from its many daytime shows during the pre-show. As Whoopi said, "It was a shame to walk down the red carpet and see every other ABC daytime show represented—except for Rachael Ray—and we weren't there. We are the only show—and I hate to ring my own bell, but what the hell—The View is the only show that has an Oscar winner on the panel, and I thought it was a crying shame that we weren't there." Barbara was lucid enough to add, "We don't get promos. We are sort of the stepchildren of ABC." She's getting ballsy now that she's preparing to leave ... the show, I mean (although I'm sure her time on Earth is drawing to an end as well).

2) What is this controversy about who owns the "selfie" Ellen took? It was her phone, so it's hers, right? Wrong. First off, it wasn't her phone. Ellen has an iPhone. This was a Samsung—a major sponsor of the show (to the tune of \$18 million). Ellen planned to take a selfie with Meryl Streep and then mostly cut Meryl out of it. What she didn't anticipate was that all those other celebs would want to play, too. The minute Ellen handed the phone to Bradley Cooper to take the photo with his enormous hands, the photo legally became his.

3) What did Bette Midler say at the end of her song? She said, "I feel like I just won the Olympics!" Perhaps cut out because the Oscars were on ABC and the Olympics were on NBC.

4) Why didn't they do anything with Judy Garland's kids? Just having them stand up

was kinda anticlimactic. Well, first off, if you are lumping them together as a group, you'd have to find something they could all do together. Could they sing? One and a half can, one can't. Talk? One and a half can, not so sure about the other. Could they even walk? Two can, one can't. This sad fact was made obvious when TMZ caught up with Liza the day after the awards. While strolling down the street, she needed TWO men (one on each side) to help her step up onto a curb—and even then she needed to get a running start and a bit of a push. And here's a question that has nothing to do with anything—does Liza even know any straight men? Anyway, in the grand scheme of things, just standing up was really the right call for the Garland-Minnelli-Luft-Gumm brood. In fact, I was sure it was more than Liza could handle—that is, until she charged Lupita Nyong'o like a linebacker.

5) How were the ratings? Best ratings in 10 years! So regardless of everyone's nitpicking, that's a win for Ellen.

In an intriguing story, Rosie O'Donnell just revealed that she attempted to come out of the closet a decade earlier than her first (perceived) public statement. Back in 1992 (four years before launching The Rosie O'Donnell Show), she was interviewed for Cosmopolitan. The writer asked "Are you gay?" and Rosie replied, "Yes." Why didn't we ever read that? As Rosie explains, "I remember Helen Gurley Brown took it out of an interview that had been done with me. ... She was protecting me because at that time it would've been a huge issue, right?"

Speaking of coming-out stories, Lance Bass admits that when he came out to best friend Joey Fatone, it was accidentally. "Joey walked in on me with the guy I was dating just kind of sitting on my lap. Straight guys don't do that," Bass said. Tell that to oodles of kids who have voluntarily climbed up on Santa Claus' lap! When Lance later told Fatone the truth, Joey's response was, "Dude, I don't care. I have so many gay friends—I don't care."

Shortly after returning home from providing colorful commentary for the Olympics in Sochi, Johnny Weir found himself in a New Jersey courtroom regarding a case of domestic biting. Yes, biting. A month before the Olympics, Weir's hubby Victor Voronov filed a police report accusing the skater of biting him in a malicious manner—as opposed to a playful manner, I reckon. During their courtroom proceedings, the couple appeared as a united front, asking the judge to dismiss the case. The judge acquiesced, but not before looking at Weir and saying, "Nice hairdo." You wouldn't find that on Judge Judy.

Could it be that a certain virginal young man was anything but prior to his highly publicized wedding? So say two people who swear they can prove it. Turns out he enjoyed being chased far more than being chaste just months before being catapulted into our collective consciousness. When these former paramours came to light, they threatened to topple what was a tenuous grasp on fame to begin with. Far more damaging than his dalliances is the fact that one of these whistle-blowers is another guy!

When fame is fleeting in more ways than one, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And with that, I hope we have heard the last of the Oscars—at least until next year. Of course, you won't have to wait another year for more gossip. You can get the latest dirt each and every day at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that never stands on ceremony. If you've got a question for me, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Weir is accused of domestic scratching! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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## 'Hannah Free' showing March 21

The Rainbow Alliance of the Unitarian Church of Evanston (UCE), 1330 Ridge Ave., will present Hannah Free on Friday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a dessert and coffee salon. Following the film will be a panel discussion. Admission is a \$10 donation.

Members of the panel are editor/producer Sharon Zurek, actors Taylor Miller and Maureen Gallagher, and producer Tracy Baim.

UCE is a "welcoming congregation" within the Unitarian Universalist Association. As a welcoming congregation, UCE pledges to address the needs of LGBT people at every level of congregational life, and celebrate the lives and loves of all people in the spirit of the first principle of Unitarian Universalism. The Rainbow Alliance carries out the goals of UCE's welcoming congregation.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 25; visit [ucevanston.org](http://ucevanston.org) or call 847-864-1330.

## Lorde at Aragon March 18

New Zealand singer Lorde—who has risen to fame thanks to her single "Royals"—will perform at the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., on March 18.

"Royals" [Lava/Republic Records] remained at number one for nine weeks, topping the charts in an additional 45 countries and selling 7.5 million copies across the globe. Lorde—also known as Ella Maria Lani Yelich-O'Connor—is officially the youngest artist to

top the chart since 1987. (She's 17.) Her follow-up single is "Team."  
See [Lorde.co.nz](http://Lorde.co.nz).

## Elton John movie in Chicagoland March 18, 26

Fathom Events, CinemaLive and Rocket Music Entertainment Group are bringing Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano to nearly 700 select movie theaters on Tuesday, March 18, and Wed., March 26, at 7 p.m.

The movie will show in more than two dozen theaters in Chicagoland and Indiana, including ShowPlace ICON at Roosevelt, 150 W. Roosevelt Rd.; River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St.; South Barrington 30 with IMAX, 175 Studio Dr., Barrington; and Cinemark Melrose Park, 1001 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.

The full list of participating theaters (subject to change) is at <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/million-dollar-piano/more-info/theater-locations>.

## Scott McPherson play March 14-16

Theater D is presenting its 2014 production of the late playwright Scott McPherson's first work, Till The Fat Lady Sings.

The run will take place March 14-16 at the Patty Turner Center, 375 Elm St., Deerfield. McPherson is best known as the author of the award-winning play Marvin's Room.

Theater D's signature trademark is the desert buffet at intermission; it is included in the \$20 ticket price. Visit [www.theaterd.com](http://www.theaterd.com).

# Joe Kaiser: 'Just being who I am' on derby track, in life

BY ROSS FORMAN

Joe Kaiser went to a Windy City Rollers (WCR) bout in September 2011—and was immediately hooked. Kaiser's wife, Diona Pardon Kaiser, had WCR tickets, and Kaiser was quickly overcome with emotions watching the roller derby action.

"That's what I wanted to do and became upset that I was the wrong gender for that [sport]. I just knew [roller derby] was something I really wanted to do," said Kaiser who, in December of that year, joined a local men's roller derby team: the Chicago Bruise Brothers, which skates out of the suburban Lombard Roller Rink, and had only been organized for a few months before Kaiser joined.

Kaiser's comfort level on the team helped him off the track, too, as he slowly started coming-out to fellow skaters.

Kaiser identifies as trans-feminine and prefers "(s)he" as an identifying pronoun.

"It was not really a big, dramatic coming-out [to the team], which actually was very casual," with the revelation, Kaiser said.

Kaiser, 27, now lives in Norwood Park. (S)he graduated from Northside College Prep, 5501 N. Kedzie Ave., in 2005 and then IIT in 2009. Kaiser is now a developer for ParkWhiz—and one of only two open, out transgender roller-derby skaters in Chicago. (Joe Simonis, who skates for the Windy City Rollers as Ms. Dr. Joseph L. Simonis, is the other.)

"It's great to have another open TGI derby player in Chicago," Simonis said. "Chicago has



Joe Kaiser. Photo by Ross Forman

a very active TGI community in general, and in particular an athletic one, but Joe is the only other out and active skater that I know of here, despite three [local] leagues: [the] Bruise Brothers, Windy City Rollers, and the Red Hots, and all being incredibly TGI-friendly.

"Joe and I have similar, but very different experiences as TGI athletes, and it's been great to work together from our different perspec-

tives. This has been especially true with recent work we've been doing on TGI athlete policies, where it really helps to have people from different experiences talking about what sports mean to them and how they see themselves fitting into athletics. I would really like to see the TGI community work together to make policies that are as inclusive as possible."

Kaiser is a founding member of the Trans, Gender Non-Conforming, and Intersex (TGI) Athlete Network, along with Simonis.

Kaiser admitted gender issues dating back to when (s)he was 12. "I was aware of it [then], but didn't really admit it to myself or others," Kaiser said. Kaiser started cross-dressing while in college, but, at 6-foot-7, was convinced that transitioning was out of the question.

Last May, Joe and Diona transitioned into a polyamorous relationship, and (s)he admits it then was "very uncomfortable presenting as male online." After all, Kaiser was doing more and more cross-dressing. "Presenting online as a female was nice," (s)he said.

Kaiser's fashion is ever-changing, often influenced by Mother Nature. When it's warm, Kaiser might wear a dress. Other times, it's jeans and a T-shirt.

"It's really nebulous and hard to hammer down who I am," Kaiser said. "My wife has known all along, for about nine years. She's understanding to the point now of almost indifference. It doesn't matter [to her] how I go out, what I wear."

Kaiser was the captain of the Bruise Brothers last year and is now the league president.

The league's by-laws intentionally left everything very gender-neutral, (s)he said.

"The league is very gay-friendly," said Kaiser, who knows that the Bruise Brothers have several gay participants.

"There never has been any issue; it's been a very open, very friendly league," Kaiser said. "[My coming-out] has been better than I expected."

Kaiser, who weighs about 240, sports a size-

16 gym shoe and size-14 derby skate. "Getting involved in roller derby really helped crystalize my identity, and it's been freeing to be who I want to be; I can present how I want to," (s) he said.

Simonis added, "Joe has been involved with the TGI Athlete Network since its inception, and recently was instrumental in getting our website up and running, which allows us to reach a wider audience and more easily share our stories and experiences."

## Payton anti-bullying event in Des Plaines on March 12

Jarrett Payton, son of Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton, and Camille Paddock, a 15-year-old who was bullied almost to the point of ending her life, will appear together at "Bullied No More" at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Rd., Des Plaines, on Wed., March 12, 7-9 p.m.

MaineStay Youth & Family Services, a division of Maine Township, is sponsoring the free event.

Advance registration is suggested; visit [www.mainetownship.com/bullying](http://www.mainetownship.com/bullying) or call 847-297-2510, x271.



Jarrett Payton.

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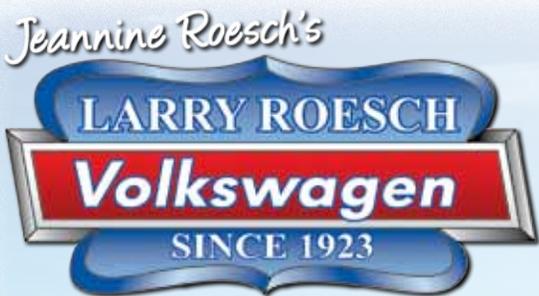


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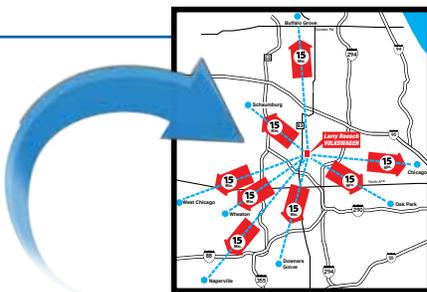
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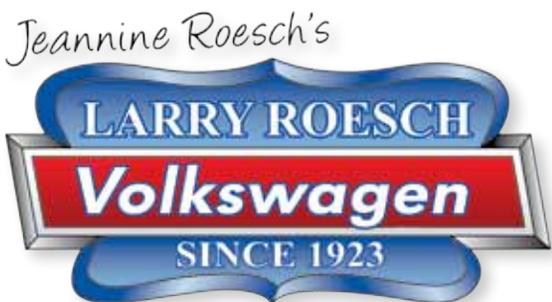


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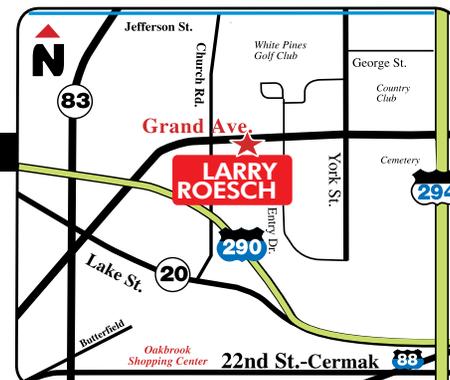
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