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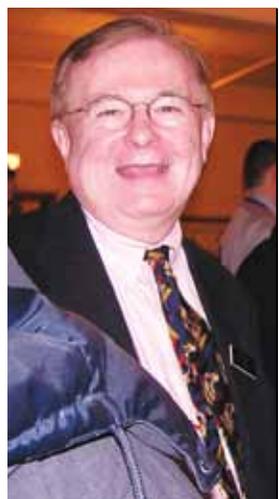
PAGE 28

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

JUNE 11, 2014
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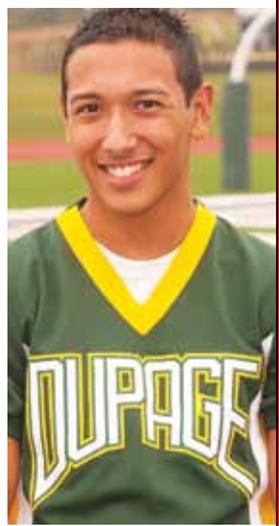
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AGLO'S JERRY MCENANY DIES
PAGE 4



HBHC'S MUNAR SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MEETING
PAGE 14



OUT CHICAGOAN ROBERT FRAGA STILL HOLDS COLLEGE SPORTS RECORDS
PAGE 30

Joel Hall studio has money woes

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

In 1974, U.S. Reps. Bella Abzug and Ed Koch worked with the then-National Gay Task Force to introduce a Federal Equality Act with the purpose of banning employment and housing discrimination against gays and lesbians. The bill never made it out of the House of Representatives.

That same year, Joel Hall opened a studio under the name of the Chicago City Theatre Company/Joel Hall Dancers in the Pakula Building on South Wabash Av-

enue. His mission then—as it is today—was to offer anyone who wanted to try, instruction in the art of dance regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, ability, racial or economic background or body type.

As far as Hall is concerned, discrimination of any kind simply does not exist on his dance floors. “Everyone who comes in here does so on an even keel,” he told Windy City Times in a recent interview. “Everybody starts out as an artist and that’s where we come in with our faculty and mentoring to take them to the

place they want to be.”

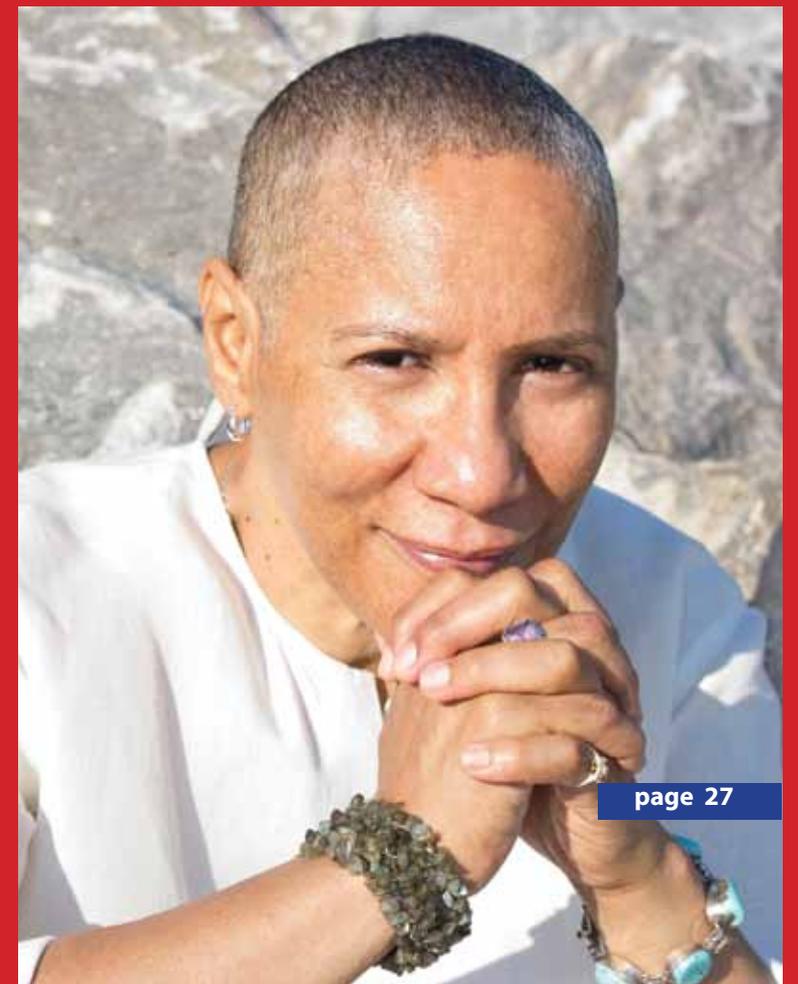
That place encompasses the desires and dreams of those who want to express themselves through movement via jazz, ballet, street or any number of dance forms all to be nurtured rather than squelched in an environment completely insulated from the inequity of the world around it. For those who can’t afford class fees, Hall offers scholarships—sometimes from his own pocket. His staff works tirelessly, often only

Turn to page 9

RAISING THEIR VOICES



page 31



page 27

Chanteuse Karen Mason (left) chats with Windy City Times about her upcoming show that honors singers such as Doris Day, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler and others. Genderqueer playwright Sharon Bridgforth (right) plans to bring the blues-focused work “River See” to Links Hall. Mason press photo; Bridgforth photo by Vanessa Vargas

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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS		ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
AGLO figure dies	4	Dancin' Feats	19
Religious ruling; Sun-Times piece	6	Knight: The Case Against 8	26
Garcia's new job; Rogers obit	8	Playwright Sharon Bridgforth	27
Equality Illinois Tribute reception	8	Anderson-Minshals discuss book	28
Dance company's money troubles	9	Out Chicagoan's college sports record	30
Books on marriage, Gray, cinema	13		
HBHC news; civil-union conversions	14	Singer Karen Mason	31
Crime stats; Edgewater	16	Dish: Packing House	34
Gay in the Life: Zimmerman	17	Billy Masters	37
VIEWES: Cruz; letters	18		
		OUTLINES	
		Classifieds	34
		Calendar	36

Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Diane and Jacob Anderson-Minshall courtesy of the couple; photo of Jerry McEnany by Tracy Baim; photo of David Munar by Chuck Colbert; photo of Robert Fraga from Fraga

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'OFFICE' POLITICS
LGBTQ business professionals mingled at "Out of the Office."
Photo of Jim Schiefelbein by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer



Alan Martinez has written a powerful op-ed about the death of his nephew, killed in a mass shooting.
Photo from Alan Martinez



Cher (with opener Cyndi Lauper) dazzled Chicagoans.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

CHASING AMY
Before coming to Chicago, queer musician Amy Andrews talks about activism and Bette Midler.

FIVE ALIVE
Michael Urie's show and a new series starring Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi are among Five Worth Finding.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Find out the latest about Wanda Sykes, Jennifer Lopez and Melissa Etheridge.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**



Several musical acts with LGBT ties performed recently in Chicago.
Photo of Vampire Weekend's Ezra Koenig by Vern Hester

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Late AGLO leader remembered for faith dedication and service

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Gay Catholics in Chicago are mourning the death of—and remembering—a gay man who played a pivotal role in trying to bridge a gap between hierarchical harshness and doctrinal hostility to LGBTs among the faithful and a Church instinct for pastoral respect, compassion, and sensitivity in ministry with them.

News of Jerry McEnany's passing on Good Friday, April 18, came in a Facebook posting, which announced a memorial Mass for him, held at 10:00 am Thursday, May 15, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, with the Rev. Patrick J. Lee presiding.

"Jerry believed that LGBT Roman Catholics had a rightful place in the Church, and he worked to ensure that AGLO could welcome everyone who gathered for Mass every Sunday evening," read the Facebook posting.

The acronym AGLO stands for Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach, a decades-long ministry with local LGBTs. It is a formally "recognized ministry" of the Chicago archdiocese.

According to AGLO's mission statement, the group seeks, "as people of God," to "create a sense of community for those who wish to reconcile their sexual orientation with their faith; provide an accepting and affirming atmosphere in which to worship in the Catholic tradition; provide opportunities for integration of personal experience through spiritual growth; share our distinctive gifts with each other and the Church at large, and witness our Catholic faith to the gay and lesbian community."

McEnany was one of a small group of original members who worked with the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin to establish the AGLO ministry in 1988.

AGLO is believed to be one of its kind on the American Catholic landscape—an official ministry for gays that while toeing the Vatican line on mandatory, lifelong celibacy for LGBTs, celebrates a weekly liturgy and delivers social support and spiritual services, including prayer groups, retreats, service projects, and days of reflection, much like those provided within a parish community.

McEnany served on AGLO's executive board for 23 years in a variety of roles, including co-director, secretary and treasurer; he also mentored and groomed others for organizational leadership.

In remembering McEnany, several local gay Catholics spoke fondly of him, recalling his faith and dedication.

"Jerry was a remarkable man, reserved and mild mannered; and he exemplified the idea of silent service," said Joe Vitek, AGLO's director of community outreach, also an organizational spokesperson, who attended the memorial liturgy. "He always stepped forward to do the things no one else wanted to do, but which needed to be done."

Vitek continued, "During Father Pat Lee's homily, he told the story of the first time he met Jerry in 1986. Jerry had asked Father Pat to visit and anoint a friend who was dying from AIDS, even though at the time no one knew the name of this disease. He learned that Jerry was the only person caring for the young man. Father Pat went on to say that each and every time he made a visit to someone in the community to bring them the sacraments of the Church, Jerry was there to greet him. Jerry was caring for each one in some way or another. No one else wanted to do this, but it needed to be done."

"Jerry was constant presence in the leadership of the organization," Vitek explained. "His advice has inspired AGLO to maintain a strong

level of charitable works and donations within the LGBT community and working to maintain awareness within the Catholic Church."

Two years ago, McEnany left formal leadership of the organization due to illness, said Vitek. But AGLO community members responded by forming a Ministers of Care program. To date, 12 volunteers have been formally trained to provide for spiritual needs of people who are hospitalized, homebound or in care homes, he said.

McEnany's family, Vitek said, is from Wisconsin. A Web search found no obituary or other biographical information.

Attempts to reach Father Lee were unsuccessful. Lee was one of several North Side pastors who helped with the formation and guidance of AGLO when it was founded in 1988. Lee has been AGLO's moderator since. Last July, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, which is AGLO's host parish.

Early on, formation of AGLO was not without controversy. For years, the only visible gay Catholic presence in town was Dignity/Chicago.

In 1986, the Vatican issued a document, "On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons," that not only condemned homosexual acts as "evil," but also warned against pressure groups, seeking to change church doctrine.

In the wake of the Vatican's document, U.S. bishops began expelling Dignity chapters from church properties nationwide insofar as Dignity is an LGBT-positive Catholic advocacy organization.

A 1992 version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to "homosexual acts" as "acts of grave depravity." In 2003, a Vatican document said gay parents do "violence" to their children.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Bernardin took a slightly different approach, establishing a ministry with gay and lesbian Catholics, based at St. Sebastian. The initiative included regularly scheduled liturgies and outreach at other parishes, namely Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Clement, St. Teresa of Avila, Immaculate Conception, and Holy Name Cathedral.

However, in establishing an archdiocesan-sponsored ministry with LGBTs, Bernardin told Dignity that it would no longer be permitted to use St. Sebastian for its weekly Mass.

A series of meetings were held between officials of the Chicago archdiocese and Dignity, which ultimately resulted in a rift—or "split"—among Dignity's membership.

Gay-rights activist and lay Catholic Rick Garcia recalled the time and McEnany's leadership.

"Jerry played a significant role in the founding of AGLO... believ[ing] that the Church has a responsibility to provide authentic and official outreach and ministry to sexual minorities and their families," Garcia said. "At the time of AGLO's founding, Cardinal Bernardin, along with as other Catholic bishops, was under great pressure from Rome to get rid of Dignity chapters on church property. Jerry and the board of directors of Dignity were meeting with the archdiocese to find a way to have it both ways—Mass on Church property for gay people and the archdiocese wanting to alleviate pressure from Rome and right-wing Catholics."

"Jerry and the board thought at the time that having the archdiocese sponsor the Mass, which Dignity members would be invited to, would satisfy everyone.

"The exact opposite happened. Long-time members of Dignity had a fit and were concerned what influence the archdiocese would have on these 'gay Masses.' They questioned, 'Would this ministry be anti-gay? Would it be modeled on Courage, an anti-gay Catholic out-



Jerry McEnany with Cardinal George in 2004. Photo by Tracy Baim

reach? The reaction was not anything Jerry and the others anticipated."

In all, Garcia explained, "Jerry was at the helm at this time and he was getting hell from all sides. He navigated his way through the huge controversy and worked hard to make sure that AGLO would be authentic and not a vehicle for the anti-gay sentiments of some in the archdiocese. He largely succeeded in doing that."

The rub between the local Dignity chapter and the Chicago archdiocese resulted largely from a 1987 change that Dignity/USA made in its Statement of Position and Purpose. New language at the organization's national convention affirmed that LGBT "sexual relationships were loving, life-giving, and life-affirming."

In May 1989, when the archdiocese formally established AGLO, The Chicago Tribune reported on a "memo of understanding," which officially expanded the local church's pastoral ministry in Cook and Lake counties.

At that time, The Tribune quoted McEnany, a former Dignity/Chicago leader, who said, the local Church's formal recognition of AGLO "exceeds the expectations we had as we began working with the archdiocese a year and a half ago" insofar as the memo offers the "same consideration" to AGLO as other archdiocesan organizations.

A year earlier, Dignity voted overwhelmingly to relocate its liturgy to a Lutheran church after the archdiocese said it would take charge of a weekly Dignity Mass, which the organization had sponsored for a decade and half at St. Sebastian.

The Chicago archdiocese subsequently closed the financially struggling St. Sebastian in June of 1990.

Coincidentally, just three days after McEnany's memorial liturgy, Dignity/Chicago celebrated its 42nd anniversary. Past president Martin Grochala offered his thoughts on McEnany, who also served in a leadership role at Dignity.

"I did not know Mr. McEnany, but do know that the creation of AGLO was a time of great conflict for all involved," said Grochala.

"Over the years, that animosity has faded and each organization has forged its own path of service in the Catholic LGBT community," he added. "For the years since AGLO was created and Dignity declined Cardinal Bernardin's proposal for a diocesan ministry, we have been faithful to the belief that our sexuality is loving, life-giving and life affirming."

For his part, Joe Murray, executive director of the pro-LGBT Catholic advocacy group Rain-

bow Sash Movement, said of McEnany, "He was a proud Catholic gay man," who "did not buy into the hypocritical idea that celibacy was the answer to the gay problem in the Church."

Murray also recalled the origins of AGLO and subsequent rift in the local Dignity chapter. "First and foremost the late Cardinal Bernardin was the organizer of the AGLO outreach," said Murray. "He kicked Dignity out of the Church, which caused a split in Dignity."

"As I recall Jerry was not happy about the division, nor was he happy about Dignity being kicked of St. Sebastian," explained Murray. "While I agree Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Clement, St. Teresa of Avila, and Immaculate Conception were welcoming parishes, none of them had a Mass for the LGBT community, and to claim that Holy Name Cathedral was a welcoming parish is both misleading and untrue."

For all of McEnany's service and dedication to the local Church in Chicago—and to AGLO and to Dignity—he was also a political force for civil rights for gays.

"During the effort to pass the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and in the years that followed, Jerry played a significant behind-the-scenes role in trying to undermine and minimize archdiocesan opposition to any kind of gay civil-rights legislation," said activist Garcia. "[McEnany] had a strong working relationship with the pastors of five North Side parishes and often times out of the public eye these priests took forceful stands against the cardinal's opposition."

The Chicago City Council passed the gay-rights ordinance on Dec. 21, 1988.

At the time, Garcia was a member of Dignity but no longer is. Now, he attends AGLO liturgies frequently and periodically worships with Dignity, Garcia said.

AGLO celebrates weekly Mass on Sunday at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at 7 p.m. The organization marked its 25th anniversary last year. On occasion, Francis Cardinal George has celebrated Mass for AGLO.

Dignity/Chicago holds its liturgical celebration every Sunday at Broadway United Methodist Church, located in the city's Lakeview neighborhood, at 5 pm.

An affiliate of Dignity/USA, the local chapter shares in the national organization's mission "to work for respect and justice for all" LGBT "persons in the Catholic Church and the world."

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Stoli staffers pose at a party in Las Vegas.

GayCities, Stoli Vodka launch 'Stoli Guy'

GayCities, Inc., a worldwide LGBT community city guide, announced it is partnering with Stolichnaya Vodka for the second annual "Stoli Guy" nationwide competition, with the top prize \$10,000 in cash.

To sign up, visit <http://www.gaycities.com/stoliguy/>.

Applicants may apply online at GayCities.com for a chance to take the stage and showcase what makes them original and authentic at official Stoli Guy events in 12 U.S. cities. Lucky contestants in each city will be invited to compete in three categories: talent, modeling and a new interactive challenge.

Finalists selected at the local events will be flown to New York City to compete for the coveted title, where a celebrity judging panel will determine the winner based on each contestant's talent, personality and online popularity. This year's contestants will be outfitted by menswear designer Andrew Christian, and the winner will be presented with a \$10,000 check from GayCities.

"After last year's widely successful competition, Stoli Vodka is once again proud to partner with GayCities for this exciting national program. We remain committed to working with key partners in the LGBT community to identify authentic and original programs that celebrate and support LGBT pride," said Sarah Gorvitz, brand director for Stoli Group USA.

This year's program adds Seattle to the event series schedule that includes: New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, Dallas, Boston, Philadelphia, San Diego and Denver.

"GayCities is looking forward to reprising our fun, multi-platform Stoli Guy program and connecting Stoli with gay consumers in some of our biggest cities," said Scott Gatz, CEO of GayCities.

Notable past Stoli Guy finalists include Broadway dancers, Cirque du Soleil acrobats, singers, musicians and professional models. With the new cash prize, Stoli Vodka and GayCities are raising the stakes by also encouraging gymnasts, martial artists and other athletes to take the stage and partake in the Stoli Guy experience.

This year, media partners include Chicago's Windy City Media Group, San Francisco's Gloss Magazine, Seattle Gay Scene, Florida's Mark's List, New York's Next Magazine, Edge Boston and SDPix in San Diego.

Controversial Ugandan next UN assembly prez

In an announcement that the United States has criticized, Uganda's foreign minister Sam Kutesa has been voted in by acclamation to serve as the next United Nations General Assembly president, replacing outgoing—and widely respected—John W. Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, according to LGBT Weekly.

The position, which is largely symbolic, fell this year to Africa to fill. However, it is Kutesa's stance on homosexuality (once calling it something that the majority of Africans "abhor") that has caused controversy. On Feb. 14, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed into law the Anti-Homosexuality Act, which has some of the most punitive measures against the LGBT community in the world.

Milton Allimadi, a Ugandan American living in New York, started a petition on Change.org asking UN member countries to vote against Kutesa, and asking the U.S. government to deny Kutesa a visa to block him from serving in the role, according to a Change.org press release.

Wisconsin's marriage ban ruled unconstitutional

On June 6, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb ruled that Wisconsin's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional—to the delight of gay couples who immediately began rushing to county offices to wed as word of the ruling spread, according to Reuters.

The ruling marked the latest in a string of decisions by federal judges who have struck down marriage-equality bans in a number of states, although the Wisconsin ruling sparked some confusion over whether such marriages could legally proceed.

Clerks in two counties issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples on the night of June 6, prompting Wisconsin's attorney general to file an emergency motion asking the judge to stay her ruling.

In a statement, lesbian U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) said, "Love is love, family is family, and discriminating against anyone's love, against anyone's family, is just plain wrong.

"Wisconsin can proudly say that discrimina-

tion doesn't just violate our values—it violates our Constitution. And now we can proudly say that marriage equality will be the law of the land in Wisconsin."

African commission issues pro-LGBT resolution

Human Rights First praised the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for issuing a resolution calling for established protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, according to a press release.

Human Rights First's Shawn Gaylord said, "In the wake of new legislation under consideration across the continent that would negatively impact sexual minorities, this call to action is a reminder that there are leaders throughout Africa choosing to face this challenge head on."

Resolution 275 was adopted during the commission's 55th Ordinary Session that concluded in May.

This news comes as South Africa recently became the first African nation to elect an openly gay Black man to the National Assembly.

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Legal activists brace for religious ruling

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

June is the final month of the U.S. Supreme Court's current session and, while anticipation is not nearly so great this year for the LGBT community as it was last year, there is some concern in the air.

Last year, the wait was about marriage: whether the Supreme Court would declare the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's ban on same-sex couples marrying to be unconstitutional. It declared DOMA unconstitutional and, on a legal technicality, it allowed a lower-court decision striking California's Proposition 8 to stand.

This year, anxiety surrounds two consolidated cases in which employers are seeking the right to discriminate against employees in the provision of health benefits based on the company owner's personal religious beliefs. It is the type of conflict—religious beliefs versus non-discrimination laws—that has arisen time and again in recent years by employers seeking to discriminate against LGBT people.

Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores and *Conestoga Wood v. HHS* are lawsuits brought by the owners of for-profit commercial enterprises—a furniture maker, an arts and craft store, and a bookstore (the latter selling Christian-oriented books). The owners of the company object to a requirement by the Affordable Care Act that employers' health plans include coverage for contraception. They say they're not trying to stop the use of contraception; they just don't want to be involved in funding it.

The Family Research Council submitted a brief in support of the Hobby Lobby employers, arguing that "commercial activity does not preclude or excuse religious observance and often can be a means of exercising religion."

But an article on Salon.com reported the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga owners are involved in political efforts to stop the use of contraception, as well as marriage for same-sex couples, through its donations to the National Christian Charitable Foundation, which funnels millions of dollars into organizations such as the Alliance Defending Freedom which has defended many state bans on same-sex marriage.

LGBT legal activists seek two major concerns with a ruling in favor of the employers in these cases. One is that it could open the door for employers to seek exemptions from providing coverage for other health benefits, such as coverage for the same-sex spouses or partners of employees, reproductive services for lesbian couples, testing and treatment for men at risk of HIV infection, transgender treatment for people with gender dysphoria. And the other is that employers and individuals might seek exemptions to other laws, such as laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Given these implications, the Hobby Lobby case is indeed another major moment for the LGBT community," wrote National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Policy Counsel Ashland Johnson, in an article for NCLR's website. "The Supreme Court's resolution of the case will directly affect our reproductive rights and other health care needs. Equally concerning, it could result in devastating exceptions to protections for LGBT people at the state and local level, jeopardizing literally decades of advocacy and progress."

Following oral argument in March, Lambda Legal's director of law and public policy, Jenny Pizer, expressed concern that the court may give certain for-profit companies—those closely held by families or small groups of people (also known as S-corporations)—the ability to claim the same sort of religious exemption to ACA that is currently afforded to religious institutions.



Lambda Legal's Jenny Pizer. Photo from the organization

"If they say any for-profit can claim religious [exemptions], obviously, that's very bad," said Pizer in March. "If they say only S-corporations can have a religious exemption, that's less bad, but it's still bad. There are an awful lot of family-owned businesses."

Adding to that worry: On May 5, the Supreme Court surprised some when it ruled in favor of allowing a town board in Greece, New York, open its meetings with a prayer that is specific to a particular religion, usually Christianity.

"To hold that invocations must be nonsectarian would force the legislatures that sponsor prayers and the courts that are asked to decide these cases to act as supervisors and censors of religious speech, a rule that would involve government in religious matters to a far greater degree than is the case under the town's current practice of neither editing or approving prayers in advance nor criticizing their content after the fact," wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy for a five-to-four majority in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*.

Other decisions LGBT legal activists will likely be watching for in the next few weeks include:

—*National Labor Relations Board v. Noel Canning*: The case involves the president's right to make appointments during Congressional recess—a tool President Obama has used to get a number of openly gay people into positions. He used it to get lesbian legal activist Chai Feldblum cleared onto the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and to install gay nominee Richard Soriano as assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

—*McCullen v. Coakley*: The Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Lesbian Rights signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief in support of a Massachusetts that attempts to protect the safety of women seeking abortions by creating a 35-foot setback for any protest outside such facilities.

—*Riley v. California*: No LGBT group filed a brief in this case, but the gay-friendly American Library Association did, arguing that police should not have a right to search a person's smartphone contents without a warrant, incident to an arrest. Noting that smartphone users store sensitive personal data about themselves and their interests on their smartphones, the ALA brief said, "Smartphones are personal computers in every sense of the word: if every arrest of a person with a smartphone ... allows police officers to rummage painstakingly and intrusively through the contents of personal libraries, the loss of constitutionally protected privacy will be great indeed."

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Sun-Times removes anti-trans essay

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago Sun-Times, on June 3, removed a column that suggested that actor Laverne Cox, who recently appeared on the cover of Time Magazine, "is not a woman."

The essay, published May 30 in the Sun-Times, was written by Kevin D. Williamson and originally appeared in the conservative publication National Review. Besides questioning Cox's gender identity, the piece also posited that transgender persons are living in denial of the "reality" of the gender they were assigned at birth.

"Regardless of the question of whether he has had his genitals amputated, Cox is not a woman, but an effigy of a woman," Williamson wrote. "Sex is a biological reality, and it is not subordinate to subjective impressions, no matter how intense those impressions are, how sincerely they are held, or how painful they make facing the biological facts of life. No hormone injection or surgical mutilation is sufficient to change that."

GLAAD, on June 3, released a statement that included an apology from Sun-Times Editorial Page Editor Tom McNamee, who said that the piece was originally selected because it seemed provocative.

"Upon further consideration, we concluded the essay did not include some key facts and its overall tone was not consistent with what we seek to publish," McNamee added. "The column failed to acknowledge that the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association have deemed transgender-related care medically necessary for transgender people. It failed as well to acknowledge the real and undeniable pain and discrimination felt by transgender people, who suffer from notably higher rates of depression and suicide. We have taken the post down and we apologize for the oversight."

In an earlier June 3 statement, representatives of GLAAD said that Williamson's commentary "is filled with falsehoods and inaccuracies about gender identity that ignore the expertise of credible medical and psychological health authorities. His essay is more than an ugly opinion, it's factually inaccurate."

Transgender writer Jen Richards, on daildot.com, not only defended Cox—calling her "a possibility model, not just for trans women of color, but to all who find themselves marginalized for who they are"—but questioned why the Sun-Times, in publishing the piece, would diminish the contributions of several transgender Chicagoans as well.

"Does the Sun-Times wish to insult the dignity of people like billionaire businesswoman and philanthropist Jen Pritzker? Would it prefer that that most successful woman filmmaker in history, Lana Wachowski, take her studio elsewhere? Does it not want people like rock star Laura Jane Grace, ESPN contributor Christina Kahrl, MMA fighter Fallon Fox, and SAIC professor Mickey Mahoney to feel at home here?" asked Richards.

A change.org petition, asking Williamson to retract his statements, got more than 1,000 signatures in one day. Williamson, however, mocked both the petition and McNamee in a follow-up post for National Review: "Tom McNamee et al. are a disgrace to a proud newspaper tradition, and an unhappy reminder that post-operative transsexuals are not the only men who have had their characteristic equipment removed."

The Change.org petition is at <http://chn.ge/1h4uKvs>.

African LGBTs to speak at Pride Month events

African LGBT individuals will speak at various events in Chicago June 13-15 to discuss everything from solidarity to safety. The events include:

—Friday, June 13: Free symposium on "Theological Resources for LGBTI Liberation," 2-4 p.m. at the Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway. South African activists Judith Kotze and Ingrid Schoonraad from Inclusive & Affirming Ministries will be present.

—Friday, June 13: "LGBTI Solidarity in Africa" has Rev. Judith Kotze joining the Gay Liberation Network's Brent Holman-Gomez to discuss issues of LGBTI solidarity in Africa, and preview the Saturday and Sunday events in Chicago. 6:30-6:55 p.m., cable channel 21 in Chicago

—Saturday, June 14: A free "Chicago Forum on LGBTI Solidarity in Africa" panel has African LGBTI activists from Inclusive & Affirming Ministries and CLASP (Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program) discussing how to provide advocacy and support at 2-5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Center, 65 E. Huron St.

—Saturday, June 14: There will be a reception fundraiser and film screening of Call Me Kuchu, about martyred Ugandan activist David Kato. The reception is at 5 p.m., film screening at 6 p.m., also at the Episcopal Church Center, 65 E. Huron St. The suggested donation is \$25.

—Sunday, June 15: A worship service of solidarity and welcome for the activists will take place 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church Logan Square, 2649 N. Francisco Ave.

—Sunday, June 15: Representatives from Inclusive & Affirming Ministries will introduce the new interfaith network that was inaugurated this past January with an international conference in South Africa at 2-3:30 p.m., also at St. Luke's Lutheran Church Logan Square.

Activists slated to attend include Nigerian Victor Charles Aweke, South African lesbian Rev. Judith Kotze and John Adewoye, a Nigerian/American gay man resident in Riverdale, Illinois. For more information, email LGBTliberation@aol.com or brent@chicagowelcomingchurches.org.

Lambda Legal board includes ex-Chicagoan

Lambda Legal announced the election of new leaders to serve on its board of directors—and one is a former Chicagoan, according to a press release.

Former Chicagoan Karen Dixon was appointed to co-chair of the national board. Prior to relocating to Washington, D.C., she was a member of Lambda Legal's National Leadership Council in Chicago.

Other new leaders include John Stafstrom, chair of the Public Finance Department with Pullman & Comley, LLC; Rachel Goldberg, general counsel of the Stamford, Connecticut Urban Redevelopment Commission; Kenneth Weissenberg, tax partner and co-chair of the Real Estate Services Group at EisnerAmper LLP; and Michelle Waites, senior patent counsel at Xerox.

Correction

In the June 4 issue of Windy City Times, it should have stated that Brittney Griner is in the WNBA, not the NBA.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

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Rick Garcia working in sheriff's office

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In 2014, for the first time in decades, Rick Garcia did not renew his lobbying credentials with the State of Illinois.

"With the marriage bill finally passing, I felt like I had accomplished much of what I had wanted to accomplish," Garcia said. "After 35 years as a gay rights activist, I just thought, 'What do I do now?'"



Rick Garcia.
Photo by Matt Simonette

not serving sentences—they're awaiting trial," Garcia said. "They're poor and can't afford bail. About 60 percent are suffering from substance abuse issues as well."

Many of those prisoners, he added, are there for crimes of survival, such as stealing food, or trespassing in order to find a warm space. "The sheriff has talked about the disparity of who it is we lock up. I have to look at how the jail operates, and ask where these people go from there, and who can we bring in to help them."

Garcia had been political director of The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) and, before that, Equality Illinois. Never one to shy from controversy, Garcia nevertheless was weary of more lobbying once the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act passed. He has now taken a new position, working for Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

"I've known Sheriff Dart since he was a state rep," Garcia noted. "He worked with us on all the important issues, including with marriage. I had told him that I was looking to make a change, and then later he asked if I would come work for him. So there I am now, firmly ensconced at the jail."

Since April, Garcia has been community outreach coordinator for Cook County Jail. Among his duties are helping the jail's staff link prisoners with resources that can assist them once they are released, arranging programming for minimum- and medium-security prisoners within the facility, and building partnerships between the sheriff's office and community organizations.

Thanks to widespread closures of mental-health facilities throughout the area, the jail is the largest provider of mental health facilities in Cook County, Garcia said, so many individuals need to be linked to services quickly.

"A large portion of the people in the jail are

One of Garcia's first tasks was improving available resources for transgender prisoners, both in the jail and once they're released. He estimated that, at any given time, there are about a dozen trans individuals incarcerated in Cook County Jail. Garcia has been helping foster a link between the jail and Chicago House's TransLife Center. "They have the one full transgender-focused program that could best provide appropriate services," he noted.

Stan Sloan, CEO of Chicago House, said that incarceration-related issues are "huge factors" for some of the agency's clients. "Tom Dart has probably done more work on that than any other sheriff in the nation," he added. "We're glad they're excited about working on these issues, and Chicago House has always loved working with Rick."

Garcia works from a windowless office in the middle of a medium-security tier, passing through a labyrinthine maze of metal detectors and steel doors to get to work each day. He still does work for TCRA in a consultant's capacity, but puts in about 50 hours a week for his full-time duties at the jail.

"I'm really glad I'm doing this," said Garcia. "After 30-plus years of doing the same thing, I get to do a lot of new, good stuff."



Paul R. Rogers (left) and his late partner, Gerry Monahan.

PASSAGES

Paul R. Rogers

Paul R. Rogers—a retired national fashion director of men's apparel for Sears, a native of California, a U.S. Army veteran and graduate of University of Southern California—passed away peacefully June 1. He was 80.

He loved the opera, reading by the lake and going to dinner with friends.

Rogers was preceded in death by partner Gerry Monahan and parents Paul and Mildred.

He was the beloved brother of Phyllis Harris of Gig Harbor, Washington; uncle of Alan

(Wendy) Harris of Redmond, Washington, Caryl Harris of Gig Harbor, Randy (Carol) Harris of Lafayette, California; great uncle of Steven Harris and Renee (David) Harris Marmolejo of Oakland, California. He was also the dear friend of many in Chicago, and faithful companion of Frango the cat.

Services are private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Treehouse, www.treehouseanimals.org.

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



Art Johnston at the Equality Illinois event.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

EI thanks politicians who backed marriage equality

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Equality Illinois (EI) toasted the arrival of Illinois' marriage equality along with political, community and corporate leaders who had a hand in making the change with its Tribute Reception on June 8.

"First of all, it is wonderfully overwhelming that we are here in Pride Month celebrating that marriage equality is here in Illinois," said Equality Illinois co-founder Art Johnston. "It is a remarkable thing when so few years ago we could not even convince legislatures to protect us from being fired from our jobs."

Held in the downtown JW Marriott's ballroom, more than 200 guests celebrated with a champagne brunch. Among the guests, approximately 20 elected/appointed officials were in attendance. The event served to acknowledge the leaders responsible for the advances within the LGBT community, especially the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act.

"Today was a great opportunity to thank many of those people and as I always want to do, remind all of us is that this didn't happen in a day or two and there are deep roots," said Johnston. "This has been going on for a long time and our combined communities have suffered horribly and pulled ourselves out of it to get to where we are today and it is kind of remarkable that we're actually here. It was a lovely event, lovely that we got a chance to talk about those things, lovely to look around this room of supporters and to see how far we have come in public acceptance."

Johnston led the program on stage introducing each speaker, including Equality Illinois Education Project Board Chair Dalila Fridi, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Gov. Pat Quinn, Sen. Heather Steans and Rep. Greg Harris. Fridi, John Parro, Cathy Sikora and Michael Jefvert, EI members finishing their service on the organization's board, were also honored with a plaque.

"What I loved today was the diversity," said Fridi, who said her work is not done, even though she delivered her "goodbye" on stage. "We had people from all kinds of organizations, different communities, a lot of elected officials, which was great. I'm very proud of the work we've done and the success of gay marriage is not one organization—it was the coalition. We have a governor's race this fall that we have to be very careful. We have to elect the person who supported us, not the person who said he will veto the bill if it ever came to him. I hope our community and allies go out and vote."

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DANCE from cover

rewarded by seeing their students leave taller than when they arrived, no matter what the background they came from. "I cannot turn people away," Hall said. "I cannot say 'No, you cannot do this, because you don't have the money to do this.'"

Over four decades, the organization—which became known as the Joel Hall Dancers & Center—has seen thousands of dancers, from those just taking their first steps to those who had always dreamed but never dared to put on a pair of dance shoes until later in life. Hall's company has performed nationally and in Europe and Russia among other countries. Many of Hall's students from the LGBTQ community have gone on to successful careers as national performers and choreographers, teachers, business owners, even activists emboldened by his method of lifting their spirit and inspiring their confidence.

African dance is replete with the freedom to express and a history of survival. According to jazz dance historians Marshall and Jean Stearns, for captives dragged in chains to the New World, movement on bare feet kept them bonded to the naked earth of home. Hall's organization has moved more than a half dozen times—surviving both a disastrous fire in 1993 and the recent economic downturn that put an end to arts organizations across the United States—yet it always retained the marrow and inherent fortitude of African culture. In its vibrantly colored home on Clark Street in Edgewater, African art covers the walls along with messages designed to encourage each of the artists who enter to leap to heights they have never before imagined.

According to Hall, the center now faces its biggest test of survival yet—one that he asserts it may not live through unless the community it has served since 1974 steps up to help.

"We have lost funding," he said. "Part of

that has been due to internal problems. We put ourselves in a place where we needed to reexamine the organization and our funders realized that." He added that the center's visibility suffered as a result of a 2009 move from the heavy foot traffic and tourism in the heart of Andersonville to its current location. His enrollment numbers have declined steeply as a result. Currently Hall says the center has a third of the numbers it needs.

"We need a bounce in our student enrollment and our donated income," Hall said. "In the late 1990s, most of our income was earned. Now it's shifted the other way, where we have become dependent on outside funding. When that started to deteriorate, it became clear that we did not have the income needed to sustain the organization."

He admitted that part of the problem was a loss of focus on the center's mission. "The minute you step outside of the mission, you lose the essence of the organization and it begins to fail," he said. "That is what happened. We lost our view of the mission to make dance available to people who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to experience it in training, in terms of moving into the profession and visually."

Hall maintains that he has taken steps, both personally and within the organization, to re-focus on that mission while improving business operations. He has engaged in a board recruitment drive to increase governing membership from four to at least 10 people who are connected in the community and invested in the organization's mission. At the same time, he has implemented disciplined and rigorous financial accountability and started to build an infrastructure committed to the growth of the center.

"We have formed teams who are members of the company and the student population," Hall explained. "These teams are taking ownership of the organization and I am their fearless leader. However, the board still plays a vital



Joel Hall. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

role in any decisions we make."

Meanwhile, Hall is looking for the community to come and support the center. "I'm speaking specifically to the LGBTQ community," he said. "Because that's my community and that's who I am. We need donations and contributions. We need the community to come and take classes here at the studio and support our performances."

Hall said the building's landlord has been exceptionally gracious but that the organization's time is running out. In a matter of four months, Joel Hall Dancers and Center will enter

a critical phase. "My intention is not to ever have my doors closed," he insisted. "I've been through a lot of stuff in forty years, but I keep pushing because collapsing is not in my DNA."

Hall simply wants to continue to open the eyes and educate people as to what is possible. "I am repeating myself in other people," he said. "Everybody should be educated, everybody should have a chance. Arts and culture is in the bloodstream of who we are. If we do not have that, we become dead."

For more information or to make a donation, go to www.joelhall.org.

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All presenters are paid spokespersons of ViiV Healthcare.

What is TIVICAY?

TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

TIVICAY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control the HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Who should not take TIVICAY?

- **Do not take TIVICAY if you take dofetilide because of a life-threatening interaction.**

What are the most serious side effects of TIVICAY?

- **Allergic reactions. Stop taking TIVICAY and get medical help right away if you have:**
 - **A rash with any of these symptoms:** fever; general ill feeling; extreme tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in your mouth; blisters or peeling of your skin; redness or swelling in your eyes; swelling of your mouth, face, lips or tongue; problems breathing.
 - **Any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes; dark or tea-colored urine; pale-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on your right side below the ribs.
- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider

may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines, including increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

What are the other possible side effects of TIVICAY?

- The most common side effects of TIVICAY include trouble sleeping and headache.

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

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY.

Important Safety Information continued on next page.

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What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take TIVICAY?

Before taking TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed** if you take TIVICAY. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements you take.

TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other, causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).

- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium or calcium, sucralfate (CARAFATE®), iron or calcium supplements, or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Patient Information for TIVICAY on the next pages and discuss it with your healthcare provider.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

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

What is TIVICAY?

TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infections in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

When used with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, TIVICAY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load.”
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells in your blood, which help fight off other infections.
- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 and increase the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TIVICAY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others.

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

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

Who should not take TIVICAY?

Do not take TIVICAY if you take dofetilide. Taking TIVICAY and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TIVICAY?

Before you take TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking TIVICAY.

Pregnancy Registry. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TIVICAY.**
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk.
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements.

TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).
- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium or calcium, sucrafate (CARAFATE®), iron or calcium supplements, or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines:
 - oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®)
 - phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®)

- phenobarbital (LUMINAL®)
- carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take TIVICAY?

- Take TIVICAY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TIVICAY without talking with your healthcare provider.
- Stay under the care of a healthcare provider while taking TIVICAY.
- You can take TIVICAY with or without food.
- If you miss a dose of TIVICAY, take it as soon as you remember. If it is within 4 hours of your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are not sure about your dosing, call your healthcare provider.
- If you take too much TIVICAY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- Do not run out of TIVICAY. The virus in your blood may become resistant to other HIV-1 medicines if TIVICAY is stopped for even a short time. When your supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy.

What are the possible side effects of TIVICAY?

TIVICAY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with TIVICAY. **Stop taking TIVICAY and get medical help right away if you:**

- **develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms**

- fever
- generally ill feeling
- extreme tiredness
- muscle or joint aches
- blisters or sores in mouth
- blisters or peeling of the skin
- redness or swelling of the eyes
- swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
- problems breathing

- **develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**

- yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
- dark or tea-colored urine
- pale-colored stools or bowel movements
- nausea or vomiting
- loss of appetite
- pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side below the ribs

- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of TIVICAY include:

- trouble sleeping
- headache

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

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

(continued)

PATIENT INFORMATION (CONT'D)

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

How should I store TIVICAY?

- Store TIVICAY at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep TIVICAY and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about TIVICAY

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

You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about TIVICAY that is written for health professionals.

For more information call 1-877-844-8872 or go to www.TIVICAY.com.

What are the ingredients in TIVICAY?

Active ingredient: dolutegravir sodium

Inactive ingredients: d-mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K29/32, sodium starch glycolate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film-coating contains the inactive ingredients iron oxide yellow, macrogol/PEG, polyvinyl alcohol-part hydrolyzed, talc, and titanium dioxide.

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

Manufactured for:



ViiV Healthcare

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

by:



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

August 2013

TVC:1PIL

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Marriage equality, Vernita Gray and LGBT cinema: Three books from WCT

CHICAGO—The Fight for Marriage Equality in the Land of Lincoln is the focus of a new book from Windy City Times writers Kate Sosin and Tracy Baim. The book looks at the financial and political pressure from the LGBT community and its allies to pass the marriage-equality law in 2013, including heated internal battles and intense heat put on elected officials in the final days of the legislative session. The book also includes more than 100 photos from the historic push for marriage, including photos and documents from the 1950s through the 2013 demonstrations.

Windy City Times also has two additional books out this month. The first, by Owen Keehnen and Tracy Baim, is about a longtime activist who also was one-half of the first couple to receive a same-sex marriage license in Illinois, just a few days after Gov. Pat Quinn signed the bill into law Nov. 20, 2013. Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the White House chronicles her journey as an African-American lesbian from the South Side of Chicago to her work in the Cook County state's attorney's office on hate crimes, and her years-long fight against the cancer that ultimately took her life in March 2014.

Windy City Times is marking the 10th anniversary of Richard Knight Jr., as film critic for the paper with the publication of The Best of Knight at the Movies, a collection of Knight's movie reviews from 2004 to 2014. Written from Knight's queer perspective, the book includes more than 150 film reviews and essays. Gay icon Bruce Vilanch has said about the collection, "If Fred Phelps were alive he'd picket this book!" The book will be released in mid-June, just over a decade after Knight joined the paper.

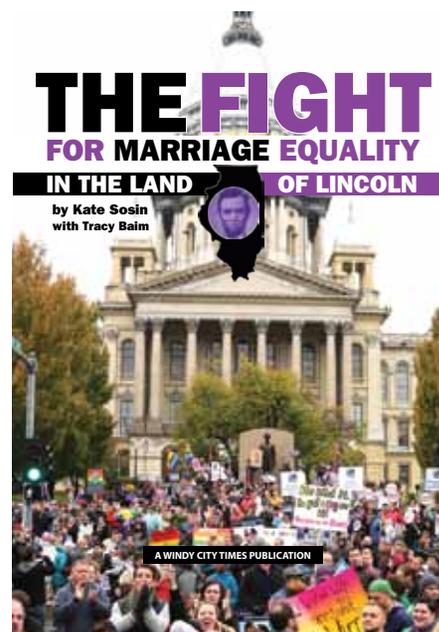
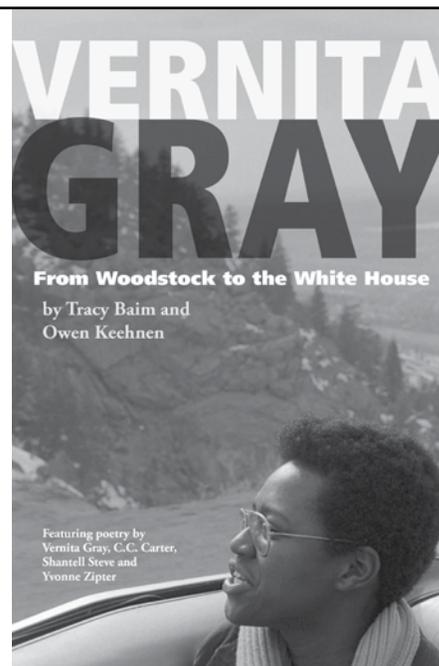
All three of these books are available on Amazon.com in black-and-white editions (the marriage book available after June 16). The Vernita Gray and Illinois marriage books will soon also be available in color on CreateSpace.com and Kindle.

Keehnen, Baim and Knight will be at a book launch Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m. at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago.

More details:**The Fight for Marriage Equality in the Land of Lincoln**

Money. Votes. Activism. These three ingredients were key to the passage of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act on Nov. 5, 2013 in the Illinois House. Otherwise known as the marriage-equality law, supporters originally felt it would be a slam-dunk effort, since the Democrats captured a super majority in the state Senate and House in the November 2012 elections.

But this is Illinois, and nothing comes without a cost—in money and labor. S.B. 10 did pass quickly in the state Senate, on Valentine's Day 2013. But months of lobbying by pro- and anti-marriage-equality forces left the state's representatives in the House without the courage to vote by the end of the spring legislative session, May 31, 2013. What happened next was a show of force by donors, lobbyists, politicians and most importantly the general citizens of Illinois. There were protests, benefits, phone banks, door-to-door canvassing, lobbying in the Capitol building, and a 5,000-strong March on Springfield for Marriage Equality on Oct. 22, 2013.



down to horse-trading, political manipulation, threats and check books. It's not quite the simplicity of the song "I'm Just a Bill" from the TV show *Schoolhouse Rock!* But it can be just as fun.

Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the White House

Vernita Gray lived through some of the country's most riveting civil-rights dramas. She came out as a lesbian soon after attending the 1969 Woodstock concert, where she heard about the uprising at the Stonewall gay bar in New York City. Her fight for lesbian equality, and the rights of the entire LGBTQ community, would be her passion for the remaining decades of her life.

She was also a poet and a writer, a key player in Chicago's gay liberation movement, and a lesbian separatist during the 1970s. In the 1980s, she opened her own restaurant, Sol Sands, and in the early 1990s, she began an 18-year career with the Cook County state's attorney's office. Along the way, she also managed to have a lot of fun.

Her visits to the White House brought tears to her eyes. She never thought she would see an African-American president, especially from her hometown of Chicago. A few months after attending the Obama selection at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, she attended his inauguration and related parties in D.C. She first went to the White House for a June 2009 Pride reception.

Vernita's struggle with cancer would soon take a turn for the worse, and in her final years, her passion was used to fight for both at-risk LGBTQ youth as well as marriage equality in Illinois.

The Best of Knight at the Movies

Windy City Times is marking the 10th anniversary of Richard Knight Jr., as film critic for the paper with the publication of The Best of Knight at the Movies, a collection of Knight's movie reviews from 2004 to 2014. Knight has picked more than 150 film reviews and essays, from the very gay to the gay-inclusive, and everything in between. Knight is also a director and screenwriter himself, and a longtime film lover. He co-wrote and co-directed *Scrooge & Marley*, a modern LGBT retelling of *A Christmas Carol*.

This book takes an in-depth look at the behind-the-scenes efforts that were enhanced by the grassroots activists taking it to the streets. There were surprising opponents—and surprising allies—in the battle to get marriage for LG-BTs in Illinois. This book provides a deep look into the inner-workings of passing legislation in Illinois. It is not always about the "will of the people" or "what is right." It often comes



David Munar (left) and Duke Alden at the annual meeting. Photo by Matt Simonette

HBHC announces plans for new board, expansion

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) officials and staff met with community members for the organization's 2014 annual meeting May 29 in the new location of their flagship Brown Elephant store at 3020 N. Lincoln Ave.

HBHC President/CEO David Munar discussed plans for the organization's 40th anniversary, which it celebrates this year, as well as an expansion of their main facility on Sheridan Road that they hope will allow HBHC to increase its patient capacity by 50 percent.

HBHC is beginning construction on an additional four examination rooms, which were funded primarily through state funds. Munar said that Illinois state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz was particularly instrumental in helping to secure the funding.

The construction is scheduled for completion in October, and Munar said that HBHC still needs to secure an additional \$20,000 in order to fully furnish and equip the examination rooms. HBHC projects it will be able to provide about 8,000 new patient visits a year once the additional facilities were complete.

The organization currently sees about 13,000 patients and provides about 20,000 patient visits each year.

HBHC Board Chair Duke Alden also announced seven new board members for the upcoming year—all of whom, he noted, are patients. Those new members include Roger Fierro, Becky Rowland, Emily Sater-Murray, W. Robert Schultz III, Miguel Torres, Mario Treto and Oscar Zambrano.

Alden additionally discussed plans for the organization's 2014 celebration dance party, "Garden of Eve," which will be held Nov. 7.

Munar began his tenure following several tumultuous years for HBHC, as the organization contended with funding issues and leadership crises, as well as difficulties in managing its ARIS Health Services and Broadway Youth Center programs. In his remarks introducing Munar, Alden said, "We've endured our share of challenges and our organization is still standing—and standing strong." He added that Munar would be "a transforming leader and a true agent of change."

Munar noted that it was at HBHC that he was first diagnosed with HIV at age 24. "I was just as afraid and alone as many of our young clients," he said. "Joining the team at Howard Brown has made my life and my career come full-circle."

He broadly outlined a number of goals for the years ahead, adding that, at the heart of true equality for the LGBT community will be its members' ability to remain strong "in our physical health, mental health, vitality, longevity and [securing] competent care."

At the end of program, Alden read a letter from Gov. Pat Quinn welcoming Munar to his new position.

Among those also speaking were Medical Director Magda Houlberg and Associate Director of Behavioral Health Services Kuanwu Lin, who discussed HBHC's history, and BYC Director Imani Rupert and Director of HIV/STI Prevention Daniel Pohl, who explained its departments and programs.

Howard Brown town hall looks at anti-bi discrimination

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC), on June 2, convened another in its series of town hall meetings engaging community members in dialogue about health topics, with this session centering on gay, bisexual and queer men's health.

Dr. Alfred Torrence, a staff physician at HBHC, and Serette B. King, HBHC's manager of Outreach Services, ran the session.

Facilitators stressed that participants would determine the direction of the session, held at Brown Elephant Resale Shop, 3651 N. Halsted St., and this particular session centered largely on matters of healthcare for bisexual men.

An audience member named Matt said that, since coming out as bisexual, he has endured discrimination from both straights and gays. When trying to access mental health services at HBHC, he saw there was plenty of room for improving the organization's cultural competencies about the bi community and that when he brought up the possibility of being intersex, his provider seemed ill-informed about Klinefelter's Syndrome.

Chris Pierce, bisexual programs volunteer liaison at Center on Halsted, said that HBHC had "one of the best intake forms" amongst service providers and would do well performing outreach to straight-focused medical practices

and health organizations.

"There's a severe lack of information among health care professionals," Pierce said, adding that that was even a problem with mental health providers, who often can send out signals that they are judging a patient.

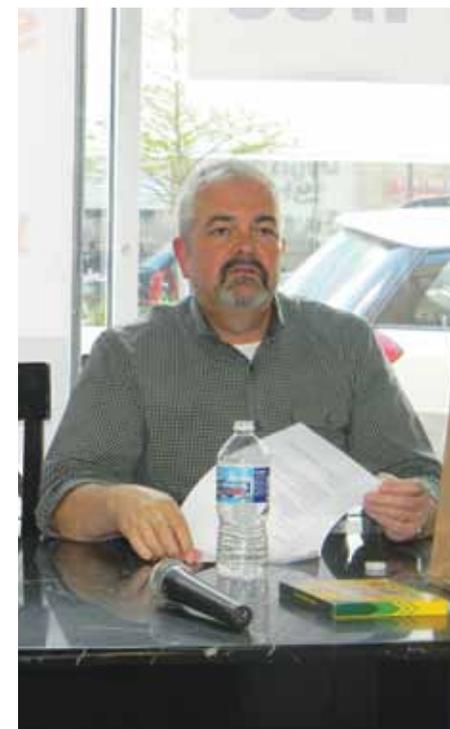
"We're always wondering if our mental health professional really thinks that we're gay," he further noted.

Torrance admitted that finding culturally competent providers for bisexual or gay men is difficult because medical schools still pay so little attention to it. "There need to be retrainings to deal with that," he added, mentioning that many of HBHC's referrals come from physicians who are uneducated or uninterested in matters of LGBT health.

"Doctors are often not interested in re-education," Torrance added, after being asked whether HBHC could provide LGBT health trainings for physicians. "I'd love to do that—I'm just not sure who would show up."

The facilitators said they would be interested in discussing with Pierce his suggestions for improving HBHC's engagement with its bisexual patients. Other audience suggestions centered on programs encouraging healthy living and lifestyles as well as the availability of HBHC services in other parts of the city.

"I think that our new CEO is interested in spreading Howard Brown out," said Torrance. "We know what communities need our services. The issue is money. All that stuff is very expensive to do."



Dr. Alfred Torrence. Photo by Matt Simonette

HBHC's next town hall session, focusing on LGBT youth health issues, will be Monday, June 16, at Brown Elephant Resale Shop, 3651 N. Halsted St., 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1o3lk6w>.



Cook County Clerk David Orr (left) with Darren Grogan (middle) and William Brannin. Photo by Bryan Docter/Cook County Clerk's Office

120 civil unions converted on first full day of equal marriage

A dozen same-sex couples were in line June 2 as Cook County Clerk David Orr opened his downtown vital records office on the first day of marriage equality in Illinois.

"This is the day we have been looking forward to all along," Orr said, "when any couple, without regard to who they love or where they live, can get married anywhere in Illinois."

The number of marriage licenses issued in Cook County to same-sex couples grew by 140 on June 2, bringing the total to nearly 1,800 since Feb. 21. More than 120 couples also took advantage of their first opportunity to convert their civil union to a marriage on June 2.

Darren Grogan and William Brannin, together 23 years, were the first in line at 7:30 a.m. to convert their civil union to a marriage. The Chicago couple received red roses and a complimentary commemorative certificate.

"We're celebrating whether we're first in line or last in line," said Brannin.

Couples who already have a civil union can get a \$65 marriage license free of charge, at any of the clerk's offices until May 31, 2015.

With their previous domestic partnership and civil union records in hand, Zachary Lamm and Jim Williams came to the clerk's office to get their third "official document" and "be a part of this moment in history."

Jan Berger put it another way: "We don't have to put an asterisk next to being married anymore," she said after marrying her partner of 17 years, Robin Hochstatter.

Rem Cabrera, whose 2011 civil union with Christopher Schram was converted to a marriage on Monday, said that conversion to marriage is "a validation of our commitment to each other and our ability to express who we are as a family."

Richard T. Brown and Paul David Wadler, of Chicago, have marriage certificates from several states and Canada. "It makes a difference now that we're married here in our home," said Wadler. Marriage gives the couple "just a calming feeling of normalcy," he said. "And now I'll be able to say 'husband.'"

More photos are online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Dewey Herrington, volunteering at Chicago's 2002 Pride Parade. Photo by Tracy Baim

Street dedication set for Herrington

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A street dedication will be held Thursday, June 19, at 10 a.m. at the corner of Broadway and Aldine Avenue in honor of the late Lakeview merchant and AIDS advocate Dewey Herrington.

Herrington, who died in 2008, was known in the neighborhood as the "Mayor of Broadway" and was, along with his partner, Walter Kogelis,

the longtime proprietor of Pass the Salt and Pepper, a Lakeview gift shop at 3337 N. Broadway.

Herrington and Kogelis were two of the first merchants to set up shop in the neighborhood just as it began to be more popular with members of Chicago's gay community.

"He was always there," said Kogelis. "Everybody came to Dewey when they needed something. He always had a presence there."

Herrington was also a founder of the North Broadway Merchants Association, which later merged into the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, as well as a founder of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. He also was "Official Monitor" for the Pride Parade. Herrington lost his twin brother, Melvin to AIDS, and was a fierce advocate for persons with HIV/AIDS in the early days of the epidemic as well.

In 1997, he spoke to Outlines about, among other topics, his AIDS advocacy: "I think that my place is to share with [Persons With AIDS] that it's okay to be different, that it's okay to be diseased—if that's the word they want to use—they are not victims. ... I think it's all in the heart and mind—a will to live."

That same year, Herrington was the only Chicagoan chosen by the Advocate for a list of "10 People who make us proud." He reflected on the honor in Outlines: "I was flattered. ... It was very nice. The main thing that I thought was important was that it identified Chicago. The West Coast and the East Coast tend to ignore us, and it's time we started getting attention."

"Dewey had polio so he never did sports, and was never on any team, but he thought of the community as his 'team,'" Kogelis said. "He liked to be in the background, but could be relentless when he was working for something."

Kogelis also said he has been working toward the street naming since shortly after Herrington's death, "so I'm thrilled to have this happening now."

Milk stamp dedication June 17 at the Center

The Chicago District will hold a local dedication of the new Harvey Milk Forever stamp, prior to the "State of the LGBTQ Union Forum" at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17.

Milk (1930-1978) was a leader who became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. His political career was tragically cut short less than a year after he took office in California when he and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were assassinated Nov. 27, 1978. In 2009, President Obama posthumously awarded Milk the Medal of Freedom.

The Harvey Milk Forever stamp was formally dedicated May 22 in a ceremony at the White House. See usps.com/news.

Rutherford lawsuit dismissed—for now

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The sexual-harassment lawsuit that helped derail State Treasurer Dan Rutherford's campaign to be GOP challenger to Gov. Pat Quinn has been thrown out. However, Rutherford's accuser says that he plans to refile his claim, NBC 5 reported June 4.

Ed Michalowski—who accused Rutherford of not only sexual harassment but of forcing him to work on Rutherford's gubernatorial campaign while on the state clock—has until June 12 to submit a new claim.

U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow dismissed the suit last week, after Rutherford's lawyers claimed Michalowski had no plausible claims in the suit, CBS 2 reported.

The lawsuit emerged in the weeks before the

March primary elections. Even before details about the suit were released, Rutherford went public with part of the story, calling a press conference Jan. 31 to say that he was being shaken down for \$300,000 by interests tied to rival primary candidate Bruce Rauner, who eventually won the primary election. Rutherford also said he planned on an internal investigation.

Rutherford made the announcement without referencing specifics of the allegations. He told Windy City Times in February, "The challenge I have is, I can't mention the name, or the allegations, or the facts that I have to refute them—that's what puts it in a politically tenuous situation just before the election."

Rutherford came in fourth in the GOP gubernatorial primary March 18.

Vida/SIDA opens new satellite office

Vida/SIDA, a project of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, opened a satellite location in partnership with Centro Sin Fronteras at 2242 S. Damen Ave. on June 10.

The Vida/SIDA Pilsen satellite location will provide free HIV/STI counseling, testing and linkage to care for HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and hepatitis C. The office will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Visit www.vidasida.org.

Women's dance at Center June 14

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., will host "By Women For Women: Spinning through the Decades" on Saturday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

The event will bring together female DJs from the LGBTQ community for an evening of music and dance. Tickets are \$40; visit community.centeronhalsted.org/ByWomenForWomen.

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Police, residents talk statistics and staffing

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) said at the 19th District CAPS meeting June 4 that area residents could expect high visibility from CPD over the coming summer, but those in attendance still questioned why the district is still losing a large percentage of its officers overall, even taking Ald. James Cappleman to task for not doing more to raise the issue with city officials.

"Robberies and burglaries remain our district's and my number one concern—our robberies are going down and so are burglaries," said District Commander Elias Voulgaris, adding that he attributed the reduction to high community awareness and changed tactics from his officers. He said that residents and visitor can expect a heightened police presence over the summer months, especially during Pride Weekend.

Community Policing Sergeant Jason Clark read a number of statistics (below) that overall suggested an improvement in safety in the district from the same period last year. But an audience member questioned the integrity of Clark's numbers, given a June 2014 Chicago Magazine article that suggested CPD is "washing" its crime numbers, that is, underreporting them. The article, for example, looks at the peculiarities of CPD's CompStat reporting system championed by Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and says that the numbers don't match those figures CPD reports to the FBI. It further illustrates a culture wherein CPD officers are under pressure from their superiors to undercount criminal incidents in the city.

Clark said that he had seen the article but added that, were he "washing" numbers, he did a poor job of it last year, when the number of robberies was high.

"I'm just giving you the numbers that I pull," Clark answered. "These are the numbers that I get in. I read the article, I know the article ... [but] the numbers are the numbers. It does me no good to wash numbers."

Discussion turned to staffing at the district headquarters, which has been a contentious issue for Voulgaris. He said that retirement and attrition continue to be a problem, and that retaining officers who want to work nights is difficult. In the meantime, he said, "We're trying to do more with the officers we have [and] we have beefed up the entertainment area team."

Cappleman, emphasizing that he too would like to see the staffing increase, said that about 65 percent of the city's budget goes to public safety, so many city officials are mainly concerned with improving safety figures and are likely to be looking for interventions besides increasing staffing. "We're going to have to work smarter," he added.

One audience member said that such a plan was not fair to officers already working in the district, while another told Cappleman, "Go to McCarthy. Go to the Mayor. If you won't, who will?"

But Cappleman said merely pleading about the staffing issues to City Hall was ultimately "magical thinking."

Voulgaris also updated the audience on two sexual assaults that were reported recently. The first was reported to have happened in the 3500 block of North Clark Street May 25, Voulgaris said that the victim has recanted their story and the case is now closed, however. Another attack was reported after a woman was assaulted after being thrown into a men's bathroom stall June 1 at The Irish Oak, 3511 N. Clark St. Voulgaris said that the bar was cooperating with the investigation and emphasized that the incident was an isolated one.

Voulgaris added that residents and visitors should be sure to leave their cars locked on the Lakefront and in other locations in the area, as police have seen an uptick in thefts from autos.

Officials also said security at ATMs has been an issue as well; one perpetrator waited by cash machines to see whether people waited for the machine to fully reset itself for the next customer. If they didn't, he would launch an additional transaction on the person's account, without the machine asking for a PIN a second time.

Victories, frustrations discussed at Edgewater event

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Out politicians and other supporters of the LGBT community were in attendance at the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce's second annual State of Edgewater Breakfast June 6.

Among those present at the gathering at The Breakers at Edgewater Beach, 5333 N. Sheridan Rd., were state Reps. Greg Harris and Kelly Cassidy; state Sen. Heather Steans; U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky; Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer; and Aids. Harry Osterman and Pat O'Connor.

Harris, Cassidy and Steans spoke about recent successes in passing LGBT-related legislation in recent months, with Harris noting that Illinois will likely be the last state wherein marriage equality was prodded by legislative, not judicial, action. Cassidy also mentioned the anti-school bullying legislation that is currently awaiting Gov. Pat Quinn's signature, noting that, after hearing heartbreaking stories from all over the state "we have real directions and guidance in place for this."

She also spoke highly of the camaraderie she shared with her legislative colleagues: "What an amazing team we have to work together in

this district—we all work so well together and share so many values."

But all of the legislators said they were frustrated with the directions the General Assembly had gone this past session. Steans lamented that partisanship had contributed to a forestalling of many hard decisions, particularly with respect to the state's finances.

"Most years we were able to set partisanship aside and get a lot of stuff done," she said. "I don't think we did that this year."

Harris added, "We're going to have to deal with the issue of revenue ... or the work that we've done will be undone, and we will go back into a state of insolvency."

Schakowsky similarly spoke of an extremely moribund U.S. Congress, maintaining that the GOP's decision to derail any policy set forth or supported by President Obama has led to "the least productive session in congressional history. ... If we could get together, we could be soaring forward. Everyone in the country is ready but Congress is not there."

Osterman had the more enviable task of discussing the progress the Edgewater neighborhood is making in attracting new businesses to the neighborhood, among them the About Face Theatre, for example. He said that, in years past, Edgewater had to struggle to bring in new businesses, but, "We're at a point right now where people are beating down the door."

Also speaking at the breakfast were Edgewater Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Katrina Balog and Board Chair Brian Koester.

ALMA hosts second annual LGBTQ youth conference

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

"Empowering Our Youth" was the theme of ALMA Chicago's 2nd annual Mobilizing our Youth Conference June 6 at Corazon Fuerza Youth Center in Cicero, Illinois. The event was among a number of United Latino Pride activities that took place throughout the week. About 60 people attended the evening's activities.

After words of welcome and introductions by Latino Soul, representatives from Corazon Fuerza Youth Center explained the services that they provide and urged everyone to come and participate in the center's activities and utilize the building's services which are free of charge.

Then Rosalva Nara from County Care at the Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems presented information on eligibility requirements for Illinois Medicaid and urged everyone to get health insurance.

A screening of the short film "Ojos Que No Ven/Eyes That Do Not See" (an official selection at the 2014 Outfest Fusion LGBT People of Color Film Festival) kicked off the evening's activities. The film centers around the conflict between Josephine, a queer 15-year-old first generation Salvadorian American, and her mother Margarita on the eve of Josephine's quinceanera. A skype Q&A with Janet Arelis Quezada, the executive producer of the movie, took place after the screening.

Two education sessions followed the screening: "Allies and the LGBTQ Community," moderated by Corazon Executive Director Mary E. Johnson and Corazon Health Educator Jose Enrique Vazquez; and "Community Organizing and Civic Engagement," with ALMA's Advocacy Co-Chair Luis H. Roman-Garcia moderating.

The "Allies and the LGBTQ Community" session featured information on how allies can best help the LGBTQ community and the "Community Organizing and Civic Engagement" session featured strategies on how to effectively mobilize people around specific causes.

Following the education sessions, Janet Aqua Paradise Lopez showcased his unique dance moves and seven youth attendees faced off against each other in a dance contest.

See www.almachicago.org and www.united-latinopride.org for more information.

19th Police District Reported Incidents
May 4, 2014-June 4, 2014
Figures reported by CPD at June 4, 2014 CAPS meeting

Beat 1923

	2014 Previous 30 Days	YTD	2013 Prior 30 Days	YTD
Strong-Arm robberies	3	11	4	10
Burglaries	3	19	7	21
Thefts	20	77	15	105
Major Crimes Change From 2013-2014	-12.5%	-31%		

All Crimes Change From 2013-2014

-19% -23%

Beat 1924

	2014 Previous 30 Days	YTD	2013 Prior 30 Days	YTD
Strong-Arm Robberies*	4	18	9	36
Burglaries	5	35	15	26
Thefts	39	156	58	243
Major Crimes Change From 2013-2014	-33%	-30%		

All Crimes Change From 2013-2014

-22% -24.5%

*2 strong-arm and 2 attempted strong-arm

Beat 1925

	2014 Previous 30 Days	YTD	2013 Prior 30 Days	YTD
Strong-Arm Robberies	3	9	9	25
Burglaries	3	22	4	10
Thefts	40	117	35	148
Major Crimes Change From 2013-2014	-8%	-15%		

All Crimes Change From 2013-2014

-20% -23.5%

GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Daniel Zimmerman
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW DAVIS

Age
47

Neighborhood
Lincoln Square

Relationship status
Boyfriend of four years



Occupation
Principal of Edwin G. Foreman High School

Pets
A "Shorkie" (shih tzu/Yorkie mix) and a "Maltipom" (Maltese/Pomeranian mix)

Favorite snack
Dark chocolate-covered almonds

Best part of job
"When you do things that touch people"

Worst part of job
"There's all the compliance, federal [and otherwise], that you have to do."

Upon meeting Daniel Zimmerman, one notices that he seems to be a bundle of energy who's constantly smiling.

No doubt, all of that energy comes in handy as his job as principal of Chicago's Foreman High School, located in the city's Belmont-Cragin area. Zimmerman grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated high school in 1986 and then attended Boston University and the University of Rhode Island. He returned to Fort Wayne (to get Master's degrees and where he also worked in college admissions) and then moved to Chicago in 2002.

Zimmerman got his first full-time instructing job as a cheerleading coach/English teacher. (His employer noticed that he had "aerobics instructor" on his resume.) He steadily worked his way up the ladder, becoming English department chair in Chicago.

At North Lawndale, he wrote curricula along with being department chair, "meaning I had the same kids for four years," Zimmerman said. "It was an amazing experience." Three of the students are now English teachers, he added. Eventually, Zimmerman became head of Foreman, and he's now entering his fourth year as principal.

Change has been a hallmark of Foreman. "We had labeled as a failing school for the better part of 10 years before I arrived," he said. "My first year, we leveraged our strengths and downplayed our weaknesses; we moved to Level 2 school in good standing. We kept that and got the

probationary status removed. Our ACT scores are higher than ever, and we have more students taking college-level math than any other [CPS] school in the city."

As for a "typical" day, it normally starts at 4:30 a.m., when he walks his dogs and goes to the gym. He tries to get to the school between 7 and 7:30 a.m., with the students arriving around 7:45 a.m. What follows is going "at breakneck speed all day until school is out at three," Zimmerman said. "I have hundreds of emails a day because you're like a mini-CEO, and there are all sorts of situations."

Zimmerman started the gay-straight alliance at Foreman, with the school being so supportive of the LGBTQ community that it recently hosted this year's CPS (Chicago Public Schools) Queer Prom.

As for what he improve about the CPS, Zimmerman would want a more level playing field. "Sometimes it's harder motivating students when you're a neighborhood school, as opposed to a selective-enrollment school," Zimmerman said. "The kids may feel like they they couldn't get in anywhere else, and we're the last stop. In an ideal world, it would just be attendance boundaries where each school would be the vibrant center of the community. We have the talent at Foreman ... [and] we certainly [make the most of] what we have."



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PHOTO BY JOHN GRESS

VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 29, No. 37, June 11, 2014

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Community Marketing, Inc.



DR.
CARMEN
CRUZ

Lessons from a modern family

I was ready to be walked down the aisle by my traditional Cuban father to marry my beautiful blonde Jewish wife.

Our "Jewban" lesbian wedding we've dreamt of with our modern familia with two kids was solidified by this loving family ceremony and party in 2012. The ceremony followed our legal marriage in New York City in September 2011.

As we shared vows of commitment and laughs with our guests during the ceremony, I was reminded of the blessing I felt that my kids were witnessing this event from a loving perspective, with full support of all family members.

America watched Mitchell and Cam marry during the two-part season finale of ABC's *Modern Family* and the positive ripple of effects on children is paramount.

Some of the most important things a parent can provide a child is to love, teach, soothe and guide them.

Does sexual orientation impact this? How does it?

Some people struggle with lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people raising children. Common fears and stereotypes are that the children will be gay themselves, will be promiscuous, need a mother and a father, will not succeed in life, and overall will not be as well-adjusted as children raised in heterosexual homes.

But there is consistent research and lived experiences that support the concept that children of LGB parents are as well-adjusted as their counterparts. The American Psychological Association's summary of four decades of research on LGB parents declares that "common stereotypes are not supported by the data." This means that LGB parents are not unfit and do not have a negative effect on children.

In fact, the results of some studies suggest that lesbian mothers' and gay fathers' parenting skills may be superior to those of matched heterosexual couples.

A 2013 groundbreaking report from Australia, the largest study of children (500) from LGB homes, suggests that children raised by same-sex parents are doing well and even better than their peers in indicators such as self-esteem, emotional behavior and the amount of time spent with parents.

Why are LGB people good parents?

Two of the primary factors are that LGB couples cannot have children unintentionally and they have more egalitarian relationships, research shows.

First, there is no 'oops, we're pregnant.' LGB couples cannot conceive, and they have to intentionally desire a child, devote time to the process, research it, and invest, at times, thousands of dollars. Similar to infertile heterosexual couples, children of lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals are not going to be unplanned or even unwanted. This level of intentionality is potent.

LGB couples tend to be more fluid and flexible when it comes to gender roles. This is mostly due to not having to adhere to the same culturally driven male-female gender roles that most heterosexual couples do.

Who takes out the garbage? Who cooks dinner? Who bathes the kids? Who pays?

The division of labor and tasks is a common conversation from the get go, with no road

map, compared to the map heterosexual couples have.

Along with the movement toward greater acceptance, there are still many LGB individuals, couples and families that do not have the support of their family and friends.

The majority of Americans are moving toward affirming same-sex marriage and accepting same-sex families as part of the family spectrum in the U.S. However, about 42 percent of people in the U.S. do not support the idea.

Additionally, outside of family, LGB couples with children are more likely to face stigma and discrimination in court proceedings, within schools, with medical providers and with the general public.

This is an important area to consider as the effects of not having support for one's identity and/or relationship can cause great distress, which causes a greater stress on the children. If loved ones do not accept the family, then those children grow up with less family love and support.

The more people can face their acquired homophobia and be open to learning from one another, the further we will grow. And the happier all kids will be.

This is not to say that we need to identify as 'gay parents' and 'straight parents.' But it sure seems we have a lot to learn from one another. Let's all be open to that.

I bet Lily, Mitch and Cam's daughter in *Modern Family*, will feel the love and union of her parents—not her gay parents.

Dr. Carmen Cruz is a licensed psychologist and diversity training consultant as well as director of training at Texas Woman's University (TWU) Counseling Center. She is a public voices fellow with The OpEd Project at TWU and founder of Cruz Consulting (www.drcarmencruz.com). She is on Twitter @drcruz32, or Facebook at CRUZ Consulting.

LETTERS

Review of 'Review'

To The Sun-Times:

A writer for the conservative National Review, Kevin Williamson, has created a firestorm of liberal opposition in response to his recent Sun-Times column in which he attacked the gender identity of actress Laverne Cox as well as categorically attacked all transgender people as "delusional" and "anti-rational." The angry opposition to Williamson and the Sun-Times is completely justified.

However, no one should be surprised by the National Review's bigotry. This is the same outfit that in 1957 editorialized that the white community in the South was the "advanced race," and thus was entitled to "prevail, politically and culturally."

This is the same rag that, as recently as late 2012, was still at odds with the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to stop classifying homosexuality as a mental disorder.

In its 2012 piece, the Review asserted without argument that "there is not a shred of scientific evidence that people are simply 'born that way' [that is, with same-sex attraction]." Then it huffed indignantly—again, with no evidence provided and lots of evidence to the contrary—that the APA's 1973 decision was not the result of "careful scientific deliberation" but instead resulted from the Association caving to "rambunctious and constant protest of gay activists." (We wonder what the Review would have made of political protest, if there had been any, against German "race science" in the 1930s or against the powerful eugenics movement in the U.S. in the early 20th century.)

In any event, Williamson's bias against transgender people is both snide and demeaning, couched as it is in the supercilious, pseudo-intellectual rhetoric typical of the National Review. He's also dead wrong on three counts:

—He conflates the terms "transsexual" and "transgender";

—He mistakenly reifies sex as "biological reality," as totally fixed and concrete, despite the many indeterminate cases at birth that doctors honestly attest to when they "assign" sex; and,

—He insists on the politically tendentious and highly dubious fact/feeling distinction when he asserts that biological "facts" always trump gender identity, which involves an individual's innermost, deepest sense of self.

Yet, in conclusion, we should also ask why many liberals are so selective in their angry, outraged support for some transgender people and not others?

After all, targeting National Review and its hacks plays it safe. The Review has been a longtime, favorite whipping boy for liberals, and deservedly so. But where was widespread liberal support last July for Chelsea (nee Bradley) Manning when Obama's Justice Department railroaded that courageous Army intelligence whistle-blower to prison for 35 years? You didn't hear a peep!

Roger Fraser
 Gay Liberation Network
 Chicago

Bruce's bias

Dear editor:

Now that marriage equality has taken effect throughout all of Illinois, we now have gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner suggesting a referendum to revisit the issue.

Why don't we put Rauner's own basic rights up for a popular vote instead—how would he like that? Does Rauner not know his civic education in which our country's founders warned against the tyranny of the majority in these type issues.

It is quite obvious Rauner is trying to walking the fence and cater to the extreme elements of his party, but there are some issues, such as equality, that are human principles and rights and should not be used as political footballs. Voting on marriage equality is not like voting on a new redistricting map. The lack of integrity by Rauner to use marriage equality as such demonstrates a lack of character.

Sincerely,
 Scott G. Burgh

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

GOINGS-ON



WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo of (from left) Paul Katami, Jeff Zarrillo, Kris Perry and Sandy Stier courtesy of HBO

MAKING THEIR 'CASE'

The movie *The Case Against 8* takes a look at the battle against the anti-gay initiative Prop 8. See page 24.

THEATER

'Aunt' and rave.
Page 24

Photo from *Ask Aunt Susan*
by Elizabeth Elliott



DISH

Using your noodle.
Page 34

Photo of crab spaghetti
at Packing House by Andrew Davis



SPORTS

Force of will.
Page 38

Photo of Chicago Force's Melissa Smith
by Ross Forman



DANCIN' FEATS

Catching up with Zachary Whittenburg

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Dancer, choreographer, writer and former Windy City Times dance columnist Zachary Whittenburg, 34, now finds his daily grind on Jackson Boulevard in the offices of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC).

Whittenburg finished his second season as master of communications at HSDC recently, after nearly a decade of hustling in dance journalism and freelance gigs. One of those gigs was as the go-to guy for dance coverage during his tenure as dance editor at Time Out Chicago from 2009-2012, a position that was terminated when Time Out moved exclusively online.

Whittenburg—an accomplished performer with credits at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Crystal Pite's Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal and HSDC—edged himself out of the dance-journalism market before it edged him out; he left Time Out voluntarily and spent the summer of 2012 back hustling, picking up coveted spots in Pointe Magazine, Critical Correspondence and a cover story on Paris Opera Ballet in Dance International. He was even published in *Oi Chicago*, a Spanish news publication, with a piece on photography.

He spent the first few months after leaving Time Out attempting a sustainable living in freelance dance writing, not fully knowing whether it was possible. "I felt like I had the experience that anyone else would have in the market, and it was either going to be possible, or not. ... Things were happening, it's not like I was getting no work," he said in a dinner meeting with Windy City Times across the street from the Harris Theater for Music and

Dance, where he would work the press table for opening night of HSDC's Summer Series that evening. "But it all didn't add up to what I needed to make ends meet, and also the pay cycle was so long. I didn't see payment for most of that work until I had been at Hubbard Street for months. ... In retrospect, who knows?! But I hit July/August, and remember thinking, 'I don't think this is possible.'"

Whittenburg now enjoys a life that has more balance. He's working more "normal" hours, and his CV of freelance-writing credits and speaking engagements continues to grow despite his full-time job. In the two years he's been at HSDC, Whittenburg has written a dozen freelance editorials (mostly for Dance Magazine, Pointe and Dance Teacher). He hosted an audience engagement series called "Dance, A Moving Canvas," and has a number of additional projects in the works. His former 80-90-hour work week consisted of five shows, two interviews and three reviews. "Now, my week is 40-45 hours at Hubbard Street, one dance show, a play, a concert, a dinner party, and a night watching *Mad Men*," he added. "There's a balance to my life now that's really satisfying. ... I loved that crazy pace, but there are a lot of things you have to give up to have that experience."

By sacrificing a bit of his bird's-eye view—and, with it, the knowledge of everyone and everything happening in Chicago's dance community—Whittenburg's still the go-to guy. However, he's a go-to guy who preserves a tiny bit of personal time, gets more sleep and enjoys a more sustainable lifestyle. "I'm not as moody as I was a couple years ago. I get

Zachary Whittenburg.
Photo by Quinn B Wharton



more exercise. ... I was the textbook cliché of a hunchbacked writer; the irony of that was not lost on me. I was giving to this devotion to dance and performance art, and my physical experience was a wreck. Part of the culture [at HSDC] is being healthy.

"At the end of the day ... I want to advocate for the importance of dance as an art form, I want to help engage readers and the public about dance as an art form, and raise the level of familiarity so you can start to have those richer conversations. Whether I'm doing that at a dance company, or at a magazine, or at a newspaper, the important thing is that I feel like I'm doing that. That was the thinking behind moving forward ... and it guides me with how I'm doing this job."

How he's doing his job appears to be working. The company's presence in the Chicago dance community and on social media is stronger than ever. Whittenburg works with the many compartments of Hubbard Street to present the whole picture to the press and public. In one moment he's scanning costume sketches and interviewing guest répétiteurs for upcoming engagements; in the next he's discussing

adaptive dance programming for children with disabilities or setting up visits from So You Think You Can Dance's Nigel Lythgoe and the Dizzy Feet Foundation.

The stories he shares now are not dissimilar to stories you might see in print or online press publications, but there aren't enough personnel, energy, and resources left in dwindling arts journalism to cover such stories. "Ultimately, we all want the same thing," he said. "We all want more people in Chicago to care about dance; that's the goal. When I look back at the end of my workday, I don't feel any less impactful being the PR manager at Hubbard Street than I was as the dance editor at Time Out. ... That work won't go away, and I don't think I'm chipping away at it any more slowly than I was before. That's reinforced my decision to do what I'm doing."

As Whittenburg looks toward the future, he sees a long relationship with Hubbard Street, and a dance world that is bigger, richer and more diverse. Dance is pretty gay—it always has been—but Whittenburg speculates if a world more accepting of LGBTQ people in general will change the demographics of the dance community. If it becomes more "OK to be gay," will there be a shift away from dance and toward sports, or some other activity that queer people generally shy away from? If the demographic of dancers changes, how does the work created also change, and then how does the audience change? As society grows and perceptions widen, art, traditionally, imitates life.

"There's going to be more of everything," Whittenburg said. "There are more people, more audience members ... nothing is going to turn down the volume, so there's going to be more dance, more dancers, more audience members. If you look at Hubbard Street, when we perform in March, we're up against 10 shows. In 10 years, we'll be up against 50, and that theater is not going to get any smaller. The plurality of voices, that's what's going to happen. You're just going to see more variety, and that's great! They say it's the spice of life."



Carrie: The Musical. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Carrie: The Musical

Playwright: music by Michael Gore,
lyrics by Dean Pitchford,
book by Lawrence D. Cohen
At: Bailiwick Chicago at the
Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-871-3000;
www.victorygardens.org; \$40
Runs through: July 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Back in 1974, when the notion of disenfranchised teenagers (U.S. teenagers, anyway) taking violent action against their peers was the stuff of fantasy-fiction, this tale of a pathologically shy adolescent girl whose uncanny mental powers exercise a terrible revenge on her oppressors was so shocking that subsequent adaptations—notably, Brian dePalma's 1979 film—preferred to look upon the much-abused heroine as a “demon” child in the Linda Blair mold, rather than confront the disturbing aspects of a social environment that would spawn the school massacres of today.

That's not the story that Stephen King wrote, however, nor is it the musical that Michael Gore, Dean Pitchford and Lawrence D. Cohen fashioned to offer insights into the toll exacted by bullying on both the victims and the perpetrators. It's not the Bailiwick Chicago production currently in residence at the Biograph, either. Camp fans anticipating Rocky Horror-like hijinks from an audience tarted up in prom-queen drag are advised to stay home and play with their feminine hygiene products.

For starters, the authors refuse to portray their personae as grotesque caricatures (affirming the very prejudices they claim to deplore), but instead extend compassion, not solely to their much-abused heroine, but to *all* who suffer the insecurity inflicted by a disorderly universe. Indeed, the score's opening song clearly exposes the veneer of nonchalance adopted by the teens to disguise their fear of an uncertain future, much as Carrie's mother clings to her religion as protection against betrayal by untrustworthy mortals. Even the villains are granted flashes of remorse and opportunities for reform, contradicting the plot's potential fatalism to introduce the possibility of reversal generating dramatic tension, despite its narrative structure as a surviving witness testimony following the prom-night holocaust (deftly conjured by Greg Poljacak).

Director Michael Driscoll's expertise at fitting song-and-dance extravaganzas to small spaces makes for a production never exceeding the proportions of its surroundings, but instead emerging a parable as intimate as its micro-cosmic setting. The cast, led by Callie Johnson and Katherine L. Condit, delivers vocals that redeem in expressiveness what they may lack in volume, as does the six-piece orchestra conducted by Aaron Benham, also no stranger to up-close-and-personal orchestrations. Jaded adults may scoff at the Spring Awakening-meets-Afterschool Special tone of the Power-Point text, but given what we know now about youths undergoing stress, it's a lesson well-headed. Bring a kid with you to explain why.

CRITICS' PICKS

Bat-Hamlet, Corn Productions at the Conservatory, opens June 20 and runs through July 14. Jordan Pulliam's mash-up of Dark Knight and Melancholy Dane is smarter than its premise would lead you to suspect, and the literal Joker on the throne is a villain worth the admission alone. MSB

Buyer & Cellar, Broadway Playhouse @ Water Tower Place, through June 15. Michael Urie of Ugly Betty fame is hilarious in Jonathan Tolins' comically catty play about a gay actor finding work in the faux shopping mall built in the basement of Barbra Streisand's Malibu home. SCM

Haymaker, The Neo-Futurists at the Neo-Futurarium, through June 28. When a playwright invites his friends to join in his pre-adolescent action-movie fantasy, the thrilling stunt work often has to accommodate multiple viewpoints—which is when the fun begins. MSB

Mud Blue Sky, A Red Orchid, through June 29. Three female flight attendants and a teen-aged male pot dealer in a motel room, but it's not an adolescent porno fantasy unless cougars are your thing. The situation is highly improbable but the acting and comedy are excellent. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Ask Aunt Susan

Playwright: Seth Bockley
At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
Tickets: 312-443-3800;
www.GoodmanTheatre.org/AuntSusan;
\$10-\$40
Runs through: June 22

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The literary plot device of gaming the gamer has remained evergreen since storytelling began, encompassing The Odyssey, Dangerous Liaisons, The Sting and Trading Places among diverse examples. Ask Aunt Susan fits the genre.

Its hero is a not-so-reformed Internet scammer who becomes non-existent Internet advice guru Aunt Susan (Alex Stage), never realizing his chain is being jerked. The tricky part is that one must come to care about the gamer gamed and have sympathy for him, and that's missing here. When our twenty-something hero realizes in the closing moments that he's been played, and reaches out for sympathy to ex-girlfriend Betty (Meghan Reardon), we really don't care if she reaches back.

Part of the reason is that he's lived very well while being played—flying first class and putting money in the bank, and nothing is taken away from him. There's no downside, no loss, no crucible—just a very abrupt end in which the uber-gamer is revealed. There's hardly time for the hero to react with shock, anger or anything except, perhaps, a tiny sense of his isolation.

Author Seth Bockley, a multifaceted theater

artist, acknowledges that Ask Aunt Susan takes its inspiration from Nathaneal West's richly sardonic 1933 classic, Miss Lonelyhearts, melded with a 21st-century Internet overlay. In West's novel, a cynical newspaper reporter answers advice-to-the-lovelorn letters—a joke to his editor—only to become deeply distraught over the genuine Depression-era distress of the letter-writers. Ask Aunt Susan starts similarly and the 70-minute play is off to a very fast start, with Bockley's acerbic tone equal to that of West's.

But Bockley then mostly parts ways with Miss Lonelyhearts, which veers towards tragedy. Bockley keeps things much lighter and concentrates on the cynical business of building the Aunt Susan brand as manipulated by the hero's boss (Mark Grapey) and his wife (Jennie Moreau). As the play becomes more detailed in this respect, it becomes less ha-ha funny (although its acerbic tone remains) and less involving because the hero not only doesn't suffer, but he doesn't grow. Bockley sacrifices character for story, which he ends in a flash with the uber-gamer seeming to have had no motive.

Ask Aunt Susan has style, tone and brisk pace as written by Bockley and staged by Henry Wishcamper, but it needs to grow deeper, more dangerous and probably longer to fulfill its potential and honor its source. The cast is first-rate. Grapey is hilariously vulgar (he's become expert at such roles), Moreau is cool and alluring, Reardon is bimbo personified, and Stage is blandly charming. In several small roles, Robyn Scott steals her scenes. Scenic designer Kevin Depinet cleverly skews things at angles, which he enjoys doing at the Goodman.



Love Tapes.
Press photo

THEATER REVIEW

Love Tapes

Playwright: Penn Jillette and Steven Banks
At: The Inconvenience at Angel
Island, 735 W. Sheridan Rd.
Tickets: 773-871-0442;
www.theinconvenience.org; \$20
Runs through: July 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, there was a metal-rock band called Umlaut and, in it, a bass player named Kevin. We don't see much of Kevin in our story but, like Marley's ghost, his presence must be clearly acknowledged if anything wonderful is to happen.

Without this priapic icon, you see, mousy medical technician Melinda Meyer would never dress up to look like Anna Nicole Smith and—fortified with quantities of vodka—videotape herself behaving in what she believes to be a seductive manner, including a bare-chested re-enactment of the performance that won her the hula-hoop state championship, and mail the results to her idol. Nor would Carl McIntosh, Kevin's shy personal assistant and fan-mail sorter, screen the aforementioned videotape and promptly reply with a missive representing himself as the kind of rocker he imagines will please Melinda, even to reproducing—with the assistance of a low-riding Fender guitar—her favorite Kevin dream-fantasy.

“It's a modern mating ritual,” Carl explains, but his assessment is only partly correct. Haven't besotted lovers always lied shamelessly to one another during the first stages of their acquaintance, leading to subsequent romantic tension arising from the fraudulent wooers' fear of their flawed humanity being discovered? The veneer of intimacy promised by technological advances does nothing to diminish the awkwardness of their initial face-to-face meeting. (“I know what your dick looks like, but I don't know your dog's name,” Melinda laments.) True love, however, sees past artifice to the sincerity motivating the creation of the mask, and—once the cameras are discarded, and the value of experience cherished above that of recording experience—Cupid triumphs.

The Inconvenience aesthetic mandates our would-be sweethearts soliciting audience members to operate the photo-equipment for their home movies, the lens's view projected on a monitor screen at stage center, while smaller screens display Umlaut music videos (one featuring naughty nymphets in school uniforms). What distinguishes this technosmoochie from the common run of romcoms is director Shade Murray's fortuitous casting of Mary Williamson and Chris Chmelik as Melinda and Carl. Both actors endow their potentially shallow characters with a depth and seriousness to generate a charismatic presence heralding (or so we can hope) the long-overdue breakout for these two inexplicably underrated actors. Don't miss it.



Caged Dames. Photo from Rick Aguilar Studios

THEATER REVIEW

Caged Dames

Book, Music, Lyrics: David Cerda
At: Hell in a Handbag Productions
at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-975-8150 or
www.handbagproductions.org; \$18-\$37
Runs through July 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Many of Hell in Handbag Productions' most recent shows have been squeezed within an inch of their lives onto the postage stamp-sized stage of Mary's Attic. At most curtain calls, Hell in a Handbag co-founder David Cerda would solicit donations so that the company could produce their campy drag comedies on a larger scale.

Well, Hell in a Handbag has certainly stepped up its production values at Theater Wit for the revival of its 2006 musical Caged Dames, a pulpy homage to 1940s and '50s women's prison films. And the timing couldn't be more perfect following the second season release of the enormously popular Netflix women's prison series Orange is the New Black.

So Hell in a Handbag deserves kudos for lavishing so much attention and funds on Caged Dames via Zachary Gipson's imposing prison sets, Kate Setzer Kamphausen's appropriately drab costumes (augmented by the over-the-top wig designs of Jacob Christopher Green) and Mikey Moran's sturdy sound design. The show is also impressive with a live orchestra led by music director Emily Barrett and a very talented and large cast of characterful male and female performers overseen by director AJ Wright.

Unfortunately, the Caged Dames script and

score by David Cerda doesn't always rise to this heightened occasion. Many of Cerda's characters are frustratingly only partially realized, and the overall plot structure leans more toward a series of character sketches and incidents rather than a satisfying story arc centered on the new pregnant prisoner Mary Anderson (Elizabeth Morgan). Caged Dames also wears out its welcome, with many scenes in Act II feeling like the end before another meandering scene begins.

Nonetheless, even with a script and score that aren't the tightest, Caged Dames does offer the cast a lot of chances to elicit hearty laughs from Cerda's jokey zingers and oddball characters.

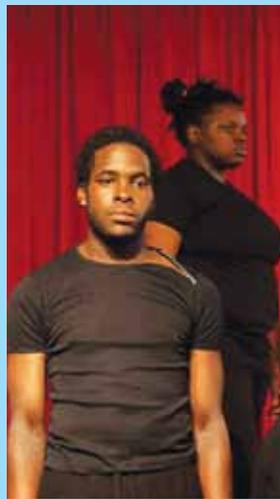
Steve Love, as the incarcerated prostitute Trixie, and Mario Mazzetti, as the sarcastic Typist, offer some impressive performances in the period style that the show is spoofing (they also look great as dames in drag). Among the women portraying women, Sydney Genco and Christea Parent respectively have their hard-boiled dame routines worked out right as the criminal Big Lorraine and the prison guard Schnitzky.

Another standout in the show is the combined efforts of Lolly Extract and Amber Marsh for their amazing puppeteer work on Loretta, the ever-loyal prison rat.

As usual, there are drag roles for Hell in a Handbag stalwarts David Cerda as Warden Hope Jenkins and Ed Jones as the sadistic lesbian Matron Elsie Emerson, but they don't stand out as much as they've done in previous Handbag shows.

With Caged Dames, the scale is certainly much larger than usual Hell in a Handbag fare. It's too bad the script wasn't sharpened to match the company's grander ambitions.

SPOTLIGHT



The Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP), a company dedicated to seeking a safe environment for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, is presenting a debut production called **Faces**. The show looks at the different faces that society and has defined for the ensemble members and compares them with how the performers see themselves. In **Faces**, topics like homelessness, HIV stigma, abuse, drug use are all addressed. **Faces** plays three performances only at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 12 and 13, and 3 p.m. Saturday, June 14, at Free Street Theater at Pulaski Park, 1419 W. Blackhawk St. Tickets are \$12; call 800-838-3006 or visit www.wesayyepp.com. Photo courtesy of Youth Empowerment Performance Project.

Hip-hop/classical event at Civic Opera June 20-29

This summer, Red Bull Flying Bach lands in Chicago, making its U.S. debut in an exclusive local engagement after three seasons of sold-out performances around the world.

Featuring Berlin-based dance crew The Flying Steps, four-time break dance world champions, Red Bull Flying Bach combines contemporary hip-hop power moves with live classical music. "Red Bull Flying Bach" runs for six performances at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., June 20-29.

The 70-minute show features the seven break dancers of The Flying Steps along with contemporary Swedish dancer Anna Holmstrom in a series of vignettes.

Tickets, \$24-\$88, are now on sale at Ticketmaster.com and at the Civic Opera House box office.

Teatro Luna's 'Sex' through June 14

Teatro Luna, which advertises itself as the country's only Pan-Latina theater company, will begin its residency at Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, 31 W. Ohio St., with the production **Generation Sex** through June 14.

A press release states that "In **Generation Sex**, Luna bares all without blushing as we explore how technology has transformed how women see themselves, relate to each other, and interact with sex and love."

Tickets are \$15; visit <http://teatroluna.org/box-office/buy-tickets/> or call 773-819-5862.

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'Proud at Mary's' June 13-14

The Brown Paper Box Co.'s cabaret series Proud at Mary's: A June Cabaret will take place at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., on June 13-14 at 7:30 p.m.

Proud at Mary's is a mix of pop songs, show tunes, personal monologues, and stories about being gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, questioning and straight.

The set list is composed of song selections from Fiona Apple, Marvin Hamlisch, Carole King, Stevie Wonder and Stephen Sondheim, among many others.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door; visit www.brownpaperbox.org.

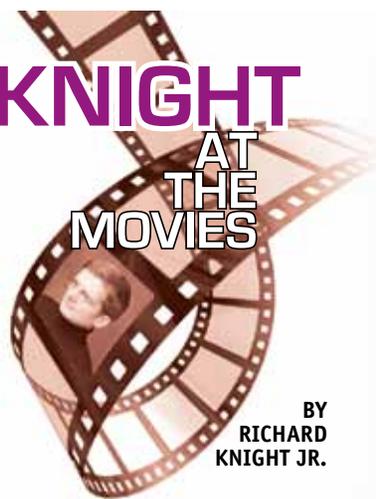
'Bingo' at Skokie this summer

MadKap Productions and Nuns 4 Fun Entertainment will present **Movie Bingo: Good, Bad or Condemned?!**, by Vicki Quade, for two performances at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Quade is the co-creator of the comedy **Late Nite Catechism**.

It will take place Friday, June 13, and Friday, July 11, at 8 p.m. All seats are \$30; visit SkokieTheatre.org or call 847-677-7761.

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

The Case Against 8; film notes

As seemingly any politically aware person in Our Community will tell you, the euphoria of election night in November 2008 quickly dissipated with the realization that the anti-gay Prop 8 amendment had passed in California, nullifying and preventing the marriages of same-sex couples throughout the state. It seemed that once again when it came to LGBT rights, we were taking two steps forward, one step back.

Many heeded the ensuing outcry and call for activism the following spring as LGBT activists and political consultants Chad Griffin and Kristina Schake formed the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) specifically to lead a legal challenge to overturn Prop 8. In a move



Plaintiffs Jeff Zarrillo and Paul Katami in *The Case Against 8*. Photo courtesy of HBO

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MONSTROUS REGIMENT

that outraged and stymied advocates on both sides of the issue, AFER hired Ted Olson—the high-profile lawyer for former President Bush—to lead the charge. Olson brought on David Boies, his legal opponent in *Bush v. Gore*, the Supreme Court case that resolved the 2000 election in Bush's favor. The two lawyers had become close friends and were in sync about their passion to see the injustices inherent in the Prop 8 amendment overturned.

The teaming of Olson and Boies—the arch conservative Republican and the liberal Democrat—brought massive media attention to the issue (no doubt intended) and intrigued Ben Cotner, a film producer who had befriended the documentary filmmaker Ryan White. The duo had a personal stake in the outcome of the legal challenge—both are gay and Californians—and they decided that there might be something worth documenting as the case progressed. After approaching AFER and winning permission to film, they began.

The fruits of their labors—five years' worth of backstage access to the many twists and turns that the case took—are recorded in their film *The Case Against 8*. The fly-on-the-wall aspects and the unprecedented access the duo were granted help elevate and enliven what has become a very familiar topic. As Olson and Boies prepare their case with a battery of assistants, the nuts-and-bolts aspects—the mock cross-examinations of the carefully chosen plaintiffs, the strategy sessions, the gains and losses—are as compelling and entertaining as a good episode of *Boston Legal*.

The movie is also given something that Dustin Lance Black's play *8*, which utilizes the court transcripts for its dialogue, could only hint at: the human element. The two couples at the center of the legal challenge—one lesbian, one gay—embody this element, giving the movie its heart and illuminating the lack of fairness that was the basis of Prop 8. We have read the testimony and seen the interviews with Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, the lesbian moms of four sons, and their counterparts, the gay couple Jeff Zarrillo and Paul Katami, who wanted their union legalized before having kids of their own. But watching the quartet in the long years as the case slowly wound its way up the ladder puts an all-too-human face on the issues at hand.

There are the expected scenes of Kris and Sandy interacting with their teenage sons: carpooling, making dinner, attempts at keeping the distracted teens involved—quick overviews of the relationships of both couples and emotionally difficult interviews with the legal team in which their sense of feeling like second-class citizens is palpable. The personalities of the couples, along with members of the legal team, become distinctive and, as always, it's the little details—as when Kris haltingly describes the form letter she and Sandy got putting the status of their marriage in limbo—that resonate. By the time the final ruling comes—which naturally, we know from the outset—the

element of suspense is pronounced, as is the exhilaration as the quartet are raced to their respective city halls to legally wed when Prop 8 is rescinded.

The Case Against 8 is showing exclusively in Chicago beginning Friday, June 13, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., and is a must-see. The fight for marriage equality has never been more thrillingly recorded than in this at turns exciting and deeply moving film. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/case-against-8>

Film notes:

—Kim Rocco Shields' three-minute anti-bullying short *Love Is All You Need?* has received more than 30 million hits, been translated into 15 languages and has been denounced by conservatives (naturally). The film turns the issue of gay-bashing around, imagining a world in which heterosexual desire is socially repellent and a justification for violence. Now Shields and her team are endeavoring to expand the short into a full-length feature that GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) is supporting. To help fund the project, they've created an IndieGoGo campaign, which continues until July 2. <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/love-is-all-you-need--2>

—"Getting old ain't for sissies," the oft-repeated quote from Bette Davis, is especially apt for the LGBT elderly, who face not only health challenges but discrimination as well. Stu Maddux's excellent 2011 documentary *Gen Silent*—which focuses on the issue, viewed through the lives of the six LGBT senior citizens portrayed in the film—is being shown on Tuesday, June 17, at 6:45 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. A panel discussion will follow the screening which is being jointly presented by the Center and the Lincoln Park Village. <http://centeronhalsted.org>

—*The Abominable Crime*, Micah Fink's 2013 penetrating documentary that debuted in Chicago at last year's Reeling Film Fest, is now out on DVD. Fink's searing film looks at the violent homophobia faced by gay Jamaicans who, once their sexuality is exposed, must choose between flight or remaining in their homeland and risking their lives. <http://abominable-crimefilm.com>

—In celebration of a decade as film critic for *Windy City Times*, on Thursday, June 19, I'll be reading and signing copies of my new film review collection *The Best of Knight at the Movies, 2004-2014* at 7 p.m. at Women & Children First bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St. *Windy City Times* publisher/editor Tracy Baim will also be there, and she will read/sign copies of her latest book, *Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the White House*, about the longtime LGBT activist who recently passed away. Owen Keehnen, the co-author of the *Vernita Gray* book, will also be present. <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/tracy-baim-owen-keehnen-and-richard-knight-jr>



Sharon Bridgforth. Photo by Vanessa Vargas

PERFORMANCE

Genderqueer playwright talks about Southern work

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

"River See," the newest work from genderqueer playwright Sharon Bridgforth, will debut June 19-29 at Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave.

"River See" is set on a juking boat in the Mississippi Delta and tells the story of See, a young woman about to embark on the Great Migration.

See is played by actress Sonja Parks, recently named "one of the seven artists you must see" by American Theater Magazine.

"Essentially, 'River See' is a series of blues stories that are told by one character," Bridgforth told Windy City Times. "In these stories, See is telling us about her family history, her ancestors, her community and family."

Her stories conjure a world of blues women, queers, deviants and seers, Bridgforth said.

Although the work is not autobiographical, Bridgforth said she drew from her own history and ancestry to create See's vibrant story.

"It came from my own bones and blood and life experiences," she said. "I am a child of the Great Migration, and I feel as a writer I am most interested in using my journey to celebrate and learn about my own family history and ancestors as a way to bring people from lots of different backgrounds together."

River See also includes queer elements that come from Bridgforth's life experience as well.

"In the world of all of my pieces queer people are healers, people who swirl magic both in the juke joint and at the crossroads," she said.

"The queerness is in the bodies of those that perform. I am composing the piece live and I am definitely queer and identify as queer gendered. The queerness is all in and through the world of the piece."

A theatrical jazz production, Bridgforth said that, in addition to Parks, there are performers contributing to the improvisational backdrop.

"The way the piece becomes jazz, is in the performance," she said. "I developed a series of gestures which are requests, communicating signals to the singers and dancers that are cast members and to the audience. Together we create what I call a moving soundscape and that is the jazz of it."

Bridgforth said the audience will be part of

the production, but doesn't want anyone to be intimidated out of attending out of fear of being pulled up on stage.

"I want audience members to know that we are inviting them to participate in the performance and what their participation will look like will vary," she explained. "Basically, people can choose how they participate. For some people that will be by giving us their attention, by witnessing what is going on, and some people may be more active."

Bridgforth has been working on "River See" for more than two years with Links Hall, whose staff and board are executive-producers and lead commissioner of the work.

She received a 2012 MAP Fund Award and a 2012 National Performance Network Creation Fund Award for the work.

"Through these last couple of years of development I've basically experimented to not only develop the text but to figure out how to make the piece live," Bridgforth said.

"River See" workshop experiments took place with artists and community members on 18 different occasions across the country during the last two years.

In addition to the Chicago performances, Bridgforth has performances coming up later this year in Boston and Miami, and said she is hoping to book tours in other cities as well.

Bridgforth is a former Chicago resident, having lived in the city most recently in 2010-2012 while serving as a visiting multicultural faculty member at the Theater School at DePaul University. Bridgforth noted she has been coming to Chicago since the 1990s with different productions and she was also born in Chicago.

She currently resides in San Francisco and is a resident playwright at New Dramatists. She is also the Spring 2014 Playwright in Residence in the University of Iowa's Playwrights Program.

Tickets are \$10 students and \$20 general admission. The Thursday, June 19, preview takes place at 7 p.m.; the June 20-29 Friday and Saturday performances take place at 7 p.m.; and the Sunday performance will be held at 3 p.m.

Call 773-281-0824 or visit www.LinksHall.org.



Jane Lynch. Photo by Jake Bailey

Jane Lynch to emcee Lyric's 60th-anniv. concert

Lyric Opera general director Anthony Freud announced that Jane Lynch—the Emmy-winning actress acclaimed for portraying coach Sue Sylvester on the hit television series *Glee*—will serve as master of ceremonies for Lyric Opera of Chicago's 60th Anniversary Concert, Nov. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Opera House.

The Dolton, Illinois, native "cut her theatrical teeth at The Second City, Steppenwolf Theatre, and in many church basements all over the greater Chicagoland area, helping her become the comedic talent she is today," as her official bio notes.

Sir Andrew Davis will lead the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus; members of the Ryan Opera Center; and a roster including Renee Fleming and jazz legend Ramsey Lewis, among others.

Tickets are available to subscribers from \$49 at lyricopera.org. Patrons wishing to attend the Diamond Ball that follows the concert should contact the Lyric Women's Board Office at 312-827-5681. For more information about the 60th Anniversary Concert, visit lyricopera.org/anniversaryconcert.

Black Alphabet Film Festival July 2-3

The 2nd Annual Black Alphabet Film Festival will take place Wed.-Thursday, July 2-3, at the DuSable Museum of African American History and Center on Halsted.

Established in 2013 and named precisely because of the mouthful naming LGBTQ/SGL inclusivity can be, Black Alphabet (BA) is a non-profit Chicago-based collective of Black sexual and gender minorities committed to art, culture and entrepreneurship in the "Black alphabet" community.

This year, BA plans to create an even bigger and better celebration of storytelling, art and community. To achieve this goal, BA is asking people to contribute to the crowd-funding campaign on the website, Indiegogo.com. Donations will be accepted until May 9 at <http://igg.me/at/baff/x/6792431>.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning in June.

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BOOKS

Jacob and Diane Anderson-Minshall talk 'Queerly Beloved'

BY SARAH TOCE

Diane Anderson-Minshall is no stranger to the LGBT literary world. She began her career at in 1990 at Crescent City Star, a weekly LGBT newspaper in New Orleans before joining the lesbian erotic magazine *On Our Backs* three years later. From there, she co-founded *Girlfriends* magazine with her partner, Susannah "Suzy" Minshall, and helmed popular publications such as *Curve* and *The Advocate*. Throughout the years, she has been at the forefront of the LGBT-rights movement.

Suzy co-founded *Girlfriends* with Diane and several friends, and served as the paper's circulation director, writing articles for several years. During this time, Suzy accepted the life-long realization that he was really a man, and everything changed.

Enter Jacob, an Anderson Cooper-inspired individual. What would happen to his work at *Butch* magazine? Would his relationship with Diane survive the transition?

So, what happens when the people writing the news become the news? They write a book.

Windy City Times: Why is *Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders* so important at this time in our nation's history?

Diane Anderson-Minshall: Obviously, this was a huge year for marriage equality in this country. We've got 17 states and jurisdictions [that] have legalized same-sex marriage. We've reached a tipping point for marriage equality with the Supreme Court in both DOMA and the *Edie Windsor* case. We've seen a moment, just as the country did in the 1967 landmark case *Loving v. Virginia*, that overturned bans against interracial marriage. Now we've reached the tipping point on same-sex marriage.

Jacob Anderson-Minshall: Right, and I think *Queerly Beloved* is an expression of that historical moment. As a couple, we were part of that historical movement for marriage equality. We've had four or five wedding ceremonies at this point and two of them were at least partially about our queer activism, because demanding our right to marry had become such a pivotal political point for our community.

DAM: We're talking about our relationship, a 23-year marriage, but also our wedding and our quest to get that marriage recognized—legally and socially. Each opportunity we've had to get a sliver of recognition for our relationship. Every domestic partnership registry, every "symbolic" wedding, every chance we had, we would jump at it, even though someone would inevitably come along afterwards and take it back, or say it still didn't give us the legal rights of straight couples.

JAM: *Queerly Beloved* is coming out at this point where we're seeing just a huge confluence of people getting the right to have the right to choose who to marry [and] who to create a family with. So, the memoir is definitely timely in that way.

WCT: What are your thoughts about how the transgender population might relate to the marriage-equality movement?

JAM: Trans people have different issues around marriage. For us, my coming out trans meant Diane and I could legally wed. I remember a Catholic newspaper running a story about our wedding saying lesbians would rush *en masse* to use this "loophole" and transition just to get marriage rights. But at the same time, I think it's important for people to recognize that that marriage equality for same-sex couples makes marriage equality for trans people that much closer.

DAM: I think a lot of people think trans is-

issues are sort of unrelated to lesbian and gay issues when first of all there are many lesbian, gay and bisexual trans people who are in same-sex relationships. But there have been a disturbing number of cases where trans individuals have married a partner who knew they were trans; but when the relationship breaks down the other partner claims their legal marriage is invalid because their partner is really his or her birth gender and they've been in an illegal same-sex marriage.

JAM: It's a case of people using antiquated laws for personal gain even though politically, socially those very laws not only hurt that person and the entire LGBT community. We're still living in a time period when different states and municipalities have different laws governing how gender is decided. Until that is standardized, the truth is a trans person in a relationship with a cisgender person of the opposite sex can be legally wed as an opposite-sex couple in one state and then be seen as illegally wed in another state if the second state outlaws same-sex marriages.

DAM: Trans marriages are still suspect. We've seen a number of legal cases in which a person has been living in their preferred gender for decades and is in a legal marriage and yet after a divorce or after the death of their partner, their rights have been taken away from them and they've lost their own property in an inheritance; lost their own homes and stuff just because they were trans. There have been multiple cases where trans men have lost custody of their children after a divorce. This is all to say that marriages that involve trans people are still on very shaky grounds legally. It's an important thing for us to remind people we all need to fight for marriage equality because that makes it so marriages with transgender people are safe as well.

WCT: Were there second thoughts before printing the memoir (i.e., work concerns, parents, friends, etc.)?

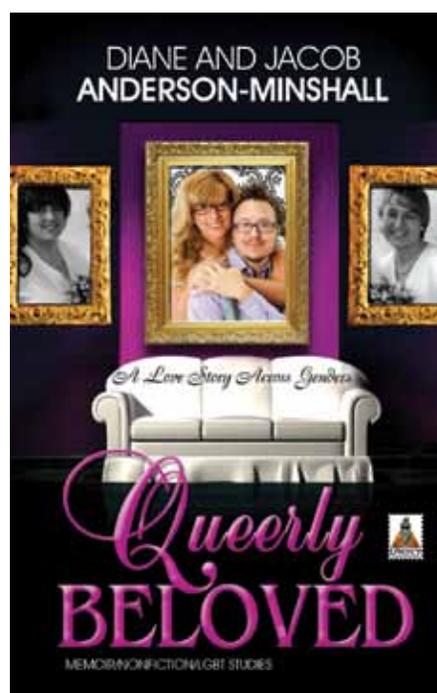
JAM: Of course. As for our family and friends; we tried to avoid telling other people's stories. This wasn't the book to talk about our parents' or friends' lives. So we focused on ourselves, but of course there were things we were concerned about including. Still, when we started writing, Diane and I agreed to write our whole 22-year story, warts and all. We tried to be as honest and open as possible and ended up with way too much material.

DAM: It's a funny story because when we first got the edits back from our editor Shelley Thrasher the first thing she said was, "You've got a really great news start here, but what I need you to do is cut out the first 23 chapters." Instantly, 23 chapters—and maybe 80,000 words—were cut from the manuscript. When we cut it, it eliminated about the first 16 years of our marriage. It also cut out our background—the 22 years before we got together. So what it left us with starts maybe six months before Jacob comes out as transgender.

After that initial shock, we realized that the cut really allowed us to narrow the focus to this time period leading up to and after Suzy became Jacob. It was hard, though, because it literally cut Suzy out of the book, which I think makes it harder for people to understand how much I felt I lost when Jacob came out. And there's a part of me that it's thinking whatever greatness I may or may not have its explained in those earlier chapters.

WCT: Can you share some of the items cut out of the first chapters?

JAM: Yeah, I think the reason we survived transition was really in those 23 chapters.



You know we went through a lot of trials and tribulations in the first 16 years. When we first moved to San Francisco we were homeless, living out of our VW bus. A few years later we co-founded the lesbian magazine *Girlfriends*. There was a terrible car accident that ended up having a negative, long-term impact on my abled-bodiedness.

DAM: And our activism: Act Up, Lesbian Avengers, Queer Nation, the dozens of Pride parades and marches on Washington. Or the sex-positive if slightly-crazy community we were part of when we worked at *On Our Backs*. All those positive and negative experiences that really explain why we continue to survive as a couple.

JAM: But we had to think of that as a little like an actor giving their character a backstory. It'll never be told explicitly, you just have to weave those backstories in here or there and let it inform your performance, or in our case, the memoir known as *Queerly Beloved*.

WCT: Diane, you are an accomplished journalist and editor. Is there any nervousness around sharing such intimate details with your public?

Diane: For me, that's an easy question to answer. I'm actually just super-transparent. I do admit that now that my aunt who helped raise me is on Facebook, I'll occasionally re-think something that I'm writing; you know, imagining how our parents might react if they read a particular piece. It's sort of horrifying now that everyone is on Facebook. It makes it a lot harder for us who used to be able to say whatever the hell we wanted and only our friends and fans would read it or see photos we'd never show our folks. But I've always been really transparent as a writer much more than Jacob.

Jacob knew early in our relationship that I wrote about everything; up to and including our sex life. And I've continue to do that even as Jacob's transitioned because it's led to all these complex feelings and emotions for me and debates with myself—and with other people—about things like identity politics and how I define myself. And in *Queerly Beloved*, there are definitely parts where I'm sharing something I had never shared with anyone, not even Jacob before that moment.

In *Queerly Beloved*, I talked about banging a dude in New Orleans to get pregnant and it's true, I am terribly embarrassed to have had sex for procreation (my first time I had consensual sex and didn't enjoy it) and am embarrassed that I had a free pass and choose a dude. But there's something in the book that I was more worried about saying out loud. And that was that I was faithful, that outside that encounter and maybe a kiss from a random stranger in a truck stop bathroom (or perhaps that was a dream), I had not had sex with anyone besides Jacob in 23 years of marriage. I felt like I built a persona—the flirty celebrity skirt chaser and burlesque dancer on the side—who is sexy and

sexual and modern and sophisticated and in my mind that translated to non-monogamous. But I'm just not. In 23 years of marriage, I've never met a celebrity I'd rather fuck than interview (because I don't believe you can ethically do both) and I've never met a person I've wanted to have sex with more than Jacob. And yeah, I find that oddly embarrassing.

WCT: Please tell us the story about meeting Jacob. Was it love at first sight?

DAM: Ha! I don't believe in love at first sight—I believe in lust at first sight. And, oddly enough, it wasn't even lust at first sight. We actually met at the second LGBT pride parade in Idaho. He's from southeastern Idaho, near Pocatello, which is famous from the Judy Garland song and not much else; and I'm from southwestern Idaho, which is famous for beautiful valleys and orchards. Our hometowns are, like, six hours apart. But for a while there was only one Pride [celebration] in the whole state of Idaho. We were both there by coincidence, each of us having been living different parts of the country for many years. We were both like at some weird crossroad in our lives.

We met at pride through a friend of a friend, basically, and at the time I didn't really give him much heed. Back then Jacob was still Suzy, a little soft butch baby dyke wearing a lesbian nation T-shirt and some hideous khaki shorts. We were both more interested in marching with other people so our introduction was brief and we went about our lives. Then, a month or two later, Jacob came back to Boise and ended up hanging out with a friend of a friend, who happened to know me, my friend Jeff and my first wife, Tina. The two of them came over our house and hung out. He was wearing Shad's clothes and suddenly I was like "Oh my God, she's so hot!" That's where the lust started.

We spent that night trading sexual barbs back and forth, playing *Taboo* and you know, the kind of games that have a lot of sexual innuendos. We began joking, bragging about our sexual conquests, you know comparing every notch on our belts. Suzy had said something about working his way through the alphabet, sleeping with people whose name started with one of the letters until he'd gotten all 24. After he went back to Pocatello and a suitable amount of time had passed I actually sent flowers, with a note that offered my help with the D or the A. I drove down for Halloween. It was our first date and like great U-Haul lesbians—which we were at the time—we moved in together within weeks. That was 23 years ago.

WCT: Jacob, do you identify in a particular way?

JAM: I identify as a queer trans guy. The term queer has always resonated with me and it still does. The label didn't change, but the specifics did. I used to be a butchy lesbian, now I'm a metrosexual trans guy for whom "queer" still feels appropriate. Testosterone therapy has altered my sexuality in some ways. Even though I sometimes preferred to have my porn star an all-male cast, testosterone didn't turn me gay—like some of Diane's friends warned her it might. I do think about sex more often now and I find myself more aroused by visual stimulation than I was in the past.

WCT: How about you, Diane? How do you identify?

DAM: Ah, the label question. Lately I've been saying I'm either a lesbian-identified bisexual or bisexual-identified lesbian. I generally like queer because it's a word I started using when I was 18 and, like Jacob says, it still fits now. I do feel like my orientation in terms of my identity has been going through a change since Jacob began transition. There's some morphing going on, but it's something that's not really fixed yet, it's not really resolved. Which is why I've written about my changing attractions, trying to find the right words to explain what I feel, and I haven't really hit on an eloquent answer yet.

Culturally I feel lesbian identified because I've been part of lesbian community for so many decades at this point. And I feel most closely identified with and attracted to other women. But I also don't want to hide or be part

of bisexual erasure. I think there are still some attractions that are almost taboo, even in the queer community.

I was sort of attacked last year for saying that since Jacob transitioned I've begun to find other trans guys attractive. I said I'm attracted to women and trans men and many readers felt I was saying that trans men weren't "real" men and I was accused of being a "chaser." I try to say this with an ounce of caution: I've started feeling like I have a sexual orientation that is attracted to both women and transgender men. The transgender men I'm attracted to is in part about their maleness not despite their maleness. What I do like about some trans men is their familiarity with what women go through in our society. They were often enculturated as women and have seen what it's like to be in a world that still privileges men over women. Plus, physically, there are just a lot of hot transgender men and a lot of hot butches so I don't know what that makes my orientation or my identity. And it's sort of constantly in flux right now.

WCT: Why are labels important in a relationship, and in a movement? Why are labels detrimental in a relationship, and in a movement?

DAM: I'm a huge fan of identity politics. When I moved to Los Angeles a few years ago I noticed that people were pretty averse to identity politics. I've had more people here tell me they don't want to be labeled than any place I've ever lived: San Francisco, New York, Portland, New Orleans. Southern California is the one place where people like to tell me they don't like labels.

Labels are things that we can use to define ourselves and also to define who we want to be and what kind of world we want to live in. Some people like to say "Why can't we just all be people?" and it would be great if we lived in a world where we all were equal we all had all of our rights. But we don't live in a utopia. Part of the reason why we need to say who we are in public is because there are other people

coming up behind us who are still afraid to do so and who may be you know not just bullied for being who they are but can be in danger from themselves. Suicide is still depressingly high among LGBT youth.

JAM: Yeah, unfortunately in human history when we didn't see all the color and diversity of specific identities and instead just saw all of humanity as people those where the same periods where the majority ruled and all people were white or had to conform to specific standards in order to have rights. Identity politics started because white men had all the power. Women needed to bound together and fight for their rights. And when lesbians felt ignored in women's groups, they connected with other lesbians and so on. So without identity politics we wouldn't have the civil rights movement or women's right to vote.

DAM: Another negative is that sometimes people box themselves in with their identity. They think, "I can't be gay and have kids," or I can't work for NASA because I'm Asian American, or bisexuals can't be monogamous, or whatever. Labels are important, but I think it's also important for us to push back and constantly expand what those labels mean.

WCT: Please tell us about the day Jacob said, "I think I'm really a man."

DAM: Actually, I had seen that coming. I knew that was coming long before he did. I was sort of waiting for it because it's not something you can really bring up to somebody and say, "Hey dude, it looks like you're reading a lot of books about trans people and you're saying a lot of interesting things about trans people. So, are you thinking maybe you might be trans instead of a girl?"

I knew Jacob like the back of my hand at this point so I could see the wheels were turning and I could see all of that being in his mind. I'd had some time to—as much as you can—prepare for it. I was sort of bracing myself, but at the same time sort of hoping maybe things would just keep going as they had been and maybe this humongous change wasn't re-

ally going to happen. Jacob is somebody who's spent a lot of time finding himself when we were younger and so I really had to see if this was another quest to find himself or if this was innately, authentically real for him.

It is such a serious undertaking to come out as transgender and then to begin to live your life in the gender that you feel you are; so I think that very first day I was very supportive and action oriented. I said, "We'll get through this." and that we need him to see a therapist immediately. Not that I thought he was crazy or anything. It's just that's how you have a diagnosis of "gender dysphoria" confirmed and it's one of the first steps in a gender transition. (Of course I had been researching this while waiting for the other shoe to drop.) So, in those first days after his announcement, I clicked into make it work mode. I wasn't in trauma mode or grieving mode that day. There were many, many other days that were much harder than that day, surprisingly.

WCT: And that led to the transition period...

DAM: In one part of Queerly Beloved, Jacob talks about becoming a man overnight. There was a point where one day he was a woman named Suzy and then the next day we were calling him Jacob. But there's a different reality as well, one in which his transition took a great deal of time and red tape. There are all these legal documents that have to be changed, like your driver's license. You change your name and gender in mundane things, like getting a new email address and clicking a different box on dozens of websites and writing letters to credit bureaus and all of that. He was freelancing at the time for Bitch magazine and had very supportive and trans-friendly editors who immediately adopted his new name. So, really in the beginning it moved pretty quickly.

I think people expected me to put the brakes on the whole thing and I was sort of the opposite of that. I mean, I didn't completely throw myself into supporting him. Because—this is going to sound terrible when I say it—but I

have to admit I was uncomfortable with the thought of him being between genders and him being neither gender or both genders or defining himself as gender queer instead of as a trans man. I really respect people who can push the boundaries of gender and who can defy everybody's need to categorize and label their gender. I have a lot of friends who are gender nonconforming who don't use pronouns and who defy those categories or visibly embody masculinity and femininity at the same time. I respect that they do that but I think it's really difficult in our modern world.

When he transitioned, Jacob and I were already in our upper 30s and professionally established and had finally gotten to a place where reached a level of acceptance from our families. And I didn't want to lose all of that. It felt difficult enough constantly explaining to people who this person was who used to be my wife. I wanted to move through the uncomfortable space in between and get to the end game, which I thought initially would happen quickly. Now that I'm older and better informed and it's been nearly a decade since we started down the path, I've come to realize that transitioning is not a temporary state of being.

JAM: I was also naïve enough to think that you had a "sex change" and you were done. I remember reading Testosterone Files by Max Wolf Valerio and being really surprised at his timeline. It took him years, not months to grow facial hair, for example. It's not I take hormones today and tomorrow I have surgery and then boom, I'm done. In fact, I've come to see transitioning as more of an on-going journey or a state of mind. It's sort of like some of the other major life transitions people go through. Like parenthood—I imagine you don't just have a baby and become a parent and that's it.

Find out more about Queerly Beloved via the book's website: www.anderson-minshall.com/queerly-beloved. Purchase Queerly Beloved on Amazon.com.

Read the entire interview online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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Out as a college athlete, Chicagoan still holds record

Before dancing onto the Chicago LGBT scene as Robbie Phoenix, the real-life Robert Fraga vaulted to college success in track & field. He was a record-setting athlete, who still holds a school record. Openly gay in college, Fraga shared his story for the first time with *Windy City Times*.

BY ROSS FORMAN

Robert Fraga still stands in the Concordia University record book, thanks to his indoor pole-vault performance four years ago at the annual conference meet of the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference, a group of 12 private NCAA Division III colleges and universities from Illinois and Wisconsin.

Fraga—then a freshman at Concordia, based in suburban River Forest, Illinois—vaulted himself 13 feet, nine inches to become the indoor conference champion and, in the process, claim the indoor conference record and Concordia mark.

That was Fraga's personal best at that time, and he has continued to soar high—just not in sports anymore.

Fraga, about halfway through that record-setting freshman season at Concordia, came out as gay. Some of his teammates were shocked and kind of distant to him after they learned. But, by the end of the season, which ultimately was his only at Concordia before transferring to College of DuPage, "everyone except my workout partner came around," and was accepting of his sexual orientation, Fraga said.

"My workout partner in college for track was a little taken back [when he learned I was gay]. That was the only relationship that I can say I lost. We used to go everywhere together and trained together; I wish I would have handled that [coming-out] differently, or told him sooner."

Otherwise, Fraga has been fully accepted for his orientation—and he's also encouraged other family members to come out. He added, "It's a good feeling realizing that they [have] the courage because I took the step to come out."

A multi-sport athlete in high school in Texas, Fraga moved to Illinois for college. He played soccer and was a member of the track & field team at Midway High School in Waco—and even got to participate in the prestigious Texas Relays, where he also saw the U.S. Track & Field team compete, which he said was surreal.

"You see them [compete] at the Olympics, and [at the Texas Relays] they were literally five feet away from me," Fraga said. "It was a meet that you had to qualify for, so being chosen to compete was an honor. Going with a select group of athletes from our school was awesome and staying in the hotels with all the other athletes was so much fun."

Fraga came out to everyone as a college freshman, though he started the process as a high school senior. "It took me a while to kind of figure things out and to truly accept it," he said. "It was harder and more [of] a struggle to come to terms with it considering Texas is a very conservative state. I went through a stage where I considered myself bisexual, but no one knew. People in [high] school would ask and always wonder, but I never really admitted it in high school. For most people, it was a don't-ask-don't-tell situation. But once I graduated and moved to Chicago for school it was truly a finding-myself experience."

"I met a guy who I really liked and could see myself being in a relationship with, so I guess it just took off from there. I called my mom to talk to her about it and she was very accepting. I decided to wait to talk to my dad about

it when I went home for break. Then I started the process to tell my friends."

Then he changed his relationship status on Facebook, "which, in a sense, just eliminated me having to tell everyone individually," Fraga said. "However, the important people in my life I made sure to have a conversation with, [such as], my mother, my best friend, my sister, my dad, my step mom, and my grandparents."

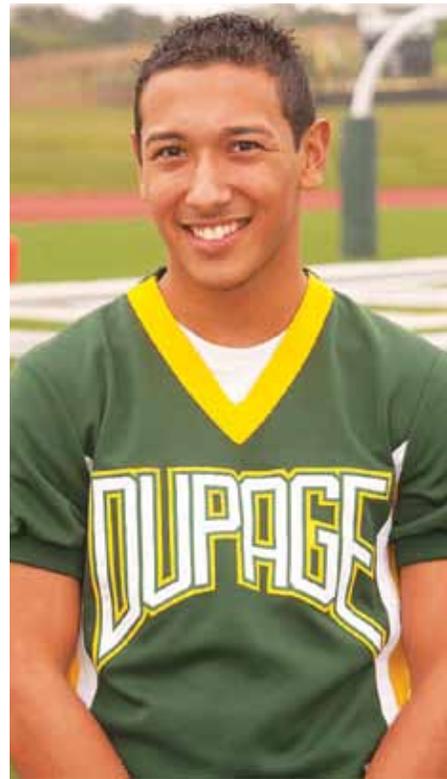
"When I went home to talk with my dad, I was relieved by his [reply, which was] 'If that's the lifestyle that makes you happy, then good for you. You're my son and I love you no matter what; I just want you to be happy and safe.'"

"That was the [same] reaction I received from pretty much all of my family."

As for his high school teammates, who learned of his sexual orientation while he was in college, Fraga said they were, believe it or not, upset that he didn't tell them in high school—because they did not care, "and they just wanted me to be myself around them," he said.

Fraga said his sexual orientation was never talked about much at Concordia, a Lutheran school in the suburbs, outside of his track & field team. But, "there definitely [were] whispers and looks," though not often, he said.

Fraga spent parts of two years at College of DuPage, as a cheerleader, but his academic path was sidelined in January 2012, when he was in a car accident and fractured his back



and tore multiple ligaments in his right knee. He moved back to Texas for six months to recover and be with family.

"I plan on going back [to college]; it's just a matter of working out all the details and figure out all the pieces. My college experience was amazing," Fraga said. "My parents wanted me to go somewhere closer to home, but when I came to visit Chicago to visit Concordia I fell in love with the city and never looked back. All my family is in Texas, so moving here not knowing anyone and having to financially support myself made me grow up a little faster. When I went to College Of DuPage, I had a blast. The bond between the [cheerleading] team was amazing. Some of the best friends [on the cheer team], I will keep for a lifetime."

"My grades were good. I had 3.35 [GPA] when I left. Sports was kind of the motivator



Robert Fraga. Photos courtesy of Fraga

to get good grades."

Fraga also while in high school was driven by one of the most challenging sporting events out there. He was trained for the decathlon.

"We didn't have the decathlon in high school meets, but each athlete was [allowed] a maximum of five events to participate in—and I always did five. My coaches in high school said [decathlon] would be a good fit for me and that it would position me well for interest from colleges."

"In college [decathlon training] took a lot of hours. Not only was I working out during practice, but also on those days we didn't have practice. Or I'd have to work out in the morning and another work out [session] in the evening. Each day I did all my running training, and the different field events throughout the week. My favorite was definitely pole vault. I had about five different poles and they each were customized with different colored tape—purple, yellow, black, blue, and rainbow."

"If they didn't know I was gay before, they had the hunch," after seeing the rainbow pole, he said, laughing.

Under Chicago's rainbow

Now 23, Fraga lives in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. He's known to many as Robbie, or his stage name, Robbie Phoenix. A retail sales associate for T-Mobile, he also is a local go-go dancer.

He's been dancing since he was 21.

"I always loved to dance," said Fraga, who first learned to dance to Latin music. "My mother was the one who taught me how to dance, and then it just took on a mind of its own. I used to dance [several days per week, but] wow I dance maybe once or twice a month."

He also helps teach a workout class at World Gym in Uptown, mixing hip hop with fast movements for a sculpted torso.

"Dancing for me is such a relief; [it helps me] get in my own little world," Fraga said. "I've danced at Circuit, Hydrate, Mini Bar, and the old Cocktail, plus. Talbott Street Nightclub in Indianapolis and LaCage Niteclub in Milwaukee, and more."

Ironically, Fraga admitted he was nervous, or at least hesitant, to dance for the first time at a bar. "But I talked with my mom about it, and she was all for it," he said.

And working in nothing more than underwear, and a pair of high-top shoes, is a bonus, he said. "If I could, I would wear underwear only every day. I think underwear fashion is great; I have spent way too much money on underwear. I have an entire closet for my dance

stuff. Underwear, hats, high tops, arm bands, all the accessories."

Fraga said the biggest tip he's ever received while dancing was a \$100 bill during Latino Pride at the Green Dolphin. The most one person has given him on stage in one night is \$250, while dancing at Cocktail.

"You will never catch me go-go dancing without a hat or a bandana around my head. High tops and boots should be every dancer's choice of shoes," he said. "I like wearing bright colors because of my skin tone, but I find myself wearing more white than anything else. And any underwear that can show off my butt is good in my book. I like harnesses as well."

Dancing as Robbie Phoenix, he is a finalist for the 2014 Bud Boyz contest.

"I am really excited to be a finalist. Representing a brand is definitely something that has been a goal in life for me," he said.

More Robert Fraga:

—Favorite pro sports team: Texas Rangers

—Favorite pro sports athlete: Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez

—On Michael Sam getting drafted by the St. Louis Rams: "I think it is a good thing to have an open gay player in any sport. As far as the [much publicized draft-day] kiss [with his boyfriend], I'm very impartial about that. I feel like it was very staged and not genuine, but that's just my opinion. I love the fact that they are in love, just the setup of the scene was very staged."

—On CMSA: He is playing his second season in the Open Sunday Softball league. He is a second baseman and his team's leadoff hitter.

—Hobbies: Sports and movies

—Shoes: "I am a high-top fanatic."

—Ethnicity: Is half-Mexican, half-Czech

—Overcoming obstacles: "There are two obstacles that have definitely impacted me today. The first was in December, 2011, when my mom passed away. She was my best friend, the one person I could talk to without any pre-judgment. We talked every day. Also, my 2012 car accident; I still have two rods and four screws in my back from that. That [accident] has made me very determined."

—On Robert Fraga: "I'm a fun, go-with-the-flow, spontaneous person. My mom instilled that in me, and no matter how bad and dark things can get, there's always a silver lining. I think that's one of my strongest assets. There's always some sort of positive, no matter how bad things are. I love to have fun, smile and laugh. Laughing is the best ab workout you could do."

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Karen Mason bringing 'Divas' to Chicago

BY JERRY NUNN

Acclaimed singer Karen Mason is waving the flag for Pride month in Chicago this June. Her concert, titled "The Secrets of the Ancient Divas," weaves cover songs from Barbra Streisand, Eydie Gorme, Bette Midler and Doris Day all together, then includes her new song "It's About Time," an anthem for marriage equality.

Mason brings her Broadway background to the Windy City, with notable roles in *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

We phoned the talented songstress to hear more about her upcoming visit.

Windy City Times: Hi, Karen. Where in the world are you calling from?

Karen Mason: It has been a couple of busy weeks. [Laughs] I'm at home packing to go to Bermuda. I am working on a cruise called Celebrity Summit through 54 Below, who is doing the cruise. This is my week to go and it's really a tough job; I have to do two whole shows in one night—not bad!

I just got back from Philly yesterday. Many years ago I had a vocal problem so I went to Philadelphia for rehabilitation and the organization of my doctor had their gala last night called The Voice Foundation. They were honoring Bootsy Collins, Roberta Flack and Denyce Graves. They are, across the board, quite different. I was the entertainment at the end of the evening after everyone had gotten their awards. It wasn't a very big room but I looked out and saw Bootsy who was head to toe covered in sequins. I told him that he played on one of my favorite James Brown cuts!

WCT: Did you always love musicals growing up?

KM: I have always loved music. My parents took us to see all kinds of shows growing up. Part of my childhood was in St. Louis. My parents always valued the arts. My mom was being groomed to be a concert pianist. She loved music but not the performance part of it so just kept music in her life.

We went to the opera when we were young and the music imprinted on me. I saw *Around the World in 80 Days* along with all kinds of wonderful things that made me want that magic.

WCT: You spend a good amount of time in Chicago?

KM: I do. My family is there. It is a great way for me to work and get a chance to visit the family. I love the city of Chicago. I am always looking for a chance to come back and perform there.

WCT: I read you went to school here.

KM: After St. Louis my parents moved to Chicago. I went to Sacred Heart of Mary in Rolling Meadows and University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

I met Brian Lasser in Chicago and we worked together for many years. We were working at a place called Lawrence of Oregon, a Lettuce Entertain You restaurant. It changed my life and we moved to New York. It gave us a chance to work five nights a week doing nightclubs, and concerts. We worked a gay bar called La Pub that had a half-price night. There was a cabaret bar in the back where Brian had worked with a couple of other people. He asked if he could bring me there to perform. We were not

paid but it didn't matter. That is where we honed our skills.

WCT: You were like Bette Midler singing in the bathhouses!

KM: Just no men in towels—at least as far as I knew.

WCT: How great, after all of these years, for your song "It's About Time" to pay back marriage equality?

KM: It is fantastic. I just hope more people use it. It needs to be out there. It is so great the states that have gotten smart about mar-



Karen Mason.

riage equality to the point where we should have been years ago. It takes as long as it takes I guess.

I sang for some friends of ours right after New York passed the marriage-equality bill. I wanted a song so had my husband Paul and Shelly Markham write it. He has a hook in his head and I was just blown away when I heard it. It is what it should be. I would like to add the word to it as I always say, "It's About Fucking Time!" But you know that doesn't sing as well...

WCT: It would be censored.

KM: That's right. [Laughs] I am so proud of that song. I will sing it for anyone anywhere.

WCT: I just need to find a husband and you can come sing it for me.

KM: You betcha! I tell people this song is turning me into a wedding singer.

WCT: Tell people about the show "The Secrets of the Ancient Divas."

KM: I was supposed to do a Broadway show called Rebecca based on a Daphne du Maurier book. It is dark and wonderful. It didn't happen so I was left with time to find work. I was asked to sing Judy Garland songs with the Long Beach Orchestra. I was able to sing all of the songs I grew up with.

A lot of great divas have influenced me over the years so I put them together for this show: Shirley Bassey, Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand, Peggy Lee and Doris Day. These are their signature songs that I put my imprint on it. With "Goldfinger," we made it into a Mayan chant.

It is so much fun and we have had a ball doing this show. We just did it in San Francisco and Los Angeles. People went crazy.

We do songs like "The Man That Got Away," "The Way We Were" and a great arrangement of "Chicago."

WCT: Sounds perfect for our town.

KM: Since I am the diva holding the microphone, I sing "It's About Time." I get to do the song that was written for me. It couldn't be better timing with Gay Pride. I have been very lucky with the people I have worked with and the gay people that have given me incredible joy. It is an honor to make a statement with "It's About Time."

WCT: Tell me one secret about Liza Minnelli, since you worked with her.

KM: No secrets about her but what I learned from her is that it is okay to reveal the showiness of performing. She's a great showman, like her mom, but I think Liza [is even better]. She

gives everything she has. It's okay to do that and not be contained all of the time.

WCT: Kick a leg up and go!

KM: That's right. Give everything you can and hope for the best. It takes a lot of energy to do that. She's very generous as a performer. She came to see *And the World Goes 'Round* when we were doing that in New York. She was very nice to the cast when we were standing there slack-jawed because we were meeting Liza Minnelli!

We do her song "Colored Lights" in this Davenport's show. If you are going to steal, steal from the best!

Mason channels the divas at Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., June 19-21 and 28-30. There is a \$35 charge, with a two-drink minimum. Tickets are available at www.davenportspianopbar.com and 773-278-1830.

More on Mason can be found at karenmason.com.

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General-admission tickets (\$20) are available online at windycitysings.org or <http://wcpapride.brownpapertickets.com>, and at the door.

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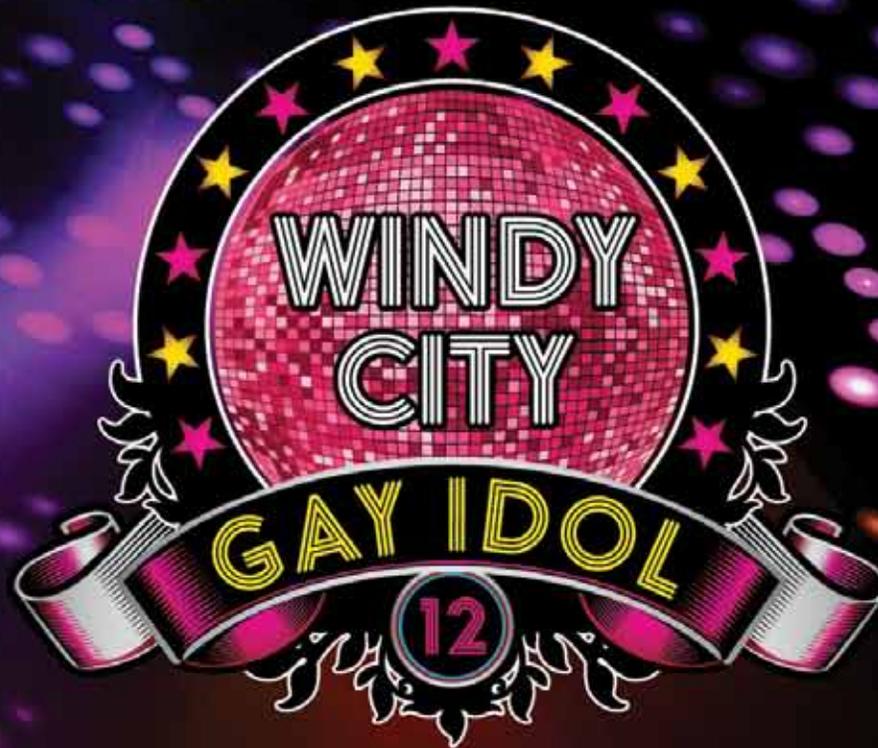
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the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Packing House

BY MEGHAN STREIT

A meal at **Packing House**, the latest addition to the West Loop's Randolph dining district, is kind of like a visit to a quirky children's clubhouse—complete cartoons displayed on TV screens, a dessert that tastes remarkably like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a drink that tastes like a melted Bomb Pop. But, a generous shot of Grey Goose in that cocktail, called the Pear Bear, lets you know this swanky clubhouse is definitely for adults.

More subdued décor—like sleek brown upholstery on booths and chairs and subway tiles behind the bar—lends some sophistication to balance the more youthful elements. There's also a spacious patio that will be an ideal spot for summer afternoon happy hours and al fresco dinners on warm evenings.

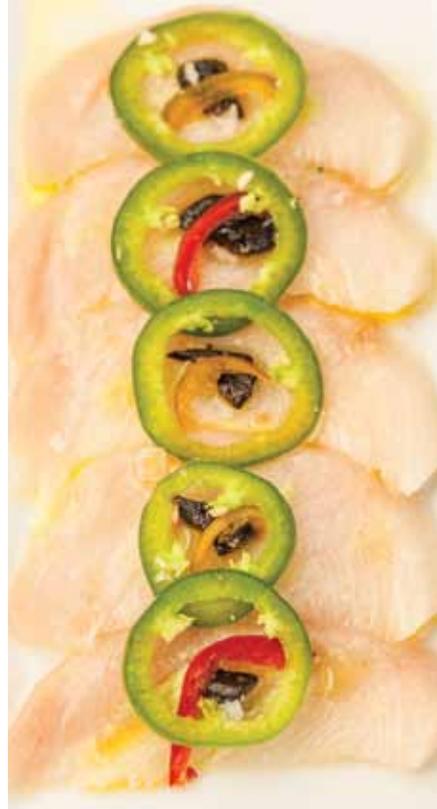
You can begin your meal with a selection of

cheeses and charcuterie, or one of several fresh ceviches and crudos made with fish like halibut, snapper and escolar. Or, order up a pan of Parker House rolls with dill butter. The rolls are served fresh and hot and in a miniature cast iron pan. The dill butter is actually more of an oil, but the fresh herbs pair well with the warm bread.

I really enjoyed the burrata salad. The creamy cheese is nestled beneath a scoop of green chickpeas that add a little crunch to the dish and tender morel mushrooms that lend an earthy sweetness. The larger dishes include a selection of pizzas and an array of meat and fish dishes. The entrées all begin with a familiar concept—spaghetti or cheeseburger, for example—but flavorful and high-quality ingredients like aged cheddar, black truffles, preserved lemon and braised artichokes save the dishes from feeling ordinary.

The crab spaghetti is a lovely option for an early summer dinner. It's almost like a lighter and more upscale version of macaroni and cheese. Preserved lemon combined with Parmesan cheese forms a light sauce. There's lots of tender shredded crabmeat and fresh chives add a bright note to the pasta.

The pizzas are also definitely worth a try. The crust is on the thicker side, doughy on the inside with a crispy top layer. Prosciutto, fig and



Hamachi at Packing House. Press photo

truffle arugula make for a winning combination of pizza toppings. The sweet figs and thin slices of savory prosciutto are baked into the melted parmesan cheese and a generous helping of arugula, flavored richly with truffle oil, is sprinkled on top.

Dessert at Packing House is just as playful as the décor. House made gelatos can be ordered with an espresso to make an affogato, which ends up tasting like a rich adult version of an ice cream sundae. The salted caramel gelato makes a delicious affogato that tastes like a caramel latte when the gelato melts into the coffee. Also delicious and surprising is a light chocolate cake stuffed with a fluffy peanut butter filling. The cake is soft and bread, with only a hint of chocolate. On the plate are some lightly mashed blackberries. When eaten altogether with the peanut butter filling, it has both the taste and consistency of a really good peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I found the dessert delightful and it was a pleasant ending to a really satisfying meal.

Packing House is at 1113 W. Randolph St.; call 312-929-4787 or visit www.packing-housechicago.com.

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

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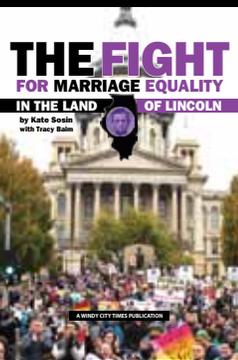
The best of Midsommarfest

Sunny images of Andersonville Midsommarfest, Sat., June 7, and Sun., June 8. Photos by Jerry Nunn. More photos online at www.windycitymediagroup.com



3 LGBT BOOKS for Pride Month

VERNITA GRAY
MARRIAGE EQUALITY
KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BOOK SIGNING: THU., JUNE 19, 7 PM
WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST BOOKSTORE
5233 N. CLARK ST.

The Fight for Marriage Equality in the Land of Lincoln

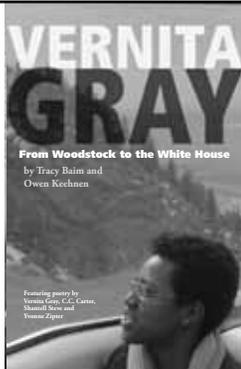
by Kate Sosin and Tracy Baim

Windy City Times reporter Kate Sosin and publisher Tracy Baim take an in-depth look at the push for marriage rights in Illinois. The complicated route to equality required money, political clout and a lot of activism to push it over the finish line. Sosin, now a reporter in Boston, will not be at the signing.

Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the White House

by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen

Vernita Gray lived through some of the country's most riveting civil-rights dramas, as an African American girl from the South Side of Chicago. She came out as a lesbian soon after attending the 1969 Woodstock concert, where she heard about the uprising at the Stonewall gay bar in New York City. Her fight for lesbian equality, and the rights of the entire LGBTQ community, would be her passion for the remaining decades of her life. She was also a poet and a writer, a key player in Chicago's gay liberation movement, and a lesbian separatist during the 1970s. She lost her long battle with cancer just months after becoming one-half of the first same-sex couple to legally marry in Illinois. Hear a bit about her life from the authors of this new book.



The Best of Knight at the Movies

by Richard Knight, Jr.

Windy City Times is marking the 10th anniversary of Richard Knight, Jr. as film critic for the paper with the publication of The Best of Knight at the Movies, a collection of Knight's movie reviews from 2004-2014. Written from Knight's queer perspective, the book includes more than 150 film reviews and essays. Gay icon Bruce Vilanch has said about the collection, "If Fred Phelps were alive he'd picket this book!" The book will be released in mid-June, just over a decade after Knight joined the paper, and Knight will be at the store to read from and sign copies of his book.



VERNITA GRAY

From Woodstock to the White House

by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen

Featuring poetry by Vernita Gray, C.C. Carter, Shantell Steve and Yvonne Zipter

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CALENDAR

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nightspots

Wed., June 11

Hillary Clinton She talks about her memoir *Hard Choices*, about crises, choice and challenges she faced as secretary of state and how those choices drive her view of the future. Mayor Rahm Emanuel will then interview Clinton in a Q&A session. \$50 tickets include a signed copy of *Hard Choices*. Chicago Ideas will host. tickets@chicagoideas.com. 9:00am - 10:00am Harris Theater for Music and Dance 205 E Randolph St., 312-906-7419 Tickets: <https://www.chicagoideas.com/events/321>

Paul Lutter Memorial Chicago attorney and activist Paul Lutter, 68, passed away May 4 following complications from surgery. 4:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Attorney-activist-Paul-Lutter-dies/47342.html>

National Anthem Singing Contest Your last chance to compete to make it to the semi-finals to sing the National Anthem for Gay Day at Wrigley Field. Arrive by 8:30 to sign up, contest starts at 9. First round is song of choice, second round will be the National Anthem. There will be a karaoke machine to pick your first round song. Multiple people can advance straight to semi-finals 5:00pm Roscoe's Tavern 3356 N Halsted St <http://www.roscoes.com>

Trans Latina Meet & Greet Members and friends of the TransLatin@Coalition 6:00pm - 8:00pm Cultura, 1900 S Carpenter St, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1427367424196204/>

Chicago Ideas Week Conversation: Give and Take: Lessons for Life and Work with Adam Grant Adam Grant—the youngest full-and highest rated-professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and best-selling author of *Give and Take*—takes the Chicago Ideas Week stage to explain how better business and life decisions come from putting others first. 6:30pm - 7:30pm Owen Theater, 170 N Dearborn, St, <https://www.chicagoideas.com/events/320>

Thursday, June 12

Veterans' Pride event Table in the "F-Lobby" with a display featuring the changes that have occurred over the past several years for LGBT service members and Veterans. Screening of the documentary "The Camouflage Closet" 12pm. Information

from: Mandi Evanson Mandi.Evanson@va.gov 10:00am - 2:00pm Hines Veterans Administration Hospital

Couch Talk Speaker program about HIV. Registration: 6:00 pm. Program start: 6:30 pm. Parking available. RSVP by calling 1-855-653-7430. Walk-ins are welcome but registration is encouraged. 6:30pm The Westin Michigan Ave., 909 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago

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@pflagillinois.org 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://community.pflag.org/transgender>

Faces Stories of LGBTQ street-based youth will be performed live, different faces that society and systems have defined for the ensemble members versus the different faces they strive to build and present for themselves. \$12 online or \$15 at the door. Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wxTyxUj4g. 7:00pm Free Street Theatre, 1419 W. Blackhawk St., Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/804451296232459/> Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/705595>

Second City Tennis Classic 2014 Draw Party Pick up your tournament bags, shirts and share a drink with friends. Replay is providing light appetizers and offering drink specials to our players. Second City Tennis (SCT) organizes tennis and related social activities serving the gay and lesbian community of Chicago. Also see tournament related listings June 12-15. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Replay Beer & Bourbon 3439 N Halsted St <http://http://www.secondcitytennis.com>

Friday, June 13

Second City Tennis Classic Second City Tennis (SCT) organizes tennis and related social activities serving the gay and lesbian community of Chicago. Also see tournament related listings June 12-15. 8:00am Indoor and outdoor courts, Northwestern University, Evanston <http://http://www.secondcitytennis.com>

LGBTI Solidarity in Africa Weekend Free symposium on "Theological Resources for LGBTI Liberation," with South African activists Judith Kotze and Ingrid Schoonraad from Inclusive & Affirming

Ministries exploring intersections of North American liberation theology and South African post-apartheid theology as they relate to the liberation for LGBTI people. See site for more Chicago events. 2:00pm - 4:00pm Broadway United Methodist Church 3338 N Broadway <http://chicagoelcomingchurches.org>

LGBTQIA Pride Month Gender and Sexuality Tour Bring Chicago history out of the closet with a tour of Hull-House and explore early 20th century stories of gender non-conformity, diverse definitions of family, and fierce self-expression. Was Jane Addams a lesbian? We'll contemplate this commonly asked question that lacks a simple answer. 3:00pm - 4:00pm Jane Addams Hull House Museum 800 S. Halsted St. <http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull>

Team Fred Fundraiser Team Fred- Ride For AIDS Chicago needs your support. Join them as they raise funds for TPAN. Fabulous raffle prizes (including gift cards, acupuncture sessions, gift baskets, art from local artist, and much more). Jell-O shots. \$20 at the door will go to RFAC and will get you two drink tickets (well, beer, and wine), and one raffle ticket. More raffle tickets may be purchased throughout the event. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd

Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association Potluck. Bring a dish to share and your own drinks. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Contact an organizer for location https://www.facebook.com/events/470372329775021/?ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular

Proud at Mary's: A June Cabaret A night of Pride-based pop songs, show tunes, personal monologues, and stories about being gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, questioning, and straight. \$10 advance. \$15 door. 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark <http://www.brownpaperbox.org>

Saturday, June 14

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Weekly Saturday meetings. A peer-led support and education group for people with mood disorders and family and friends. Ask receptionist for room number. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 872-216-3272 <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

LGBTQ Self-Defense & Empowerment In this free community workshop, LGBTQ individuals will become better equipped to deal with situations of disrespect, harassment, and abuse that they or others face. Through discussions, interactive activities, and hands-on practice participants will gain the skills needed to form a plan and take action for safety in all areas of their work and personal lives. 1:30pm - 3:00pm Thousand Waves 1220 W. Belmont Ave <http://thousandwaves.org/VPIindividuals.htm#LGBTQ> Tickets: <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/>



TOP 'CHOICE'

Wed., June 11

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton talks about her new memoir, *Hard Choices*, at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

ASP/home.asp?studioid=26306

Windy City Gay Idol semifinals Competition Highly anticipated competition in Chicago's LGBTQ community, a search for the best amateur LGBTQ or allied singer in the Chicago area. 2pm doors, 3 pm competition. 2:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>

Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens Extended, Fridays and Saturdays through June 20 8:00pm Hydrate Nightclub 3458 N Halsted St., <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Chicago Forum on LGBTI Rights in Africa A panel of activists from Nigeria and South Africa will discuss how African LGBTIs are organizing for their freedom despite extreme violence and some of the world's worst anti-gay laws. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Episcopal Center, 65 E. Huron St., <https://www.facebook.com/events/1494602454101923/>

AVER (LGBT Veterans) BBQ and Beer Bust Flag Day, \$10 donation gets beer, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. Volunteer to bring food at Jamesdarby@aol.com or by phone. 3:00pm - 7:00pm Replay Beer & Bourbon 3439 N Halsted St 773-752-0058

Sisters that Love with Pride Informational workshop on health risks Facing LGBTQ women. Betsy Rubinsten, MA, LSW. Conference room. Free. Limited space. RSVP to 708-252-0400. 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 773-472-6469 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Sunday, June 15

Jarvis Square Wine Affair Featuring 12 purveyors and over 50 wines. \$10 at advance, \$15 at the door. Portion of the proceeds go to Gale School. Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/708590 or at R Public House, Towbar, or Taste Food & Wine. 2:00pm - 5:00pm

PFLAG DuPage monthly meeting Showing the film *Daddy and Papa*: A film that explores the lives of gay men who have made a decision that is both traditional and revolutionary: to raise kids themselves. 2:00pm St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S. Wheaton Ave., Wheaton <http://www.pflagillinois.org>

Monday, June 16

Melissa Etheridge with members of Chicago Symphony Orchestra Orchestra celebrating its 25th annual Corporate Night. Concert-only tickets: \$35 to \$99. Preconcert dinner and concert package tickets: \$200. Sean O'Laughlin, conductor (Orchestra Hall) 220 S Michigan Ave 312-294-3000 or 800-223-7114 Tickets: <http://cso.org>

Tuesday, June 17

Chicago Post Office to Dedicate Harvey Milk Stamp The Chicago District will hold a local dedication of the new Harvey Milk Forever stamp, prior to the "State of the LGBTQ Union Forum" at the Center on Halsted. 6:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Screening and discussion of Gen Silent Many who fought the earliest battles for LGBT equality are now senior citizens. "Gen Silent" sheds light on the issue of discrimination against LGBT people as they age. Register 773-248-8700 or celebrate@lincolnparkvillage.org Lincoln Park Village & Center on Halsted present. \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. 6:45pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://lincolnparkvillage.org/wp-content/uploads/Gen-Silent-Flyer.061714.pdf>

Tegan and Sara Announce Let's Make Things Physical Tour Canadian indie rock duo composed of identical twin lesbian sisters Tegan Rain Quin and Sara Keirsten Quin. With The Courtney's and My Midnight Heart. 7:30pm The Vic Theatre 3145 N Sheffield Ave <http://www.victheatre.com>

Wed., June 18

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives Pride Month Open House, Public Meeting The public is invited to drop by and tour the new location at 6500 N Clark Street and to learn more about recent developments at the library. Q&A session will follow. 7:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 5315 N Clark St <http://www.gerberhart.org>

NPH, Audra among winners at Tonys

The Tonys took place June 8 at Radio City Music Hall—and some big stars were honored.

Neil Patrick Harris predictably won the Tony for performance by a leading actor in a musical for his portrayal of an East German transgender rocker in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, also named best revival of a musical. Harris' co-star in *Hedwig*, Lena Hall, won for featured actress in a musical, breathlessly thanking her parents, a sister who had done her hair and "my soon-to-be-born niece," USA Today noted.

Audra McDonald earned her sixth Tony—a record for a performer—for playing Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, edging such actors as Tyne Daly (*Mothers & Sons*) and lesbian actress Cherry Jones (*The Glass Menagerie*); McDonald cried as she received a sustained standing ovation.

Mark Rylance (who had two acting nominations) collected his third Tony, in the category of featured actor in a play, for a U.K.-based staging of *Twelfth Night*. A *Raisin in the Sun* fared well, winning best revival of a play as well as acting honors for Sophie Okonedo and Kenny Leon.

A *Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*—

which had the most nominations coming in—won for best musical, and *All the Way* earned best play, with Bryan Cranston (TV's *Breaking Bad*) winning the lead-actor award for the latter production.

In addition, Rosie O'Donnell was given the Isabelle Stevenson Award for her philanthropic effort.

Hugh Jackman hosted the show for the fourth time, beginning with him bouncing through the venue while interacting with various stars, and delivering a monologue with several gay references. ("Whether you like men dressed as women or drag queens, there's something for everyone," he said at one point.) However, instead of an all-out musical number at the start, Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight and Fantasia entertained with songs from best-musical contender *After Midnight*.

Darko Tresnjak won for best direction of a musical, for *A Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder*. He thanked his husband and then also paid moving tribute to his mother, a skydiver who fought in World War II. Tresnjak is originally from Yugoslavia.

Other show highlights included Alan Cumming performing a number from *Cabaret*, and Jennifer Hudson and Idina Menzel performing their own musical magic on stage.



Neil Patrick Harris (left) and Alan Cumming clown around backstage at the 2014 Tonys. Photo from Cumming's Twitter account

BILLY MASTERS

"Casa Valentina, a nominee for Best Play, highlights the tension between married men who cross-dress and the gay community—two sides that never understood each other. It's kinda like people who are against same-sex marriage and people who mind their own business."—Hugh Jackman, at the Tony Awards. Moments earlier, he gave people in the mosh pit "the greatest view of the Man from Down Under's down-under." Ah, it's the little things....

Here we are in the midst of Gay Pride Month—and you know what? It doesn't seem any gayer than any other month. For the past few years, most months have been gay months. Every time you turn around, there's another gay marriage in the news. Gay seniors are getting housing. Gay teens are more mobilized than ever. Even my quaint little high school has a gay-straight alliance. And yet, what makes big news last week? A couple instances of political correctness. First, an alleged transphobic joke posted by Jenny McCarthy on Twitter. Here's what she wrote: "Did Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend cheat with a transsexual model? I heard J-Lo gave him an ultimatum: 'it's either me or her/him!'" Is that even anything-phobic? If that's what's passing for hate speech these days, then I—the person who coined "s/he"—am in trouble. Everyone calm down (and more on J-Lo and Casper later).

Every once in a while I'll click on a story just because of the headline. This one from Russia caught my eye: "Boy Sentenced to Jail Because of Large Penis." Who wouldn't click on that story? I should hire that writer to fill in for me on BillyMasters.com when I'm on vacation (as if). Since I know you're dying to hear what the story is about, I did my due diligence. Apparently, a 12-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of stealing a cell phone. That doesn't sound penis-related to me, unless he shoved it down his pants. The teen and his parents moved to Moscow from the Ukraine earlier that same month and produced documents proving his age. But the authorities felt he looked older and ordered him to have a medical examination. Why? Because if he's over 16, he can be tried as an adult. The examining doctor surmised that the lad was 16 or 17—based on the size of his penis. So for now, Tomas (no last name given) is in prison—where I suspect he is very popular.

Large penis stories are always gobbled up by my readers, so why not share another one with you? Back when Ben Flajnik was the Bachelor, he chose as his fiancée a vicious vixen named Courtney Robertson. Of course they broke up—as Bachelor couples are wont to do. But that didn't stop Court from writing a book—a miraculous feat since I find it hard to believe she's ever read a book. I Didn't Come Here to Make Friends: Confessions of a Reality Show Villain just came out, and one of her anecdotes is about a tryst with Entourage star Adrian Grenier. She recounts meeting him at a party and hooking up with him due to "mutual loneliness in LA"—I can't tell you how many times I've used that line. She claims they never had sex because she didn't feel a spark. Perhaps, but she certainly felt something. "He had the biggest penis I'd ever seen—and the biggest bush!"

Hold onto your hat (does anyone still wear a hat?)—it's time for another installment of Fayewatch! Oh, Miss Dunaway, we've missed you. And yet, it sounds like her absence won't be ending anytime soon. Remember the long-awaited movie version of Master Class that Faye was going to make? After shooting about half the film, the production shut down due to some issues with the moneymen. It's been inactive for a couple of years, and that's a problem.

You see, Faye owned the rights to the play for a certain period of time. Since that time has lapsed, the rights have reverted back to play-



Hugh Jackman (here in the film *Les Misérables*) had lots of interesting things to say at the Tonys, according to Billy. Photo by Laurie Sparham

wright Terrence McNally. Of course, Faye could buy the rights again—but she hasn't got the money to finish the film. I'm told one of the many people approached to jump in is someone who knows a thing or two about rights reverting to the author—Barbra Streisand. The pitch was for Babs to fund the project so that Faye could finish it. Upon further investigation, it was learned that the stuff already filmed is unusable, so they'd have to start the project from scratch. And that led to a brilliant idea—what if Streisand bought the rights and made the film herself? A call went out to two of Babs' good friends—Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino. Would either of them be interested in playing Onassis opposite her Maria Callas? I can only imagine the voice messages Faye will leave Barbra when she hears about this!

Last week, Melissa Etheridge got married to Linda Wallem. Although I wish them well, I think a word to the wise should suffice. After all, this is not a position that has historically been known for its job security.

On the flip side, Melanie Griffith just filed for divorce from Antonio Banderas. The couple has not been seen in public for many months. In fact, Antonio has recently been accompanied to many public events by another lovely lady. This is no surprise to me. I'm far more surprised that the marriage lasted 18 years!

And this brings us to Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart: I told you I'd get back to them. You may have heard that the couple is officially kaput. If Casper was smart, he'd have been pocketing his per diem all these years. I'm sure this split comes as no surprise to my loyal readers. We've all heard rumors that Casper is gay. Didn't I have a blind item about him recently? Something about attending after hours gay bars for a tryst or two? That's par for the course for a Jennifer Lopez suitor.

When dating J-Lo is the first step to coming out, it's definitely time to end yet another column. An extra long column filled with not one but two extra large penises. That's what you've come to expect from www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never skimps on size. I didn't answer a question in print because I didn't have room. But I'm always sure to accommodate each and every reader. Just reach out and touch me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back Streisand stars in a musical remake of *Mommie Dearest!* Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Chicago Force dominate Columbus in regular-season finale

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force ran roughshod over the Columbus Comets June 7 to finish the regular-season 6-1—and now it's on to the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) playoffs, which the Force will host at Evanston Township High School June 21.

Brandy Hatcher and Kelsey Casey led the Comet crushing, each scoring three rushing touchdowns as the Force led 8-2 after the first quarter and 32-2 at halftime. It was 56-8 after three quarters and the final tally read: Chicago 72, Columbus 8.

"It was a great game," Hatcher said. "We fi-

nally played the spread offense and a run offense. It felt like everyone got in on the action."

That was particularly true of Chicago's dominant offensive line, which Hatcher said was "balls-to-the-wall all game; the line didn't let down all game."

Hatcher rushed for 160 yards on 14 carries, for an 11-yard per carry average—and was named the Game Day Offensive MVP, with an award DLG Management (formerly Spin Nightclub) sponsored.

Force rookie Amber Kimbrough, who saw action on offense and defense, was named the Game Day Defensive MVP for her seven-tackle

performance.

"I actually was surprised," winning the award, Hatcher said. "The offensive line probably should have gotten the award; that's how good the line played."

Ashley Berggren opened the scoring for the Force with a 9-yard quarterback keeper into the right corner of the end zone.

Jeanette Gray scored the game-winning touchdown on a 14-yard pass reception at 9:49 of the second quarter, giving Chicago a 16-2 lead at the time. Later in the second, Gray scored again on a two-yard run.

Hatcher had an 8-yard rushing TD, and two for 12-yards.

Casey had rushing TDs of six, two and nine yards.

Melissa Smith, an original member of the Force on the defensive line who ultimately switched to offense and became one of the team's best running backs ever, was the third inductee into the Chicago Force Player's Hall of Fame, it was announced at halftime during the team's annual Alumni Day.



Brandy Hatcher with her Game Day Offensive MVP Award, sponsored by DLG Management (formerly Spin Nightclub). Photo by Ross Forman

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Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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

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