



**TRISH KEPOROS  
WINS WINDY  
CITY GAY IDOL**

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

JULY 9, 2014  
VOL 29, NO. 41



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**BATTERIES  
NOT INCLUDED  
OWNER LOOKS TO  
SELL TO LGBTs**

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# Pride future debated after record numbers

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In the week following the June 29 Chicago Pride Parade, which over a million people watched and took part in, dual petitions—one demanding the parade be moved to downtown, the other asking that it stay in place in Lake View—appeared online.

The first petition, posted at <http://chn.ge/1mwLo8Q>, petitions Pride Parade organizer Richard Pfeiffer to move the parade to downtown. As of the morning of July 6, it had 69 signatures.

"Chicago takes downtown safety seriously with tourists, attractions and keeping up with appearances... this could only work in our favor with the amount of people that attend," according to the petition, which was posted by Curtis Bumgarner. "Emergency escape routes would be better utilized, more Police Officers can be dispatched, etc. What the gay community needs to understand is we have been fighting for equality, inclusiveness and integration. Now that we clearly have it in Chicago—why not SHARE?"

The petition acknowledges that many small business owners in Lake View might be apprehensive about such a change: "But having a parade in another location will not keep people from coming to Boystown afterwards ... I feel this could be good for those businesses as it would allow owners to create a better atmosphere and allow for more safety precautions, not to mention there's still Pride Fest, which has grown in popularity."

The opposing petition, posted at <http://chn.ge/1qL1n50>, was initiated by the organization Uptown Uprising, and had 425 signatures as of the morning of July 6.

"The Chicago Pride Parade has had vice and noise for decades," the petition said. "It still brings in 1 million people and millions more in revenue to local neighborhood businesses. However, NIMBY [not in my backyard] residents have put their biases above all reason and wish to cancel the Pride Parade in our neighborhoods. This is a hindrance on small local businesses and really shows a NIMBY attitude towards marginalized groups that needs to be put to a halt."

Ald. Tom Tunney told WBBM-Radio that "he is not afraid" to consider a change of venue for the Chicago Pride Parade.

"We hear from our residents that they don't feel safe in their neighborhood," said Tunney on the June 30 broadcast. He added, "If there is an option to go downtown, will that make the conduct of the fans more reasonable? I'm not afraid to look at it."

On July 1, Tunney told Windy City Times, that "I'm not saying 'yes' and I'm not saying 'no,'" about a potential change of venue.

At the July 2 CAPS meeting for the 19th Police District, some audience members described serious problems throughout the neighborhood at the time of the parade. Craig Nolden, who lives near Roscoe and Halsted, said the area around his home was a mess by time Sunday's festivities were over.

"I don't think the parade is being a good neighbor ... My neighborhood is trashed," Nolden said, add-

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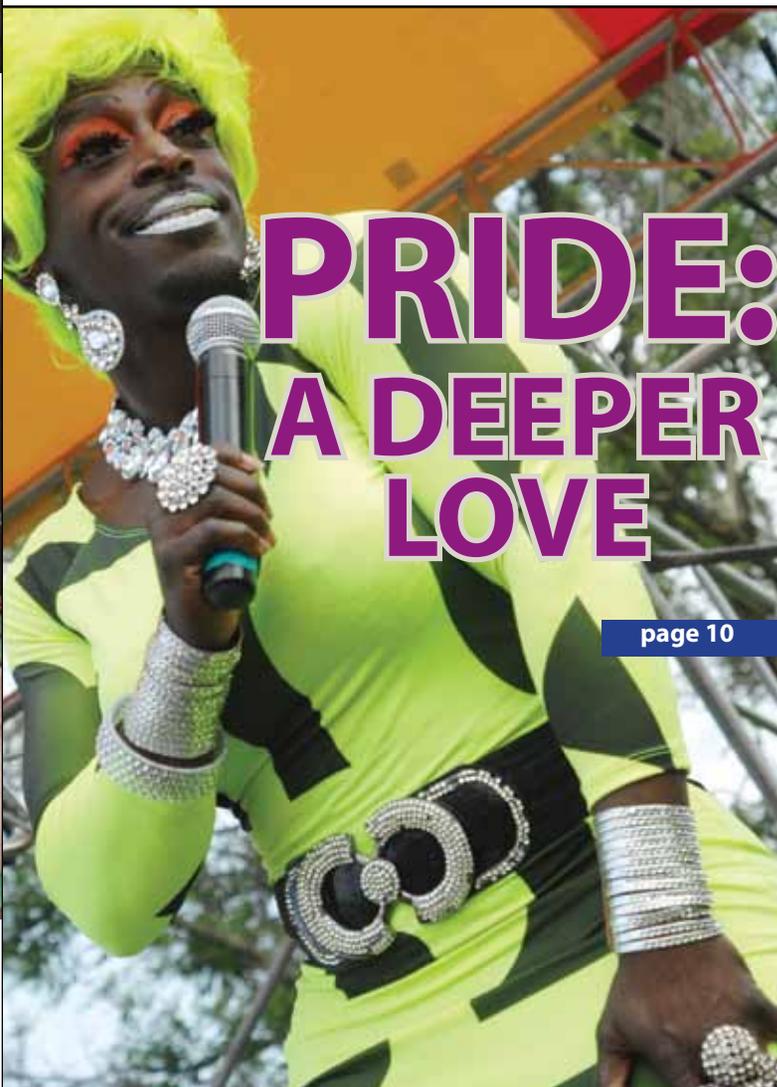
**LGBTs PUSH TO  
EXPAND CIVIL  
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**KNIGHT AT THE  
MOVIES REVIEWS  
NATHAN LANE'S  
'THE NANCE'**

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Ms. Ruff-n-Stuff was part of the scene this past weekend as United Black Pride held various events. Photo at Rainbow Beach by Vern Hester

# SENDING A MESSAGE



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Focusing on the profiling and misconception of transgender communities nationwide, a first-of-its-kind advertising campaign was unveiled July 2 in West Garfield Park. Read more on page 7. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

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# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Trish Keporos by Ross Forman; photo of Batteries Not Included general manager Drew Haas by Ross Forman; photo of Florida State University law professor Franita Tolson from FSU website; photo of Nathan Lane in The Nance

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### 'MAIDEN' VOYAGE

Actor Raul Castillo (left) is in HBO's Looking, but is currently in Chicago in Victory Gardens' Death and the Maiden. Photo from HBO



The show "Queer, Ill, and OK" looks at the intersection of sexual orientation and illness (mental and/or physical). Photo of Tim'm T. West by Vern Hester



Vegan drag queen Honey Labronx was among the luminaries at World of Whirlpool's annual Pride event. Photo by Phillip-John Puzzo

### COLORS ON PARADE



Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) and Lakeside Pride marched in Oak Park recently. Photo from OPALGA

### MYTH UNDERSTANDING

Some car stereotypes regarding gay and lesbian owners are busted.

### CHAD TO THE BONE

Recent WCT 30 Under 30 honoree Chadwick Stadt loves to inspire through music.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Jonathan Groff, RuPaul and Sarah Palin.

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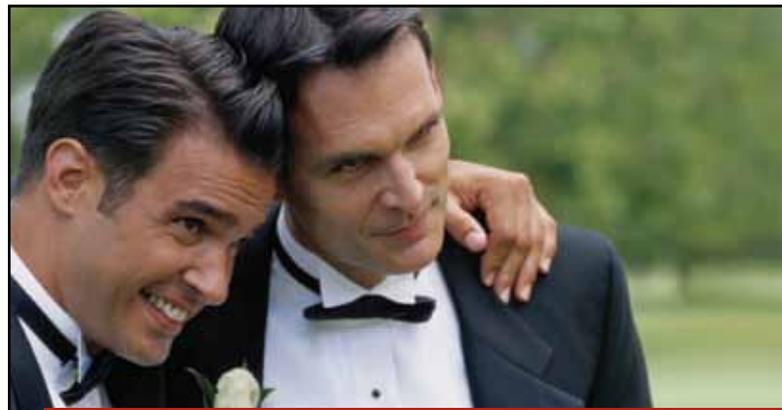
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Frank Robinson in 2006. Photo by Tracy Baim

## Author, speechwriter Frank Robinson dies

Frank M. Robinson, a former Chicagoan who moved to San Francisco and later became a speechwriter for gay politician Harvey Milk, has died. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2009.

Robinson launched two gay papers in Chicago during the early 1970s. He was a journalist, novelist, and award-winning science fiction writer. As a member of the Chicago Gay Alliance in the early 1970s, Robinson edited and produced the first gay tabloid-format newspaper in the city's history, Chicago Gay Pride, which was published in June 1971 to promote that year's Pride Parade and events.

The longtime Chicago activist and Hall of Fame member Marie Kuda told the Hall of Fame that the idea to publish "was entirely Frank's; it was his money that fronted it, and he did all the prep work and layout including manually typing the entire issue." Because Robinson was not publicly "out" at the time, his byline did not appear in the paper. However, as Kuda put it, "The 'Editorial,' while unsigned and suggesting 'a committee,' was Frank's and you can recognize his internal 'signature' in literary allusions to everyone from Shakespeare to Pogo."

The following year, Robinson created The Paper, a second tabloid-format newspaper that featured coverage of the Pride Parade and rally, the Gay Book Awards at the American Library Association's convention, testimony by Chicago activists at the Democratic National Convention platform hearings, and other local cultural, social, and political activities. The significance of both publications in solidifying the city's nascent LGBT community was enormous. "By publicizing events and documenting a history," Kuda said, they "gave a face to the growing community that was comparable to establishment media." Robinson's pioneering efforts paved the way for other LGBT publications in Chicago.

After moving to San Francisco, Robinson wrote speeches for the campaigns that culminated in Harvey Milk's historic 1977 election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In a posthumously played tape-recorded statement, Milk named Robinson as one of his political heirs. Robinson had drafted Milk's famous "Hope Speech," featured in the 2008 biographical film Milk. In the film, Robinson had a cameo role portraying himself.

Born in Chicago in 1926 and raised in the city, Robinson attended Beloit College and earned a master's degree in journalism at Northwestern University. He served two tours of duty in the U.S. Navy as a radar technician during World War II and the Korean War.

Robinson is also a prominent novelist and historian of popular culture, with many books, screenplays, and illustrated coffee-table volumes to his credit. Several of his novels have been adapted for television and for feature films, including 1974's Hollywood blockbuster The Towering Inferno, based partly on The Glass Inferno, a novel of which Robinson and Thomas M. Scortia were co-authors. His novel The Dark Beyond the Stars received the 1991 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Men's Science Fiction and Fantasy from the Lambda Literary Foundation.

When Milk's life was cut short by an assassin's bullet in 1978, Robinson continued a distinguished career as a writer and author. Three of Robinson's novels were made into films or television series during his lifetime.

See [ghalloffame.org](http://ghalloffame.org). A 2008 interview with Robinson is at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Frank-Robinson-On-Harvey-Milk/19839.html>.

### Former U.S. Sen. Alan Dixon dies

Alan Dixon, who served two terms in the U.S. Senate from Illinois, died July 6 at his home in downstate Fairview Heights. He was 86.

Dixon, a Democrat, served in the Senate from 1981 until 1993. He was defeated by Carol Moseley Braun in the Democratic primary, his first political loss in more than 40 years of public life.

Last year, Dixon published a memoir, The Gentleman From Illinois: Stories From Forty Years of Elective Public Service.

The Human Rights Campaign related to Windy City Times that Dixon scored a 60 in the 101st Congress and a 40 in the 102nd Congress (out of a top score of 100). HRC's Congressional Scorecard began with the 101st Congress (1989-1990), although back then the organization was known the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

—Andrew Davis

## Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



### The Millennials and the American Dream

The grandchildren of the mostly white Americans who lived the reality of this great solid middle-class dream inherited a very different world from the one their grandparents enjoyed or anticipated.

The Millennials, those born between c. 1980 and c. 2000, live and work in a world in which: employer-based health-care plans are up for grabs; pensions are ancient history; secure long-term work at one company is rarely possible and often not desirable; and home ownership, if affordable, is questionable. Even that symbol of American freedom and personal power, the automobile, is not looking all that attractive any more.

Statistically, it is true that the dramatic change of expectations that accompanies these huge economic and cultural changes in our society belongs mostly to the children (ages 18–36) of middle and upper middle-class white

perfect espressos when a well-dressed obviously hyper successful young man enters to order his perfect latte. The one Millennial comments to the other: "I hear he's a real hot shot, on his way up to the big time." The other Millennial wryly quips: "He's over 40, isn't retired, and hasn't launched his own IPO."

My own entirely unscientific, informal, and totally arbitrary survey of Millennials over a period of two months confirms that the primary goal for most is 'to get rich.' This 'selfish' goal is complemented by two almost equally primary objectives: to do meaningful work and to make the world a better place.

One hopes that the Millennials don't wait until they are rich before living the other two values.

Another special quality I have found in Millennials is their wondrous ability to live with FLUX: to not only adapt to

rapid change of technical tools and basic knowledge but to exploit it immediately for practical objectives, even idealistic goals—using Twitter to effect social change and Youtube to reach vast new audiences with new as well as old art forms.

The Millennials were told they were 'special' and that they

"Another special quality I have found in Millennials is their wondrous ability to live with FLUX: to not only adapt to rapid change of technical tools and basic knowledge but to exploit it immediately for practical objectives, even idealistic goals ..."

parents. Most immigrants, Hispanics, and Blacks tend to continue to articulate the goals and values of the classic American Dream. Nonetheless, the world in general and the U.S. world in particular in which they seek to make real this classic Dream have changed as have the paths to achieve it.

William Strauss and Neil Howe, the 'biographers' of the Millennials, have created several profiles of the typical Millennial adult which have been statistically researched. Millennials are less likely to identify with institutions; they are more likely to use networks (and to change networks frequently). Three out of four declare themselves to be religious, but they do not necessarily affiliate with an institutional church, though they often associate their spirituality with a religious tradition. And, as for the issue of the content of their American Dream, a whopping 75% consider WEALTH to be the primary goal or objective or value. The Millennials judge WEALTH to be THE TOOL to the achievement of their American Dream whatever its contents or values might be.

I am reminded of a cartoon in which two Millennials are sitting in the current hip Café-of-choice sipping their

could do or be anything they put their hearts and minds to. When they graduated from college or graduate school or professional school and encountered the real world they found out that not everyone on the team gets a trophy, win, lose or draw. Some seem to have been broken by this failure of the world to acknowledge and reward their specialness. Some get cast adrift by dangerous rip currents of debt burdens and poor job markets. But a significant number seem to be shrugging off the uncertainties of the times and the impediments to their dreams to embrace the unprecedented opportunities spawned by our contemporary world of constant change.

The Millennials are prepared to destroy conventional companies in order to create new kinds of profit-seeking enterprises; they are prepared to destroy traditional education in order to create new forms of learning; they are prepared to destroy establishment politics to create more responsive and responsible government.

Let's hope they know what they are doing.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

Nick Patricca is professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago, president of Chicago Network and playwright emeritus at Victory Gardens Theater.

# Honduran LGBT leader talks coup, U.S. gov't

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Honduran LGBT leader Nelson Arambu, from the *Movimiento de Diversidad en Resistencia*, addressed a crowd of about 60 people at the Berger Park Cultural Center July 2. Arambu spoke about the issues facing LGBT people in Honduras and the links between the U.S. and Honduran governments.

Arambu, who is openly gay, shared background information on the 2009 U.S.-backed coup in Honduras. (U.S. involvement in the Honduran coup was revealed in the WikiLeaks documents that Chelsea Manning released.) After the coup, wealthy and powerful Hondurans launched a wave of violence against those who opposed the government including the LGBT community, *campesinos* (peasant farmers), unionists, human-rights activists and journalists.

Honduras now holds the distinction of having the highest murder rate in the world with 25,000 people killed since the coup, Arambu noted. The police and army have committed most of these crimes and other countries are complicit because they have ignored what is going on in Honduras, said Arambu.

"Is the U.S. population aware of the amount of tax dollars they are sending to the Honduran government? Do they know that the Honduran



Nelson Arambu. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

government is complicit in the violence perpetrated against Honduran LGBT people and other human-rights activists?" said Arambu.

The coup was a Stonewall moment for Honduran LGBTs, Arambu explained, because the LGBT community started looking outside of itself and began working with other activist organizations to effect change. Arambu noted that Honduras is one of the most homophobic and transphobic countries in the Americas. A number of LGBT Hondurans are fleeing the country due to the homophobia/transphobia and violence they've faced with many seeking asylum in the U.S., Spain and Costa Rica, said Arambu.

Since the coup, two notable LGBT activists have been murdered—Walter Trochez in 2009 and Erick Martinez Avila in 2012—and neither murder has been investigated, said Arambu. The number of LGBT murders versus the number that have been investigated and prosecuted

is stark with only one person going to prison, Arambu explained. Due to the level of violence against LGBT people, they've established safety protocols so every LGBT activist always know where the others are located, he added.

Honduras' Law of State Secrecy has prevented citizens from getting accurate information and the government is also policing all media outlets including people's social media accounts in order to crack down on activists, said Arambu.

Religious institutions have contributed to the homophobia/transphobia in Honduras; however, the LGBT community has allies within certain churches/denominations, said Arambu.

Arambu explained that the U.S. government backed the coup because they wanted to have military bases in Honduras so they could control the region and their efforts were rewarded by the new Honduran government. Lisa Kubiske, the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, has praised the Honduran government for the reduction of murders in Honduras; however, the official U.S. reports state the opposite, said Arambu.

Following Arambu's remarks, Andy Thayer of

the Gay Liberation Network called on attendees to donate to the Honduran Solidarity Network so they can continue their work and spread their message.

Among those in attendance were Gary Cozette of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Central America; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore; and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's district director, Leslie Comb.

The event was co-sponsored by ALMA: The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action, the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, Gay Liberation Network, Orgullo en Accion and La Voz de los de Abajo.

See [www.resistediverso.blogspot.com](http://www.resistediverso.blogspot.com) for more information.

## Mell announces marriage ending on Twitter

Chicago Ald. Deb Mell—who has passionately fought for marriage equality as a state representative and activist—announced that her marriage to Christin Mell is ending.

The announcement came via Twitter and Facebook: "Dear Friends, It is with great sadness I tell you my marriage with Christin has

ended. As you know divorce is painful, therefore we ask for privacy as we go through this process. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Deb."

Christin Baker, who took Mell's name in the marriage, is founder of Tellofilms.com, a lesbian film website.

The couple had been married in Iowa in 2011, followed by a ceremony on Chicago's North Side.

## '40 Best LGBT Lawyers' list includes Chicagoan

The National LGBT Bar Association—the country's largest organization of LGBT legal professionals—released its 2014 "40 Under 40" list.

The only local attorney to make the list this year is Nicole Bashor, an associate at Quarles & Brady LLP. Bashor is an attorney in the Intellectual Property Group that provides counseling on patent, trademark, copyright and social-media issues. She is a graduate of John Marshall Law School.

The awards will be presented during the organization's Lavender Law Conference & Career Fair in New York City on Aug. 23.



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# LGBTs push to expand civil rights

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Last week marked the 50th anniversary of historic legislation, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law on July 2 of that year. The landmark legislation banned discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

The law also ended racial segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination. The importance of the groundbreaking civil-rights legislation—and the promise it holds out for LGBT equality—cannot, perhaps, be overstated.

“The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is responsible for eradicating much of the discrimination that minorities have faced in almost every walk of



Florida State Univ. law professor Franita Tolson. Photo from school website

life, including employment, public education, and public accommodations like restaurants and theaters,” among others, said Franita Tolson, a law professor at Florida State University (FSU). “Its 50th anniversary invites us to revisit not only its success, but also the continued need for the act to ensure that the most vulnerable members of society continue to have access to the American dream.”

Tolson is the Betty T. Ferguson Professor of Voting Rights at FSU’s law school. Her research, writing and teaching focus on election law, constitutional law and employment discrimination. She is a 2005 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, where she was a member of the University of Chicago Law Review and won the Thomas Mulroy Prize for Oral Advocacy in the Hinton Moot Court Competition.

That protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity are not included in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is not lost on Tolson. Nor is the omission lost on a group of LGBT activists and faith leaders, who marked the 50th anniversary of the historic legislation June 30 with an candlelit event at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In fact, the LGBT Civil Rights Vigil, as organizers of the event dubbed it, served as the official launch of a nationwide initiative for what a coalition of grassroots activists are naming a “new campaign for full LGBT equality.”

The theme of the candlelit vigil was “Add 4 Words,” which is a call for adding the language of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the federal legislation.

Already, the effort has garnered support from more than 245 organizations in 44 states, including any number of statewide LGBT equality groups and individuals.

The overarching goal for the organizing effort is to get the LGBT caucus in Congress to file a bill that would add orientation and identity protections to existing civil-rights laws, all at once.

The all-in-one approach differs from the Human Rights Campaign’s push for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would only offer protections in employment

and not more broadly to include public accommodations and facilities, credit, education, federally funded programs or activities, marriage equality, and employment in the armed forces, among others.

“Seeking full equality is not just a legislative agenda, but is the antidote to the vast harm LGBT Americans endure under discrimination, which causes children to commit suicide, and keeps 53 percent of LGBT workers in the closet, living in daily fear,” said Todd Fernandez, manager for The Equality Pledge Network, which is spearheading the campaign effort.

A lawyer and human-rights activist, Fernandez is based in New York City. He also serves as executive director and board chairman of LGBTequality.org, a recently formed group to facilitate the pledge network.

## A more powerful goal

During a recent telephone interview, Fernandez spoke about the organizing efforts behind the campaign and the necessity of securing comprehensive civil-rights protections for LGBTs on Capitol Hill.

“The whole point of coming up with a much more powerful goal,” he said, is to address the lack of progress in the U.S. Congress to enact legislation “even as simple as ENDA when 90 percent of Americans think we have” employment non-discrimination.

“It is a sign of [the LGBT community’s] strategic and political weakness” that ENDA has failed to pass, Fernandez, explained. “And so the hope is that with the pledge of support from 245 groups, we come up with a principled goal that gives us equality” at the same time “we speak to our own people with a voice of dignity that will inspire people to take action and build the mass movement.”

Fernandez is well-aware of the obstacles to full LGBT equality.

While ENDA passed the U.S. Senate Nov. 7, 2013—by a 64-32 vote, marking the first time that legislative body approved federal civil-rights legislation banning anti-LGBT employment bias—House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has constantly said he would not bring ENDA to a vote, claiming the legislation is unnecessary and would lead to frivolous litigation.

And a growing number of national and statewide LGBT organizations are coming out against the proposed ENDA, saying that while it bans workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the federal law also would allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTs even in non-ministerial or pastoral capacities.

Currently, 21 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, with 17 states and the District also barring discrimination based on gender identity.

A corrective to legislative resistance, Fernandez said, “is building a movement in the states relying on grassroots activists. What we are trying to do is instill in them a sense of entitlement to full LGBT equality.”

For her part, Tolson sees the wisdom of a state-by-state approach, much along the lines of marriage equality advocates, who have brought same-sex wedlock to 19 states and the District of Columbia.

“Same-sex marriage has had success,” she said over the telephone, because the effort “was all about pushing the states to do more.”

A state-by-state strategy for LGBT protections “is a good idea,” Tolson added. “It’s the same blue-print that same-sex marriage advocates used.”

Given the current GOP control of the House, she said, securing comprehensive protections—even ENDA’s passage—“is probably not going to happen.”

Meanwhile, for the remainder of 2014, Equality Pledge campaign goals include increasing support up to 500 organizations, establishing state leads in all 50 states, and conducting an equality tracking system to document support among lawmakers.

## Highlighting ‘minority stress’ impacts

Another goal is undertaking a public awareness campaign to highlight societal discrimination and its effect on “minority stress,” which manifests as suicide and mental health disparities, including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and family rejection, among others.

The public awareness campaign draws upon the work of Ilan H. Meyer, Ph.D., a psychiatric epidemiologist, author, professor, and a senior scholar for public policy and sexual-orientation law at the Williams Institute of UCLA.

Meyer studies public-health issues related to minority health, specifically research on stress and illness in minority populations, such as LGBTs, including the relationship of minority status, minority identity, prejudice and dis-

crimination, and mental health outcomes in sexual minorities and the intersection of minority stressors related to sexual orientation, race/ethnicity and gender.

Myer has developed a model of “minority stress,” which helps to describe the relationship of social stressors and mental disorders and helps to explain LGBT health disparities.

Altogether, Fernandez said, the equality-pledge campaign approach relies on two fundamental principles, a human-rights imperative and a public health emergency.

“It is the primary duty of the government to protect” its citizens, he said, “from the harms of discrimination. That’s what human rights and civil rights are all about.”

The LGBT community is indeed facing a public-health crisis, Fernandez added.

“What other minority group has [youth] suicide by its members just because of their belonging to that group?” he asked.

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## Vital Bridges, Ann Sather deliver

Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care/Groceryland continued its tradition of holiday meal deliveries in coordination with Ald. Tom Tunney’s Ann Sather restaurant—this time on the Fourth of July.

Groceryland coordinator Lori Cannon noted to Windy City Times that “Tom has been our chef for over 26 years, cheerfully preparing meals for our disabled and homebound clients.”

Pictured are (from left) an Ann Sather staff member, Tunney, Cannon, volunteer Burton Minster and another restaurant staffer.

Photo from Lori Cannon



## VA Hospital displays Pride spirit

For Pride Month, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Maywood, Illinois, flew rainbow flags along the entrance road to the hospital campus and included a Pride message on the digital sign at the entrance.

The hospital’s Pride observance included a table in the lobby staffed by LGBTQ volunteers with information about the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on DOMA and the ramification for veterans, active-duty service members and families. Programs in the hospital serve LGBT veterans through the work of Mandi Evanson of the Primary Care Behavioral Health Team and Lorry Luscri, health promotion disease prevention program manager and special emphasis program co-manager.

Flag photo by Dan Duverney, Hines Media Service

# Trans\* billboard campaign launches

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDEFER

Chicago groups took the lead in highlighting the profiling and misconception of transgender communities nationwide through a first-of-its-kind advertising campaign unveiled July 2 in West Garfield Park.

Representatives of the TransLife Center at the Chicago House and Camp Firebelly—a 10-day workshop for designers seeking to combine their abilities with idealism—were on hand as the cover was gradually pulled away from a brightly colored billboard on which the silhouette of a pair of legs in stiletto shoes can be seen traversing the words “She’s just walking, not working.”

There are 10 such billboards around the South and West sides of the city. They form part of an educational campaign which includes social media and informational materials to be distributed across the Chicago community.

The billboard’s reference is to numerous cases, not only in Chicago but across the country, of trans\* individuals arrested or harassed by law enforcement and members of the public as being engaged in the sex trade. The project was the brain child of TransLife Center Director Bonn Wade and a team of the organization’s youth and peer-leaders working in tandem with the creative minds of Camp Firebelly.

Dawn Hancock, the founder and manag-

ing director of Firebelly Design, told Windy City Times that she approached Wade with an open-ended offer. “I said, ‘I’ve got 10 people for 10 days, how can we help you?’” Hancock explained.

Wade was well aware of the abilities of the Camp Firebelly team—an initiative started seven years ago by the Chicago-based graphic design company that combines instruction for young people in the arts along with assistance for non-profits that otherwise would not be able to afford to hire the creative team needed to form an effective ad campaign.

“I had seen the incredible work that they have done over the years for so many amazing organizations,” Wade said. “We needed that kind of talent to get our message across. It was a great, collaborative partnership.”

Wade organized a meeting between TransLife staff and the Camp Firebelly team to identify an issue that tears at the heart of the trans\* community. Trans\* people in New York have been arrested for carrying condoms, in Arizona for simply walking along a Phoenix street, in Chicago for taking a trip to the grocery store.

“Transgender people constantly live under the cloud of an assumption that us taking a simple walk down the street means that we’re actually out doing solicitation or prostitution,” TransLife Center Care Coordinator Channyn Parker said. “Which couldn’t be further from



TransLife Director Bonn Wade, and youth leaders Sandy and Breezy (from left). Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

the truth. I sincerely hope this message gets down at the base level that trans\* people are human.”

“During the concept stage, we talked a lot about this issue and what trans\* people are facing and how best to approach that without offending either theirs or the larger community,” said Camp Firebelly participant Kyle Newton. “The TransLife Center people were very helpful with language and imagery.”

Chicago House Chief Development Officer Michael Herman introduced Wade and two TransLife Center youth leaders, Breezy and Sandy, to media and supporters who were gathered at 4601 W. Madison St. for the billboard’s unveiling. “We’re going to do some big stuff with trying to change the hearts and minds of the larger Chicagoland community in their perception and understanding of transgender people and transgender people’s bodies and lives,” Wade said.

“The reality of trans\* life: There’s a lot of violence especially among African American youth and adults,” Breezy added. “There’s a lot of discrimination, especially from police officers and random people on the streets. We need to provide a safer community for trans\* people.”

July marks the one-year anniversary of the opening of the TransLife Center in Edgewater. Since it unlocked its doors, it has provided legal services, job training and employment,

a bed, a hot meal and hope to trans\* people from across the city who had previously been living on the streets or in danger of arrest or violence.

Rick Garcia, community outreach coordinator for the Cook County Jail, said he was grateful for the center as a place for trans\* detainees to go after release from that facility. “We really want to make sure that when they come back onto the street, they have someplace to go and they have the resources they need to live full and productive lives,” he added.

The center sits in the heart of state Rep. Kelly Cassidy’s ward. “I’m thrilled to be so lucky to have the TransLife Center in my district,” Cassidy said. “It’s not a random facility in the middle of nowhere; it’s a neighbor.”

Cassidy noted that progress begins with visibility and “with humanizing the people that we’re talking about as people,” she said. “I want to see so many of these billboards all over the city.”

Wade believes that the response to the billboards will vary. “I think 20 percent of the people are going to love it, 20 percent are going to hate it,” Wade said. “Bottom line, it’s going to get people talking about trans\* people’s lives in very human ways. It’s not about national celebrities, but our neighbors. Trans\* people are diverse. They are brilliant and they are resilient.”



State Rep. Kelly Cassidy spoke at the billboard’s unveiling. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

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# LGBTQ service members honored at Daley Plaza

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDEFER

"Whereas throughout the history of America, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans of diverse yet convergent backgrounds have fearlessly defended the principals of the declaration of independence and the constitution of these United States through their service in the United States Armed Forces side-by-side with their heterosexual counterparts."

So began Mayor Rahm Emanuel's proclamation declaring June 30 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veterans Memorial Day in Chicago.

As the clock struck noon, Daley Plaza was turned into a place of honor as the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) saluted America's LGBTQ service members "With Liberty and Justice For All."

The event drew LGBTQ representatives from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps Illinois National Guard, Coast Guard and the Air Force. Onlookers and policemen stood with their hands placed across their hearts as Show Director of International Mr. Leather Dean Ogren sang the national anthem which echoed across the plaza.

When Illinois National Guard service member and the Vice President and Treasurer of AVER Larry Simpson called for a moment of silence for all American veterans and especially LGBT veterans "most of whom have had to serve under silence," people coming and going from one of the busiest buildings in Chicago honored that call.

During his invocation, Rev. Wayne Bradley of the Metropolitan Community Church said, "We are grateful for the amazing changes in our nation's laws in the past few years but we realize that there are still some obstacles to full freedom. May we never be content with the half truth, when the whole truth can be won."

Commissioner and Chairman of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations Mona Noriega read the Mayoral Proclamation. Emanuel encouraged all Chicagoans to acknowledge and salute LGBT veterans "For their unwavering dedication to our country and their ongoing contributions to the city of Chicago."

Members of AVER—in chapters across the United States—declare proudly that "we are you." They played a pivotal role in campaigning for the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) in 2010 and today work to ensure that the stories of LGBT service-members are told and heard while engaging in a concentrated effort to see the day that transgender individuals can serve openly.

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame member and Secretary for the Mayor's Advisory Council for Veteran's Affairs James Darby founded the Chicago Chapter of AVER in 1991. "They always had a salute to African American, Italian American and Latino veterans," Darby remembered during an interview with Windy City Times. "And I asked Rochelle Crump—who was running the council at the time—about having a salute to LGBT veterans. She said 'I thought you'd never ask.' Our very first salute was 11 years ago."

Speakers since then have included retired Rear Admiral Alan S. Steinman, "Soldier of the Year" author José Zuniga and the founder of AVER—then the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Vet-

erans of America, Inc. (GLBVA)—Miriam Ben Shalom.

Darby could not attend the 2014 ceremony, having received an invitation to the White House reception honoring LGBT Pride Month—the very building he was arrested in front of during a demonstration for gay rights in 1993. "Now I'm going in the front door!," he said with a laugh. "But I know this year's speaker at the salute is going to be very powerful."

That man was the first openly gay service member in Illinois to reenlist following the repeal of DADT, U.S. Navy Logistical Specialist Second Class Lee Reinhart. This was his second time speaking at the salute. The first was in 2010 before the repeal. He also presented and posted the colors at the opening of the ceremony.

Reinhart was discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard under DADT and re-enlisted in the navy Oct. 24, 2011, following the law's repeal. He has since served in Kandahar, Afghanistan. In beginning his speech, Reinhart thanked those who had served in silence while working towards the end of DADT, "blazing a path for folks



Lee Reinhart. Photo by Hal Baim

like myself making it —when our time came—a much friendlier environment that gave us a framework to be the lucky ones to see it all end."

In recalling the three years since his reenlistment, Reinhart spoke about a June 2013 Gay Pride event that LGBT service members organized in Kandahar. "There we were—gay and out and in uniform, Army, Navy, Marine-Corps, Air Force and civilians alike telling our stories and answering questions from the audience," he said. "History was being made and we were aware of that."

There were a few problems. Reinhart noted that the sponsoring unit did not feel it was appropriate to have the U.S. flag represented at the event. However, he added that 2014 has seen Pride events on bases throughout Afghanistan. "The American flag is alongside them," he said. "It is getting better, my friends."

Among those in attendance was Sean Sullivan—a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Marines. He agreed with Reinhart's sentiments. "I was on active duty when DADT was enforced and I was on active duty when it was repealed," he said. "The repeal was just a non-issue and the transition was so smooth. I was so proud to be a marine when the law changed because I saw how well those who came out were accepted. If you're a marine, it doesn't matter whether you're gay or straight. What matters is



Wreathlaying ceremony, led by Ed Wosylus. Echo Taps are played by Susan Jones (not pictured) and Melissa Terrell, Lakeside Pride Marching Band. Photo by Hal Baim

whether you carry out your duties and—if you do—you are a brother or a sister."

Despite these improvements and the fact that LGBTQ service members have proven their political detractors wrong, Reinhart told Windy City Times that his work and the work of AVER is far from done. "Our transgender brothers and sister were there for us in fighting the repeal of DADT and our community has often forgotten about their sacrifice to help us get those rights," he said. "It's now time for us to remember that, to honor their service and work towards allowing them to serve as well."

The afternoon's final act of remembrance was the placing of a wreath at the eternal flame in Daley Plaza while Susan Jones and Melissa Terrell of the Lakeside Pride Marching Band played an Echo Taps. There could be no doubt that the spirit and courage of people such as U.S. Army Major Alan Rogers, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Allen R. Schindler Jr., National Guard Staff Sergeant Donna Johnson and each of the LGBTQ service members who committed themselves to the greatest sacrifice for their country had endured and would not be forgotten.

## PARADE from cover

ing that the most serious problems were not during the parade itself but during "the mayhem that goes on afterwards." He added that he likely was putting his home up for sale, which another woman said she likely would do as well. Nolden and others called on Tunney, who was at the meeting, to survey area residents about the parade and accused him of being too non-committal.

"I think you're going to get an earful on the subject," Nolden said.

Tunney answered that he and other city officials have a wrap-up meeting about Pride two or three weeks after the parade, and added, "I'm not hedging or being politically correct. The decision is not made by me unilaterally."

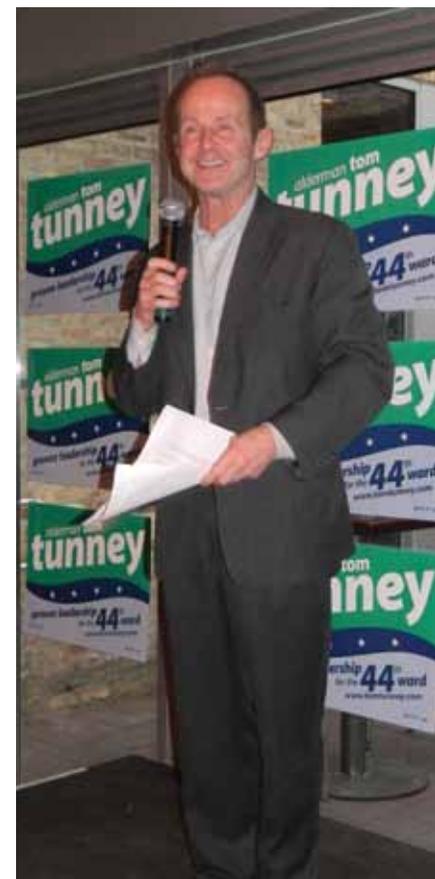
He further encouraged participants to email his office with feedback. "One year ago we sat here and had this same discussion. ...There were many more post-parade resources than ever before [this year]."

Police officials at the meeting said that there were about 45 arrests made in the area between 5 a.m. June 29-5 a.m. June 30.

Tressa Feher, chief of staff for Ald. James Cappleman, said July 1 that Cappleman would have to see a plan of any proposed changes before commenting.

Sidetrack owner Art Johnston was firm that the parade should stay in Lake View, adding that a shift in venue would ultimately be "the end of the parade." He said that the parade plays a critical role in the life of the neighborhood, and that "geography is important" for it to retain its character.

"Anytime you get a number of people together, there will be some problems," Johnston added. "But the city has done an excellent job, and the organizers, and the 44th and 46th ward aldermen have as well. We have this issue every year, and I don't ever hear any real compelling reasons that it should be moved."



Ald. Tom Tunney. Photo by Matt Simonette

One incident that sparked widespread attention was the vandalism of a CPD squad car at Halsted and Broadway on Sunday afternoon. One man involved in the episode, Dionte Rice, 19, of the 11600 block of South Church Street, was charged with criminal damage to property June 30. He was ordered held on \$25,000 bail by a Cook County judge, DNAInfo reported. Another woman, Petronia Donaldson, 28, was also charged June 30 for aggravated battery against a police officer during the parade. She was released on her own recognizance.

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# Owner wants to sell Boystown business within LGBT community

BY ROSS FORMAN

A long-running, successful business in the heart of Chicago's Boystown neighborhood is for sale—and the owner really wants to sell to someone within the LGBT community.

Batteries Not Included, 3420 N. Halsted St., has been for sale for a few months, a move made by store owner David Long after Long and his partner of five years, Roman Hernandez, moved from Chicago to Las Vegas. There is now even a "For Sale" sign in the front window.

Long is still very involved with the business, which is run on a day-to-day basis by general manager Drew Haas, who has worked at the store for 11 years. Long pays bills, approves orders, approves personnel matters, and more. "I'm definitely involved [in the business;] I'm just not there," said Long, who returns to Chicago about four times annually, usually for a few weeks per stretch.

Haas is the lone full-time employee, and there also are three part-timers—and three of the four are openly gay, Long said. Since opening, Batteries Not Included, which specializes as a bachelorette store and more, has employed about 100.

The 1,400-square-foot business opened 16 years ago, and the asking price is \$55,000.

"It's difficult running something from [about] 2,000 miles away," said Long, 45, who was born and raised in Chicago. "There are so many things that I would like to do with the store, but the fact that I'm not there to oversee it immediately makes it more difficult. But there's so much potential."

"As soon as we figured we were going to move to Las Vegas, I figured eventually I'm going to sell it. I would be so excited to help somebody, step aboard and take [over ownership.] This is my baby; I created this from nothing. It's emotional. I've been preparing myself for this for quite a while. It's definitely something I will miss, but I still kind of would like to be a part of it, be it with product suggestions, promotions, etc."

Long was a general manager for a Jennifer Convertibles furniture store, then a corporate trainer in the early 1990s. He then made a living investing in stocks.

In 1993, he moved to Halsted Street in Boystown.

"A good friend of mine was the manager at The Pleasure Chest, which was [located] on Broadway Street [in the late 1990s]," Long said. "He called me one day, asking for help with inventory. I said, 'Sure.' My mind blew [up], seeing all of the stuff there. It was fun."

A week later, The Pleasure Chest owner called Long again, asking if he'd work one day a week. Long agreed.

Nine months later, Long opened his own similar store: Batteries Not Included.

"At the time, Rosie O'Donnell's talk show was really popular," Long said. "So I kind of took the theme from her set—fun, silly, bright colors—and that's where I got the idea for Batteries. Make it a fun, silly store."

"It was a risky [move], so I was there every day, working 80 hours/week. But we just had fun."

That included drag queen shows in the windows on weekends.

The store's busy season is traditionally spring, summer and fall—and that's when Batteries often is selling "silly stuff," and anything shaped like a penis, Long said. Colored, or rainbow, leis also are always popular.

In winter, sexual toys and more, such as vibrators and lubricants, are top sellers, he said.

"The first two years, as part of the business plan, we gave part of the profits to charity," said Long, who supported the Illinois Fed-

eration for Human Rights (the predecessor to Equality Illinois), among other charities.

"That really helped endear us to the neighborhood. And that's part of why I'm so excited to offer the business to someone else in the community. There's so much more that we could do, if an owner was present."

Long said he will not simply close the store if a buyer does not come forward. "It's a successful business; it'd be silly to call it a day," he said. "We're not hurting [financially]."



Batteries Not Included general manager Drew Haas. Photo by Ross Forman







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Jewelry enlarged to show detail.

# United Black Pride holds opening reception

BY MATT SIMONETTE

United Black Pride kicked off July 3 with an opening reception on the rooftop deck of the Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio St.

"It's a great launch to the weekend," said Jesse Hinton, president of United Black Pride. "We're really excited for the community to come out and show its support."

Scott Rivers, a.k.a., DJ Gucci Roxx, provided entertainment for the July 3 reception.

For more information, visit [ubpride.com](http://ubpride.com).



DJ Gucci Roxx at the United Black Pride opening reception. Photo by Matt Simonette. See more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

# United Black Pride comes together at Rainbow Beach

BY VERN HESTER

After an internal conflict split the Chicago Black Pride Committee into two factions, the groups reformed to create United Black Pride at the tail end of last year. The fruits of that reunification manifested in a variety of events aimed at the African-American LGBT community in the last week, headlined by the traditional festival held at Rainbow Beach on the South Side July 6.

The festival was hardly a departure from the versions that came before it in the last several years but this time it managed to be more mirthful, ribald, and better organized.

The usual suspects were in attendance; Otis Mack, Trina Trulove and Ms. Ruff 'n' Stuff shared emcee duties, saucy barbs and performances.

This version of the festival was also packed with top-flight Chicago LGBT talent that included singers, dancers and rappers. To top that off, there was a vogue showdown, a sissy bounce dance-off, free giveaways, barbecue and smoothies, a picnic area and an HIV testing site.

The punchline for the entire afternoon was that the weather—despite the humidity and heat—behaved, delivering a perfect summer day.



Photos by Vern Hester. See more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



PrideIndex Esteem Awardees with award organizer Phil Esteem (in white short sleeve button down shirt). Photos by Carrie Maxwell. See more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

# PrideIndex holds annual Esteem Awards

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 100 people attended the eighth annual PrideIndex Esteem Awards at Sidetrack July 5. The awards honor the contributions of African-Americans and the LGBTQ community in the arts, business, civil rights, entertainment, and media realms and are one of a number of events held during Chicago's annual Black Gay Pride celebration.

Following introductory remarks from Phil Esteem, editor and founder of [Prideindex.com](http://Prideindex.com) and [TheEsteemAwards.com](http://TheEsteemAwards.com), emcees M. Shelly Connor and Langston Smith introduced and presented each awardee with their award.

Recipients included: Outstanding Service (Male) Craig Johnson, Outstanding Service (Female) Simone Koehlinger, Outstanding Service (Transgender) Gloria Allen, Future Leader David Bridgeforth Jr., Artistic Expression About Face Theater (Artistic Director Andrew Volkoff accepted the award for the organization).

Other honorees included Special Recognition for Sanford Gaylord, Outstanding Social Service Organizations The South Side Help Center (with Executive Director Vanessa Smith accepting) and The Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition (Lawrence Shine accepted the award for the organization), and Outstanding Podcast "Can We Talk For Real" (the show's hosts Michelle E. Brown, Ina Anthony and Terry Boi accepting).

The event featured performances by spoken-word artist and awardee Brown and comedian Sampson McCormick as well as a tribute performance by a member of the Lanita Joseph Dance and Cultural Center.

A number of awardees were unable to attend, including Outstanding Service Male Terry Angel Mason, among others.

Raffle drawings featuring gift baskets and a 10-speed bike took place throughout the awards ceremony and performances.

See [www.theesteemawards.com](http://www.theesteemawards.com) for more information.



Left: Gloria Allen. Right: Comedian Sampson McCormick.



Left: Event hosts M. Shelly Connor and Langston Smith. Right: David Bridgeforth Jr.



Left: Craig Johnson. Right: Michelle E. Brown, Ina Anthony and Terry Boi.

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Dr. Jack Miller**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN

**Age**  
68

**Neighborhood**  
Edgewater

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Job title**  
Psychologist

**Background**  
He was born into an orphanage in Lackawanna, New York, and was adopted and then raised in Lima, Ohio. He recently returned to Chicago after taking The Phoenix Project around the world.

**Favorite TV show**  
Downton Abbey

**Favorite movie**  
Moulin Rouge

**Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to invite to dinner**  
Jesus Christ, Carl Jung, Jacqueline Onassis and Maggie Smith

**Little-known fact**  
"I'm actually an introvert and enjoy solitude."

Dr. Jack Miller was ordained in 1974 and served as a priest for five years. "Women made me aware of sexism," he said. "I realized that for me to continue in an official capacity in an organization that was perpetuating sexism was to be a part of the problem and definitely not a part of the solution."

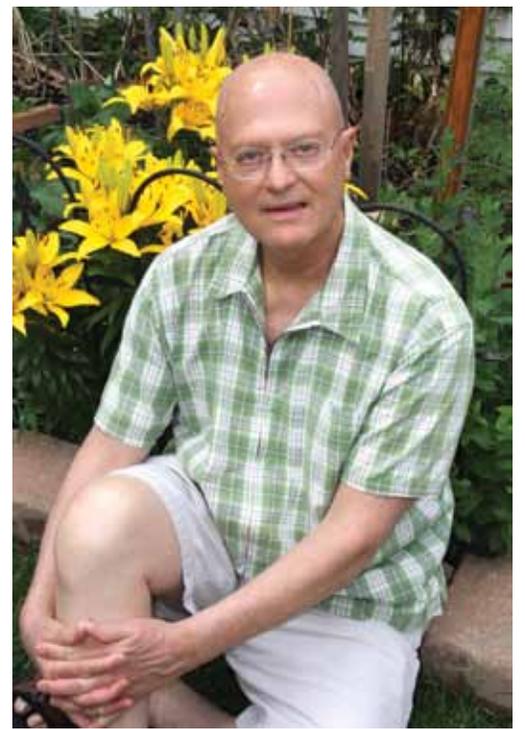
So he left the Roman Catholic Church because it would not ordain women, and went on to recreate his own priesthood free of hierarchical hassles, he said.

"Being called to the bedside of an old dying man who felt condemned to hell because of masturbation... How can you undo that deep-seated guilt with the wave of your hand? The same hand that finds and gives pleasure through masturbation," Miller said.

When he was leaving the priesthood, Miller was invited into the hospice movement, after having been a hospital chaplain, thus he had seen the agony of death and dying.

"When I was invited into the hospice movement, I found a very different approach to death and dying," he said. "I then set out to establish a hospice training center in the Midwest. What evolved was my school: The Center for Education on Death & Dying, Inc., a 12-month program housed at Loyola University [in Chicago]."

Meanwhile, Miller had been hired by Cook County Hospital to establish a hospice for the indigent of the city of Chicago. "I was simultaneously involved in the beginnings of Chicago House. I named it 'Chicago House' and saw to it that a straight man was hired to head up the organization," Miller said. "I did not want AIDS exclusively identified as a gay disease. In the midst of all of this, my father had a stroke on our farm in Ohio. Eventually I wanted to go back home and be [with] my family."



As he was about to leave Chicago, Miller was given a \$125,000 scholarship to pursue a Ph.D in psychology. "That enabled me to take the CEDD 12-month program and under the supervision of my doctoral committee telescope the 12 months into 12 weeks and test it on a group in Lima, Ohio," he said.

The results were transformational, he said.

Miller returned to Chicago in 1991 and began conducting The Phoenix Project. Today he trains psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists to do this work.

"The Phoenix Project is an orchestrated rite of passage, which facilitates both emotional and spiritual growth," Miller said. "I lead people out of ordinary time into sacred time, [called] liminality, wherein they re-live their lives—reconnecting with buried wounds. They are enabled to open these wounds and release the poison through the exercise of creativity."

During The Phoenix Project's 12-week journey, through Sept. 20, participants will produce three major creative works around three of their buried wounds, he said. "This activity enables them to transform that energy on a deeper psychic level.

"At the journey's end, the participants publicly share one of their creative projects with invited guests, who then view all of the creative work in a gallery exhibit."

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## LETTERS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

## Bruce's bias

Throughout the campaign for marriage equality, we heard the stories of LGBT couples across Illinois—couples from all walks of life, couples with children, couples who had been together for decades. Those couples wanted to be able to care for and protect their families through marriage.

A robust debate occurred last year over whether all Illinois couples and families should be treated equally and with dignity under the law. Today, as we celebrate the official commencement of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, we honor those officials who stood for freedom and equality.

We also remember those public figures, like Bruce Rauner, who chose the side of bigotry and intolerance.

Rauner, the Republican candidate for governor, claims to be a social moderate. In public and in the media, he claims not to "have a social agenda" and that "it doesn't matter" how he feels about marriage equality.

Rauner can't have it both ways. A real leader takes a stand. But we now know how he really feels. Last year at a Tea Party gathering in Quincy, he had this to say about marriage equality: "They haven't approved it in a referendum, so if I were governor I would veto."

Rauner opposes the freedom to marry. If he had been governor, the many couples across Illinois who today are celebrating new families would still be relegated to a second-class legal status. Bruce Rauner, as he said in Quincy, has no problem with that.

We know the real Bruce Rauner. His administration would very likely be working behind-the-scenes to block new legislation and erode the existing laws protecting our families.

Just look at the GOP "top of the ticket" and the elected officials Rauner surrounds himself with, like running mate Evelyn Sanguinetti and U.S. Senate candidate Jim Oberweis, both of who strongly oppose the freedom to marry, LGBT family adoption rights and other legal protections. Moreover, he has given tens of thousands of dollars to anti-LGBT candidates throughout our state.

The record is clear: LGBT couples and their families will not be welcome in Bruce Rauner's Illinois. All of us, friends and family alike, must remember who really stands with the LGBT community this November.

Sincerely,  
Bernard Cherkasov, CEO, Equality Illinois  
Art Johnston, Founder of Equality Illinois  
Jim Bennett, Midwest Regional Director, Lambda Legal  
Jeremy Gottschalk, Chair, Equality Illinois PAC  
State Rep. Kelly Cassidy  
State Rep. Ann Williams  
John Kohlhepp, Campaign Manager, Illinois Unites for Marriage  
David Munar, President & CEO, Howard Brown Health Center  
Anthony Martinez, Executive Director, Civil Rights Agenda  
Alyx S. Pattison, Candidate, Second Ward Alderman  
Nancy Kohn  
Jacob Meister  
John Peller  
Keith Kelleher  
Ray Koenig  
Sarah Schmidt  
Lynda DeLaforge  
Debra Bernard  
David Jablonowski  
Kevin Boyer  
Robert Hoepfner  
Ian Gray  
Peter Johnson  
Jeanne Kracher  
Laura McAlpine  
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Jacquelyn Haas  
Kay Miles  
Deb Murphy  
Barbara Provus  
Frederick Wackerle  
Sharon Webber  
Claudia Mosier  
Jennifer and Leslie Henry  
Gail Morse  
Shirley Baugher  
Norman Baugher

## Thoughts on parade

Hello, July 1st and goodbye, Pride Month.

As I age gracefully—well, at least in my mind—I can't help but reflect on the past 48 hours and my observations on the Pride weekend we have just past. I just was photographed and posted in AP photos on Yahoo, and I proudly sang the national anthem for the gay vets as they placed a wreath at the eternal flame in Daley Plaza downtown.

As I was marching with the gay veterans and carrying the American flag, Cyon Flare said to me, "I would like to get to know your opinion of what you think of the youth today and how they are in today's gay community." I told Cyon we should get together for coffee to discuss but it got me to thinking that maybe I should write down some observations of the day. So here they are:

It seems to me 45 years may have moved us from back rooms and closets to the mainstream—but at what cost, and at what level of respect? Let me share with you some examples of those observations. You be the judge.

1. Freedom and rights are not free. The Pride Parade and Pride celebrations are about remembering the fight that got us cohesive and more organized. The Stonewall Riots are the catalyst of the modern age of gay liberation and freedoms. Would we be where we are today had they not occurred? Who can tell, but that is what we are coming together to celebrate/commemorate/remember.

2. When did gay rights become so violent? Sure, we had our civil disobedience and arrests in the early years, but seeing a Chicago Police Department squad car trashed, with people standing on the roof, windshield bashed in? Really—is that showing Pride? Quite honestly, seeing this sort of behavior, I was kind of ashamed.

3. Pride day is mostly filled with happy, joyous folks. If you can't stand a crowd or disruption, or can't take an extra walk around a section of the parade line-up because the large American flag is laid out ready to be unfolded, then stay home. People base their opinions based on our actions and, yes, I did see this. If it is not your place to be happy and joyous with inconvenience sprinkled in, then stay home and be unhappy alone. Don't take the rest of us with you.

4. So when did the F-bomb become so commonplace in our language that it does not seem to impact anyone? After the parade I was walking in the park between Montrose and Wilson. The old days of the Rocks Picnic has now moved north to his location and I think I heard "f---" more times than in any R- or X-rated movie I have ever seen. Really, again it is about some simple respect. Yes, there seemed to be a great age difference in the crowd here (anywhere from 16-96), but the message and the words flowing were the same: guttural, vulgar, harsh, hard. Really, is this necessary for all to converse in this manner?

5. GIRL, keep your personal drama at home. Oh, trust me, I have been there, done that but, really, the one day that you need to keep it at home is Pride. Like I said it point three, stay home if this is how you're going to play. People are watching, children are listening and, at the end of the day, the more outrageous our detractors find us, the better they like it. It feeds the religious right and others that don't want us to be equal. It gives them more fuel for the fire. Don't help those who don't like us.

6. Leave your firearms at home. Big parties, lots of carrying on, maybe a bit too much to drink and a gun do not lead to a happy ending. No wonder there are those who vilify us. It is pretty easy when we give them the tools.

7. What happened to good manners—"please," "thank you" and "excuse me?" Just because it is Gay Pride does not mean you have the right to be rude, nasty or disrespectful. I never thought I would say this but I have turned into my parents. However, that is because manners are simple—but since they do not come with a smartphone application, perhaps it has become too much to expect.

8. Some say we have outlived/outgrown the Boystown space for the parade, so it should move downtown. Really, our roots are in Lakeview/Boystown. Do you really think 1 million people are going to haul it downtown to see a Pride parade in the Loop? So they can empty out Wrigley Field with no issues after every game and not shut down Addison? Can't similar crowd-control methods be used at Belmont? Closing el stations for capacity purposes without an announced contingency plan is not good planning. Most folks on the trains on Pride Sunday are not regular users of the CTA; be more clear as to what are the options for the riders.

If you think that Belmont needs to be closed for a period of time due to capacity, make that decision in advance and plan the alternate and announce them accordingly, like bus re-routes. Case in point: My friends from out of town attempted to use the el but found they were told to get off at Wellington/Sheffield when the Belmont station was being bypassed. The message was delivered unclearly; they thought all had to get off. The reality is they could have ridden further to one of the subsequent stops—Addison, Sheridan or Wilson—which would have gotten them closer to their final destination. However, because it was unclear, they were kind of lost and struggling. Better communication of alternate routes of travel can make better choices for visitors and locals alike and doesn't have to mean we move out of our home base for our parade.

I am happy that Pride has become the massive event that it is. I am happy that we have Pride Fest the week before for two days. I think that is a bit overcommercialized but, in the end, it shows how far we have come. But I am sad that we do not take the time during Pride Month and the week of Pride itself to insure that the youth of today become the better leaders in our community tomorrow.

I know Gay History month is in October, but celebrating what and who we love should be something we practice every day. Respecting how we got here should be common place. Knowing at what cost we came to have the 45th annual Pride Parade needs to be kept dear. Holding in great regard the leaders who got us there should be a given.

Dean Ogren  
Chicago

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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or  
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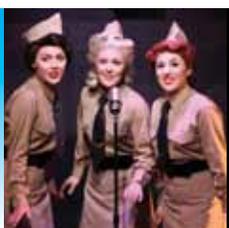


Photo by William Frederking

## STILT IN LOVE WITH YOU

Versatile Kristina Isabelle (center) engages in several forms of dance, including performing on stilts. See below.

## THEATER

'Sister' act.  
Page 14Photo from *A Musical Tribute to the Andrews Sisters* from Theo Ubique

## SPORTS

Going for a Ride.  
Page 19Photo from *Ride for AIDS* by Ross Forman

## MOVIES

Stay in your Lane.  
Page 16Photo of Nathan Lane in *The Nance*

## DANCIN' FEATS

Kristina Isabelle:  
Chicago's dance darling

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Kristina Isabelle, 45, has had a busy schedule since the moment she arrived in Chicago. "I feel good. ... It's been amazing to be here!" she said in an interview with *Windy City Times*. "The level of dancing and commitment to dancemaking are so strong here, and it's been fun."

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Isabelle came to Chicago with a wealth of experience under her belt as well as an impressive resume that notably includes three years each with Stephen Petronio Company (New York) and Bebe Miller (Columbus, Ohio), degrees from Juilliard and the Ohio State University, and a wealth of performances, residencies, teaching, and choreography that brought her from Columbus to New York, San Francisco and back to Columbus again before landing in the Windy City.

Perhaps because of her varied experiences and inability to sit still for too long, Isabelle is a sort of chameleon. She can and does adapt to every type of work environment, dancer, venue and genre. Last year she created a full length contemporary dance work as a Chicago Dance-makers Forum Lab Artist, fashioned a short solo for an engagement at the Museum of Contemporary Art and performed late night on stilts at the Human Rights Campaign's HER event. Long story short, you can put Kristina Isabelle on stilts, but you can't put her in a box.

At present, Isabelle finds herself with two pretty big coals in the fire. She is premiering a new 10-minute work as the guest choreographer for Thodos Dance Chicago's 14th installment of *New Dances*. *Windy City Times* visited

her in rehearsal at Thodos' home in Old Town. "We try to pick *New Dances* artists who will benefit from the program, and will also benefit us," said Founder/Artistic Director Melissa Thodos as the dancers rehearsed. "It's an interesting time in [Isabelle's] career." The work itself, which was still awaiting a title, is confrontational, as though the dancers are engaged in a beautiful cockfight. Isabelle's dance is a blending of choreography and improvisation, and according to Thodos the process has pushed the dancers to new heights.

The week before *New Dances* premieres, Isabelle will be in the Netherlands as the first American company to perform in *Deventer Op Stelten* (Deventer on Stilts). For 18 years the town of Deventer has been holding the massive stilt street-theater festival, and Isabelle has attended twice before. "It's a dream for me to perform there," she said, and after eight years her dream is finally coming true. Many miles away from *New Dances* (figuratively and literally), an older work called *Levels & Lines* will be performed eight times over three days of the festival.

One original cast member from Columbus will join the group in Deventer; the rest of the cast is entirely new, and has been stilting together for a few short months.

Isabelle, on the other hand, has been on stilts for 20 years. "When I got out of Juilliard, I thought I'd get in a company right away ... but that didn't happen!" she laughed. She moved to San Francisco, motivated by a desire to work with the legendary choreographer Joe Goode. Sadly, he was on sabbatical once she got there. "I knew I wanted to be politi-



Kristina Isabelle. Photo by William Frederking

cally active, and I met this stilt group doing environmental-sociopolitical theater. ... I told the ladies who directed it, 'I've gotta get up there,'" she said. "That first time I got up there, it just clicked: this is a pointe shoe. Everything I do on the ground, I want to do on stilts." A move back to Columbus for graduate school afforded Isabelle the chance to further develop the stilt work for dance.

Isabelle was creating independent choreography concurrently while dancing with the Stephen Petronio Company in New York after graduate school. "I loved the company, [but] I always wanted to do my own thing; that was always important to me. I never wanted to just be a dancer. I love performing, but I really love making. So, I left New York!" Isabelle officially formed her company in Columbus, but remained cognizant of the protective bubble a small city can provide. "I wasn't getting my work out there," she said, and this, in part, motivated her to move again, this time to Chicago. And she's been busy ever since.

It seems as though Isabelle is on everyone's list for collaborations and projects. As most of the Chicago dance community can attest to, however, a full schedule doesn't always equate to a full bank account. After nearly 25 years as a professional dancer and choreographer, Isabelle's priority today is sustainability. "I want to build a community of dancers making work together. How do I keep going?" Isabelle asked. "I am in a place of trying to figure out how to keep running a dance company. ... It is a frustrating time but I wouldn't want to do anything else. Honestly, I love what I do, I am inspired every day by the dancers that are in the room with me and I love pushing the limits of what I can physically do and emotionally say with this moving body."

**Thodos Dance Chicago's (TDC's) 14th annual *New Dances* features work by guest artist Kristina Isabelle and TDC company members John Cartwright, Annie Deutz, Tenley Dorrill, Kyle Hadenfeldt, Brandon Harneck, Jon Sloven, Alissa Tollefson, Diana Winfree and Lauren Zimmerer.**

**Performances are Friday-Saturday, July 18-19, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, July 20, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35; \$28 for students and seniors; \$20 industry (dancers and teachers); and \$10 for children 12 and under, and for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are on sale now at [thodosdancechicago.org](http://thodosdancechicago.org) or 312-266-6255.**



Get Your Hands Off Me, Chekhov!

## THEATER REVIEW

### Get Your Hands Off Me, Chekhov!/ Flip Flop

Playwright: Anne and Greg Taubeneck/  
Ashley Thornton & Andrew Daniels

At: Annoyance Theatre,  
851 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-561-4665;

www.annoyanceproductions.com; \$10

Runs through: July 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Most comedy nowadays relies on familiarity with current movies and television, but not since the Free Associates disbanded has there been a show geared toward playgoers who spend their leisure time seeing *other* plays. The syllabus of Anne and Greg Taubeneck's two-person musical romp references a number of classic playwrights—Shakespeare, Williams, Chekhov and Beckett, among others—and while everybody might not see the humor of a convent so small “it only had three sisters,” they can always chuckle over its being financed by “a loan from Penny Pritzker.”

We begin with a middle-aged couple in Kenilworth, equipped with three children and three dogs (whose names are often mixed up), who fall on hard times after Stanton is arrested for insider trading, sending him and his wife Elizabeth into temporary Stanley-and-Blanche mode. Both engage in Chekhovian introspection as “Stanislaus” languishes in minimum-security prison (the windows have only one bar) and she, in the aforementioned cloister. Upon the former's release, the McStans mount a failed attempt to usurp the Thane of Goldman-Sachs, recover their morale with the help of a Mamet-style pep talk, but then are plummeted into Beckettian despair. All is not lost, however—though Stanton is ready for some peaceful Rodgers and Hammerstein, Elizabeth chooses a more intriguing future. (“It's as good as it gets/We're doing Tracy Letts!”)

The conceit of life-as-theater also permits Stanton and Elizabeth to comment on the decisions of the literary gods guiding their destinies—Stanton, trapped in a trash-can, sighs, “I guess this rules out Noel Coward,” while Elizabeth welcomes the departure from blank verse to Mametspeak with a cheerful “shorter speeches, no rhymes.” Under Rachael Mason's direction, the authors/performers' agile repartee—enhanced by composer/sideman Jonathan Wagner on piano, air-bagpipes and Russian jailkeeper accent—never flags in its lively pace, despite costume changes executed

at lightning speed in a barely bedroom-sized auditorium.

Raising the curtain on the characteristically short (80 minutes, including an intermission) presentation inaugurating the second space in the new Annoyance Theatre is a duo dubbed Flip Flop, aka Ashley Thornton and Andrew Daniels, whose improvised cross-gender scenarios range from titillating (a masseur confronts a severely sunburned customer), to creepy (a tattoo artist drugs his eager date's drink), to outright revolting (the wife of an incarcerated convict professing to be sexually aroused by fantasies of her spouse being raped by his fellow inmates).

Put your brains on hold for the first half, and smart rewards—did I mention the song about the manliness of wearing spandex?—will be soon forthcoming.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Juno**, TimeLine Theatre, through July 27. Marc Blitzstein's rarely seen musical of Sean O'Casey's *Juno* and the Paycock preserves all O'Casey's brooding tragedy but jettisons much of the character comedy. It's a problem, although this production is beautifully sung, acted, played and staged. JA

**The Last Ship**, Bank America Theatre, through July 13. Sting's robust score, sung by a band of hearty men and women—not to mention a scenic design as big as the *Ocean Blue*—adds up to a successful launch for this Broadway-bound musical. MSB

**Monstrous Regiment**, Lifeline Theatre, through Aug. 3. A platoon of irrepressible cross-dressing military recruits led by the formidable Christopher Walsh make for gleefully giddy fun in this page-to-stage adaptation of Terry Pratchett's satirical fantasy. MSB

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**, Drury Lane Theatre, through Aug. 17. The hit 2005 Broadway musical about quirky kid spellers played by adults receives an outstanding production in Oakbrook Terrace that highlights the under-the-surface serious drama amid the expected silliness and flights of fancy. This is also one of the more lavishly produced productions you'll see of the show. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge  
and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### A Musical Tribute to the Andrews Sisters

Playwright: Concept by

David Heimann and Fred Anzevino

At: Theo Ubique Cabaret at No Exit Cafe,  
6970 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: 1-800-595-4849;

www.theo-u.com; \$29-\$34

Runs through: Aug. 31

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Perhaps the 2013 death of the last survivor of the Andrews Sisters, lead singer Patty, explains why two Andrews Sisters shows currently are running in Chicago, the one reviewed here and also *Sisters of Swing* at the Fox Valley Repertory (at the Pheasant Run Resort), playing through July 27.

Both shows feature mostly identical line-ups of the trio's many greatest hits, but *Sisters of Swing* is biographical—tracing the sisters' career from early success in their native Minneapolis, through huge stardom and up to later-career break-ups—while Theo Ubique will have none of that. A Musical Tribute to the Andrews Sisters is pure musical revue with no story at all and devoid of even a factoid of information. It never mentions the sisters by name individually or collectively, nor does it offer a shred of detail about their lives or career. I note this not as a judgment, but merely to stress the different approaches of the shows.

The Andrews Sisters are indelibly identified with World War II and such huge hits as “Boo-

gie-Woogie Bugle Boy,” “Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree” and “Rum and Coca-Cola,” which are featured at Theo Ubique. Indeed, Act I finds them in Army uniforms performing a wartime USO tour (as they did tirelessly throughout the war), coupled with a brave but lame stand-up comic who doubles as a male singer when needed. They became stars, however, in the mid-1930s and still were performing in the 1970s (after periods of hiatus and LaVerne Andrews' early death in 1967), so Act II has them in cocktail dresses in a semblance of a club act.

Whatever the bookends, the Theo Ubique show offers 31 songs recorded by the Andrews Sisters (some with partners such as Bing Crosby or Danny Kaye), ranging from famous swing hits to tunes by the Gershwins, Porter, Berlin and Arlen all performed in the sisters' signature close harmony style. Performers Sarah Larson (in splendid blonde wigs by Michael Buonincontro), Jordan Yentz (brunette) and Casi Maggio (redhead) are all smiles and precision musicality under musical director Alex Newkirk, who leads a tight piano-trumpet-drums trio. William Lucas is the game stand-up comic burdened with hoary period jokes. Through no fault of his own, he shines when he sings rather than when he talks.

The music is wonderful, but the total effect is amiable rather than electric. Despite the intimate space, the completely unamplified voices lack presence as the performers sing into a dummy microphone. We know the Andrews Sisters as recorded artists, not live artists, and it's that crisp recorded or broadcast presence that's missing along with the complete absence of context. There must be a halfway ground between what Theo Ubique and Fox Valley Rep are offering.



Annapurna.  
Photo by  
Michael  
Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW

### Annapurna

Playwright: Sharr White

At: Profiles Theatre at the Alley Stage,  
4137 N. Broadway

Tickets: 773-549-1815;

www.profiles theatre.org; \$35-\$40

Runs through: July 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When artists are on a creative roll, they often ignore housekeeping chores and personal hygiene in their quest to concentrate on their work. This may explain why, when we first encounter reclusive emphysema-racked poet Ulysses, he is wearing nothing but an apron and an oxygen tank, and his trailer in the Colorado Rockies contains a refrigerator filled with rotting meat. The project commanding his focus is not the 150-stanza epic named for the mountain in the Himalayas—that was completed before the start of our play—but a slow and unobstructed death in retribution for the terrible deed that, twenty years earlier, caused his wife to flee with their child.

His penance is interrupted by the abrupt re-entry of ex-spouse Emma, dressed in a trim beige pantsuit and dragging fashionably wheeled luggage. She promptly sets about restoring order to Ulysses' domain. Her mission is not reconciliation, however, but deception. Their now 25-year-old son has announced his intention of confronting the father he barely remembers—a prospective reunion, Emma insists, requiring a quick and

thorough pre-emptive makeover.

We never see the son who (we are told) received severe facial injuries on that fatal day, when mummy was away from home and daddy was lost to alcoholic blackout. Since the boy claimed not to remember the events leading to his being found unconscious and promptly spirited away by his protective motherfamilias, we never learn the facts behind the incident, either. For that matter, there are *many* things we don't learn in Sharr White's script, which is riddled with more holes than Ulysses' tattered wardrobe. Ah, but a play featuring a single set, two characters, contemporary dress, nudity, onstage food preparation, an under-90-minute running time and subtext-heavy dialogue (arcing tidily to its climax at precisely the two-thirds mark) for—ahem!—mature actors will always enjoy a popular following on the suburban/scene-study/studio circuit.

Darrell W. Cox and Lia D. Mortensen, abetted by Eric Bugher's direction, take full advantage of their storefront auditorium's intimate environment, reveling in the hang-dog charisma and manic-edged alacrity constituting their respective stock-in-trades, with an intensity riveting our attention for every second of the 70 minutes it takes to exorcise—well, sort of—the demons of guilt, flight and denial. Playwright White is also to be commended for not turning the poet's literary craft into a joke or a plot convenience—when we hear the first lines of Ulysses' magnum op, we get a glimpse of the man with whom Emma fell in love so long ago.



The Broken Gay Folk Revue. Photo by Shannon Jenkins/Flaming City Photography

## THEATER REVIEW

# The Broken Gay Folk Revue

By Michael Gifford and Ross W. Berman IV  
 At: Annoyance Theatre & Bar,  
 851 W. Belmont Ave.  
 Tickets: 773-697-9693 or  
 www.annoyanceproductions.com; \$10-\$12  
 Runs through July 31

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are many unanswered questions that The Broken Gay Folk Revue—an hour-long show playing in the sparse Small Theatre of the recently opened Annoyance Theatre in its spacious new Belmont Avenue digs—poses.

But damnably, two likely end questions that many audience members might ask are: “Is that all there is?” and “What exactly is the point of this show?”

As it stands, The Broken Gay Folk Revue is an unadorned affair directed by Chris Kervick that only features a few chairs, a couple of music stands and a table for a water pitcher and glasses for scenery.

As for content, there are a number of personal essays read by Michael Gifford from binders elaborating on why he isn’t a stereotypical homosexual and his self-applied label of “Broken Gay.” He also dryly details a few of his unsuccessful exploits in online dating, pubic-hair removal and dabbling in BDSM.

Gifford also defends the use of the frowned-upon expression “straight-acting” for guys whose outward appearances and likes come off as more heterosexual rather than stereotypically gay. Gifford’s plain-spoken delivery of sometimes racy content can be funny in a deadpan way, but he needs to move beyond having his eyes glued to his text and engage more directly with the audience.

Gifford’s essays alternate with a number of tangentially related and tedious folk songs sung by a largely closed-eyed Ross W. Berman IV accompanying himself on guitar and harmonica. Many of Berman’s songs include female pronouns in the lyrics, so don’t be surprised if you ponder their purpose in a “gay” show.

But then perhaps The Broken Gay Revue could all be a wry and subversive take on more flamboyant queer performance art with its unassumingly bland style and a chosen musical genre more associated within the LGBTQ community among lesbians rather than gay men. But if that is what the creators of The Broken Gay Folk Revue were truly aiming for, they should have made it much more obvious and specifically contrarian.

For one thing, the show needs a better thesis statement about why Gifford and Berman have teamed up together on this project. Some self-aware banter between the two commenting on their empty surroundings and motives could also be potentially more amusing than what they currently offer.

As it stands, The Broken Gay Folk Revue kind of comes off as a way for two artists with different agendas to save on money by sharing

the same bill and theater rental space. So don’t be surprised if your self-devised answers to the questions posed by The Broken Gay Folk Revue tend to be negative.

But then again, a baffled audience reaction might have been what show’s creators had in mind.

# SPOTLIGHT



Anna Rose Il-Epstein recently received the Windy City Times’ 30 Under 30 for 2014 (a honor shared with her wife, Hannah). Il-Epstein is also the artistic director of the theater company Nothing Without a Company, which has just revived its 2013 outdoor promenade summer show *Alice*, a modern-day updating of Lewis Carroll’s classic Victorian exercise in witticism and surrealism. Through Aug. 17, performances are on Saturdays and Sundays in Lincoln Park starting at the northwest corner of Cannon Drive and Fullerton Avenue. (Performance times vary, so check online for exact show times.) Then Aug. 23-31, performances shift to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Gill Park, 825 W. Sheridan Rd. Performances are free; visit [www.nothingwithoutacompany.org](http://www.nothingwithoutacompany.org). Photo by Matthew Gregory Hollis

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## The Nance; film notes

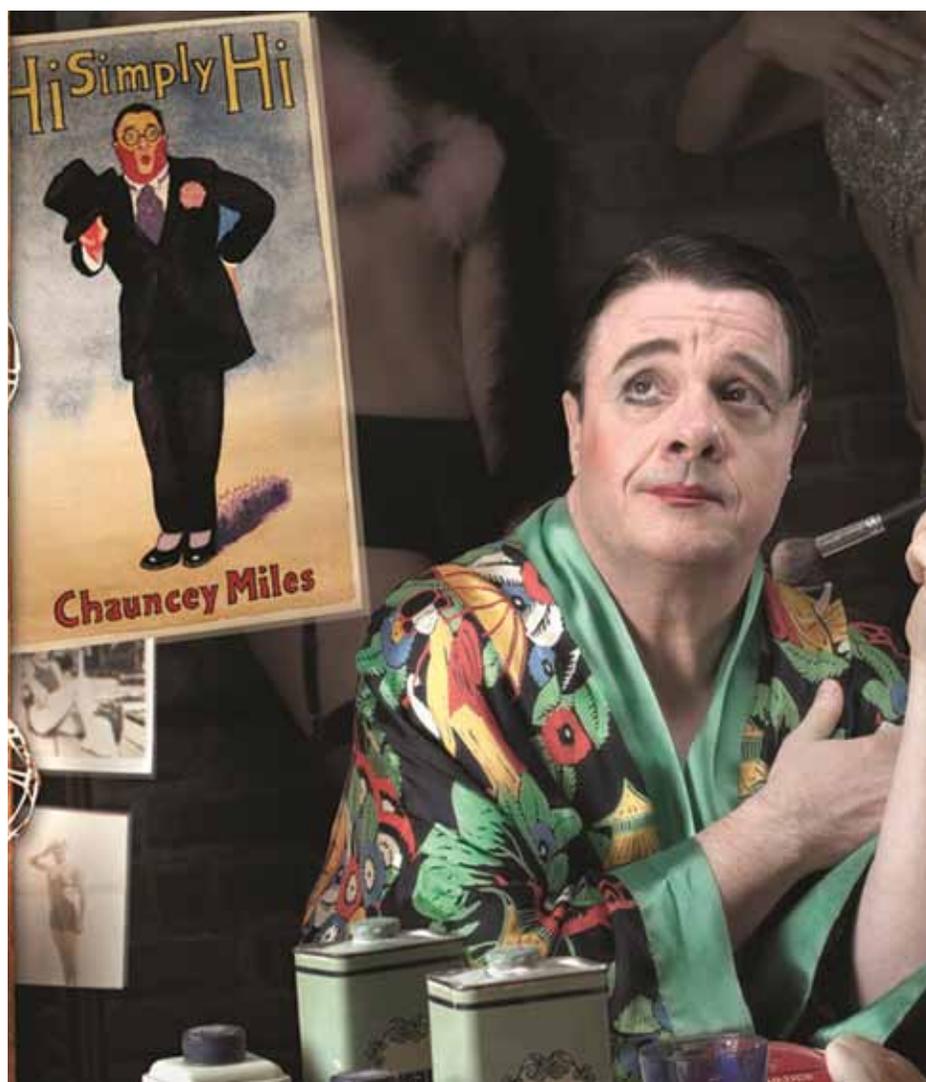
There is a segment in Rick McKay's wonderful documentary *Broadway: The Golden Age* in which a bevy of renowned actors talk about the most unforgettable performance they've ever seen: Laurette Taylor as Amanda Wingfield in the original 1945 production of *The Glass Menagerie*. That same reverence has been ascribed to dozens of other one-of-a-kind portrayals in the ensuing decades that only stage audiences had the pleasure of seeing.

Nathan Lane gives one of those legendary performances in *The Nance*, the latest play from out writer Douglas Carter Beane. And thanks to a partnership between Lincoln Center—where the play was produced in 2013—and the marketing firm Screenvision, Lane's acting triumph is going to reach a much larger audience when it plays nationwide in movie theatres for a limited time. Locally, *The Nance* will screen at the Landmark Century Centre Theatres, 2828 N. Clark St., and Highland Park's Landmark Renaissance Place Cinema, 1850 2nd St., on July 16-20.

That's also great news for fans of Beane, whose previous gay-tinged plays *The Little Dog Laughed* and *As Bees in Honey Drown* have not been adapted for film. Unlike those modern-day efforts, *The Nance* delves into a mostly unexplored corner of gay history. In 1930s, during the waning days of burlesque, it was common to include in the show amongst the strippers, comics and vaudevillians a performer known as "the nance"—a lisping, mincing character with an arsenal of double entendres at the ready who embodied homosexual stereotypes and was so beloved by audiences that these actors were often given headliner status. These over-the-top caricatures of neutered, non-threatening queer identity were normally performed by straight men but in Beane's play Chauncey Miles, the fictional character Lane embodies, is gay both on and off stage.

It is this troubling irony that provides the springboard for Beane's tragicomedy. Chauncey—as evidenced in a series of expertly created naughty sketches and musical parodies that speak to the play's theme (not unlike the songs in *Cabaret*)—truly is the embodiment of exuberant gay camp and he's responsible for making the cash registers ring once again in the tatty revue in which he's featured. Offstage, his cautious life—in which he surreptitiously cruises for trade according to its complex rules (a hat on the chair means "not interested") at the Horn & Hardart automat and other underground Manhattan gathering spots for gay men—is about as close as Chauncey gets to anything resembling a relationship.

That is, until he tricks with the innocent, hunky Ned (Jonny Orsini). Chauncey learns the morning after picking up Ned that he is neither straight nor trade but something he hasn't encountered before: a gay man who isn't guilty about his sexuality. It's perhaps even the opposite, as Ned is eager to embark on a relationship with Chauncey and isn't the least embarrassed about his physical attraction or his growing attachment. But Chauncey has learned



Nathan Lane in *The Nance*.

to live within the constraints of his offstage closet; he sees the irony of his situation ("A pansy playing a nance," he insists is "like a Negro doing blackface") yet he's also a survivor who is all too aware of the danger in exposing himself emotionally to the intimacy Ned is craving.

The opposing views of these two gay men are summed up late in the play when Ned responds to Chauncey's once again denigrating himself by saying, "You have got more words to describe yourself that hurt." In a world-weary tone Chauncey answers back, "I do so admire the way you can see a future in all this." Beane offers a momentary spark of hope in that wistful remark but doesn't pretend that it's anything more than that and though the character of Chauncey certainly has taken a lot of unthinkable emotional risks by the play's memorable conclusion, it's within the bounds of the reality of the time period.

Chauncey's story—which plays out on a revolving stage that quickly shifts between the burlesque stage and dressing rooms to his cramped apartment—seems tailor-made for Lane's outsized talents. A master of the bombastic remark followed by the quick, doleful aside that underlines the zinger, Lane is in his element in the burlesque sketches, with his portrayal of the super-nelly sissy calling to mind the craziness of Rip Taylor flinging his bag of confetti. The onstage vibrancy is matched by the angry outbursts and hints of insight into his tragic personal situation that Lane gives Chauncey as he and Orsini (also wonderful) as Ned head toward their final confrontation.

Although I'd like to have seen Lane repeat his Chauncey Miles in a proper film adaptation (given the state of funding for queer-themed movies, what were the chances of that happening?), that's not to suggest that this version of *The Nance* isn't worth seeing. It is. Lane, under the direction of Jack O'Brien, turns in the scenery-chewing kind of work that is thrilling and emotionally satisfying to experience—reason enough to head to the Cineplex to catch this great theatrical performance. [http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Films/films\\_frameset.asp?id=139613](http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Films/films_frameset.asp?id=139613)

### Film notes:

Four years ago Illinois state Reps. Sara Feigenholtz and Ann Williams saw the legislation they sponsored, the Original Birth Certificate Access Law, go into effect. The law grants Illinois-born adoptees the opportunity to receive a copy of their original birth certificate for the first time.

Feigenholtz and Williams, both adoptees, will host a screening of Jean Strauss' documentary *A Simple Piece of Paper*, a film that follows several of their fellow adoptees over the past four years after receiving their papers and tracking down their birth families. The screening is taking place Wed., July 9, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., with doors at 6:30 p.m. and screening at 7:30 p.m. In addition to Feigenholtz and Williams, several of the subjects profiled in the documentary will be on hand for the screening. <http://www.asimplepieceofpaper.com/>

Cineastes will be pleased to note that the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., is back with another line-up of great films for its Son of 70MM Festival that runs Friday, July 11 through Thursday, July 24. This is a rare opportunity to see 10 films (out of less than 50 that utilized the process) in their original wide-screen, higher-definition aspect ratio. Classics like *Lawrence of Arabia*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Spartacus*, *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, *Patton* and *Vertigo* are part of the line-up but so are lesser-seen films in the format like *Brainstorm* (Natalie Wood's final movie), Disney's 1982 sci-fi curio *Tron*, the 1967 original musical *Dr. Dolittle*, and Paul Thomas Anderson's 2012 dramatic epic *The Master*. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/festivals/son-of-70mm-film-festival>

Two more queer-themed film festival favorites from last year, Antonio Hens' *The Last Match*, a sexy tale of gay forbidden love set in Cuba, and Arvin Chen's bittersweet Taiwanese comedy *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?* are now available on DVD.

**Now available:** *The Best of Knight at the Movies: 2004-2014*—a compilation book of more than 150 of my film reviews from a queer perspective for *Windy City Times*—is now available. [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com)



Chris Colfer.  
Photo by  
Jerry Nunn

## Chris Colfer at Old Orchard on July 12

New York Times bestselling author and Golden Globe Award winner Chris Colfer will be at Skokie's Barnes & Noble Book-sellers, 55 Old Orchard Center, on Saturday, July 12, at 12 p.m.

Colfer will sign the third book in his #1 New York Times best-selling "Land of Stories" series for children aged 7 to 12. *Land Of Stories: A Grimm Warning* was due to be released July 8 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Free numbered signing-line tickets are being distributed at the store to customers presenting a copy of *A Grimm Warning* as well as proof of purchase from Barnes & Noble or [bn.com](http://bn.com). There is one ticket per customer; additional event rules will apply.

## July 10 discussion to look at house music

The status of house music will be examined in "Old School/Future Classics," a discussion and group-listening session the Illinois Humanities Council is hosting and which will take place Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at The Silver Room, 1442 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Guests include: Craig Loftis (Grand High Priest), who has been DJing in the Chicago music scene since 1979, and who became Frankie Knuckles' personal sound engineer, opening DJ and general manager; Tess Kisner, resident DJ at The Silver Room; and vocalist, DJ and producer Shaun J. Wright. Micah Salkind will lead the discussion.

The event is free to the public, although reservations are required. Email [events@prairie.org](mailto:events@prairie.org) or visit [www.prairie.org](http://www.prairie.org).

## Public invited to view youth-led art installation

Youth leaders in Chicago are invited to participate in a public art installation called "Make/Art/Space."

The project will be led by youth from the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) in partnership with Affinity Community Services, University Church and the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum to explore how families talk about sexuality through public art. This public art initiative hopes to stimulate complex conversations connected to issues around sexuality, age, race, gender and other relevant parts of life and identity.

The public is invited to join in for two events to view youth-created artwork. One will be Tuesday, July 15, 3-4 p.m., at University Church, 5655 S. University Ave.; the other will be Wed., July 16, 3-4 p.m., at Jane Addams Hull-House, 800 S. Halsted St.

See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1508263852737768/> or "#ICAH-CREATES" on Facebook.

# Musician helps with legacy of first country album with gay themes

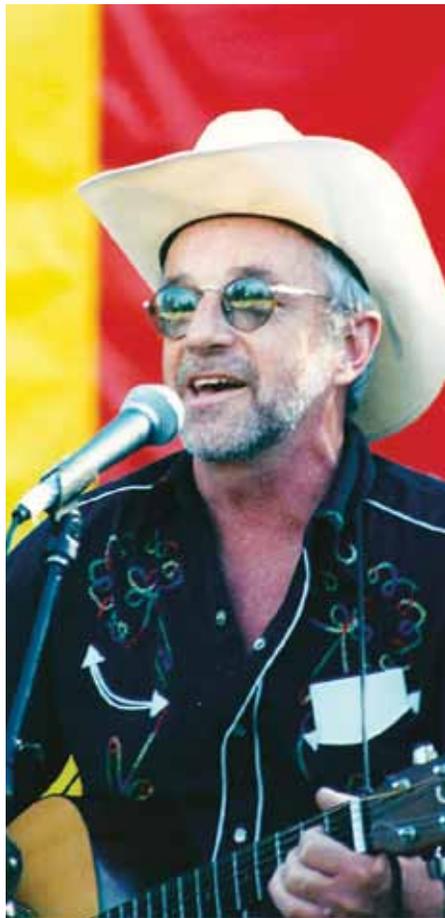
BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Bobby Taylor never says “no” to a musical gig. From playing solo to performing the oldies in the duo Memory Lane Songs, Taylor helps to revive Lavender Country, the first album of country music with gay themes (an unusual feat for someone Black and straight). Celebrating his 75th birthday a few weeks ago, the Illinois native certainly has no plan to retire his harmonica and sheet music.

“I’m having the time of my life right now because I’ve kind of reached a road that I’ve been traveling on,” said Taylor. “I had this vision 30 years ago and it’s coming to fruition right now.”

Taylor was born and raised in Harvey, Illinois, listening to music on Clear Channel radio station WLAC-AM and records his father bought, the blues frequently playing in his house. During his college years at Southern Illinois University, where he described himself as a party guy, he picked up his first harmonica and began his musical career participating in a band. Taylor began with the blues, but hearing other music in his head, he felt the need to expand his style.

“I started playing the blues and as I got more interested in the harmonica, I discovered there was a very wide range of harmonicas and a wider range of people playing harmonicas doing every style of music imaginable,” Taylor said. “That’s what caught my interest and that’s why blues was just a small part of me because I



Patrick Haggerty in 2000.

ger love for his daughter Kaelynne brought Taylor from Nashville to Washington. Fondly, he explained he wanted to be there for her birthday and first day of school.

“The move is the best moment of my life,” said Taylor. “I got my daughter and I got my music too. I feel very blessed to be doing what I’m doing and it’s true that anybody that is doing really what they love to be doing, they’re truly blessed. It’s as simple as that.”

Taylor also developed a musical partnership with Patrick Haggerty when he moved to Bremerton, Washington, where they both currently reside. Upon moving into the building, the two had a conversation and discovered they both loved to play music. From two music worlds, Haggerty from country, knowing nothing about the blues, and Taylor wanting a challenge, the two have been performing together as Memory Lane Songs for 13 years.

“The first few times we got together to play, it was like a train wreck coming from different worlds,” Taylor said. “We just kept doing that and we finally got something. We finally came out with a sound. We had vision.”

Haggerty, now 70, has been a gay-rights activist since the Stonewall Riots. He mixed his creativity, musical talents and activism to formulate the band Lavender Country, which released its self-titled album in 1973. With a ‘40s and ‘50s country style, the record reflects Haggerty’s personal experiences including his upbringing on a tenant dairy farm and his dismissal from the Peace Corps linked to his sexuality. According to Haggerty, the group, its performances, marketing and everything in between was an LGBTQ community effort.

The band of four had a short-lived existence, calling it quits in the late ‘70s. However, Lavender Country has woken back up, and with a new flare. Honored at Seattle’s Gay Pride Parade this past June, Haggerty led the new Lavender Country made up of seven members not in the original group. Taylor provides the fresh

harmonica sound not featured in the original tracks.

“It’s another one of those things that happen,” said Taylor. “When you travel the road of music, it’s another project. “It’s been very exciting and joyful and I can’t find the words.”

The Pride parade in Seattle was a first for Taylor, who still describes himself as a “fun-loving, party guy and a straight ally.” Seattle threw its 40th Pride celebration with the theme “Generations of Pride,” honoring the LGBTQ activists who paved the way for the gay-rights movement. Taylor, not part of the original Lavender Country at Seattle’s inaugural Pride festival, said the event was a lovely experience, adding he was glad to be on the float and not within the enormous crowds. He added it was a joy to see Haggerty’s friends and family come by and to see him getting the reception and the acknowledgement that he deserves.

“I’ve always been on the fringe of society anyway,” said Taylor, who is not an activist. “I never had any phobias about anything. My family was about love and we weren’t prejudiced. That [the parade] was quite an honor to tell you the truth. The whole project was about love and people’s acceptance of one another.”

Along with playing in the new Lavender Country, Taylor and Haggerty still continue as Memory Lane Songs. Playing the oldies at nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, the musicians do about 120 shows per year containing a large repertoire from “Home on the Range” to the blues.

“They can be moved to places where they’ve cried and get them back to a particular space in time,” said Taylor of Memory Lane Songs’ performances. “It’s the most rewarding and important music I ever played because these people really enjoy it. I hope I’m healthy enough to keep on playing and then let the chips fall where they may. I’m going to keep playing and the rest will work itself out.”

For more information on Lavender Country, visit [www.paradiseofbachelors.com/lavender-country](http://www.paradiseofbachelors.com/lavender-country).

## ‘Billy Elliot’ at Drury Lane in 2015

Oakbrook’s Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Ln., will present the regional premiere of the hit musical Billy Elliot April 9-June 7, 2015.

The plot is as follows: Set during the 1984-85 U.K. miners’ strike in a small working class town in the English countryside, young Billy discovers a passion for ballet and trades in his boxing gloves for dancing shoes.

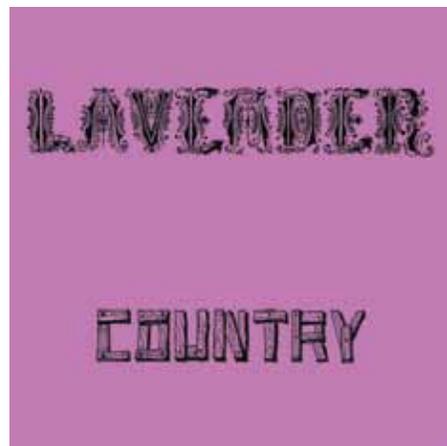
The performance schedule for Billy Elliot is Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. (\$45), Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. (\$45) and 8 p.m. (\$55), Fridays at 8 p.m. (\$60), Saturdays at 5 p.m. (\$60), and 8:30 p.m. (\$60), and Sundays at 2 p.m. (\$60), and 6 p.m. (\$55). Call the Drury Lane Theatre box office at 630-530-0111, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000 or visit [www.drurylane.com](http://www.drurylane.com).

## Buffalo Grove student wins national award

Broadway in Chicago announced that Jonah Rawitz of Buffalo Grove, Illinois (Adlai E. Stevenson High School)—representing the Illinois High School Musical Theater Awards—was awarded the Jimmy Award for Best Performance by an Actor June 30 at Broadway’s Minskoff Theater.

The award is named in honor of James M. Nederlander, the legendary Broadway theater owner and producer.

Rawitz and Best Actress winner Jai’Len Josey (from Georgia) also received checks for \$10,000 to further their education. More than 1,500 high schools and 60,000 students participate in these annual events.



wanted to become a much better harmonica player or use some of the other aspects of harmonica playing other than blues.”

In Nashville, Tennessee, to “chase the dream further” and deciding it was a good place to learn with the large musician base, Taylor said he had a great time and got into the country genre. People, he remembered, looked at him strangely, as not many Black people were in the country-music scene. Other projects also came his way, namely videos with Dolly Parton and Billy Ray Cyrus. He also performed the national anthem for a few baseball games, karaoke videos, radio commercials and, with a laugh, listed jobs like washing dishes, cooking and shucking oysters, among others.

“The more you do it, the better you get and the more it builds your curiosity and I think once you accomplish one goal you’re on to another one,” said Taylor of music. “A lot of it’s been somewhat out of my control. It’s just a need to play. It’s like I need a drink of water. It just quenches my thirst somehow. That’s what the music does. I love it and I play everyday and I don’t think you do that unless you love it.”

Despite a strong love for music, an even big-

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## WINDY CITY GAY IDOL

# Trish Keporos: One sing-ular sensation

BY ROSS FORMAN

Trish Keporos, an underdog to win the 12th annual Windy City Gay Idol contest, is a Chicago native who has been singing longer than many of the other finalists have even been alive.

And June 25 at Mayne Stage on Chicago's North Side, it was the 62-year-old Keporos, a retired college counselor/teacher, who shone brightest—even though she initially thought she was the third-place finisher, not the 2014 champion as the best amateur LGBTQ singer in the Chicago area.

Winning, she said, "was a validation that I had something to share. Even people my age have something to share that is of value in this world," she said.

Keporos, who lives in Chicago's River North neighborhood, admitted that when she heard the "first runner-up" announced, she thought it was, in reality, the champion. And the second runner-up was the second-place finisher, she thought. And the third runner-up—herself—would have been third place.

"Oh my God, I didn't realize [the error]. I had no idea," that I actually had won, she said. "It was very exciting."

Keporos first sang in the 2014 contest at 3160, and the judges pushed her through that night with a wild-card vote. She then sang at Sidetrack, and ultimately made it to Mayne Stage. Her songs along the way included "With You I'm Born Again," a 1979 duet from Billy Preston and Syreeta Wright; and Sister Sledge's "We Are Family," among others.

"I wasn't sure they would vote for me be-



Trish Keporos. Photo by Ross Forman

cause of [my] age, but I guess the audience must have liked me," she said.

Keporos' musical roots date back decades. Her brother, George, now 65, got a guitar as a Christmas present back when they were kids. He never used it, and she picked it up and admittedly started plucking at it. She eventually took two months of guitar lessons, then self-taught herself the rest of the way.

Keporos still remembers that navy blue guitar, though not the brand or model. And yes, "for sentimental reasons," she wishes she still had the relic.

Keporos started singing at age 12, beginning with The Animals' "The House of the Rising Sun," and she never took singing lessons, she said.

"Apparently I had some kind of a voice, or my mother would have killed me if she had kept having to hear that song [by The Animals] over and over again," Keporos said, laughing.

Then at Illinois State University, Keporos was singing and playing in the basement of her dorm—and that caught the attention of fellow student Yolanda Bush, who said the two should perform together. Bush would be the primary songwriter; Keporos would be the singer.

They perfectly complimented each other, Keporos said.

After graduating the two parted ways. Bush ventured to California to explore a musical career; Keporos opted for graduate school and then went into counseling.

"She wanted to see if we could make it, but I just wasn't sure; I wanted something more stable," Keporos said.

They graduated college in 1977 and lost track of each other for about 25 years—until Keporos found Bush through a Google search and a series of friends of both. She eventually visited Bush after about 25 years, and it would be another 15 years or so after that before they saw each other again.

Keporos said the two need to try out for The Voice, America's Got Talent or some similar TV show.

Keporos' singing career has included gigs at malls, restaurants, office Christmas parties and even on street corners, among other locations.

She still has one singing dream: "I would like to be able to sing on national TV at least once, on any show ... to do the thing that I've wanted to do since I was 12 years old," she said.

## Neon Trees singer talks gay life at iHeartRadio event

iHeartRadio and the Fontainebleau Miami Beach hosted the third annual iHeartRadio Ultimate Pool Party presented by VISIT FLORIDA on June 27-28.

Among the performers was the group Neon Trees, whose lead singer, Tyler Glenn, recently came out of the closet as gay. During the event, Glenn told the crowd, "I was raised in suburbia. I waited until I was 30 to come out. I need some support right now."

Glenn was also invited to cover Tiesto's "Red Lights" during the superstar DJ's set on June 27. It was the first time Glenn performed the song with Tiesto.

Among the other performers were Jennifer Lopez, Ariana Grande, Iggy Azalea, Lil Jon, Magic! and Nick Cannon.

## Gay chorus seeking new director

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) is currently seeking applicants for a new artistic director to start at the beginning of next year.

Current Artistic Director Patrick Sinozich had announced his plan to retire from the chorus this past summer. CGMC is accepting applications currently until July 15.

The artistic director is the chief artistic officer of the organization and is responsible for conceiving, developing and implementing the artistic vision and strategic priorities of the organization, so that it may fulfill its mission and realize its vision.

Visit [www.cgmc.org](http://www.cgmc.org), and then click on "Artistic Director Search."

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# Tim Emond returns for Ride for AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

Tim Emond has a lofty goal for the 2014 Ride For AIDS Chicago, the two-day, 200-mile bicycle ride produced by and benefitting the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) and community partners.

He's aiming to raise \$5,000.

This is Emond's second consecutive year riding. He is 34, lives in north suburban Glenview and works at Kraft Foods' corporate headquarters in Northfield as the manager of affirmative action and compliance, thus, he works with the



Tim Emond. Photo from Emond

company's diversity & inclusion team to drive employee resource group strategy and initiatives.

"I know people [who are HIV-positive] and I know how important the services and programs that TPAN offer are," Emond said. "I am committed to helping TPAN raise money so [the organization] can continue providing these services and educating the community. In addition, it is important that we fight the stigma that is associated with having HIV/AIDS which prevents many from [even] getting tested."

Emond also was a rider for Team TPAN in 2013, and this year he is a team captain.

"I enjoy working directly with the TPAN staff and supporting their efforts with the Ride," said Emond, who noted that Kraft Foods Group, Inc. is a sponsor of the Ride, and donates product for training rides and event weekend.

The 2014 Ride For AIDS Chicago is July 12-13.

Emond said the 2013 Ride was "very challenging physically," especially the hilly terrain. But, "the support of the other riders and crew encouraged me to keep pedaling," he said.

And watching others complete the strenuous journey was a highlight for Emond.

"People [living] with HIV/AIDS don't get to take a day off from the disease, so I will continue riding or volunteering for the Ride until there is no longer a need to do so," he said. "I believe it's important to be part of something bigger than yourself. Helping others has always been something I've enjoyed and if I can help educate others in the community or raise funds so that someone gets the medical

services they need, I am happy to do it."

Meg Valenti, a four-time Ride participant, knew immediately that Emond would be a perfect fit for the Ride family.

"We knew from the first time we met Tim that he was a keeper," said Valenti, who rides along with her husband, Fred. "Tim is smart and funny, and jumped in [for the cause] with both feet. He has been actively fund-raising, training and volunteering.

"Then there is Tim's homemade granola, made especially for the training rides.

"Tim has been a positive role model and a consistent presence supporting TPAN and its mission in the HIV community. He truly embodies what being part of the Ride is all about."

Emond said the 2014 event has been a challenging training journey, due to the weather and his work schedule. "But I am confident that I will be able to complete the Ride," he said.

## Annual Ride for AIDS Chicago is July 12-13

BY ROSS FORMAN

The 2014 Ride For AIDS Chicago is expecting 330 riders for the two-day, 200-mile bicycle ride, including more than 100 first-time riders.

There also are more than 110 crew members aiding the event.

Combined, the group has raised about \$680,000.

The 11th annual Ride, produced and supporting the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), is July 12-13.

"The highlight of this year's event is going to be camp," after the first 100 miles, said Richard Cordova, TPAN's director of athletic events, now involved in his seventh Ride. "We've got a lot of fun activities planned for camp this year. The riders and crew are going to be excited when they see what we have waiting for them."

And when the entourage hits the finish line in Evanston, emotions will be high, as usual.

"Seeing the riders crossing the finish line is

always an emotional experience for me. Seeing their faces when you place the medal across their neck always brings a smile to my face," said Cordova, 36, one of several openly HIV-positive participants in the annual fundraiser.

Riders can wear an orange bandana to signify they are HIV-positive, a Ride tradition started a few years ago. There also will be orange bike flags this year. "I think we'll see at least 15 or more riders and crew wearing the bandanas/flags," Cordova said.

George Titterton, 54, who lives in Andersonville, is riding in his second Ride—and is the top fundraiser, having already raised more than \$10,000.

Patty Dahlquist, who lives in Edgewater and has raised more than \$2,000, is one of the top first-time riders. "She's energetic, fun, and passionate about the cause," Cordova said. "She posts a daily, positive affirmation on Facebook, which I always enjoy reading. Meeting her in person you realize that she's as positive as her Facebook posts."

Although organizers of the ride have a long-term goal of raising \$1 million, Cordova said it likely will not happen this year, but "it will happen [eventually]," he said.

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## CALENDAR

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES **nightspots**

## Wed., July 9

**Taste of Chicago 2014** Annual City of Chicago food festival 9:00am - 10:00pm Grant Park 337 E. Randolph St <http://www.events12.com/chicago>

**Out at Wrigley Ceremonial First Pitch Contest** Sign up 7 pm. Contest start 7:30pm. Three rounds, three tosses per round, highest score wins. Earn extra throws by answering easy Cubs trivia questions. 7:00pm Crew Bar & Grill 4804 N Broadway [https://www.facebook.com/events/1426051917679080/?ref\\_dashboard\\_filter=upcoming](https://www.facebook.com/events/1426051917679080/?ref_dashboard_filter=upcoming)

**Screening: A Simple Piece of Paper** A film about the journey of Illinois' adoptees who finally received their original birth certificates. With special guests and from the film and their new-found birth parents. State Reps. Sara Feigenholtz and Ann Williams host. Door 6:30pm. RSVP to [Eric@StateRepSara.com](mailto:Eric@StateRepSara.com) by Thursday July 3. 7:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

**Fabitat: American Whore Story** Get patriotic with DJs Adam El and Lady Problems, Lucy Stooles, Curlene Ribbon, Anita Borshen and Joan Waters. Photos by Marisa KM. A free LGBTQ extravaganza at Double Door's Door No. 3 (downstairs). 9:00pm - 2:00am Double Door 1572 N Milwaukee

## Thursday, July 10

**Spanish-language forum on Bible, LG-BTs in June, July** For Spanish-speaking people who are interested in exploring the biblical texts from their own personal experience, in a serious way, and in a safe

and affirming atmosphere for all people who identify as LGBT. Contact Esther Baruja at [estherbaruja@gmail.com](mailto:estherbaruja@gmail.com) or 312-320-1341. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ 615 W. Wellington Ave.

**The About Face Youth Theatre: Checking Boxes** Original play devised by the About Face Youth Theatre, exploring the often overlooked intersection between immigration and the LGBTQIA experience. Talented young artists share experiences of coming out, growing up and pursuing the American Dream. Through Aug. 1. 7:00pm Parks across the City <http://www.about-face-theatre.com>

**Caged Dames with Sara Feigenholtz** Hell in a Handbag welcomes Illinois State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz in a cameo role. Rep. Feigenholtz will play the Warden in charge of the Special Illinois Governors Wing in the Calumet City Penitentiary, which seems to be suffering from severe overpopulation. 8:00pm <http://www.theaterwit.org>

**Taste of Chicago 2014** Annual City of Chicago food festival 9:00pm - 10:00pm Grant Park 337 E. Randolph St <http://www.events12.com/chicago>

## Friday, July 11

**National Gay & Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame** 2nd Annual Induction Ceremony and meet and mingle with the inductees. 6:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Tickets: <https://www.facebook.com/GLsportsHOF>

**South Shore Air Show** Be entertained by numerous aerial acts including the U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds, twilight show with

fireworks, kids' zone, military displays, beer garden, and food and novelty vendors. Plus you can take in Fair Oaks Farms' Dairy Adventure, Pig Adventure, birthing barn, cheese factory, cafe and Mooville, a lively outdoor attraction for kids. 6:00pm - 10:00pm Fair Oaks Farms, 856 N 600 E Fair Oaks, Indiana, [http://www.southshorecva.com/airshow/?gclid=CL\\_nuon-W774CFaNHmGodrjUA1Q](http://www.southshorecva.com/airshow/?gclid=CL_nuon-W774CFaNHmGodrjUA1Q) Tickets: <http://www.southshorecva.com/airshow/tickets/>

**Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association** July potluck Wear outdoor clothing and please bring a dish to share and BYOB. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Contact an organizer for location <http://www.opalga.org>

**Chicago Sky broadcast** Contest against Brittney Griner and the Phoenix Mercury. Brooke Weisbrod, Lisa Byington and Patricia Babcock-McGraw are color commentator, play-by-play announcer and sideline reporter respectively. The U Too broadcasts at WCIU-DT 26.2 and cable channels XFINITY 248/360, RCN 35 and WOW 170. 7:30pm U Too, WCIU-DT 26.2, and WNBA's LiveAccess at [www.chicagosky.net](http://www.chicagosky.net) [http://www.wnba.com/sky/news/2014\\_sky\\_broadcast\\_schedule.html#sthash.qAI-3hASY.dpuf](http://www.wnba.com/sky/news/2014_sky_broadcast_schedule.html#sthash.qAI-3hASY.dpuf)

**Stale Magnolias** In a world where affluent Southern ladies in a small southern town in the Deep South congregate in a rundown tailor-come-southern-beauty parlor, six women will share friendship, love and laughter-proof foundation, romance, tragedy and betrayal. \$15 at the door. \$10 at [Brownpaperticket.com](http://www.brownpaperticket.com) 8:00pm The Call (Chicago) 1547 W Bryn Mawr

## Saturday, July 12

**Ride For AIDS Chicago 2014** Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 190-mile, bicycling event created by volunteers and designed to raise needed monies for TPAN and Community Partners. Unlike other rides of this kind, Ride for AIDS Chicago is committed to returning 100% of your pledges to the beneficiaries. 6:30am Meet 1022 W. Central St., Evanston, <http://www.tpan.com/event/rfac-2014>

## Second City Tennis opens Chardonay

Played on Har-Tru Green Clay, this annual tournament also features a cookout for the players, a consolation round and a relaxed fun atmosphere for players across many playing levels. Cost is only \$100/team. Rules and registration instructions online. 11:00am - 9:00pm Diversey Public Tennis Center 140 West Diversey <http://www.secondcitytennis.com>

**Pay What You Can Yard Sale: Benefiting the LBTQ Giving Council** You pick the price for any item you want. Proceeds from the sale go to Foundation for Women's LBTQ Giving Council, a fundraising and grantmaking group committed to providing grants to organizations and programs that serve the lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LBTQ) communities. Email Candice at [design2513@gmail.com](mailto:design2513@gmail.com) to schedule a time to drop off stuff for sale 11:00am - 4:00pm Supreme Beauty Parlor 4665 N Manor Ave <https://www.facebook.com/events/660064477405527/>

**Tribune columnist Mary Schmich** Tribune columnist Mary Schmich signing books and meeting customers. 1:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St <http://www.chicagobookstoreday.com>

**Out at Wrigley** Chicago Cubs vs. Atlanta Braves. Budweiser Patio tickets: \$130: Gift Bag, All You Can Eat, All You Can Drink Beer Wine, 1 pass to Bud Patio Deck. Terrace reserved tickets: \$57. Section 239/240. 3:00pm - 8:00pm Wrigley Field 1060 W Addison St # 1 <http://www.outatwrigley.com>

**Chadwick Stadt** Out singer, songwriter, acoustic guitarist. 8:00pm Parlour on Clark 6341 N Clark <http://db2.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=48185>

## Sunday, July 13

**Ride for AIDS Chicago closing ceremony** The Rider and Crew processional will begin at 4:30pm. The Master of Ceremonies will be Sean Lewis, award-winning journalist

from WGN-TV. Entertainment will be provided by Sway Chicago. 4:00pm - 6:00pm City of Evanston Civic Center 2100 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL 60201 <http://www.rideforaids.org>

## Monday, July 14

**Salonathon** Three year anniversary. Space for brave creators. From tunes to tales to dances to jokes to spectacles. 8:30pm Beauty Bar Chicago 1444 W. Chicago Ave. <https://www.facebook.com/events/261435097377836/>

## Tuesday, July 15

**Make Art Space** View youth-created artwork, explore family-centered conversations about sexuality, and eat. Affinity Community Services and University Church in partnership. 3:00pm - 4:00pm University Church, Hyde Park 5655 S University Ave, Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Some Like it Hot, the Music of Disney** CGMC's fundraising cabaret, features members of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus heating up your summer with our take on the music of Disney! Enjoy the happiest music on Earth, done with our own special twist. 8:00pm The Laugh Factory Chicago 3175 N Broadway, <http://www.cgmc.org>

## Wed., July 16

**PFLAG Chicago Monthly Meeting** Parents, Family members, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has support groups and educational speakers. We engage in advocacy activities. All are welcome, you always have a home with PFLAG. Monthly on the third Wednesday. Call 1 (630) 415-0622 or E-mail the Metro Chicago South Chapter: [pflagmetrochicagosouthside@pflagillinois.org](mailto:pflagmetrochicagosouthside@pflagillinois.org) or contact Keith McCoy at [kmccoy@windycityblackpride.org](mailto:kmccoy@windycityblackpride.org) or Peter Ji at [pjiman1@hotmail.com](mailto:pjiman1@hotmail.com). 11:00am - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave Garden Level <http://pflagillinois.org>

the **DISH** WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



## Twisted Spoke

BY MEGHAN STREIT

I recently had occasion to grab a bite at Twisted Spoke, and was reminded of just how much I love the place. It's one of those tried and true Chicago joints that has stood the test of time—which is no surprise given the high quality of the food and the irreverently cool atmosphere.

With roots as a biker bar, Twisted Spoke has evolved into more of a neighborhood hangout that attracts a diverse crowd. The decor might be described as "biker chic." Since the remodel a few years ago, the space is a bit more sleek

and urban, but still has just enough edge.

If you come here to drink, you'll be all set. The curved bar in front is stocked with dozens of beers on tap (and many more in bottles) and hundreds of types of whiskey. This is a gritty type of place that makes you want to drink whiskey on the rocks, but if you need a mixer, there are plenty of nicely made cocktails. The magic root beer lives up to its name. Made with whiskey and other secret ingredients, it manages to taste exactly like root beer—only better because it gives you a buzz.

Drinking at Twisted Spoke is fun and easy to do. But really, you must stay for the food. The fried cheese curds are crazy good. They're made with Wisconsin cheddar, always fried a perfect golden brown and served with a slightly sweet mustard dipping sauce. Also fantastic are the jalapeno poppers. The spicy peppers are served with a creamy mixture of cheese and herbs, and served with a cool avocado, lime and sour cream sauce that balances the heat from the

poppers.

The lengthy menu is packed with a selection of hearty sandwiches and other upgraded pub fare like fish and chips and steak tacos. Once you know how well made everything is at Twisted Spoke is, deciding on a meal can be difficult. You won't go wrong with the burgers, aptly referred to as "fat boys." The plump patties are expertly seasoned and served on a toasted brioche bun. You can load your burger with above-average toppings like Gouda, Brie, bacon and cherry peppers. The fries at Twisted Spoke have many ardent fans (me not among them). They are thick cut with traces of skin, and on the dense side. They're not bad at all, just not as delicious as everything else that comes out of the kitchen. But, they've certainly never stopped me from thoroughly enjoying a meal.

One of the best sandwiches on the menu is the shrimp po boy. A generous scoop of lightly battered and fried shrimp is nestled between

two slices of garlicky French bread. A tangy Cajun tartar sauce binds the two together, and a bit of cabbage lends some fresh-tasting crunch to the sandwich. Vegetarians aren't forgotten here, as there's a killer Portobello mushroom sandwich. The juicy mushroom is nicely marinated and topped with lots of melty mozzarella and a sprinkling of fresh basil and oregano.

You can even have a (somewhat) healthy meal at Twisted Spoke. The Caesar salad is humongous, and one of the best I've had. The fresh romaine is tossed with just the right amount of dressing and crunchy garlic croutons. I like it topped with either the grilled steak or breaded Portobello mushrooms.

**Twisted Spoke is at 501 N. Ogden Ave.; call 312-555-1500 or visit [www.twistedspoke.com](http://www.twistedspoke.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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# BILLY MASTERS



Cheyenne Jackson (above) knows how to entertain, Billy says.

"When we played in the woods, one of them was Kirk, one of them was Spock, one of them was Indiana Jones and I was Wonder Woman, obviously. And they were like, 'You can't block a phaser with bracelets'. But, uh, you can. Plus I had a lasso!"—Cheyenne Jackson talks about growing up and playing with his brother and their friends. Something tells me none of them were particularly surprised when he eventually came out!

By the time you read this, the Fourth of July will be a thing of the past. But the fireworks are continuing over in Vatican City. Amidst reports of financial skullduggery, Pope Francis has fired everyone on the board of the Vatican's financial committee. My God—he's like the Donald Trump of Italy! But that's not the biggest surprise. Unlike the previous board that consisted solely of Italian men, the new board includes a Swiss lawyer, a philanthropic expert also from Switzerland, a Harvard law professor, an advisor to the president of Singapore and the head of two Italian insurance companies who happens to be a woman! If Francis ain't careful, the smoke could be blowing his way, if you catch my drift.

It doesn't take much to make me take the side of anyone against Leonardo DiCaprio. Ever since he bought a flat across the piazza from mine in Verona, my summers are no longer as tranquil as they once were. We hear that Leo was at NYC's Up & Down club a couple of weeks ago with Jonah Hill. At some point, a woman asked if she could take a photo with Leo since it was her birthday. DiCaprio's terse response was, "Sorry, not tonight." Not tonight? As in, "Oh, maybe tomorrow night—when it isn't your birthday?" Shut up, you bastard, and just take the frickin' picture. As Joan Rivers taught me many years ago when I was just starting to be recognized, "Always sign the autograph and take the photo—it's much easier and quicker to do it than to explain why you can't."

I spent last Saturday with Joan Rivers at Town Hall in Provincetown where she presented two fabulous shows to the Independence Day revelers. Her opening act, Tony Tripoli, was eagerly embraced by the plethora of gay men in the audience—fingers crossed that enthusiasm continued after the show. As for Auntie Joan, she never disappoints. The capacity audience treated her like visiting royalty, which she most certainly is. Her act is as sharp and caustic as ever. In fact, the first half was all new material that was delivered with rapid-fire energy that never let up. In the second half, she revisited some of her favorite stories—including numerous anecdotes about her vagina. It is a dubious distinction, indeed, for someone's vagina to get laughs, but Joan is a trouper.

Speaking of vaginas, Anderson Cooper recently got the giggles when presenting a "Ridiculist" story about a U.S. tourist who got his legs trapped in a statue of a vagina in Germany: "I'm certainly no expert on the topic of vaginas, artistic or otherwise. They really aren't in my wheelhouse, so to speak. But I know enough that you are not supposed to go

in feet first!" The chap was extricated from the tight spot with the assistance of numerous firemen—presumably using the Jaws of Vage.

Although the rain dampened our Fourth of July celebrations in Provincetown, the silver lining was that I had time to check out a few shows. Visiting for the long weekend was the dashing Cheyenne Jackson. Although this marked his P-town debut, it was not his first time in our little fishing village. "I've only been there once. It was for a day and honestly, it's embarrassing to say but I'll just say it: I don't remember a lot because I was really drunk," he said.

The newly sober Jackson was a bright light in an otherwise dreary weekend. I know this will surprise some of you who think I have something against Cheyenne—would that that were true. I think Cheyenne is very talented. My issue is that he hasn't given me that "WOW" performance I've always felt he's capable of ... until now. Perhaps it was the intimate confines of the Provincetown Art House. Perhaps it was his friendship with host/accompanist Seth Rudetsky. Or maybe it was because he wasn't playing a role—he was just being himself. But for the first time, I really felt Cheyenne connect with his audience in a way that brought him to another level. (He was so well-received, he'll be back for another round of P-town show Labor Day weekend. You can get more information at PTownArtHouse.com.) Needless to say, Jackson is physically gorgeous. And his voice has never sounded better, particularly in the blues-tinged material. You can see exactly what I mean by checking out an exclusive clip from the show on BillyMasters.com.

Since I know my fans, I'll also rerun his infamous jerk-off video. Just because he's changed doesn't mean I have!

Then there was Well Strung, the sexy singing string quartet. I've been pleased to know these four talented guys since they came together three years ago, and they continue to impress with their virtuosic playing and their mellifluous voices. I checked out the act's new show, "Poppsical," on its third night, and it's as delightful as its previous offerings. In fact, this one features more challenging pieces and intricate harmonies, which the guys handle with aplomb. I can only imagine how good it will be when you see them any time this summer at the Provincetown Art House.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from George in Boca Raton: "I gave up on True Blood last season. But I just heard that there was a gay sex scene between Alexander Skarsgard and Ryan Kwanten. Is that true? Could you post it? Was it as hot as I imagine?"

I think "imagine" is the right word, because while there was indeed a hot gay-sex scene, it was happening in the imagination of Kwanten's character of Sheriff Jason. And what a vivid imagination he has! I don't know if I've ever seen such steamy sex on television—to say nothing of a gay sex. If any of you have fantasized about sleeping with either (or both) of these guys, you should definitely check it out on BillyMasters.com.

When vaginas are getting laughs in Germany and P-town, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Given the soggy weekend we had in Provincetown, I was comforted by something that never lets me down: Scottcakes! These sinfully delicious pink buttercream cupcakes by purveyor Scott Cunningham momentarily turned the gray skies blue. If you'd like your day perked up in a more immediate way, go to [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that is never short on cream. If you have a question for me to tackle, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before True Blood delivers a REAL threesome—Skarsgard, Kwanten and Manganiello! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# Force rolls into conference championship game

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force took another step toward repeating as Women's Football Alliance (WFA) national champions, and again did it in dominant fashion.

The Force mauled the overmatched Miami Fury 66-8 on July 5 at Evanston Township High School, moving to 8-1 and ending the Fury's season at 6-3.

Chicago will now travel to face the Boston Militia in the National Conference championship game July 19 after the Militia eliminated the DC Divas 72-56. This is the fourth consecutive year that Chicago has advanced to the conference championship game, and revenge certainly is riding on the team's minds, as the Militia defeated Chicago 35-18 in mid-May for the team's lone loss over the past two seasons.

"We were operating after the second (offensive) series, but still were super sloppy," said Chicago quarterback Sami Grisafe, who returned to action after missing the past 11 weeks due to a knee injury. She passed for 154 yards and three touchdowns, and was named the DLG Management Game Day Offensive MVP.

"I have to remember the speed and tempo of real game situations, [as opposed to practices], and know that we now have two weeks to get better—and that, over the next two weeks, we will be working very hard.

"It really is exciting to see what this team can do when operating on all cylinders."

The Force struck early in the first quarter as Kelsey Casey rushed in from 2 yards out, and Chicago built a 38-0 lead at halftime. Casey finished with three rushing touchdowns.

And it could have been more if not for dropped passes and other Force mistakes.

"The important thing [was], we grinded out the victory," said Chicago receiver Jeanette



Chicago Force's Sami Grisafe. Photo by Ross Forman

Gray, one of many Force players who, after the 58-point bashing actually sounded upset with the win, mostly that it wasn't a bigger differential. "We have very high expectations for ourselves, and when we don't perform like we should, we get upset.

"We are a very, very, very good team, and we have to play better."

Still, Gray caught five touchdown passes, her most in a game this season. She has had three four-TD games this season, and had seven TDs against Atlanta last season.

Melissa Nelson earned the DLG Management Game Day Defensive MVP award after her nine tackle game.

Defensive back Dorian Bridges shined when she carried the ball on offense, rushing 75 yards early in the fourth quarter for a touchdown, giving Chicago a 52-0 edge at the time.

The Force led 58-0 when Miami scored its lone touchdown.

The Force defeated Boston 46-27 in the 2013 conference championship game, played in Chicago, and then mauled the Dallas Diamonds 81-34 to claim the 2013 WFA National Championship.

"This is another meeting between the two best teams in women's football," Chicago Force owner Linda Bache said of the upcoming game against Boston. "It's a shame that we are in the same conference.

"They are a very talented and well-coached team. I know our coaches will have the right game plan in place, so this game will come down to who wants it more and who executes."



## City announces Ride with resolution

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago City Council passed a resolution on June 25, recognizing the participants and volunteers in the 11th Annual Ride for AIDS Chicago (RFAC) for its commitment to raising awareness and funding for HIV/AIDS services in Chicagoland.

Organized by the not-for-profit Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN), the two-day, 200-mile Ride for AIDS Chicago raised nearly \$2.5 million in its first decade, and has a goal of raising \$1 million during this year's event July 12-13.

The City Council Resolution was introduced by 33rd Ward Ald. Debra Mell, 30th Ward Ald. Ariel Reboyras (who will be participating in the ride), 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney and 25th Ward Ald. Daniel Solis.

Gathered for the resolution were (from left) Ebony Barney, RFAC Crew; Jason King, RFAC rider; Tim Emond, representative from RFAC sponsor Kraft and RFAC rider; Christopher Jessup, RFAC rider; 33rd Ward Ald. Debra Mell; Joel Bosch, TPAN Board Chair; Mayor Emanuel; Nancy Abbate, TPAN Interim Executive Director; Nirmalpal Sachdev, TPAN Board Member; Carl; Branch, TPAN Board Member; Jose Lopez, RFAC crew; Mario Camacho, RFAC rider; and Lorraine Hayes, RFAC crew.

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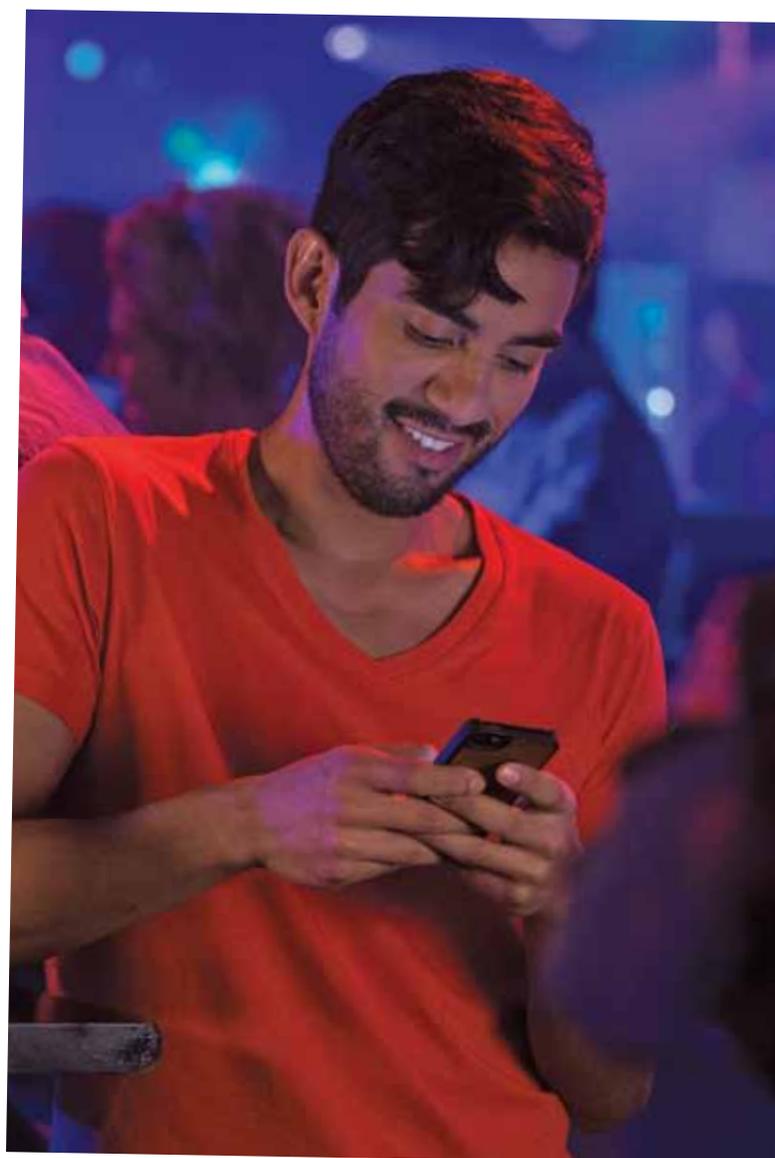
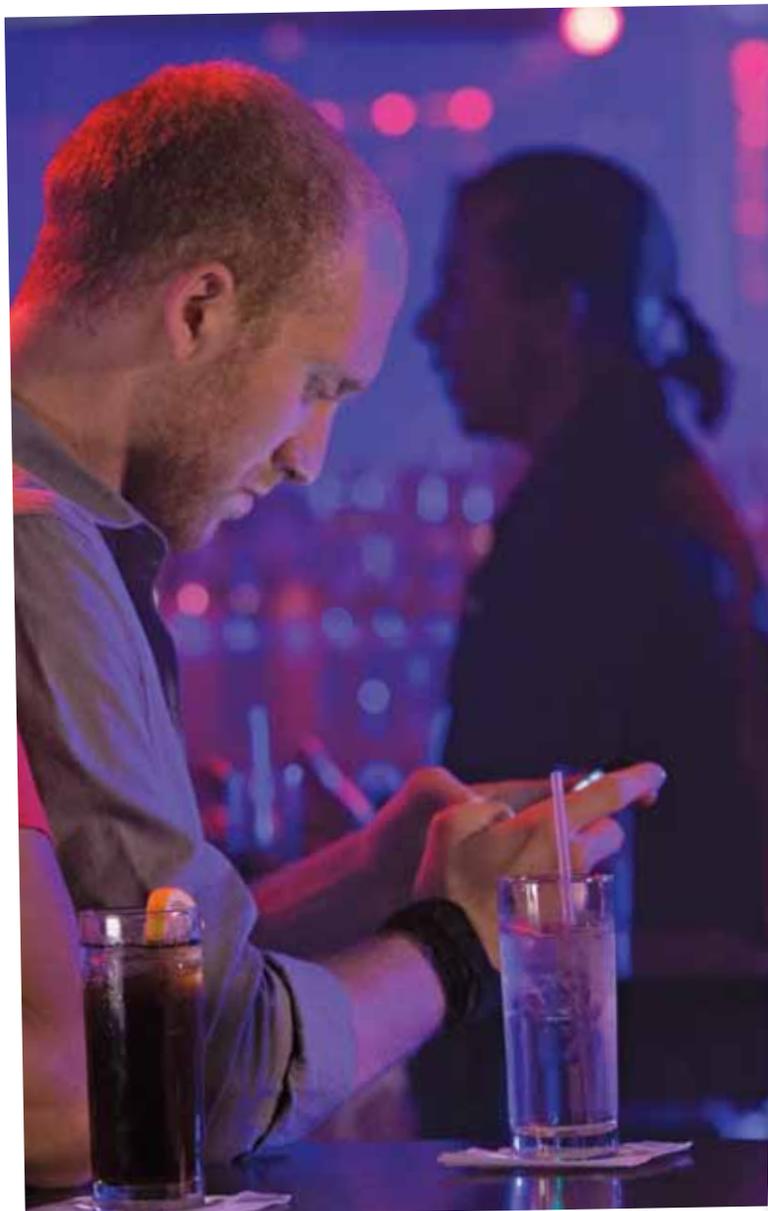
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