



CHICAGO TEAMS WIN GOLD AT GAY GAMES

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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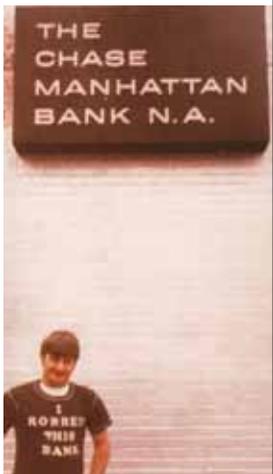
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# Honors roll in for UIC researcher

BY ROSS FORMAN

Dr. Tonda L. Hughes will receive the inaugural Distinguished Research Award, one of the most prestigious honors presented by the UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago) College of Nursing Sept. 26, marking the third career award she's received this year.

And those go alongside her 2003 induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—and countless other awards, honors and highlights to an illustrious, decades-long career.

Hughes, 60, who lives in Oak Park, is a professor in the Department of Health Systems Science (HSS). She has worked in Australia, Boston and elsewhere around the world—and is an international expert in the area of alcohol use among lesbians. Hughes has secured more than \$10 million in research funding throughout her career.

She is also the associate dean for global health at the UIC College of Nursing, and is co-director of BIRCWH: Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health.

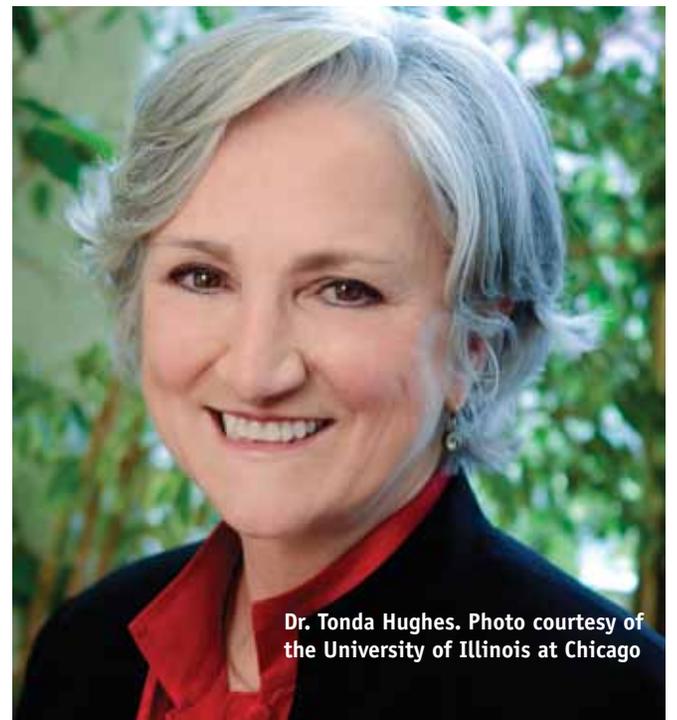
Hughes, without question, is considered one of the greatest contributors in the field of lesbian health.

She said being selected for three awards this year, "is some recognition of my work, but the work related to LGBT health in general."

"With all of the attention [given] to same-sex marriage, people are finally recognizing the impact of policies on health, including substance abuse and other things. I think people are just paying more attention," she said. "The [UIC] award is particularly important to me because it's recognition by my peers, which is always important to me."

Hughes' research dates back to the early 1990s. She said the UIC award "legitimizes my

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Dr. Tonda Hughes. Photo courtesy of the University of Illinois at Chicago

## SPECIAL LGBT PRESS HISTORY PULLOUT SECTION

Presented by: WINDY CITY TIMES J @ 2 0 THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM McCormick Foundation

pages 15-18



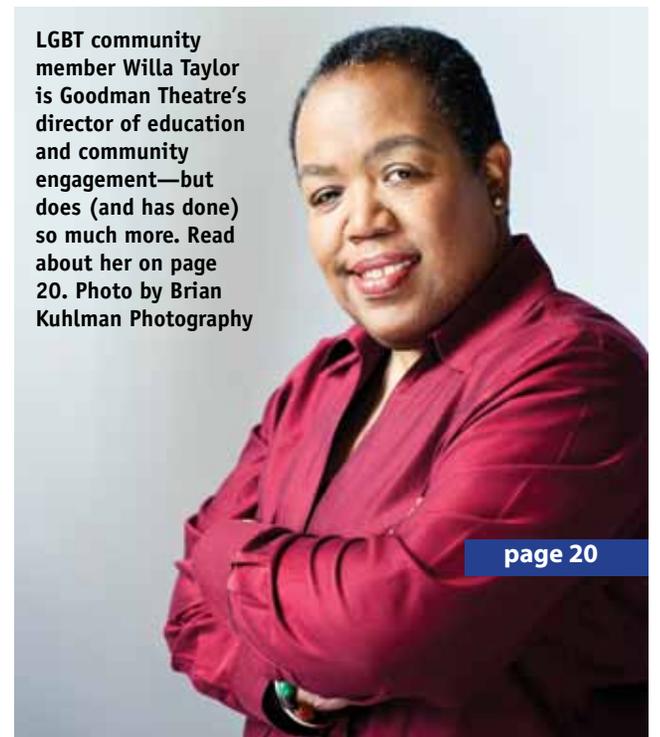
## 'ARROW'-MINDED

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The dashing John Barrowman—in town this weekend for Wizard World Chicago Comic Con—talks with Windy City Times about his current TV show (Arrow), a past series (Torchwood), Broadway and marriage equality.

## TAYLOR-MADE

LGBT community member Willa Taylor is Goodman Theatre's director of education and community engagement—but does (and has done) so much more. Read about her on page 20. Photo by Brian Kuhlman Photography



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Diane Anderson-Minshall



Jacob Anderson-Minshall



Tracy Baim



Alan Bell



Trish Bendix



Camille Beredjick



Jeff Berry



Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer



John Bracken



Johnathon Briggs



Kirk Williamson



Zach Wichter



Sarah Toce



Zeke Stokes



Art Sims



Cathy Renna



Barbara Raab



Noah Michelson



Parker Marie Molloy



# Thursday, Aug. 21, 2014

Chicago, Palmer House Hilton  
17 E. Monroe St.

The opening day of the  
**National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association**  
**Annual Conference**  
Aug. 21-24 in Chicago



### 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Plenary Session: **Transgender Journalists and Transgender Coverage in LGBT Media**

PANELISTS: Christina Kahrl, Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer, Jacob Anderson-Minshall, Parker Molloy  
MODERATOR: Fiona Dawson

### 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions: a. **Out On the Air: LGBT Journalists Working in Every Audio Platform From Podcasts to Web-Based and Traditional Radio**

PANELISTS: Fausto Fernos, Scott Duff, Art Sims, Anna DeShawn  
MODERATOR: Cathy Renna

### b. **The Future of Lesbian Media**

PANELISTS: Sarah Toce, Trish Bendix, Tracy Baim  
MODERATOR: Diane Anderson-Minshall

### Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Plenary: **The Future of Journalism Funding: Foundation Funding with the Ford Foundation, McCormick Foundation, Knight Foundation**

PANELISTS: Mark Hallet from McCormick, Barbara Raab from Ford; John Bracken from Knight Foundation  
MODERATOR: Cheryl Corley from NPR

### 1:45 p.m. - 3 p.m. Breakout Sessions: a. **Taking Back HIV Reporting in LGBT Media**

PANELISTS: Todd Heywood, Jeff Berry, Johnathon Briggs  
MODERATOR: Diane Anderson-Minshall

### b. **LGBT Issues, Athletes and Journalists in Sports Reporting**

PANELISTS: Christina Kahrl, Kate Fagan, Michelle Garcia and Ross Forman  
MODERATOR: Chuck Colbert

### c. **Online and Connected: Bloggers, Digital Natives, Social Media, Mobile Reporting and the Future of Journalism**

PANELISTS: Noah Michelson, Zeke Stokes, Michael Crawford

### 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions a. **Black, LGBT, and Read All Over: African-American Journalists in LGBT Media**

PANELISTS: Alan Bell, Andrew Davis, Lenox Magee  
MODERATOR: Kirk Williamson

### b. **Young Journalists, J-School, and the LGBT Media**

PANELISTS: Camille Beredjick, Derrick Clifton, Kaitlyn Jakola  
MODERATOR: Zach Wichter

### c. **How We Count: Data Reporting and LGBT Issues**

WORKSHOP LEADER: Howard Goldberg, Associated Press New York Bureau Chief

Summit Co-Chairs:  
**Tracy Baim**  
Publisher, Windy City Times  
**Diane Anderson-Minshall**  
Editor-at-large of The Advocate,  
Editor-in-chief of HIV Plus



See <http://nlgja.org/2014> for registration details



Derrick Clifton



Chuck Colbert



Cheryl Corley



Michael Crawford



Andrew Davis



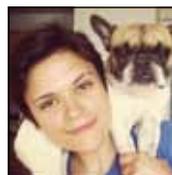
Fiona Dawson



Anna DeShawn



Scott Duff



Kate Fagan



Lenox Magee



Christina Kahrl



Kaitlyn Jakola



Todd Heywood



Mark Hallett



Howard Goldberg



Michelle Garcia



Ross Forman



Fausto Fernos

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Images on cover (left, from top): Chicago Gay Hockey Association photo from Andrew Sobotka; photo of Veronica Gazzillo from the Chicago Force; photo of Natalie Sade by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer; still from The Dog from Drafthouse Films



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## FANS OF DANCE

This year's edition of Dance for Life broke records—and continued to enthrall audiences. *Press photo*



Bent Nights reviews shows by Donkey Hotel and Soddy Daisy. *Photo of Donkey Hotel's Honey Hole Johnson by Vern Hester*



Looking for somewhere to take a group trip? How about Vegas? *PR photo of Cirque du Soleil's KA show*

## AND THAT'S AN ORDER

Ask Lambda Legal delves into President Obama's executive order that protects federal LGBT employees.

## SPACE CASE

An op-ed has H. Melt commenting on the loss of nightclub and queer space Parlour on Clark.

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

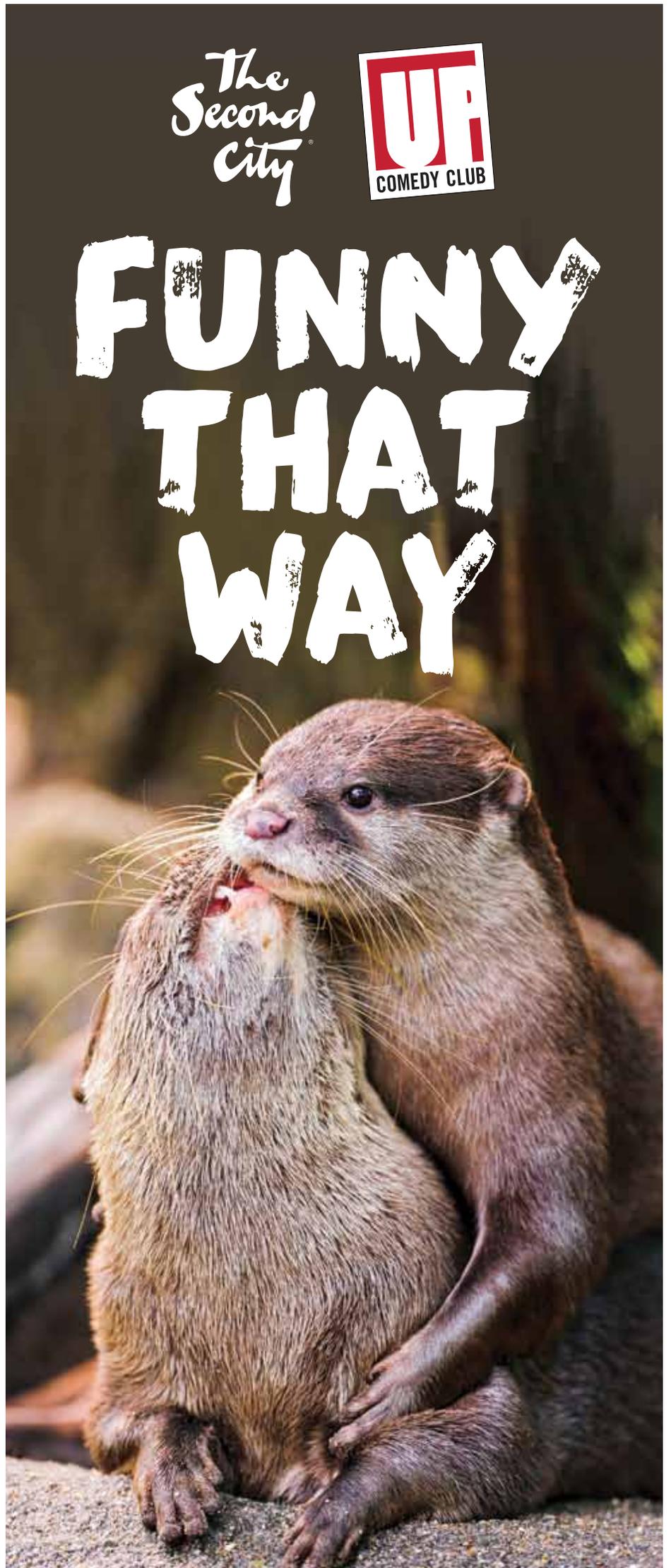
Find out the latest about Sam Smith, Anderson Cooper and LeAnn Rimes.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## TRANS-FORMATIVE



Trans\* individual Donisha McShan talks about winning the right to be herself. *Photo from Lambda Legal*



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From left: Natalie Sade and Michal Sher at the Chicago event. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

## Israel LGBTQ leaders discuss history and state of the movement

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDERFER

On Aug. 12, Israeli Interior Minister Gideon Sa'ar granted same-sex spouses of Jews the right to citizenship under the country's Law of Return—originally passed in 1950 providing Jews all over the world with the legal ability to settle in Israel. The Times of Israel reported that Sa'ar issued a statement saying "The gates of Israel will from now on be open to any Jew and his family, without discrimination based on his way of life."

It was a victory for the Israel's LGBTQ community and for The Aguda: The Israeli National LGBT Taskforce, which was founded in 1975 and which describes its mission as a "national grassroots, volunteer-based, nonprofit human-rights organization representing the LGBT community. We promote and advance new initiatives and cultivate leadership and partnership with all sectors and groups within the community."

"Although it is still not getting us closer to civil marriage or same-sex marriage in Israel," the Aguda wrote on its Facebook page, "we are proud of the decision. We will continue to fight until we get full equality."

On Aug. 13, the Israeli consulate to the Midwest held an open discussion with the Aguda's executive director, Natalie Sade, and board member Michal Sher at the Lakeview home of Linda and Paul Saiger.

An accomplished business consultant, marketing specialist, activist and writer, Sade has been a member of the Aguda for 10 years, becoming Executive Director of the organization in 2012. A fervent advocate for transgender rights and the advancement of LGBT youth, she devised and executed LGBTQ sensitivity training for the Israel Airport Authority and has authored a column in Israel's LGBTQ community magazine Zman Varod (Pink Times) since 2006.

In addition to her duties as an Aguda board member, Sher—a 32-year-old DJ from Tel Aviv who has played worldwide—volunteers five evenings per week at a crisis hotline for LGBTQ people as well as at a hostel for LGBTQ youth in Israel who have been thrown out by their families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sade and Sher addressed an enthusiastic audience—that included Israel's Consul General to the Midwest the Honorable Roey Gilad—who crowded into the Saigers' living room. The

informal setting helped spur an uninhibited discussion on the history, advancements and challenges of the LGBTQ community in Israel, its relationship with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and both the orthodox and ultra orthodox religious communities.

In providing historical context, Sade began with the formation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, ironically noting its initial adoption of English law. "The gift England gave us was that having gay relationships was a criminal act," she said. "No one intended for that to happen. In 1952, the legal advisor to government of Israel Haim Cohn gave instructions not to apply the law. In Israel you don't get penalized for 'being'. Right now in Iraq and Syria, a new entity is attempting to punish people for 'being'."

According to Sade, although the Israeli LGBTQ community saw and were inspired by the birth of Gay Pride in the United States after the 1969 Stonewall riots, continuing threats to the country's security—such as the 1973 Yom Kippur attacks by Syria and Egypt—put many civic issues on hold. It wasn't until 1975 that a lesbian and gay movement was created in Israel under the Aguda—a general term defined as something that is "bound together or an association."

"People wanted to change the law," Sade said. "If you a part of a minority, you still have peers but the LGBTQ minority is different in that the solitary is personal; you think that you're alone. So there was a real need to create a place to meet, talk and express identity."

Within 13 years, the Knesset (Israeli legislature) had repealed the criminalization of homosexual acts.

In 1993, a member of the IDF called Uzi Evan was outed as a gay man. "In those days, the Israelis thought that might be a security hazard" Sade recalled. "The prime minister—the late Yitzhak Rabin—was leaving a government meeting and his chief of staff said 'we have a problem. This guy we want to promote is gay.' So Rabin looks at him and said 'so what?' That was the day the IDF became totally inclusive."

Although inclusion was at first limited to gay and lesbian service members, Sade noted that today transgender people serve openly and are even allowed time off when necessary for transition-related care.

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## Possibilities

BY SHAWNE HINKLE

In the words of Audrey Hepburn, "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says I'm possible."

This is a motto I naturally felt when I began working with Teen Living Programs and once I moved into Belfort House. Before that, I felt as if the more I did, the less recognition I received. And even worse, the more I expressed myself, the more disapproval I got from those I expected to love, care, and support me.

I had experienced homelessness as early as 14 years old, however from 2011 up until I learned about Teen Living Programs in 2013, was the longest period and by far the most traumatic. After the passing of my father when I was 16, I battled with depression and figuring out my sexuality, as well mental, verbal and sometimes even physical abuse I endured in the home. I spent months couch surfing between my uncle's house and whoever at least tolerated me. After a serious altercation with my mother, my uncle agreed to let me stay with him, but after only two weeks I was asked to leave after a disagreement.

I was forced to go back to my mother's house and I decided to stick it out be-

life. I felt as if I paid for it by having to live on the streets and this was my mental state for a long time. I hated the fact that I was gay, and what I hated the most was that I loved the person that hated me and the biggest part of who I was.

This was the lowest my life had been—my father was gone, I had nothing to my name, my dreams of leaving for school were dead, and on top of that I was now on the streets because everybody that I needed and looked for love from had turned their backs on me, and I was still battling with depression. But then, I found the number to TLP's hotline one day when I was at the library. After about two months when I finally got regular access to a phone, I made an appointment and got on the waiting list for Belfort House. I began meeting with my case worker twice a month where I received whatever it was I needed, including counseling and genuine care, and it scared me because I wasn't used to it at all, but eventually I did get used to it.

And by the time I moved into Belfort House last fall I was employed with a

steady income and in school pursuing my degree. And now after only nine months, I am a Peer Educator for TLP's Street and Community Outreach team, spokesperson of Belfort's youth council executive board and pursuing a degree in Culinary Arts. I plan

"But the biggest thing that I realized is that the obstacles that I faced were the building blocks of who I really was, who really cared for me and was supportive of me."

cause by this time I was 6 months away from graduating and leaving for college. After almost dropping out my sophomore year, I redeemed myself and wanted to put all my energy into finishing up my senior year in high school and leaving to go to my dream school Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where I had been accepted—among six other universities that also accepted me. I needed to make a difference in my life, because no one else did.

However my dreams and all my hard work were crushed when I found myself alone and helpless and not able to move to college. I got kicked out again, this time for good after coming out to my mother. Coming out to her was the hardest and scariest thing I ever did in my

to use my passion for cooking to help homeless or at-risk youth by creating an organization that allows kids to express themselves through cooking and food therapy.

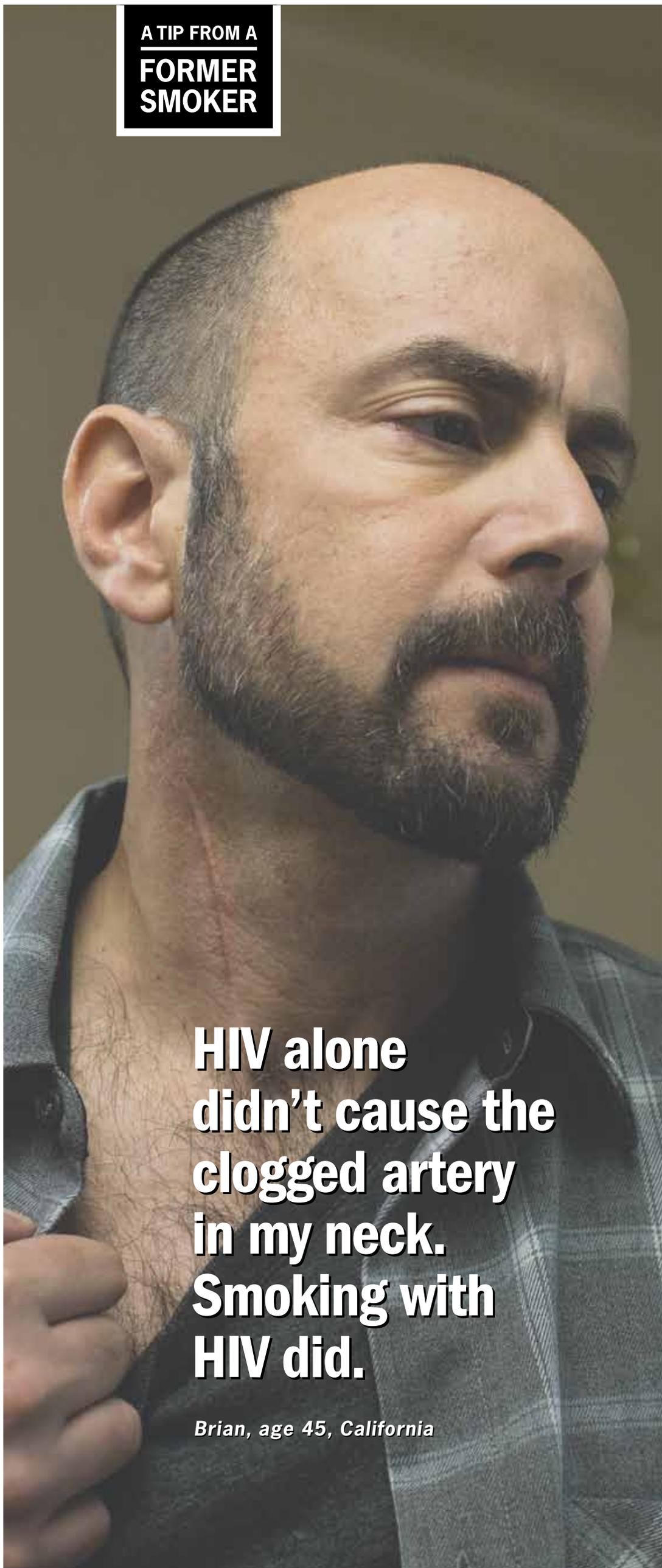
But the biggest thing that I realized is that the obstacles that I faced were the building blocks of who I really was, who really cared for me and was supportive of me. I also learned how to love myself and to figure out what it was about myself that I loved, and that's everything—everything that Shawne with an E is all about. For the first time in my life I am content with myself, I am happy and I am stable and I thank Teen Living Programs, and all of you, for that. Thank you.

Shawne Au'brey Hinkle is 20 years old and an active youth face of Teen Living Programs. Shawne was without stable housing since the age of 14 until finding TLP at age 19. Now after nearly a year, Shawne is a peer educator for TLP's Street and Community outreach team, youth member of TLP's Celebration Committee and a spokesperson/advisor of Belfort House's Youth Council.

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From left: Evany Turk and Rae Lewis-Thornton. Photo by Matt Simonette

## Red Pump Project talks HIV/AIDS awareness

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Health advocates and community members gathered Aug. 13, at Little Black Pearl Workshop, 1060 E. 47th St., for Red Pump Project's annual "Condoms and Cupcakes" discussion and party.

The gathering aimed for a frank discussion about HIV awareness and prevention among women of color. Red Pump Project is a national organization, based in Chicago, dedicated to educating women and girls on the impact of HIV/AIDS as well as matters of sexual and reproductive health. Their name is derived from their signature event, which occurs each year on March 10, which is National Women and Girls' HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: The organization asks all women to "rock" red shoes that day, since "We use the Red Pump as a symbol of empowerment to represent the strength and courage of women affected by HIV/AIDS," according to the group's website.

After a discussion of female condoms by Sara Semelka of AIDS Foundation of Chicago, as well as a talk by Alaina Robertson of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, three local activists—two of them HIV-positive—discussed both the importance of frank conversation about the HIV as well the need to reduce stigmatization against HIV-positive individuals.

Author Rae Lewis-Thornton said that many women live with a false sense of security: "They tell themselves, 'There is something in my life that does not put me at risk for HIV.'"

She added that communication with one's partner is of paramount importance: "That's not to say your man is untrustworthy—but 38 percent of people are infected by people who are unaware that they have HIV.

"The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested, and the only way to stay safe is to use a condom," Lewis-Thornton added.

Activist Evany Turk concurred. Like Lewis-Thornton, she has HIV and said she's committed to spreading the word about condoms to friends, family and the public at large. "I carry condoms everywhere with me. We have to make it normal and not taboo to have these conversations."

Both women said that they are forward and direct with sexual partners about their status, and break off encounters when partners have still been ambivalent about using protection.

Sandria Washington, executive editor of Blackdoctor.org, said much of the anxiety around discussing HIV stems from the economic implications of having the infection: "Even

if the testing is free, what about beyond that?" she asked, noting that many Americans are still uninsured or underinsured.

Washington also considered that some partners, when confronted with the possibility of testing, might respond with emotional manipulation: "They might ask, 'Why are you asking me about this?'"

"If you cannot have a healthy conversation about your health, that's not a healthy relationship," added Turk.

"We all have HIV," noted Lewis-Thornton. "We're either infected, or affected, by it."

### ALMA hosts DACA renewal info session

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal process was the topic of an informational session Aug. 12 at the Chicago Commons Paulo Freire Family Center. The event was hosted by the Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) in collaboration with the Chicago LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition.

DACA is the result of an executive order President Obama signed in June 2012 that gives young undocumented immigrants who meet certain requirements temporary relief from deportation. DACA recipients must renew their status every two years so they can continue to have valid work authorization documents under the guidelines established by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Julio Rodriguez, ALMA's board president, gave an overview of what ALMA does and explained that they have been working closely with a number of organizations on the immigration issue for many years.

The history and benefits of DACA, the qualifications for DACA, how to apply for DACA renewal, frequently asked questions and other forms of immigration relief available to LGBTQ immigrants were the focus of the informational session.

Speakers included Cindy Agustin (National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) DACA pro-bono coordinator), Aneesha Gandhi (NIJC LGBT Immigrant Rights Initiative staff attorney and co-chair of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago) and Roberto Romero-Perez (Immigration attorney, co-chair of LGBT Rights Committee of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois and co-chair of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago).

Romero-Perez said that of the approximately two million youth that are eligible nationally

75,000 reside in Illinois. DACA is a discretionary program with many stipulations and there are a lot of reasons why applicants are not approved, Romero-Perez said. He added that DACA doesn't give undocumented immigrants legal status; however, people can apply for employment authorization, obtain a Social Security number, request permission to travel outside of the United States and be allowed to re-enter and—depending on the state in which they reside—obtain a drivers license (available in Illinois). This program doesn't give individuals the ability to apply for federal financial aid to attend college, said Romero-Perez.

Agustin outlined the criminal issues that will render someone ineligible for DACA status, including having a felony, a significant misdemeanor or multiple misdemeanors or being a threat to national security or public safety. In addition to those, the application/renewal process can be a hurdle, as it can include fees (\$465 payable over two years) possible exemptions, required documents and the timeline for renewal.

Any information that DACA applicants share with USCIS will not be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Agustin added.

Gandhi talked about DACA and other forms of relief that pertain to undocumented LGBTQ immigrants including those who are victims of violent crimes and/or mental and physical abuse. Gandhi also noted that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected grounds under asylum law. Due to last summer's Supreme Court ruling striking down section three of the Defense of Marriage Act, undocumented LGBTQ immigrants who are the spouses of United States citizens or legal permanent residents are also eligible for relief from deportation, said Gandhi.

A Q&A session followed the presentation.

See [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org) and [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for more information.

### GayWeddings.com head talks about new book

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

When Kathryn Hamm's mother, Gretchen, set out to plan her daughter's wedding to Amy Walter in 1999, she was at a loss to find even the simplest of resources for a same-sex couple looking to wed. Her determination that no other proud mom should have to face similar road blocks led to the founding the following year of TwoBrides.com and TwoGrooms.com.

Those websites eventually became GayWeddings.com, which today is a national resource for same-sex couples looking for caterers, photographers, planners and innumerable other providers with the acceptance, experience and creativity to bring the once unimaginable to life.

Hamm is now president of GayWeddings.com.

In the 15 years since her mom struggled to even find an appropriate photo album, same-sex weddings are now the foundation of a billion and a half dollar market.

Yet it still has a few growing pains and it was one of them that led to Hamm's publishing of *The New Art of Capturing Love: The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Wedding Photography*. Hamm's co-author, award-winning photographer Thea Dodds, contacted her, saying that although she had been capturing same sex-couples on film since 2005, she was having trouble. She didn't know how to pose them and—without simplest of guidelines anywhere to be found—she was teaching herself.

Much like her mom, Hamm agreed with Dodd that a resource was needed. So they teamed up in order to shatter "the 'old standards' of wedding and engagement photography by showing how inappropriate they can be for today's diverse couples." According to the book's description, they did so through a "collection of 180 same sex portraits from 46 photographers."

"We self-published it on Jan. 15, 2013," Hamm recalled. "It was a lot of work on a shoestring budget, but we were able to build a book that expressed the voice and the visual images that we wanted." Less than a year passed before a publisher offered them a contract.

On Aug. 11, Hamm was the featured speaker at the WeddingWire World conference at the Arts Institute in downtown Chicago. That evening, she attended a private party hosted by Christie Hefner during which Hamm signed copies provided by Barbara's Bookstore and spoke frankly to guests—who included a few of the couples featured in the book—about the new lens of the wedding industry.

"If you aren't touched by looking at this book then you need to get a heart check-up," Hefner said. "I think it is transformative. It challenges gender stereotypes and how that plays itself out in the rituals of our society."

"The conversation is changing so fast," Hamm said. "I feel like full marriage equality is inevitable and that's incredibly exciting."

The next morning, she appeared at the unique Guesthouse Hotel in Andersonville. Developed in 2008, owners Simona and David Krug envisioned a lodging that possessed the comforts of a Chicago neighborhood home with all the amenities of a hotel.

The hotel's general manager, Rick Verkler, asserted that Hamm's work has been essential to him in understanding the nuances inherent in working with same-sex couples. "What's on your coffee table can say a lot about you and your space," he said.

As Hamm led an intimate and animated talk-back, "The New Art of Capturing Love" was prominently displayed on a table in the hotel's cozy parlor. Recalling her mom's resolve to help LGBT couples connect with the right providers, Hamm held back a tear. "She was a force," Hamm said. "She understood the disenfranchisement and she wanted to do something better for the community."



From left: Christie Hefner and Kathryn Hamm. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickenserfer

# Appeals court judge speaks about equality

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Equality Illinois kicked off the release of its Raising the Bar 2014 Report Aug. 13 with a talk by Diane Pamela Wood, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Wood, who was speaking about the benefit of diversity in the legal workplace, was speaking to an LGBT organization for the first time.



Judge Diane Wood. Photo by Matt Simonette

"The courts benefit from diversity," Wood said. "Every person's experience is unique and it's our duty to serve everybody. ... If you have a diverse legal profession, you learn from the experiences of the people around you and from your clients."

She also spoke of the importance of judges keeping attuned to what is going on within their communities.

"At the seventh circuit we of course receive cases of different kinds. You write opinions and hope they're correct. I can assure you that the right way to approach that is not live in an echo chamber...I need different viewpoints. I talk to colleagues. I talk to my law clerks I try to read. We need diversity to avoid that echo chamber phenomenon," Wood said.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear cases related to marriage equality from Indiana and Wisconsin on Aug. 26.

The Raising the Bar 2014 Report discusses common characteristics of the high-scoring Illinois law firms recognized in the report. Forty-one such firms are named.

"As we make progress towards full LGBT

equality in the law and in the court of public opinion, the state's lawyers have led the way through inclusiveness in their workplaces, community outreach, and public advocacy," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, in a statement.

Among the findings in the report were that 100 percent of the responding firms have an equal employment opportunity policy or non-discrimination policy that expressly included sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and gender expression, in place. Additionally, 53 percent of the firms have gender transition guidelines, while 21 percent of the firms have a policy requiring vendors and contractors to have non-discrimination policies recognizing sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression, as well.

Cherkasov added, "Every law firm in the state—indeed, every business in the state—can learn from these pro-active policies that can help these companies compete in the marketplace [and] recruit and retain top talent."

## Sept. 7 Victory Fund event to feature Houston's mayor

Lesbian Houston Mayor Annise Parker will be the featured guest at The Victory Fund's annual Chicago Champagne Brunch.

The event will take place Sunday, Sept. 7, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus Dr.

Others slated to speak include Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner and Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute Chair Debra Shore; Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute President/CEO Chuck Wolfe; author Zach Wahls; Michigan state Rep. candidates Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss; and Ken Stromdahl, scheduling associate at the office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Laura Ricketts, co-owner of the Chicago Cubs; and Ray Koenig, member of Clark Hill, will receive awards.

For more information, email [baraq.stein@victoryfund.org](mailto:baraq.stein@victoryfund.org) or see <https://www.victoryfund.org/get-involved/events/victory-fund-chicago-champagne-brunch>.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund works to elect LGBT leaders to public office.

## Report has what youth of color think about LGBT agenda

The Black Youth Project's latest report provides answers to these questions using a nationally representative survey of 1,500 young people between the ages of 18 and 30 conducted during June 2014. The main findings are as follows:

—More Black (80.2 percent) and Latino (74.9 percent) youth believe the marriage-equality movement has taken too much attention away from other important LGBT issues compared to white youth (64.0 percent).

—More Black youth (58.0 percent) believe that LGBT issues in communities of color are not well-represented by mainstream LGBT organizations than Latino (45.9 percent) and white youth (42.7 percent).

—Young people of color are more supportive of policies that would provide sensitivity training for police around transgender issues (77.8 percent and 73.2 percent, respectively) and require health insurers to provide coverage for transgender health issues (64.5 percent and 65.8 percent, respectively) than white youth (66.2 percent and 56.3 percent, respectively). See <http://research.blackyouthproject.com/>.



**Love is Love**  
No Matter How You Spell It

## 'A Fireside Chat' with Victor Salvo on Oct. 1

"A Fireside Chat" has announced that Victor Salvo, executive director of The Legacy Project, will be the next participant in the series.

Salvo will discuss his personal history, community history and community involvement at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Wed., Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

The Fireside Chats are produced by Joanne Gaddy, Christina Court and Douglas O'Keeffe, who also hosts the event. There is a \$5 donation for the event.

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Jewelry enlarged to show detail.

# Out Chicago rabbi heads to Israel for advanced studying

BY ROSS FORMAN

Rabbi Carla Cenker was, fittingly, born in 1948—the same year Israel officially became a Jewish state.

She was raised in an orthodox synagogue in the U.S., though her family was not a practicing Orthodox Jewish one. Still, she loves the Hebrew language and is fluent in it, too—reading, writing and talking.

Back when she was in first-grade, some 50-plus years ago, Cenker (pronounced, SINKER) was immediately drawn to the religious ways and knew she wanted that life. That thinking continued when she married, as she wanted to keep a truly kosher home, but her then-husband was not interested.

At age 66, she was born ahead of her time, sort of.

Throughout her life, wherever she lived, including her 30 years in corporate sales, Cenker would find a traditional synagogue that prayed in Hebrew, and whatever adult education classes were offered, she took.

“As a woman growing up in those times, there were not educational options,” said Cenker, who did not have the traditional Jewish Bat Mitzvah when she was 13.

She did, though, go to Hebrew University in Israel for her junior year of college, “because I needed to that.”

Her fascination with Israel and Jewish customs, traditions and lore continued as she was in the working world and while raising her son and daughter. She continued to take adult education classes through local synagogues.

“There was no school for me to study [when younger]. Now, when the door opened, I ran in, and loved it,” said Cenker.

Now she’s running a marathon of Jewish life—after her five-year training.

Back in 2010, while attending yet another class at a Chicago synagogue, Cenker mentioned to the rabbi that she was curious about, potentially, attending rabbinical school. And so started Cenker’s latest wild ride.

She spent five years studying locally alongside Rabbi Douglas Goldhamer, who is the dean at Hebrew Seminary, A Rabbinical School for the Deaf & Hearing in Skokie.

“He welcomed me in his school because he heard that I love learning, which is true,” Cenker said.

She is now a graduate. She is now a Rabbi.

“At first, [the five-year program] was absolutely overwhelming and intimidating,” she said. “Still, I took every course offered, regardless of how many hours I would need to study.

I was exposed to subjects that I had wanted to learn about my entire life.

“The ordination to Rabbi was the culmination of finishing the work that was laid out, including [writing] a thesis paper. It wasn’t so much that I intended to be a pulpit rabbi with a congregation. [Rather], I wanted to serve the Jewish community, with impact wherever I chose to be.”

Her next step is, Israel.

Yep, Cenker is leaving in late August for Jerusalem, where she will continue her Jewish studies.

She wrote her thesis paper on how the deceased is treated and buried—with honor and dignity, including ritual purification, a “missing mitzvah,” which is not widely known in non-orthodox Jewish communities, she said. Cenker explained that this mitzvah centers on how the dead are treated in Jewish customs. “Orthodox Jews know about [this custom] and continue doing it, but many other [Jews] don’t even know about it.”



Rabbi Carla Cenker. Photo by Ross Forman

Cenker said she’s hoping to teach about this “missing mitzvah,” as she called it, in Jewish communities in the U.S. after her year in Israel.

“I am a glutton for learning,” she said, laughing. “I had my chance here, and now I am going to a yeshiva, a school of learning, in Israel for another year. It’s more traditional text study in a large room, Beit Midrash, where you can talk, debate, and engage deeply with a study partner. Her studying in Israel will be six days a week, likely from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Also while overseas, Cenker will continue her studying on the ‘missing mitzvah.’ Plus, she hopes to travel to other historic countries, such as Jordan, Turkey, Spain and others.

“I am excited and happy, not nervous,” for the year in Israel, she said. “I feel very secure where I’m placing myself. I have not met them, but they are going to be kindred spirits, all of them, and there will be all ages, all genders,” at this school of advanced learning.

After 24 years in Chicago, Cenker certainly is sad to leave—even if only for a year. And during that year, she will analyze her options for permanently living in Israel or in the U.S., perhaps as a “roving” rabbi and guest teacher, though not necessarily back in Chicago, she said.

Cenker was, in the mid-1990s, the president of Congregation Or Chadash in Chicago. She also has been a member of several Chicago-area synagogues. She’s led High Holiday services at the Hillel at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and also at The Breakers on Chicago’s north side, as well as services welcoming Shabbat at the Breakers, the self-help home in Uptown, and Whitehall in north suburban Deerfield.

“The people in Chicago are warm and gracious; I definitely will miss that,” she said. “I will miss the incredible variety of cultural and educational opportunities here, from north to south, it’s just huge. The LGBT growth and acceptance here in Chicago has been amazing, too, from 1995 to now.

Cenker was, years ago, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center On Halsted. She also, decades ago, carried the temple banner of Or Chadash in the Chicago Pride Parade.

“I have always considered myself a very out Jew in the secular community and then a very out lesbian in the Jewish one,” she said.

## ISRAEL from page 4

“The IDF is the most progressive army in the world,” Sade said. “If you are HIV-positive you can volunteer and be recognized for your service. You will see pictures of soldiers on tanks holding the gay flag.”

Sher added an anecdote about an anti-LGBT organization: “[The group] opened a Facebook page with the picture of two soldiers kissing in uniform. They called the page ‘Faggot’s Army.’ But the page which was opened on a negative note did the exact opposite. The whole world saw it and thought it was amazing.”

In 1998, an Israeli trans woman named Dana International was entered into and won the Eurovision Song Contest with a song called “Diva.” The resulting celebration was raucous and united. The same year, a drag event called “Wigstock” was stopped by police because it was continuing past Shabbat (The Sabbath). “The police came wearing [protective] gloves,” Sade explained. “The community was insulted and very quickly it became our Stonewall. That led to the formation of Gay Pride.”

Sade added that the Gay Pride parade in Tel Aviv this year attracted around 125,000 people and is thought of as the biggest party in town.

From 2000 on, the Israeli LGBTQ community became active in legislative reform including the issue of marriage. “In the next few years, you will start seeing lobbying and promotion of pro-LGBT legislation,” Sade said. “We are starting to create language that is more inclusive and we are moving from asking the courts to protect us to changing legislation. That is a new frontier.”

A similar frontier has been reached with the opening of a dialogue between the LGBTQ community and religious institutions in Israel. “Ten years ago in Israel, you had to be gay or you had to be religious,” Sade said. “You couldn’t be both. Rabbis were not willing to discuss the issue. During the last few years we’ve had some grassroots organizations of religious gays and lesbians. We have a lot of work being done to create a bridge. There is a congregation in Jerusalem that is working on equality even though it is Orthodox.”

She went on to cite a story in May of this year when a Yaakov Ariel, chief rabbi of the city of Ramat Gan, suggested that renting an apartment to a lesbian couple was forbidden

by religious law. The issue has been the catalyst to possible Knesset legislation against housing discrimination. “One of the women called the Rabbi a hypocrite,” Sade recalled. “She said, ‘You are willing to accept people who are not keeping the Shabbat but—when it comes to this—you don’t budge.’ There are voices being heard and questions being asked. What’s worse? Not keeping Shabbat or being gay? Those questions will need to be answered.”

They are part of many challenges still facing Sade, Sher and the Aguda, not the least of which is continued funding for the resources they need to further their mission and programming. “We have a program for LGBT youth who drop out of the school system,” Sade told Windy City Times. “So instead of being found on the streets or in prostitution, they can experience being loved and accepted and success on their own terms. But we can only take 15 students per year.”

She also asserted that, much as it is in the United States, for Israeli transgender people the issue is not marriage equality but surviving and keeping roofs over their heads.

During the Q&A with the audience, Sade discussed the 2012 accusation by Columbia law professor Katherine Franke that “Israel traffics in gay rights to ‘pinkwash’ its international reputation.”

“Last year we invited this professor to a panel where and whenever she wanted,” Sade said. “We never got a reply. They are not willing to have a dialogue, but to engage in a monologue that says we are criminals and crooks. Like any other governments, the government of Israel is doing good things and things that need to be corrected. But—in my country—I am free to ask that government to work and create solutions. I am free to meet with government officials. We are not perfect, but we are free and open and we are a society where you have the right to pursue whatever you want and to be represented. The Knesset doors are open to everyone.”

To that end, Sade is actively looking to recruit new leaders in the Israeli LGBTQ community. “We need to find people who are vested in this work and empower them,” she said. “The LGBT movement does not wish to force itself upon society. It simply wants to be a part of society and there is still a lot of work to be done.”

**For more information on the Aguda, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheAGUDA.ISRAEL>.**

## Dozens of LGBT groups sign Brown letter

Dozens of the nation’s LGBT-advocacy organizations joined an open letter of solidarity in response to the tragic death of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager who was shot and killed by Officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, according to a press release.

Part of the letter reads, “The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community cannot be silent at this moment, because LGBT people come from all races, creeds, faiths and backgrounds, and because all movements of equality are deeply connected. We are all part of the fabric of this nation and the promise of liberty and justice for all is yet to be fulfilled.”

Among the groups signing were Campus Pride, AIDS United, Indiana Equality Action, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, the True Colors Fund and PFLAG National.

A preliminary private autopsy showed that Brown was shot at least six times, including twice in the head. Attorney General Eric Holder has authorized a second autopsy.

Brown’s death has spurred several protests.

## Campus Pride’s LGBT-friendliest schools

Campus Pride has announced the annual Campus Pride 2014 Top 50 LGBT-Friendly Colleges & Universities.

According to a press release, “the listing highlights the positive efforts to improve safety and academic life for LGBT students as well as the top institutions leading the way.”

Among area schools listed are Indiana University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

This is the first year Campus Pride has released a list of the 50 “Best of the Best.” Previously, only the top 25 schools were listed.

Unlike the Princeton Review LGBT rankings, the Campus Pride Index is based in research on policy, program and practice and is conducted “for and by” LGBT experts in the field of higher education.

See more at [www.CampusPrideIndex.org](http://www.CampusPrideIndex.org).

## UIC from cover

work." Plus, being the first honoree is not lost on Hughes "because we have a number of really excellent, highly recognized national and international researchers in the college."

She added that the UIC award "not only gives me confidence that my personal work is recognized, but the importance of the topic is recognized."

"I'm a hard worker and passionate about what I do, and have been fortunate to be recognized for my hard work and passion."

Hughes received the Distinguished Contribution Award at the 2014 Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) annual conference, held in St. Louis in March. She also won the Betty Ford Award for contributions to the field of substance abuse in women from the Association of Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA), which will be presented in early November at the AMERSA 38th Annual National Conference in San Francisco.

"It's been a banner year," she said with a smile.

And when asked what's been the key to her illustrious career, Hughes simply replied, "hard work ... and caring about it."

Ironically, Hughes never envisioned this is the path her career would go. "When I started my Ph.D. program, I sort of bounced around a little bit, thinking about doing work with domestic violence and other kinds of violence, and I have now incorporated some of that."

But in time, with little research then out there, except for already-skewed data, she moved into the field of alcohol use and alcohol problems among sexual minorities.

Hughes ultimately conducted two major research studies among Chicago lesbians, including the first federally funded study of lesbians' use of alcohol.

In 2001, she was awarded the \$1.5-million National Institutes of Health grant to conduct

the first-ever longitudinal study of lesbian health.

So what about Hughes away from the spotlight?

She laughed when asked to tell of the Hughes who most don't know. She is Loretta Lynn's third cousin, she said; however, they have never met.

Hughes was, in 1995, the Outstanding Alumnus Award winner from Eastern Kentucky University's College of Allied Health and Nursing—and Lynn, the award-winning country music singer whose career dates back to the 1960s, was born in Johnson County, Kentucky.

"I got into nursing because I like the idea of feeling better and was really fascinated with how the body works, the anatomy and physiology," she said. "I never considered research [as my career] until my master's degree, and things then just sort of fell into place.

"For me, research has always been like putting pieces of a puzzle together. And it really fits my personality and my detail-orientation.

"I'm leading a blessed life, that's for sure."

Hughes said the volume of research in the lesbian health field has skyrocketed, and also in the scope. "I'm hoping that, through more research, we can understand what it is about sexual minorities," she said. "One of the most intriguing things to me right now is the very high rates of all-time victimization, which is another area I'm extremely interested in.

"For some reason, women who identify as lesbian or bisexual are much more likely to report childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical abuse, childhood neglect, as well as adult physical abuse and adult sexual abuse, and intimate partner violence."

Hughes said her personal life now includes her partner of two years, Rhonda Egidio, a semi-retired professor at Michigan State University. Hughes enjoys traveling, including trips such as an upcoming work-study journey to the Seattle area.



John D'Emilio. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

## UIC symposium on John D'Emilio Sept. 11-12

The University of Illinois at Chicago's gender and women's studies department is hosting a two-day symposium honoring Professor Emeritus John D'Emilio's work.

On Thursday, Sept. 11, a reception and a lecture, "Sexual Violence and Citizenship: Rape Reform in American History" will take place at Student Center West, 828 S. Wolcott Ave. The reception is 6 p.m., which Stanford University's Estelle Freedman delivering the lecture at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Sept. 12, events will take place at Jane Addams Hull-House, 800 S. Halsted St. There will be three panels (at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.) featuring such individuals as University of Chicago's Cathy Cohen and

Ramon Gutierrez, scholar Amber Hollibaugh, University of Illinois' Kevin Mumford and Siobhan Somerville, and the University of Massachusetts Julio Capo, among others.

See <http://johndemiliosymposium.uic.edu/>.

## NLGJA national confab, summit in Chicago

The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) will hold its national convention and 10th LGBT Media Summit at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St., on Aug. 21-24.

The four-day assembly will begin with the LGBT Media Summit on Aug. 21 and three boot camps, followed by two full days of programming with more than 30 workshops designed to address the needs of journalists and those in the communication industry.

The convention also will include Connect: the NLGJA Student Journalism Project, the Women's Networking Dinner, NLGJA's Excellence in Journalism Awards, and numerous other learning and networking opportunities.

NBA Brooklyn Nets player Jason Collins will be among the headliners at this year's convention, sharing his experiences in dealing with the news media after coming out after the end of the 2012-2013 season. Among this year's notable speakers will be Chris Gajilan, National Emmy and Gracie Allen Individual Achievement Award-winning producer of Oprah.

There are two new additions to the convention this year; a slate of boot camps focused on marketing, communications and business skills and the Michael Triplett Speaker Series on the intersection between religion and the LGBT community. Both are available to the public.

Visit [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org).

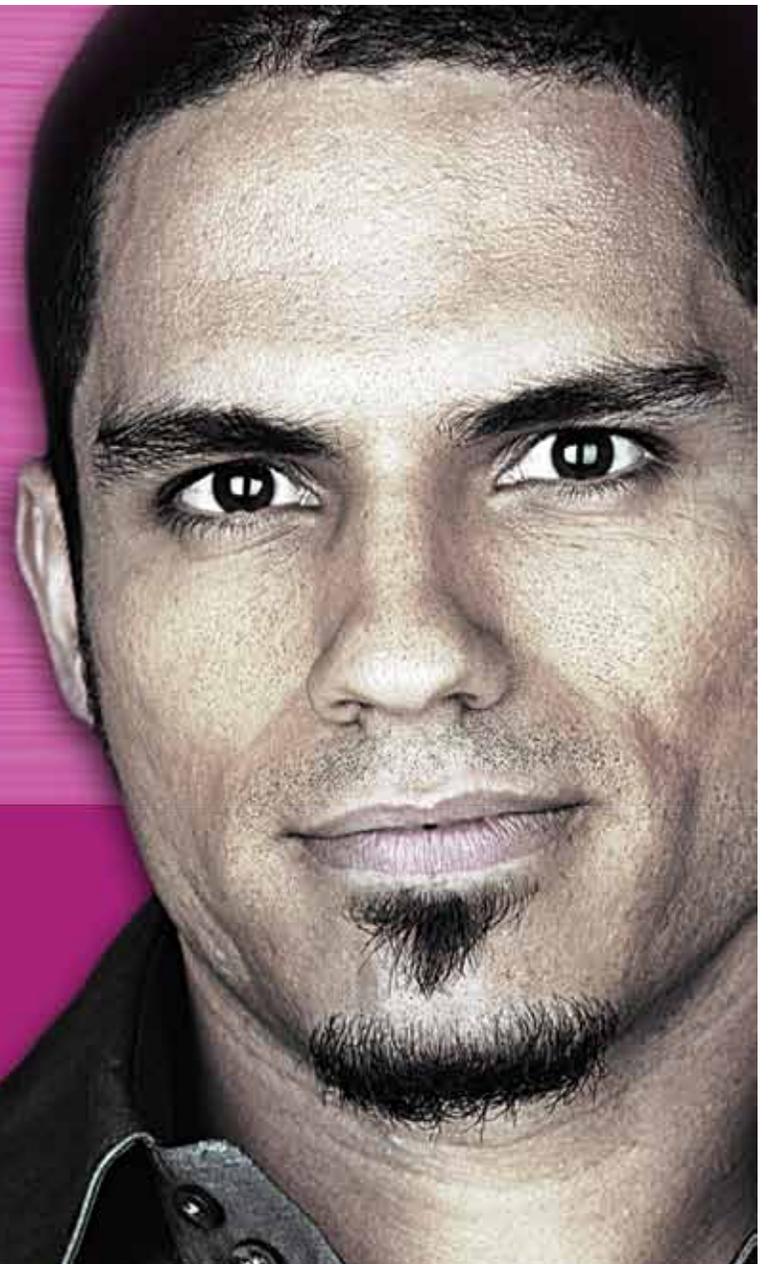
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Veronica Gazzillo (holding trophy) poses with Chicago Force staff in 2013. Photo from the Chicago Force

## Chicago Force assistant coach dies suddenly

BY ROSS FORMAN

Veronica "Ro" Gazzillo (*née* Soper), who was an All-Star player and then an assistant coach for the Chicago Force, died unexpectedly Sunday, Aug. 10, at her home in Evanston. She was 39.

Gazzillo played for the Force in 2010 and was named an Independent Women's Football League (IWFL) All-Star and the 2010 Force Offensive MVP. She was unable to play after that season due to injuries, and joined the Force coaching staff for its 2013 national championship season.

Gazzillo is a former U.S. Army military police officer until she was given a Chapter 15 discharge for being lesbian. She was a union ironworker for 15 years, and was a 1993 graduate of Chicago's George Washington High School.

"Ro was an intense, powerful offensive lineman," said Force owner Linda Bache, who was teammates with Gazzillo. "She was a great teammate and an incredibly loyal friend."

"This is a devastating loss for the Force family. We all have so many wonderful and hilarious memories of Ro. She was witty, charismatic and fun-loving. It's difficult to imagine that she is gone."

She is survived by her wife, Tori Gazzillo. They married this past June while watching the annual Chicago Pride Parade near the corner of Addison and Halsted streets. Bethany Minor performed the service.

Kim Marks, a seven-year standout for the Force, said that Gazzillo was "one of the most loyal people I have ever met."

Marks added, "I always knew that, no matter what I was going through, she would be there for me. Whether it was to help pick me up after a Force loss, or coming to my house on very short notice to help me move a treadmill. I knew she'd be there. It saddens me to know that she didn't know that I would have done the same for her. I pray that she is able to find the peace that she was so desperately searching for."

Tami Engelman, an offensive lineman for the Force, said Gazzillo was "such an amazing person."

"She was a mama bear, always so protective of those she called family," Engelman said. "She was that friend [who] was always there whenever you needed her. She was my Roey and I was her Tamo. She was one of a kind and no one can ever fill that void she is going to leave in so many of our hearts. She was special. May her legacy always live on in all of us."

Darcy Leslie, a four-time Force Defensive MVP, added: "My heart is heavy as my team-

mates and I mourn the loss of our sister. Ro was a wonderful person with a huge heart. She would do anything for the people she loved, and [she] cared deeply about the Force family. Words can't express how much we will miss her and that smile."

Force running back Brandy Hatcher described Gazzillo as "magnetic and hilarious." Hatcher said Gazzillo was one of the first people she met in Chicago, "and was loyal to me every day since."

Jessica Andrasko, who formerly played for the Force, was close friends with Gazzillo, and la-



Veronica Gazzillo. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Force

beled her "an incredible teammate and friend."

"She was always there for anyone she knew and would have done anything for anyone," Andrasko said. "It is a true tragedy for the loss of such a wonderful person. There are so many people in the world, myself included, [who] wished we could have the chance to tell her how much we loved her and cared for her and would have done anything for her. The Force family, teammates from the many teams she played on, friends, family and her wife Tori will be left with questions and the heartache of why and how someone that always had a smile on [her] face this could happen. Ro will be missed by many and always loved; there are many hearts in this world that have a huge hole in them with the loss of her."

The news of Gazzillo's passing led to countless emotional messages via social media. Former Force teammate Kristen Mertens, for instance, wrote on Facebook: "Ro's personality lit up a room. She was always so fun to be around. Always helping others. Always giving me a hard time. Her laugh always made me smile. It's a devastating loss to so many."

Former teammate Amber Burns described Gazzillo on Facebook as "supportive, caring and willing to help others. Burns added, as if talking to her, "You always knew how and what to say to others to make good of any situation. This is all so unreal to me; we will never know why. You will be missed by all. Thanks for all the love and support throughout the years."

Former Force public relations director George Howe tagged Gazzillo as a "sweet woman."

Gazzillo has a son, Jason, and a daughter, Courtney. She told Windy City Times in 2010, "Being a tackle football Mom is rewarding, yet very stressful. Rewarding as my kids are the first to boost my ego to their peers by telling them there Mom is a tackle football player for the Chicago Force. Stressful as playing for the team is very demanding of your time. We practice late hours and have away games."

Gazzillo was raised on Chicago's South Side, but had been living on the North Side. She played basketball, softball and volleyball

throughout high school—and played all three sports in local recreation leagues.

Gazzillo's cousin, Jamie Menzyk, is a perennial All-Star for the Force.

"There were mixed reactions from my family and friends when I decided to join the Force. The main reaction was 'Wow, but aren't you too old to play?'" she said in 2010. "Some friends think I'm crazy, but I just tell them, 'You never have played a team sport and have such a bond with a group of women like I do with the Force.'"

Gazzillo said in the 2010 interview that, when she was in the Army, another female in her platoon found out that she was gay and told the commanding officer. "When I was approached by my commanding officer on the allegations, I did not deny them. I am gay and I'm not ashamed of it. I was a stellar soldier and an expert on weapons. I also was top in all my classes, physical training and overall combat military skills. I figured being gay was not going to affect my ability to serve and protect my country. I was wrong."

"After three months of being treated like scum and being interrogated on who else was gay in our unit, they finally discharged me, [but] without me giving up any of my fellow brothers or sisters."

Force head coach John Konecki said in 2010, "If I'm ever in a bar fight, I want Gazzillo on my side."

**A memorial service was held Aug. 19 at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 N. Dearborn Pkwy.**

**As a way to honor Gazzillo's memory and help those she loved, a fundraiser was created. All proceeds of this fundraiser will go funeral expenses and other end of life financial obligations, along with helping to support Gazzillo's wife, Tori, in her time of grief. To donate, go to visit [https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/dtd5/in-loving-memory-of-veronica-gazzillo-ro-soper-?utm\\_source=giveforward&utm\\_medium=share&utm\\_campaign=dashboard&shareid=2544820](https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/dtd5/in-loving-memory-of-veronica-gazzillo-ro-soper-?utm_source=giveforward&utm_medium=share&utm_campaign=dashboard&shareid=2544820).**

### Parlour on Clark closes

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Rogers Park nightspot Parlour is no longer open.

The owners of Parlour on Clark, 6341 N. Clark St., announced both on their Facebook page and in a mass email Aug. 6 that the bar was going to close Aug. 10.

"The Rumors are True....Parlour on Clark is CLOSING Sunday August 10th," said their on-line announcement.

Owner Jennifer Murphy told ChicagoPride.com that "[co-owner Nikki Calhoun] and I took a run down tavern in an area of the city that we loved and turned it into a space that would provide a home for artists, musicians, comedians, drag queens and many amazing dance parties."

The bar opened in August 2010. Murphy added, "We hoped it was going to be around for awhile. What we learned was that people were less focused on supporting a local business and more interested in finding the newest bar, event, club, restaurant or party."

A liquor moratorium at the location further complicated the plans for a sale, she said: "We went from signing a business listing contract with an appraised value of \$125,000 to finding out we were not able to transfer our liquor license due to the moratorium and therefore not able to sell."

Plenty of festivities were planned for the Edgewater bar's final weekend, including "Rhythm and Booze w/Pate" and "Karaoke with Sue."

**See this week's issue of Nightspots for photos from the final night at Parlour on Clark.**

### Rally in Chicago on eve of 7th Circuit marriage cases

BY MATT SIMONETTE

On Aug. 25—the evening before the Chicago-based 7th Court of Appeals hears oral arguments on Indiana and Wisconsin's gay marriage bans—activists from the region will gather at Federal Plaza for a rally in support of marriage equality.

The rally will start at 5:30 p.m. near the Dirksen Federal Building at Dearborn and Adams.

In an Aug. 13 statement, Kyle Megrath of Hoosiers Unite for Marriage said, "It's imperative that we show the courts that here in Indiana, we believe freedom means freedom for everyone. So on August 25th, the eve of oral arguments, marriage supporters from Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and across the nation will rally in Chicago in support of the freedom to marry. ... It wasn't that long ago when it seemed as though same-sex couples in Indiana would never garner the respect that they deserved. ... Now in just a few short months since our campaign launched, we're on the verge of putting the painful chapter of our marriage ban behind us and creating a state where we embrace all Hoosiers—regardless of who they love."

The cases being considered by the court on Aug. 26 include three cases from Indiana—*Baskin v. Zoeller*, *Lee v. Pence* and *Midori Fujii v. State of Indiana*—as well as *Walker v. Wolf*, from Wisconsin.

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Richard Biasi**  
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KIRK WILLIAMSON

**Age**  
44

**Neighborhood**  
Home: Rogers Park; Business: Humboldt Park

**Relationship status**  
Single (It's NOT a dirty word, LOL.)

**Job title**  
Owner, Richard's Fabulous Finds

**Website**  
www.richardsfabulousfinds.com

**Hobbies**  
"My work IS my hobby. 'High of the buy, thrill of the sale.'"

**Four people (living or dead) you'd like to have dinner with**  
Mae West, Bette Davis, Gary Cooper, Norma Shearer

**Preferred drink at a bar**  
Dirty martini, 3 pimento olives

**Favorite accessory**  
"The hand-crocheted boutonnières in my shop."

**Fun fact**  
"The photo I use for my shop is actually of me with my identical twin brother."



The opening of the store, located at 2545 W. North Ave., wasn't too much of a stretch. "The idea of a 'men's only' shop was very appealing to me. Plus, in all the years I have frequented vintage markets I had never seen a space dedicated to just men. The surprise and delight of many of the people that would come into my space was amazing. Opening my store was the next step."

Richard hunts everywhere for his stock, and has even gained enough recognition such that people are now bringing him pieces for the store. He shared, "One customer recently told me she was just so happy that her father's clothing was going to a 'good home' and not some thrift store. Made me feel wonderful that I could do that for her."



A wide range of customers come through Richard's Fabulous Finds, from young men who are just starting to get interested in fashion to older gents that appreciate the nostalgia of vintage. Plus, he has even had some interest from the entertainment industry. He recently taped an episode of LA Frock Stars for the Smithsonian Channel (due to air March 2015) and very nearly sold a suit to rap star Macklemore, which fell through at the last minute. "It would have been so awesome to see one of my pieces on a big star. It will happen someday. I have to remind myself I have only been open for three months."



Whereas Richard is making a name for himself in menswear, some may still recognize him from his previous career as tart-tongued drag queen Regina Upright. He claims that there are very few similarities between performing and selling menswear, but it was another great creative outlet. "In a way, I guess you could say it's all about creating an image. Classy always wins in my book."

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

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



**KATHLEEN  
GUZMAN**

## Depression: Not just the word of the day

I am not sure how I got there. I am not sure how many hours I was curled in the corner on the bathroom floor. I am not sure how loud my cries were or how long the screams of despair choked the breath from my body.

The folded towel I clutched in my rigid arms stifled the sobs as they poured uncontrollably out of my mouth, unable to stop, unable to pause even for a moment. The emotions flooded uncontrollably out of my retching body and there was no sense of time or purpose. Where all those tears came from, I may never know. Who was that woman rocking hysterically in a rhythm all too familiar and why did she look like me? Why did no one come to save her from the darkness of those torturous hours?

The kids were at school. I took another sick day. The dog lied silently outside the locked

door on the bedroom floor, patiently waiting for me to make an appearance. I was alone—desperately alone. The panic and solitude has devoured me in a way I had never experienced before. I knew I had to end the suffering; I knew that no one would ever be able to save me from the pain I alone was experiencing.

I was logical—I did not want to leave this world—but I more certainly did not want to remain a part of it. It was just too hard, as every single moment of every single day was simply too hard for me and I was certain that there was no one who could make the shadows disappear. I was at the end—and I knew it. I knew it and, in all the madness, I understood that it was pathetic and desperate and real.

Life of the party, good daughter, wonderful mom and dedicated employee—I was all those things. No one in the land of the living would, for one moment, know the agony that ran freely through my 38-year-old body, landed in my brain and clouded my life with certain darkness. I told myself I was strong, smart and unique enough to save myself from these periodic episodes. I told myself that for more than five years, until I found myself that day on the bathroom floor, unable to stand, function, breathe—unable.

I did not want to hurt my parents or disappoint my friends but, more than any of those things, I did not want to suffer anymore. The sadness was too great, the burden too big, the void of meaning too vast and my heart was los-

ing the fight—my will was all but gone. And I was ready to leave this world.

No one will ever know what saves some of us and what takes the rest. Thoughts of my children raced through my head and, with each vision of their sweet young faces, the heaving sobs became louder and more violent as my love for them fought the demons inside that wanted me to take myself from them.

I have no idea how long I was on that bathroom floor. I have no idea when the crying stopped or when my hand unlocked the door above me. I know the dog was happy to see me as I crawled on my hands and knees to his somber, unmoving gaze and wrapped my arms around his enormous neck and sobbed a little more. I have no idea what saved me that day—and what continues to save me today.

Depression is a word with so little definition. It is experienced by so many in a million different ways. There is no cure (there is no finish) but there is hope in the hopelessness—and I think that strange paradox forced its way through and somehow found my reason. It helped me to find the help I needed—help I still need, each and every single day.

**Kathy Guzman is a writer, an activist, a mother and a woman living with depression.**

**Here are a couple key resources: [www.centeronhalsted.org/mentalhealth.html](http://www.centeronhalsted.org/mentalhealth.html) and [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/about-us](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/about-us).**



**REV.  
IRENE  
MONROE**

## The stigma of Black suicide is killing us

When the first news reports of Robin Williams' death hit the media, few questioned the report that the country's most beloved comedian had committed suicide.

This reaction stands in stark contrast to the reaction to the 2012 news of the death of Soul Train creator Don Cornelius. Cornelius was found dead in his home after committing suicide with a firearm. Many African-Americans believed Cornelius must have been murdered by an intruder, even after the official report.

Although one death involved a firearm, and distrust of the government runs deep in our communities of color, the myth that "Black folks don't get depressed, we get the blues" persisted. And, unfortunately, an opportunity to talk about suicide in the African diasporic communities was missed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Black suicide is not only on the rise, but that suicide claims at least one African-American every four and a half hours. And Black males have a higher suicide rate than their counterparts.

I can identify at least five factors contributing to suicide in communities of African descent which, for the most part, go unaddressed: untreated mental illness, homophobic bullying, religion, "Cop-Assisted Suicide," and the "Strong Black Woman Syndrome."

### Untreated mental illness

The leading cause of suicide in African diasporic communities are not only the cultural stigma about mental illness, but also the barriers to mental health treatment. While health care disparities undoubtedly contributing to the problem, so, too, the dearth of mental

health professional—therapists, counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists. According to the 2010 data from the American Association of Suicidology, "Just 4 percent of the nation's psychiatrists, 3 percent of the psychologists and 7 percent of social workers are Black."

### Anti-gay bullying

LGBTQ African-Americans residing in Black communities are frequently the subjects of bullying, which often times lead to their death by suicide or gang violence.

In 2009, Sirdeaner Walker found her 11-year-old son, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, hanging by an extension cord on the second floor of their home after he endured endless anti-gay taunts by schoolmates, although Carl never identified as gay.

When I went to speak that year at the Anti-Bullying Community Forum and Vigil in reference to Carl's death some kids in the Black community of Springfield I spoke with about the incident said Carl's gender expression was queer, implying that there existed sufficient rationale to taunt him.

In 2010, Mass. Gov. Deval Patrick signed landmark anti-bullying legislation, cementing the state's commitment to changing the culture of bullying in schools.

### Religion

Not surprisingly, sisters of African descent are one of the largest religious demographic groups. A 2012 Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation survey disclosed that 74 percent of African American women revealed that "living a religious life" was very important to us.

But our very religious life can also contribute to a cult suicide, as Sikivu Hutchinson points out in her article "Jonestown Massacre: How Religion Kills Black Women." And because suicide is such a taboo subject and kept on the "down low" in the community very little research among African American religion scholars and theologians have probed into just how conservative Christianity not only harms our LGBTQ brothers and sisters but also our grandmothers, mothers and sisters.

"About 75% of Peoples Temple members were African American, 20% were white and 5% were Asian, Latino and Native American," writes Hutchinson.

### "Cop-assisted suicide"

Most Black males in the United States feel they reside in a police state. The hopelessness it engenders among this demographic group has created a cop-assisted suicide culture.

And, sadly, it's a suicide method very common among African-American urban young males. It's when a young brother deliberately engages in a life-threatening unlawful act that provokes a cop to shoot to the point of killing. Social stressors such as police profiling, constant images of unarmed Black males being shot by police, high unemployment, incarceration and dropout rates, and family and community violence, to name some, contribute to Black male suicide.

### "Strong Black woman syndrome"

In July 2010, a groundbreaking study titled "Black Lesbians Matter" examined the unique experiences, perspectives, and priorities of Black LBT communities. And, sadly, little was known about it.

The report revealed that LBT women of African descent are among the most vulnerable in our society and need advocacy in the areas of financial security, healthcare, access to education, and marriage equality. The study is akin to a census conducted over several months in 2009-10, when 1,596 LBT women participated. The study focused on five key areas: health, family/parenting, identity, aging, and invisibility. One key finding of the survey revealed there is a pattern of higher suicide rates among us. Scholars have primarily associated these higher suicide rates with one's inability to deal with "coming-out" to their faith communities.

When news hit that 22-year-old Karyn Washington, creator of the uplifting and empowering online site For Brown Girls, committed suicide, even Ebony magazine had to ask "Is 'Strong Black Womanhood' Killing Our Sisters?"

With the Black community focusing primarily on the "endangered Black male" and the dominant culture also not seeing, and hearing African-American voices on this issue, unfortunately, our humanity is distorted and made invisible through a prism of racist and sexist stereotypes. And so, too, is our suffering.

It time to acknowledge that the stigma of suicide is killing us.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
Cole  
Simon

## THE EYES HAVE IT

Windy City Times reviews the theatrical production *Coraline*. See page 14.

## THEATER

'Tragic' flaw.  
Page 14Photo from *All Our Tragic*  
by Evan Hanover

## DISH

Asia major.  
Page 26

Press photo of item at Little Vietnam



## MOVIES

'Give' and take.  
Page 22Photo of Brenton Thwaites in *The Giver*  
courtesy of The Weinstein Company

## Kiss of 'Meth'

Writer/performer Steven Strafford  
talks about his play about drug  
addiction in the LGBT community

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Methtacular!—Steven Strafford's autobiographical account of the three years he spent as a sex-crazed crystal-meth addict in Chicago—is told through a series of stories, songs, and Facts of Life references. But Strafford is not just blowing smoke here; *Methtacular!* is an authentic, potent, piece of theater that explores addiction in the LGBT community.

After playing to sold-out crowds in New York, Portland and Cincinnati, *Methtacular!* will open About Face Theatre's 2014-2015 season in Chicago—a full-circle moment for Strafford.

"When About Face Theatre was looking for venues—Theater Wit was mentioned as a possibility, and I remember thinking 'Wouldn't that be crazy?' This is the most dramatically satisfying option because I was fired [from that building] at the end of 2001 or 2002," said Strafford. "My friend David Zak, the director, was really good to me back then, but he had to fire me because I didn't show up for a show because I was on a bender."

"I was living in Edgewater, mostly, and Andersonville," added Strafford. "I was a far north meth addict. I was also homeless, but I still had friends who let me stay with them. And of course, there were the one night stands that turned into three nights."

Today, Strafford lives in Lakeview with his fiancé, Wade. "I came back to Chicago because—outside of being a meth addict and burning bridges here and being a general mess—I love Chicago. It was my first city out of college and I love the theater community here and the way everyone is excited about what is happening

on the stage," said Strafford, 36. "I searched for that energy in New York City, and you'll find pockets of it, but it's not the overriding attitude. Chicago is a cooperative theater community, and New York is competitive. It's often difficult to have joy for what others are doing there, even for me, so I left and moved back here last October."

After moving back to the Windy City, Strafford had what he called "full-body reactions" to some familiar haunts. "I remember dropping Wade off at rehearsal [at the Blue Man Group], giving him a nice kiss, and then walking through this parking lot and all of the sudden I was transported back to more than 10 years ago, when I was sitting in a car in that lot with my drug dealer boyfriend's drug supplier, and his boyfriend having a psychotic break down and keying the car and trying to break the windows. I remember thinking 'This isn't what you want' followed closely by 'I wonder when we are going to do drugs again,'" said Strafford.

Strafford didn't set out to write *Methtacular!* or to tell his stories of being cracked-out on the streets of Chicago before a live audience.

"I had a callback for a production at the Goodman Theatre to play Harpo Marx in *Animal Crackers*, and I was so emotionally ready for it—and I didn't get the part," said Strafford. "Actors deal with rejection all the time, and I usually shrug it off, but I had done so much emotional work related to getting the role that I just sat in my kitchen and wrote the words 'Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck' over and over again. And then I wrote this line seemingly out of nowhere: 'Imagine in one sniff every physical, emotional and sexual insecurity

Steven Strafford in *Methtacular!* Photo by  
Kevin Thomas Garcia

you've ever had disappears."

At that point, Strafford went on a different kind of a bender, and wrote for five hours that day—the stories of his addiction that eventually became the equivalent of a 12-hour show.

"I just started to write it all down," he said. "I have always been a storyteller. Back in my drinking days, I would be the one in the middle of telling a story—and I just started to write my stories in the style of David Sedaris."

Surrounded by actors and other friends he trusted, Strafford read parts of his work aloud as a kind of litmus test to see if the project was

worth pursuing, and it was but with a significant change—instead of a collection of essays, he was encouraged to tell his story on stage.

"I remember thinking that I had a solid musical theater career going and it didn't seem like the business-savvy thing to do to perform this one-man show about being a drug addict in my 20s, but the project just got much bigger than me."

In addition to stories of his addiction, *Methtacular!* features five original songs written by Strafford, game-show interludes and more than a few pop-culture references.

"I have always explained things—truly emotional moments—in terms of sitcoms I watched as a child," explained Strafford. "I think it's a currency we all share, especially things we did or saw when we were young, because we have a real emotional tie to those things. Facts of life is a way of explaining how I felt about myself," revealed Strafford, whose *Facts of Life* soulmate is, not surprisingly, the theatrical, hilarious Nathalie Green.

In a way, Strafford still gets high on meth, but it's not the rush found at the end of a burning glass tube—he's energized by the reaction audience members have to *Methtacular!* "What takes place after *Methtacular!* each night is almost as tiring as performing the actual show," Strafford said. "People are so lovely and honest. They have made themselves vulnerable simply by listening to the show, and I can see that it has broken them open. They come up to me afterwards and they tell me secrets, not just about doing drugs, but about eating disorders, and other things; one woman told me she had an abortion and had never told anyone else."

Strafford added that the nature of the show means he can't simply take a deep bow and bid the audience good night—and he wouldn't have it any other way.

***Methtacular!* will run Aug. 21-Sept. 28 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are available at [www.abouface theatre.com](http://www.abouface theatre.com), 773-975-8150 or at the Theater Wit box office.**



Some Men. Photo by Alexa Ray Meyers

## THEATER REVIEW

### Some Men

**Playwright:** Terrence McNally

**At:** Pride Films and Plays at Rivendell Theater, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.

**Tickets:** 800-838-3006;

[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com); \$15-\$30

**Runs through:** Sept. 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Until 1900, there was no recognition of men who love men as a distinct subculture. The responsibility of male children was to ensure continuance of the family name; procreative duties, once discharged, allowed those preferring the off-duty company of their own sex to pursue their own interests outside of the female-centered domestic sphere. This is why Terrence McNally's Dickensian account of gays in the United States can tie together three generations by lineage, despite wedlock and parenthood existing only as wistful fantasies until very recently.

McNally's non-linear chronicle offers glimpses of a Jewish millionaire's son cavorting with his immigrant Irish chauffeur on the Long Island shore in 1922, and a torch song by a cross-dressing Harlem nightclub hostess circa 1932. In 1969, a band of effete West Village piano-bar regulars is interrupted by an angry drag queen bringing news of the revolution. In 1971, a white-collar husband comes out of the closet and finds himself shunned by his family and peers—not for his sexual proclivities, but for making them public.

In 2007, a disabled soldier confronts an old-guard father at a funeral, and, in 1989, an AIDS patient's brother pays a reluctant visit to a hospital ward. We sit in on Internet hook-ups, bathhouse sybarites and therapy groups. Oh, and we hear students express indignation at veterans of the "pre-Stonewall, non-liberated, repressed" years not conforming to the expected images of martyrdom.

The real lessons, though, are not in the specific dates and places (the latter restricted to New York and environs), but the little personal details related by an author who witnessed many of them firsthand: the importance of physical distance in consummating cyberliaisons, the enclaves of intolerance within what was not yet a "community" and the enduring hope of a future when same-sex dynamics would enjoy a full range of social approval.

Ten actors playing 55 characters over a time-

line spanning 90 years could easily dissolve into chaos in a matter of minutes, but under the co-direction of David Zak and Derek Van Barham, the characters remain distinct and assemblages never become a faceless swarm. (McNally is smart enough to have his personnel address each other by name at the top of every new episode, and to include in his cast a pianist to provide tunes to establish the individual locales.) If the results are more pageant than play—a wedding kiss draws applause from not just the onstage guests, but the audience as well—McNally's photo album attests to the diversity of the gay experience while celebrating its progress.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Apes of Wrath**, The Second City e.t.c., an ongoing run. Deep existential despair and sci-fi matters make for great comic gold in this hilarious and new sketch comedy revue directed by Jen Ellison. The writer-performers are all unashamedly brainy and funny at the same time. SCM

**Down Range**, Genesis Theatrical Productions at Preston Bradley Center, through Aug. 31. War is hell on the men who fight, we know, but military life is no kinder to the wives who follow them—or so proclaims Jeffrey Skinner in this parable of a soldier whose chosen profession exacts a price greater than mere death. MSB

**Geezers**, Redtwist Theatre, through Sept. 7. The elderly storytellers in Tommy Lee Johnston's cliché-free comedy aren't ready to retire yet, so Redtwist's sleeper hit is extending its run for another two weeks so we can hear their accounts of what made them what they became. MSB

**Fiddler on the Roof**, Light Opera Works, through Aug. 24. This new production is slow in spots, but Tevya sounds straight from the synagogue, and that's good. He and Golde are the right ages, instead of too old. The full orchestra is a treat. Dances are spritely. Go? Of course, go! JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### Coraline

**By** Stephin Merritt and David Greenspan,

**based on the book by** Neil Gaiman

**At:** Black Button Eyes Productions

**at** City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

**Tickets:** <http://coralinechicago.com>.

**brownpapertickets.com**; \$25

**Runs through:** Sept. 6

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Neil Gaiman's work is as beloved as any writer's, and a theatrical setting makes a great deal of sense for *Coraline*, the abstract, twisted kid-tale-for-grown-ups. And a musical? You have my attention.

Director Ed Rutherford and Black Button Eyes Productions' take on this story is every bit as bizarre and creative as you'd hope—and more gender-bending than you might have guessed—for a *Coraline* musical. There's an array of unusual and intriguing sights and sounds that give *Coraline* a distinct tone, something along the lines of a *Rocky Horror* children's show.

But this production amounts to the sum of its creative choices and production quality, rather than the sharpness of its storytelling. With attention-grabbing moments speckled throughout, *Coraline* drifts in and out of artistic genius and sheer boredom.

The story follows young Coraline Jones, who just moved into a new house with her inattentive parents and strange neighbors. Longing for adventure, she discovers a doorway in her new house that leads to a bizzaro-world version of her real life only everyone has black button eyes and is way more fun and interesting.

Although the plot is technically basic and the staging perpetually moves and changes

throughout the 90-minute runtime (with no intermission), *Coraline* still manages to be tedious and even difficult to comprehend, especially lyrically. The purpose of songs revealing deeper layers of a character gets entirely lost in these brief and flitting "musical numbers" between the abstract lyrics and music that delights in atonalities.

This music intentionally ignores any and all Broadway conventions. Songs are short and rarely follow traditional verse-chorus patterns, and there isn't one memorable lyric in the entire show. Given the source material, this makes perfect sense. *Coraline* doesn't need show-stoppers. But the line between ingenuity and distraction gets blurred more often than not in this production.

All of *Coraline's* (Sheridan Singleton) solos, for example, are accompanied by an out-of-tune bell piano, which when combined with her intentionally off-key child's voice, borders on intolerable. The songs that do hold attention, however, don't last long enough or add enough to the story to have an impact. The show can be properly summarized by a song featuring the cat (Kevin Webb), who provides most of the show's comedy. He sings on the piano and interacts with the on-stage accompanist, and his song has a number of random keyboard slaps written in, but before long, a number that starts out fun and promising becomes distracting with perpetual key-slamming that covers up the lyrics entirely, and the Avant-garde spectacle of it never gives way to the story.

Otherwise, *Coraline* brims with creativity from costumes and props to sound effects and choreography, and the cast is about as humble and "blue-collar" as they come. So much energy has gone into the details to provide a one-of-a-kind scaled-down musical experience and a true feast for the senses, even if the intellect is left to sit alone at the kids' table.

## THEATER REVIEW

### All Our Tragic

**Playwright:** Sean Graney

**At:** The Hypocrites at

The Den, 1329 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**Tickets:** [www.the-hypocrites.com](http://www.the-hypocrites.com);

**\$30 (\$75 for a four-part marathon)**

**Runs through:** Oct. 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The works of auteurist director Sean Graney divide me, and *All Our Tragic* is no different.

A prodigiously gifted storyteller, Graney dazzles with showmanship and pure theatricality. He inspires the best from actors, designers and musicians who have worked with him repeatedly with *The Hypocrites* (the company he founded) and elsewhere. I saw the four parts of *All Our Tragic* in a 12-hour marathon (with meal breaks) and, while tired by the end, I wasn't bored or disinterested for a nanosecond. Graney's mastery of mood, pace and physical space is extraordinary; for example, there's his astute rendering early on of Herakles (Hercules) as a superhero comic figure before introducing more serious and moving material; likewise there's the lovely, apt use of live traditional and classical music.

But I disagree with Graney fundamentally at the conceptual level of his art. Inventive as they are, his productions always leave me feeling dumbed down because he obsessively changes the great classics to which he's drawn. Sometimes he literally rewrites them, and he always cuts them, eliminates characters and simplifies ideas. Does he feel it's the only way to make them accessible to modern audiences—or the only way to make them accessible to himself?

For *All Our Tragic*, he's mashed up the 32 surviving classical Greek tragedies by Ae-

schylus, Euripides and Sophocles who, collectively, wrote nearly 300 plays, nearly all based on pre-existing mythology. Several, such as Euripides' *The Bacchae* and Aeschylus' *The Persians*, receive scant attention while *Medea*, *Oedipus the King*, the *Oresteia* and others become the focus. The reason is that Graney fashions them as a continuous history of the cursed clans of Cadmus (*Oedipus*, *Jocasta*, *Creon*, *Antigone*) and Atreus (*Agamemnon*, *Menelaus*, *Orestes*, *Electra*) taking place over 75 years, although they weren't written that way.

To make them fit the family plan, Graney turns the key wives—*Agave*, *Clytemnestra*, *Medea*, *Helen*, *Phaedra*, etc.—into sisters so everyone is related by marriage, if not blood. The stories mesh, but it's emphatically untrue to classical mythology. Still, he's free to use and alter the same mythology as the great Greek authors, but it's a sham to claim he's presenting their plays when he's only combining their stories.

Greek audiences knew the mythological characters and their stories before they came to the theater, so the stories weren't what made the plays imperishable. The things that did—vivid poetry, deep debates on profound problems of ethics, morality, faith and the human condition, the Greek chorus to comment and explain for the audience, the context of the gods and Fate, and the individual style of each author—are precisely the elements Graney has tossed out.

I fervently wish Graney would apply his considerable talents to doing great classics as written, intending to illuminate the playwright's work rather than himself. His need to reconfigure and reduce suggests distrust of the original authors, or a low estimation of audience intelligence, or overweening ego. He needs to grow beyond grade-school versions of the classics, no matter how entertaining they may be.

# Celebrating NLGJA with a look back at LGBTs and media

These next four pages feature images that tell part of the story of LGBTs in mainstream and community media. These are excerpted from the book *Gay Press, Gay Power*, by Windy City Times

Publisher Tracy Baim. The artwork will be on display as large banners at the National Gay & Lesbian Journalists Association convention and 10th LGBT Media Summit at Chicago's Palmer

House Aug. 21-24. See [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)

Design by T. Tatsui

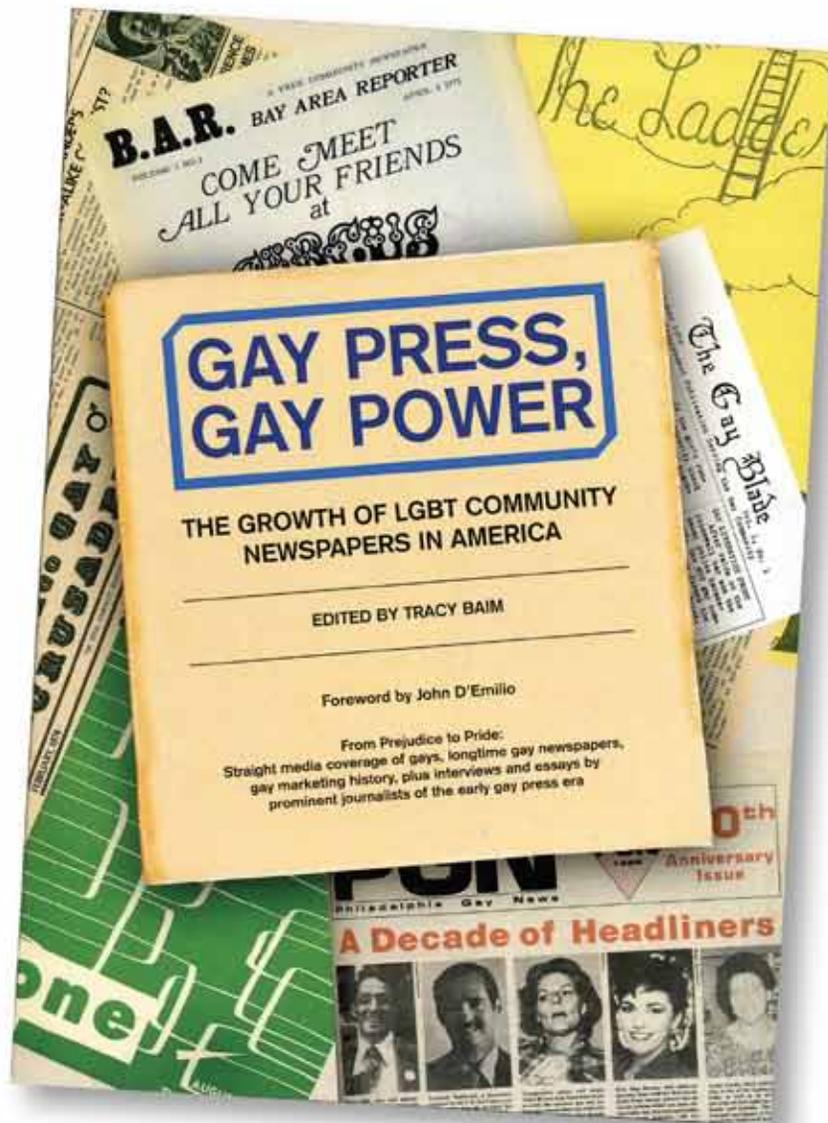
# GAY PRESS, GAY POWER

Presented by

## WINDY CITY TIMES



THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM  
McCormick Foundation



The following panels feature images from the book *Gay Press, Gay Power*, by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. The book was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and was a Top 10 favorites selection from the American Library Association GLBT Round Table "Over the Rainbow" List.

## Of Perverts and Prejudice: Mainstream Coverage

### PERVERTS CALLED GOVERNMENT PERIL

Gabrielson, G.O.P. Chief, Says They Are as Dangerous as Reds—Truman's Trip Hit

Special to The New York Times  
WASHINGTON, April 18—George Gabrielson, Republican National Chairman, asserted today that "sexual perverts who have infiltrated our Government in recent years" were "perhaps as dangerous as the actual Communists."  
He elevated what he called "homosexual angle" to the national political level in his first letter of 1950, addressed to a 7,000 party workers, under heading: "This is the News Washington."  
Giving National Committee support to the campaign of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, against the State Department, but without mentioning his name, Mr. Gabrielson said:  
"As Americans, it is difficult for us to believe that a National Administration would go to such lengths to cover up and protect subversives, traitors, working against their country in high Governmental places. But it is happening. If there is but one more (Alger) Hiss or (Judith) Coplon still in a key spot, we should be alerted out. It's no red herring."  
For the past sixteen years Dr. J. Fred Fisher, New Orleans-born criminal psychiatrist, has studied every type of sex pervert from the apparently harmless to the most vicious. To the Los Angeles Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department, of which he is head, comes every

Mainstream media coverage of LGBTs was especially vile, if there was coverage at all, in pre-Stonewall U.S. media. While there are still issues with coverage of the LGBT community in the mainstream media, that dramatically changed by the 1990s.

### MEDICINE

#### Queer People

The sex pervert, whether a homosexual, an exhibitionist, or even a dangerous sadist, is one often regarded merely as a "queer" person who never hurts anyone but himself. Thus the tangled lines of some recent human studies attention on the degenerate's soul. And newspaper headlines for days over accounts and feature articles packed with sensational details of the most distasteful and horrifying crimes.

For the past sixteen years Dr. J. Fred Fisher, New Orleans-born criminal psychiatrist, has studied every type of sex pervert from the apparently harmless to the most vicious. To the Los Angeles Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department, of which he is head, comes every

perverts accused of a sex crime by the Los Angeles police.

With hundreds of case histories at his disposal, Dr. de River has written a factual, scientific book, "The Sexual Criminal," published this week. For doctors, lawyers, teachers, and in general, including all of us with parents and children, it is a valuable and enlightening treatise on sex aberrations. It is on one of the last-day psychiatric investigations.

Have and He Shows queer people indeed the front pages. These are from the French Magazine "Les Temps Nouveaux," a 1937 issue.

### Growth of Overt Homosexuality In City Provokes Wide Concern

By HUBERT C. DOTY

The problem of homosexuality in New York became the subject of a meeting yesterday on the invitation of the State Liquor Authority and the Police Department. Michael J. Murphy said:

"Homosexuality is another one of the many problems encountered in the liquor business in New York City. However, the underlying factors in homosexuality have been repeatedly raised by the police. The places where the medical and sociological in New York, at 735 Washington Street and the

Newsweek, October 10, 1949.

The New York Times, April 19, 1950.

Life magazine, June 26, 1964.

The New York Times, December 17, 1963.



Time magazine, Oct. 31, 1969.

Time magazine, January 21, 1966.



This post-Stonewall Harper's Magazine essay by Joseph Epstein sparked outrage in the gay community. It appeared in the September 1970 issue.

# Mainstream Media Improves

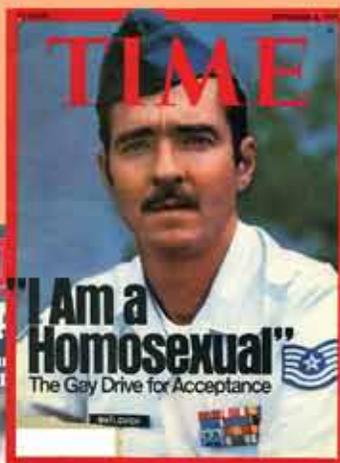


▲ This Village Voice edition of September 3, 1970, featured articles on both the gay and women's movements.

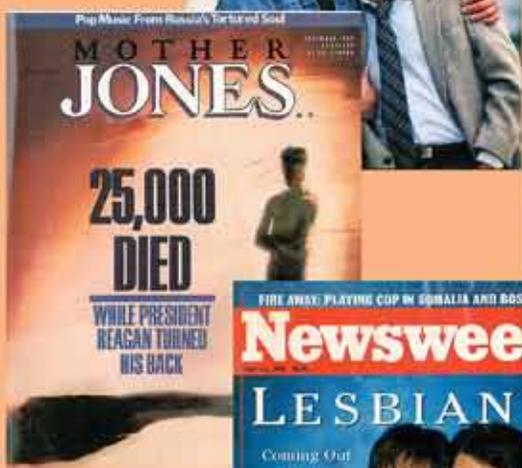
In the post-Stonewall era, the mainstream media began to improve in coverage of the LGBT community, but in fits and starts. The AIDS crisis forced changes inside and outside of mainstream media, as many journalists were impacted by AIDS both personally and professionally. The founding of NLGJA also had an immeasurable impact on the shift in LGBT coverage.



Newsweek, August 8, 1983.



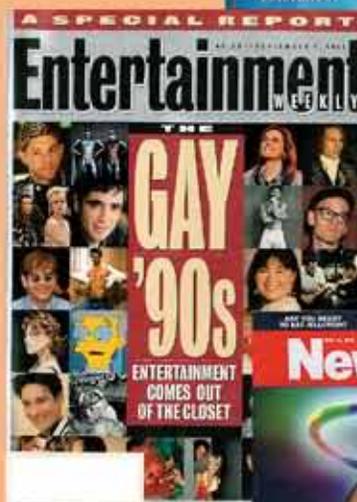
▲ Time, Sept. 8, 1975.



▲ Mother Jones, November 1987



▲ Time, April 23, 1979



▲ Entertainment Weekly, September 8, 1995.



Newsweek, May 21, 2012.



▲ Time, April 14, 1997.

# Early LGBT Media

The earliest known homosexual-focused publication in the U.S. was Friendship and Freedom, produced by the short-lived, Chicago-based Society for Human Rights, founded by gay postal worker Henry Gerber (who was inspired by homosexual media he saw in Germany during World War I). There were also progressive and arts-oriented publications that were inclusive of diverse sexual and gender identities.

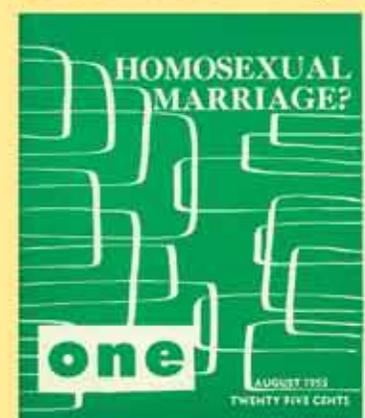


Courtesy of Jonathan Ned Katz.

Lisa Ben's 1940s lesbian newsletter Vice Versa was followed by ONE, Mattachine Review, The Ladder and other short- and longer-term media for general and special interests in the community.



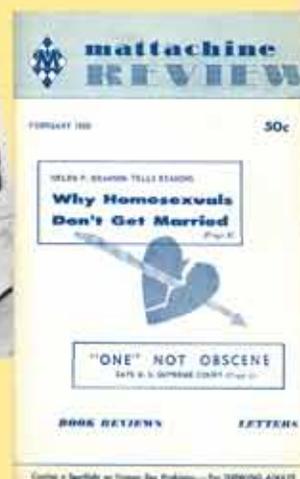
▲ Vice Versa lesbian publication, October 1947.



▲ ONE magazine, August 1953.



▲ The Ladder, June 1966.



▲ Mattachine Review, February 1958.



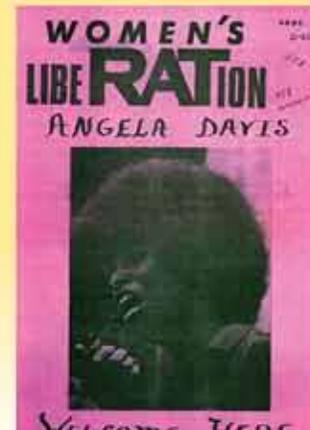
▲ The October 24, 1966 PRIDE publication in Los Angeles, which later became The Los Angeles Advocate and later still The Advocate.



▲ The Los Angeles Advocate, October 1968.



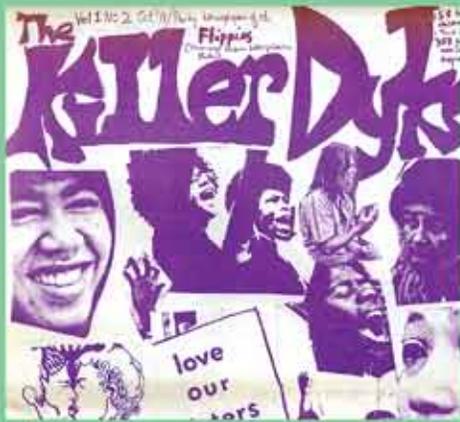
▲ Drum magazine, 1965.



▲ Women's LibeRATion, 1970.

# Post-Stonewall LGBT Media

There were dozens of pre-Stonewall U.S. LGBT publications, but in 1969, there was a huge increase in media outlets, some that lasted just a few issues, some that are still publishing today. On this page are a few of the Chicago LGBT publications from the 1970s.



▲ A portion of the cover of Killer Dyke newspaper, October 1971.



▲ Mattachine Midwest Newsletter published both pre- and post-Stonewall in Chicago. This is from June 1968.



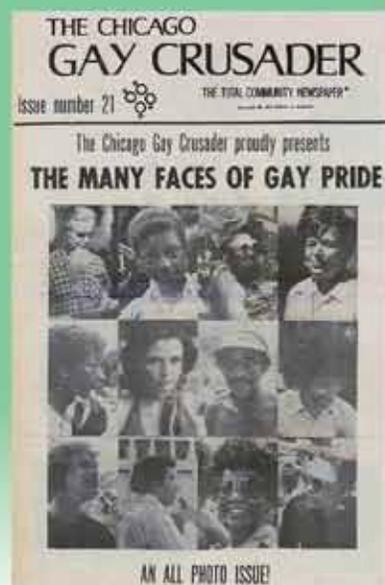
▲ Lavender Woman, September 1972.



▲ Chicago Gay Pride paper, 1971.



▲ GayLife, June 20, 1975.

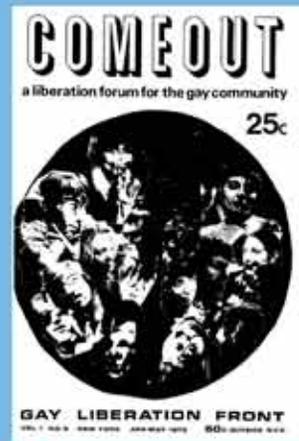


▲ The Chicago Gay Crusader's 1975 post-Pride issue.

Images courtesy of the M. Kuda Archives, Oak Park, Illinois.

# Post-Stonewall LGBT Media

Here are a few more regional LGBT publications from the 1970s-1980s.



▲ Come Out of New York, May 1970.



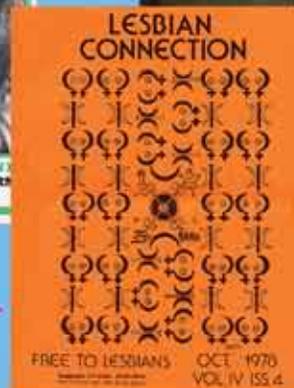
▲ The Lesbian Tide, May-June 1973.



▲ Gaysweek in New York, September 11, 1978.



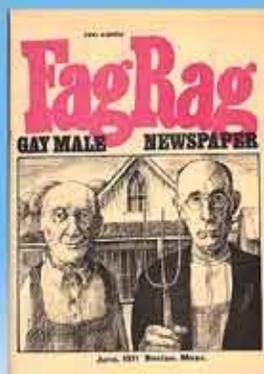
▲ GAY of New York, February 16, 1970.



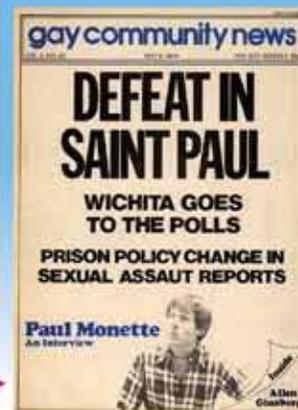
▲ Lesbian Connection, October 1978.



▲ BLK, April 1989.



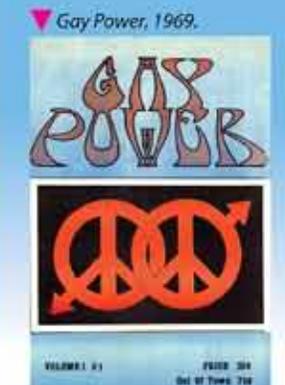
▲ Fag Rag of Boston, June 1971.



▲ Gay Community News, May 6, 1978.



▲ Drag magazine, 1972.



▲ Gay Power, 1969.

# Longtime Papers

These final two panels feature some of the longest-running regional LGBT newspapers.



Bay Area Reporter's first issue, April 1, 1971.



Between The Lines' first issue, March 15, 1993.



Dallas Voice's first issue, May 11, 1984.



The Gay Blade's first issue, October 1969; it is now the Washington Blade.



Bay Windows' first issue, March 1983.



Frontiers' first issue, May 6, 1982.

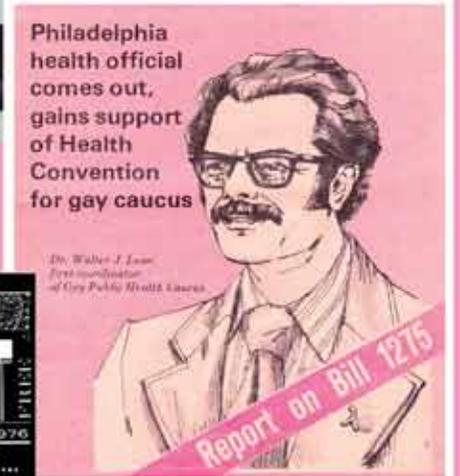
# Longtime Papers



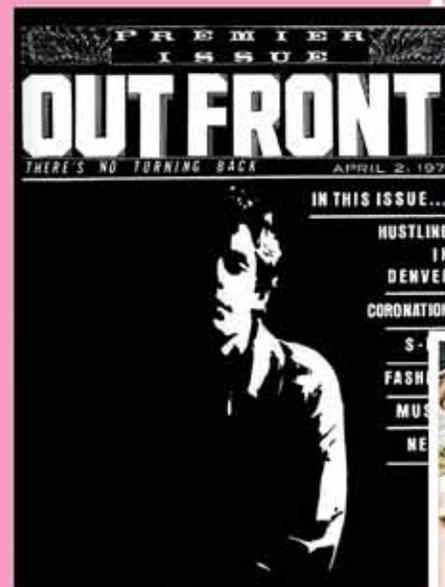
The October 19, 2000, issue of LGNY, which was founded in 1995 and was Gay City News' predecessor publication.



Philadelphia health official comes out, gains support of Health Convention for gay caucus



The first issue of Philadelphia Gay News, Jan. 3, 1976.



The first issue of Denver's Out Front, founded on April 2, 1976.



GA Voice, June 25, 2010.



Windy City Times' first issue, September 26, 1985.



Hushabye, part of Steppenwolf First Look Repertory of New Work. Photo by Emily Schwartz

## THEATER REVIEW

### Steppenwolf First Look Repertory of New Work

**Playwright:** Tanya Saracho, Joshua Conkel, Martyna Majok  
**At:** Steppenwolf Garage Theater, 1624 N. Halsted St.  
**Tickets:** 312-335-1650;  
[www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org); \$20  
**Runs through:** Aug. 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Each of the three plays running in repertory under the collective banner of Steppenwolf Theater's First Look festival raises the question of whether suicide is the answer when you think you've hit bottom. Only one sends us home wholly convinced that it isn't.

Joshua Conkel's *Okay, Bye* begins at an AA meeting where former high school classmates Jenny and Megan reunite unexpectedly. The latter discloses her plan to euthanize herself with the aid of an over-the-counter device sold in pharmacies for that very purpose—a declaration rendering her credibility immediately suspect, but serving nonetheless as a premise for arguments regarding her avowed intent. Brenda Barrie and Lara Phillips grapple with their patently artificial dialogue, valiantly generating suspense sufficient to prevent our tuning out before an epilogue hints that the struggling BFFs' necrophile fantasy might be a morale-bolstering rite invoked to reaffirm their rejection of less desirable alternatives.

The woman on the skids in Martyna Majok's *Ironbound* has already suffered two ill-starred marriages, two minimum-wage jobs, a runaway son, unemployment and homelessness. After an impromptu rescue by a teenage drug dealer whose preternatural chivalry leads us to wonder if the author means him to be an angel-samaritan, our heroine's renewed confidence enables her to negotiate sensibly with would-be husband number three. Chicago expat Lusie Strus performs a similar rescue on a text emerging as less a play than an interior monologue, assisted by foils Paul D'Addario, Nate Santana and Billy Fenderson.

Contrasting with these gloomy sermons is Tanya Saracho's *Hushabye*, a comedy boasting linear structure and externalized action uninterrupted by imaginary scenarios/murky flashbacks. Its setting is a newly rehabbed loft apartment in Pilsen, occupied by a likewise newly rehabbed artist named Erika, one of two sisters recovering from the death of their parents. With the intervention of Erika's hipster landlord and happily gay cousin, siblings Erika and Cynthia reclaim administration of their late

father's real-estate business from the dubious control of the latter's status-conscious husband, thus restoring the broken family's stability.

Director Yasen Peyankov has assembled an all-star cast that keeps the humor forthcoming and the optimism unrelenting, making this the most accessible (not to mention commercially savvy) play of the 2014 line-up. Conkel and Majok's social agendas might fuel post-show discussions, but you could base an entire television series on Saracho's charming and feisty clan, whose company we could enjoy for much longer than the 90-minute performance slot permits.

### Jane Lynch to announce Jeff Award nominations

Actress and Chicago native Jane Lynch will announce the Joseph Jefferson Awards ("Jeff Awards") Thursday, Aug. 21, in Chicago.

Lynch—best known as Coach Sue Sylvester on TV's *Glee*—started her acting career in Chicago at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and *The Second City*.

The 46th Annual Jeff Awards ceremony honoring excellence in Chicago theatre which will be held on Monday, Oct. 13, at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

### '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.

Rachel Rockwell will direct, with Roberta Duchak providing musical direction.

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). For individual reservations, 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).

## SPOTLIGHT



Time is running out to relive *My First Time*, the interactive show of monologues and intimate stories focusing on the premiere sexual experiences of all kinds of people—including you, too, if you choose to participate. Broken Nose Theatre launched itself as a new Chicago theater company in 2012 by presenting the Midwest premiere of the 2007 off-Broadway show, which grew out of a website called [www.myfirsttime.com](http://www.myfirsttime.com) dating back to 1998. Broken Nose Theatre's revival of *My First Time* continues at 11 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 29 at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are \$25; call 773-404-7336 or visit [www.greenhousetheater.org](http://www.greenhousetheater.org) or [www.brokennosetheatre.com](http://www.brokennosetheatre.com). Photo courtesy of Broken Nose Theatre

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by Terrence McNally

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## THEATER PROFILE

# Willa Taylor showcases Goodman's original behind-the-script talents

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Goodman Theatre Director of Education and Community Engagement Willa Taylor is a woman with a wide variety of projects. Whatever the project, social justice and education is always intertwined. On Aug. 11-12 at Goodman Theatre, Taylor led the eighth annual General Theater Studies (GTS) showcase.

Taylor is well-known in the Chicago LGBT community, and is married to longtime Chicago feminist and LGBT activist and filmmaker Mary Morten.

Raised in Dallas, when the south was still segregated, Taylor live with her mother and father. Her grandparents lived down the street and while waiting for her parents to come home from work each day, she developed a close relationship with her grandmother, who she is named after.

"She had a very radical social justice streak, so a lot of my sense of justice and equity in the world were shaped by her," Taylor said of her maternal grandmother, who was a missionary and college history professor.

Taylor's interest in the arts began at a young age. During the school day, she had art classes and music classes everyday and gym class including dance. Attracted to the uniforms and half-time shows, she took to the band where she played clarinet and then percussion upon getting braces. She still plays piano and blues harmonica, she laughs, "badly, but enthusiastically." Her college days at University of Texas brought about her love for the theater in an unexpected way.

"I fell in love with the production and the technical side of theater," said Taylor. "I was never really interested in the acting and being on stage. Nobody ever really talks about the back of the house stuff and that to me is the most fascinating part of the job. To really be able to guide an audience emotionally because of the kind of lighting that you use and where you place it, or because of the color of the gel or because of how you use sound—that to me is just amazing."

Starting her work experience in the theater, she began as a stage manager and worked in the crew for both theater and concerts in Washington, D.C. In the '80s, Taylor explained, there was a push to have actors of color be capable of performing more than roles written specifically for actors of color. The New York organization The Non-Traditional Casting Symposium did workshops across the country and when the symposium came to D.C., the Martha Knight, Arena Stage's stage manager asked Taylor to work on that project.

"Zelda's [Fichandler, Arena Stage artistic director and co-founder] idea was that it wasn't enough just to have actors of color on stage if you had an all-white administrative staff," said Taylor of her mentor. "So, she had this idea of trying to develop a program that would train early career professionals of color in an intensive way and then get them placed into positions of administration and management. She asked me to develop that and run that program. It was a fluke of the fact that I was in the right place at the right time."

Making the transition into an arts education career, she established the Allen Lee Hughes Fellows, which is one of the first theater-run apprenticeships designed to increase participation of people of color in professional theater. Her career moved on to New York City's Lincoln Center Theater, where she created The Urban Ensemble—a multidisciplinary project focused on at-risk youth.

Her experience continues as she also consulted for New Victory Theatre where she designed



Willa Taylor. Photo by Brian Kuhlman Photography

the arts and education program for their inaugural season. Taylor credits Goodman Theatre's Student Subscription Series (SSS) as the model she used for the programs she established at Area Stage and Lincoln Center. The Student Subscription Series trains teachers how to use artistic practice to differentiate instruction and create authentic learning opportunities for their students.

"I believe in social justice work and I believe to those to whom much is given, much is required—not something subtly that I learned from my grandmother," she said of her passion to give back. "So, the responsibility that I have, not just in this job, but because of the privileges of my education and my life experience, requires me to open doors and make a way available for people who don't have that kind of access and privilege. That essentially is and has been my life's work. Here at the Goodman, that really manifests itself in a myriad in the kinds of programs that we run, the access we try to provide for people who may not necessarily think that the Goodman is an environment in which they are welcome."

That requirement she believes in to give back comes in different forms. Taylor has also served as cultural director for Gay Games IV in New York. For 12 years she was a Russian and Arabic linguist in the U.S. Navy. In that time she oversaw productions for the United Service Organization in Greece and managed Armed Forces Radio and Television in Turkey, where she conceived the "Profiles in Black" history series. Taylor also expanded into the culinary arts as she opened Taylor-Made Cuisine, a gourmet catering company and neighborhood bistro Home Café in Chicago. She also helped in opening and was catering chef for Chicago's EatZi's Easygoing Gourmet.

In her seventh season at Goodman Theatre, the education and community engagement programs Taylor manages at Goodman includes: GTS, SSS, Narry Bandle Young Critics, Youth Art Council, GeNarrations, CONTEXT: Discourse and Discussion.

"That program is very special to me because you can see manifest how the arts can transform students and student voices," said Taylor of GTS.

The program draws in 80 Chicagoland teen-

agers for a comprehensive intensive designed to further critical thinking, literacy and storytelling skills. Taylor, along with teaching artists Bobby Biedrzycki, Kevin Douglas, Khani-sha Foster, Tony Sancho and Paul Whitehouse introduce the 14-to-18-year-old students to theater using storytelling, ensemble building, object work and writing exercises in two three-and-a-half hour sessions per day, four days per week.

"GTS, without a doubt, is the best six weeks of my year," said Taylor.

GTS' 2014 showcase, "Heartscape," reflects the participants' ethnographic research with family, friends and members of their communities. The performance is built around the question, "When was a moment you had to fight for love?"

Since its launch in 2007, more than 600 students have participated in GTS. GTS is concurrent with InterGens, which involves 13 teens who have previously participated in the Goodman's education programs plus senior citizen

participants of GeNarrations—they engage in a weekly storytelling session around the same theme of fighting for love. The groups will also perform a final piece at the Aug. 11 and 12 showcases.

"I would say the thing I'm most proud of is actually not programmatic, but philosophical," said Taylor. "That is sort of the whole-hearted embrace of the philosophy of inclusion and community that's woven into the fabric of how the institution performs as a whole. From the top down, from Bob Falls, who is the artistic director, and Roche Schuler, who is the executive director, all the way down to all of the staff, everybody is committed to the ideas of diversity and inclusion and community in the work that we do. It's not something that I have to constantly explain; it's not something I necessarily have to fight for. It's very, very rare for an institution to really walk the talk around diversity and inclusion."

For more information, visit [www.goodmantheatre.org](http://www.goodmantheatre.org).

## 'Jangleheart Circus' at The Den Aug. 21-23

A Jangleheart Circus—a three-day sketch and improv comedy festival produced by Upstairs Gallery—returns to The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., for its second year on Aug. 21-23.

The festival will feature 111 acts on four stages, including celebrated local Chicago headliners The Nerdolouges, Dummy, Kill All Comedy and Rainbow Deli, with special guests Baltimore's Wham City Comedy.

Other festival highlights include sketch shows from The Late Live Show; (former Chicagoans now based in L.A.), Snack Time with John, Nate, and Carmen; and WiseSnatch. There will also be a live reading from How to Win at Everything by The Onion's Sam Weiner and Daniel Kibblesmith.

One-day passes are \$25, with three-day admission being \$60; visit Brown Paper Tickets. More info about the event is at [JangleheartCircus.com](http://JangleheartCircus.com).

## Chicago Theatre Week expanding next year

Chicago Theatre Week is expanding in 2015.

The upcoming celebration of theatregoing in Chicago is returning for its third year and will take place Feb. 12-22, 2015, spanning a week and two full weekends for the first time.

More than 100 productions are expected to participate as part of the 2015 line-up. Chicago Theatre Week is presented by the League of Chicago Theatres in partnership with Choose Chicago.

A few of Chicago Theatre Week's 2015 participating productions include The Selfish Giant at Chicago Children's Theatre; Waiting for Godot at Court Theatre; Rapture, Blister, Burn at the Goodman Theatre; Tannhauser at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; Tommy at Paramount Theatre; Marie Antoinette at Step-penwolf Theatre Company; Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play at Theater Wit; and Samsara at Victory Gardens Theater.

The complete list of participating theaters will be listed this fall on [www.chicagotheatreweek.com](http://www.chicagotheatreweek.com).

## 'The Marvelettes' at Black Ensemble thru Sept. 7

Black Ensemble Theater Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor has announced the world-premiere musical The Story of The Marvelettes,

directed by Black Ensemble Associate Director Rueben D. Echoles.

The Story of The Marvelettes will be presented at the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St., through Sept. 7.

Among the Motown group's hit songs are "Don't Mess with Bill" and "Please Mr. Postman."

Tickets are \$55-\$65; visit [www.blackensemble.org](http://www.blackensemble.org) or call 773-769-4451.

## Kinky Boots returning to Chicago in 2015

Broadway In Chicago has announced that Kinky Boots—the smash-hit musical that brings together four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein (Book) and Grammy Award-



Cyndi Lauper. Press photo

winning rock icon Cyndi Lauper (Tony Award-winner for Best Score for Kinky Boots)—will return to Chicago for a limited engagement at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., on July 14-26, 2015.

Directed and choreographed by Tony Award winner Jerry Mitchell, Kinky Boots opened on Broadway April 4, 2013. Kinky Boots took home six 2013 Tony Awards, the most of any show in the season, including Best Musical, Best Score (Lauper), Best Choreography (Mitchell), Best Orchestrations (Stephen Oremus) and Best Sound Design (John Shivers).

Group tickets for 10 or more are now on sale by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at 312-977-1710. Individual tickets for Kinky Boots will go on sale at a later date.

## DANCE

# Francisco Aviña's one-man show is about 'A.r.T.' (anti-retroviral therapy)

BY PHILLIP-JOHN PUZZO

Francisco Aviña was diagnosed with HIV on June 16, 2011.

Aviña, 38, is a professional dancer; presently, he represents Chicago's Hubbard Dance Company but over the past two decades, the Mexican artist has choreographed or danced alongside entertainers like Celine Dion, Justin Timberlake, Bette Midler, Elton John and numerous others around the globe.

Three years ago, Aviña and his longtime boyfriend, also a dancer, were performing in Tokyo; their relationship was on the rocks and Aviña believed his lover was cheating. Bursting with rage and pain, Aviña stumbled down an all-too-familiar path for many: He got drunk, met someone in a bar and went home with him.

Two weeks later, after returning to the United States, Aviña contracted spinal meningitis, a side effect of HIV that causes disability, paralysis, amputation and death. He was diagnosed with the virus and spent two months in the hospital. "Life is about personal responsibility," according to Aviña. "Now, I live with raw intention. I believe all people must explore every consequence of a choice, no matter how small."

On Aug. 29-30 and Sept. 5-6, the artist will tell his story, broadcasting lessons such as "objectives fuel actions" and "individual responsibility spurs mindfulness." Aviña is putting on a one-man show, "A.r.T.," incorporating dance, spoken word, video, props and live music.

The sponsoring organization is High Concept Laboratories, which dedicates time and energy to engaging Chicagoans with fine arts and culture as well as provides money and space for artists to create new projects.

"A.r.T." is an acronym for anti-retroviral therapy, a medication many HIV-affected persons use. Each day, Aviña takes the combination drug Complera. The only side effect Aviña experiences is nausea, but this occurs rather intermittently; overall, the artist's health and physicality are similar to how he was before he contracted the virus.

Quite obviously, however, Aviña's emotions, day-to-day mentality and larger worldview have dramatically changed since he was diagnosed, explaining his deep-seated desire to create "A.r.T." He said, "In order to move forward, I need to forgive myself."

"When I contracted the virus, I acted on my ego and insecurities, ignoring intention. Spending two months in bed with spinal meningitis was a huge metaphor because I made my own bed. I had many weeks to contemplate my intentions and consider my mistakes."

Aviña said he is eager to inspire others to examine their consciousness as well as excited to (hopefully) impart a little wisdom. Another take-away Aviña hopes A.r.T.'s attendees will recognize is to not pity those affected by HIV. According to Aviña, "Not only is the performance about accountability and forgiveness, but also about realizing that people with HIV aren't dying anymore and the disease is manageable."

Lastly, Aviña said, "The show is a continued recalibration of regularly assessing my life's intentions. 'A.r.T.' is a personal reminder as well as a performance. The show documents my journey of becoming one with myself and one with God." Aviña concluded by talking about the catchphrase regularly exclaimed by people involved with the show: "Life is the only option." The artist explained, "I can't constantly go into a dark place and berate myself, but [I can] continue to live and explore new opportunities."

"A.r.T." will take place at Mana Contemporary, 2233 S. Throop St.; tickets for A.r.T. are \$18 and all four performances (Aug. 29-30 and Sept. 5-6) start at 8 p.m. Visit <http://high-concept-laboratories.ticketleap.com/art-anti-retroviral-therapy/>.



Francisco Aviña. Photo courtesy of Aviña

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## The Dog; The Giver; film note

On the sweltering afternoon of Aug. 22, 1972—when John Wojtowicz robbed a bank in Brooklyn, taking hostages and standing off with the police for hours—he entered the legion of New York's most memorable characters.

He also became a gay-rights pioneer, of sorts, when the motive for the robbery came to light: Wojtowicz wanted the money to finance a gender-reassignment operation for his lover, a trans individual named Ernest Aron *nee* Liz Eden. Three years later, both were immortalized in the Hollywood firmament with Sidney Lumet's vibrant masterpiece of the incident, *Dog Day Afternoon*, which starred Al Pacino and Chris Sarandon as the star-crossed lovers, both giving Oscar-nominated performances in the process.

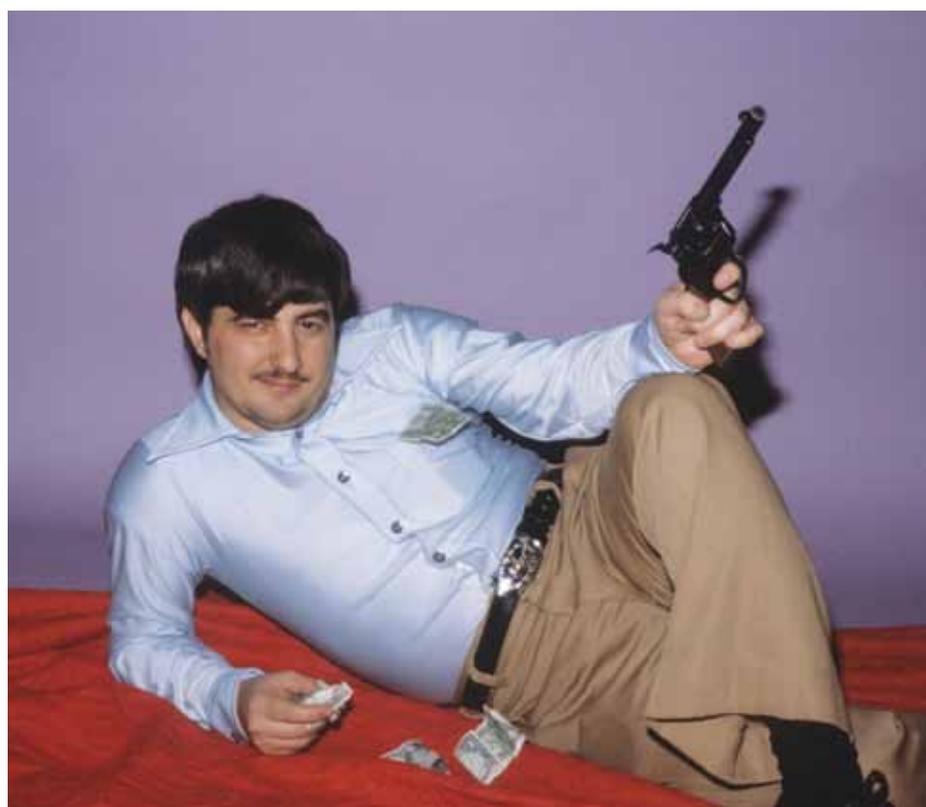
As incredible as the story of the robbery and its lively, disparate characters are, there is much more to this story than *Dog Day Afternoon* revealed. Now, in Allison Berg and Frank Keraudren's *The Dog*, courtesy of Wojtowicz himself, we get the whole enchilada. Talk about colorful! For starters, the short, pugna-cious, unapologetically horny Wojtowicz seemingly spent a lifetime indulging his sybaritic pleasures, both female and male. At the film's outset, this self-described "pervert" claims four wives and 23 girlfriends, although it becomes clear that his use of the word "girlfriend" blurs traditional gender categories.

"Anybody can be straight but it takes somebody special to be gay," Wojtowicz proudly asserts as he takes us along on a tour of the West Village, revisiting his old stomping ground, which he began visiting for male sex when his first marriage went on the rocks in 1969 just after Stonewall. In the process, a history of the burgeoning gay-liberation movement comes to light as Wojtowicz—who was known in the community by his alias, "Little John Basso"—was a fixture at the Gay Activists Alliance dances and took part in various gay lib activities. It was during one of these social occasions in June 1971 that Little John first laid eyes on "Ernie," aka Liz Eden.

Jeremiah Newton, a friend of Ernie who was also close with Candy Darling (and the producer of the excellent *Beautiful Darling* documentary on her), recalls the obsession that Little John felt for Ernie, showering her with gifts and indulging her every whim. The two were "married" in a mock ceremony that was so lavish and realistically done it fooled church officials (right down to the bridesmaids in drag).

This astonishing retro footage is just one example of a film filled with such moments. (Newscasts of the bank robbery and a rare talk-show appearance by Eden after her transition to female are also eye-openers.) The cast of characters—which also include Little John's doting, tough but broadminded mother to his first wife Carmen to George Heath, his male prison lover—is nearly as fascinating as the main attraction.

That would be Wojtowicz himself, of course,



John Wojtowicz poses with gun and dollar bills in Drafthouse Films' *The Dog*. Photo courtesy of Drafthouse Films.

who the filmmakers interviewed repeatedly over four years as he struggled with skin cancer (dying in 2006). Once the camera turns, nothing deters the profane Little John, who exhibits gifts for self-aggrandizement second to none, and for making both mundane and sordid details tremendously absorbing. He's bizarrely gleeful as he recalls everything from the most salacious, amusing, hurtful and oftentimes depressing areas of his often tatty life history of which, not surprisingly, the robbery was the infamous highlight. Even that renowned incident, worked over in Lumet's film and two subsequent documentaries, elicits new details. (For instance, the three would-be robbers went to a matinee of *The Godfather* before committing the robbery as inspiration.)

Fueled by a queer Scheherazade whose legacy is both outrageous and pathetic, Berg and Keraudren's *The Dog* is as entertaining as its central subject. It's available on VOD and iTunes. <http://drafhousefilms.com/film/the-dog>

Set in a utopian, though rather boring, pristine futureworld, *The Giver* is based on Lois Lowry's 20-year-old YA novel that has been a must-read for teens since it was first published. The story focuses on 16-year-old Jonas (Brenton Thwaites). Along with his fellow teens, Jonas is assigned a job during the Ceremony of Growth. Unlike his pals, who get the job of rocking babies in the nursery or other nondescript vocations, Jonas gets singled out to be the new receiver of memory.

According to the chief elder (Meryl Streep, stern and overbearing in a gray hippie wig with bangs), this one-of-a-kind job is the juiciest of positions. Jonas will work closely with the giver (Jeff Bridges, who speaks as if he had a mouth full of marbles) and will slowly receive all the knowledge of the previous world—the world that existed before it apparently mostly destroyed itself.

Soon, the memories (which include learning to play the piano and an introduction to war and violence) begin to mess with the rigid regulations that Jonas and everyone else lives by—rules decreed by the ruling council. When the giver, who is at odds with the chief elder, realizes that Jonas is out of control, he overdoses the young heartthrob with the entire data bank of memories at his disposal before encouraging him to escape. We know this is a fantasy—and a dated one at that—because not one of the memories that covers the gamut of human history includes a single example from LGBT history or a queer person.

At that moment, this vaguely enjoyable but rather pedestrian movie from director Phillip Noyce—a quasi-Pleasantville (right down to

## Reeling details unveiled

The organizers of Reeling, the second longest-running LGBT film festival in the world, announced a line-up of movies for its 32nd edition, taking place Sept. 18-25.

Reeling returns to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., for its opening-night gala on Thursday, Sept. 18, and then moves on to its main venue, Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., Sept. 19-25. The fest's home base, Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., will also host select screenings.

Reeling launches with the presentation of Eric Schaeffer's *Boy Meets Girl* at the Music Box. The movie stars transgender actress Michelle Hendley. The closing-night film will be Patrik-Ian Polk's *Blackbird*, which stars Julian Walker, Mo'Nique and Isaiah Washington.

Among the centerpiece screenings are *Tom at the Farm*, described as a "disturbing thriller"; *Lilting*, starring out actor Ben Whishaw (*Skyfall*; *Cloud Atlas*) as a grieving man trying to reach out to his deceased lover's mother, who hadn't known her son was gay; lesbian feature *Anatomy of a Love Seen*; and *Drunktown's Finest*, which Robert Redford executive-produced.

The complete festival lineup and schedule, including shorts programs and special-event information, will be available on the Reeling website mid-August. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.reelingfilmfestival.org](http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org) or in person at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., starting Aug. 25.

## Takei documentary at Facets Aug. 29-Sept. 4

To Be Takei—Jennifer Kroot's documentary about openly gay actor George Takei—will screen at Facets Cinémathèque, 1517 W. Fullerton Ave., on Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

The 90-minute film focuses on how Takei has used his celebrity to fight for marriage equality and civil rights, and how he has become a social-media icon with more than 5 million Facebook fans.

The showtimes are Friday, Aug. 29, 7 and 9 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 30, at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 31, at 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m.; and Monday-Thursday, Sept. 1-4, at 7 and 9 p.m.

the black-and-white world giving way to color as the forbidden knowledge is learned)—lost its rather tentative hold on me. Back home, I did the sensible thing and popped 1976's cheesy but fun *Logan's Run* into the DVD player and enjoyed a true sci-fi guilty pleasure—something I suspect *The Giver* will never have the distinction of enjoying.

### Film note:

Bruce Campbell, king of the '80s horror B movies, is in town for **Bruce Campbell's Horror Film Festival**, which takes place Thursday, Aug. 21—Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

The highlight will surely be *The Evil Dead Marathon*—screenings of Campbell's three best-known movies, the gross-out black comedy/horror films: *Evil Dead*, *Evil Dead II* and *Army of Darkness*. Campbell will preside over the screenings that are taking place Saturday, Aug. 23, at The Dome at the Rosemont Ballpark (34 Jennie Finch Way, Des Plaines) beginning at 8 p.m. Advance tickets <http://wizardworld.ticketleap.com/awesomefest/>

**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)

General admission is \$9; visit <http://www.facets.org/cinematheque/films/aug2014/takei.php>.

## 'Orange' wins Creative Emmys

On Aug. 16, the Television Academy presented the 2014 Creative Arts Emmy Awards for programs and individual achievements at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

Jane Lynch, Tony Hale, Amy Schumer, Allison Janney, Tim Gunn, Heidi Klum and Joe Manganiello were among the presenters.



Uzo Aduba in *Orange Is the New Black*. Photo from Lionsgate

HBO won the most awards, with 15. NBC was second with 10.

Netflix won seven honors, thanks in large part to the women's prison series *Orange Is the New Black*. Among other awards, it won for Outstanding Casting for a Comedy Series, Outstanding Cinematography for Nonfiction Programming and Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming. In addition, Uzo Aduba won for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for portraying character Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren.

In other LGBT-related news, Lynch prevailed as Outstanding Host for a Reality or Reality-Competition Program for her NBC show *Hollywood Game Night*. Also, the 67th Annual Tony Awards (which Neil Patrick Harris hosted in 2013) won for Outstanding Special Class Program.

The Primetime Emmy Awards will take place Monday, Aug. 25.



## Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey on touring and Howard Jones

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

The British trio Thompson Twins were a staple of the '80s pop-music diet and they created a dent, both musically and stylistically. At a time when big hair and bright and bold colors made the cut, the group crafted songs like "Hold Me Now," "Doctor Doctor," "You Take Me Up" and "Lies," which became worldwide hits.

Nearly three decades after their last tour in 1987, lead singer, multi-instrumentalist and producer Tom Bailey is back on the road performing the hits that put the Thompson Twins on the map.

**Windy City Times: Your last record with the Thompson Twins was *Queer* in 1991. Why did the group break up?**

Tom Bailey: We reached a point where we wanted to move away from the bright lights of the mainstream pop world and become more experimental again—what we had come from before. We changed our names and did two albums under the name Babble, and then I started to invent new projects to do which engaged different areas of music. I did some

experimental, electronica, classical Indian music and working with film.

**WCT: How did this tour come about?**

TB: I had a fixed idea that this would never happen but everyone wanted the Thompson Twins to re-form, and it was perfectly obvious that it was never going to happen partly because two of the members (Alannah Currie and Joe Leeway) left the music business and went on to other things. I never stopped making music, so it's natural for me to do this on my own.

**WCT: You are co-headlining with Howard Jones [who had songs such as "Things Can Only Get Better"]. Were the two of you friends in the '80s?**

TB: We just knew each other from doing shows together occasionally. But I always knew that Howard was someone I got on well with—he's a nice guy. Sometimes creative people can be a little spiky [laughs] and we have none of that whatsoever—we're like brothers.

I had already crossed the line into pop music by working on a project with a Mexican singer who wanted to write something with me in the style of the Thompson Twins. Having done it

and recorded it he said, "Why don't you sing on it?" I did it and I really enjoyed it. And it was shortly after, that Howard called and said, "What do you think about touring together?"

**WCT: What happened to the clothes that you wore onstage with the group?**

TB: Most of it doesn't exist anymore and it either got worn out or disintegrated or it's been lost. It's certainly not the kind of thing I would want to wear today. [Both laugh.] I think Alannah and Joe hung onto more of the

clothes than I did.

**WCT: When did you decide that it was time to leave the hairstyle behind?**

TB: It's been a long time since I had red hair. In those days we were doing it to express ourselves and extending our personalities to the maximum in a cartoonish way, because that's what we wanted to do. It was also cutting edge, fashion-wise. I'm not quite concerned with that now—I don't feel the need to look fashionable.

**WCT: How did you come to write music for the 1998 gay-themed film *The Edge of Seventeen*?**

TB: They sent me scenes from the film, and I played them back on a VHS videotape and wrote music for it and recorded it in my studio. I just did the soundtrack for the various scenes in the film.

**WCT: Did you have a hand in choosing the songs for the upcoming Thompson Twins CD *Remixes and Rarities*?**

TB: This was going to happen whether I got involved or not. Since it was going to be done, I said that I would get involved. They interviewed me for the liner notes about each of the tracks and I talked about how they were made and what was going on at the time.

**WCT: Is there a release date for the CD?**

TB: I really don't know, but I'm hoping that we have copies to take on tour with us.

**WCT: Are you nervous about going back on the road after all this time?**

TB: Oh, for sure. I'm incredibly excited but also quite terrified. We just played full rehearsals in the last couple of days and I feel so good about the music and the way the band is playing, and I think that will carry me through. But I lie awake at night thinking, "Oh gosh, what have I gotten myself into?" [Laughs]

**The Retro Futura Tour 2014 will be at Ravinia in Highland Park, 200 Ravinia Park Rd., on Wed., Aug. 27. Visit [www.ravinia.org](http://www.ravinia.org) or [www.facebook.com/ThompsonTwinsTomBailey](http://www.facebook.com/ThompsonTwinsTomBailey).**

## LESBIAN-LIKE WOMEN OF THE 1800s

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German historian Ingeborg Boxhammer will be in Chicago to lecture on her research into the lives of suffragists **Margarete Herz** (1872-1947) and **Helene Wolff** (1871-1917).

During the German Empire the dentists Margarete Herz and Helene Wolff were founding members of the local Women's Suffrage Association in Bonn in 1909, in which they were active together with the publicist and fighter for women's suffrage Johanna Elberskirchen (1864-1943).

Boxhammer is co-administrator of the website [www.lesbengeschichte.org](http://www.lesbengeschichte.org) since 2005.

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## BOOKS

# Sociologist discusses the end of the 'Gayborhood'

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

On March 1, 1711, the very first issue of The Spectator magazine was published by British essayist and poet Joseph Addison and Irish writer Richard Steele. In his essay for the edition, Addison talked of his insatiable thirst for knowledge that carried him to all the countries of Europe in which there was something new and strange to be seen. "Thus I live in the world," he wrote, "as a spectator of mankind."

Growing up and receiving his early education in the town 20 miles west of Chicago that bears Addison's name, award-winning author and University of British Columbia Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Amin Ghaziani has carried insatiable thirst for knowledge all of his life. Part of his painstaking research as a spectator of the collective behavior of mankind has brought Ghaziani to the conclusion that the renowned gay neighborhoods or "gayborhoods" of the United States such as Chicago's Boystown, West Hollywood California and San Francisco's Castro are doing a demographic about-face and gradually becoming straight.

In his new book "There Goes the Gayborhood", Ghaziani studies the incubation, forma-

tion, change and resurrection of gay neighborhoods across the country and examines the consequences wrought through the loss of their cultural identity.

in 1999 to complete his M.S. and Ph.D. in sociology at Northwestern. While engaged in his studies, he lived in Boystown until 2008. From there, he held a three year post-doctoral position at the Society of Fellows at Princeton University. In 2011, he took up his current position at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Ghaziani said that training to be a sociologist kept the young student tuned in to everything that was going on around him. While he was living there, he watched Boystown undergo some dramatic changes. "Economically, it was gentrifying during those years," he said. "New condominiums were going up, new restaurants and health clubs were coming into the neighborhood. I also noticed changes in the demographic composition. In casual conversations, my friends and I talked about noticing more straight couples in the neighborhood and we became curious as to why the transition was occurring."

He was not alone. "There was quite a cacophony of public discourse pertaining to the demographic and cultural changes transpiring in many iconic gay neighborhoods in the United States," Ghaziani recalled. An Oct. 30, 2007, article in the New York Times wondered if gay neighborhoods were becoming passé. "There has been a notable shift of gravity from the Castro," journalist Patricia Leigh Brown wrote, "with young gay men and lesbians fanning out into less-expensive neighborhoods."

The economic and cultural changes in neighborhoods like Boystown leave "some gays priced out while others evolve out," Ghaziani said. "They are having conversations about 'Where do I go next?' and, through word of mouth, they know that there are some women friends who have just moved to an area like Rogers Park."

In describing the cycle of incubation, formation, change and resurrection, Ghaziani argues in the book that "Incubation [of a gayborhood] typically starts with lesbians. A New York sociologist named Sharon Zukin provocatively characterized lesbians as the 'canaries in the urban coal-mine.' When deciding on where to live, lesbians identify areas of the city that are affordable, politically progressive and have a pre-existing infrastructure in place they can plug into like coffee shops and co-operative grocery stores. They tend to move into the area first."

Formation occurs when gay men begin to follow them in larger numbers. "They channel their resources into building new institutions in the area such as bars and home-décor stores," Ghaziani said adding that change is symbiotic with the major stages of gentrification. "Then the cycle begins again with resurrection."

He cited Andersonville as an example of a neighborhood that was incubated by lesbians and then transformed from "Girlstown" into "Mandersonville" or "Boystown II," noting the illustration of urban change that such language implies.

"Lesbian and gays are urban pioneers," Ghaziani said. "They are often involved in the early stages of urban revitalization." He went on to note a 2013 article on Slate that suggested the best way to save Detroit was to build a gay neighborhood.

Yet with the amount of homophobia that still exists in the United States, what is it about gayborhoods that straight people find so attractive? "I asked residents of Chicago why they wanted to live in Boystown," Ghaziani replied. "There have been some significant thinkers who have publicly stated that if you invest where there are gay people living, then you will have a high return on that investment. Many straight residents perceive gay neighborhoods as emblematic of diversity. They also see them as chic and trendy and, most ironically, family-



Amin Ghaziani. Photo from Ghaziani

friendly."

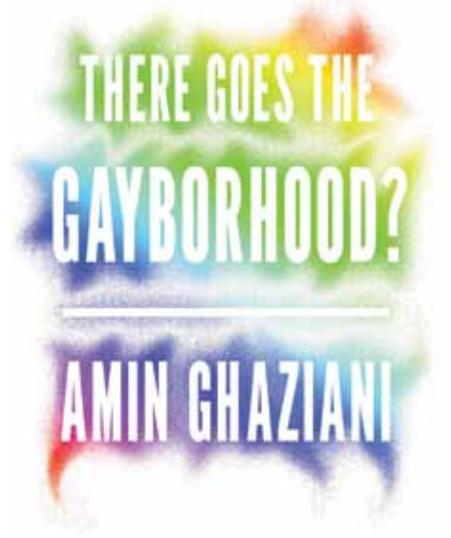
Ultimately, Ghaziani said that the sexual integration of neighborhoods like Boystown and Andersonville has both positive and negative outcomes. "On the one hand, there is evidence for increasing equality," he said. "Those who personally know LGBT people are more likely to be supportive of their rights. On the other hand, we need to be mindful that the United States has a pluralist political system. The loss of a distinct culture therefore may have implications toward the LGBT community in terms of exercising its political influence."

He added that such an influence remains essential even after same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land. "Hate crimes continue unabated beyond the boundaries of gay neighborhoods," he said. "This is especially true today for transgender people."

Ghaziani acknowledged that the harassment of transgender people in gayborhoods is pervasive. "Gayborhoods increase the perception of safety for trans\* residents but—even if a city has one—47 percent [of them] still don't feel safe," he said.

Since a great deal of the research for There Goes the Gayborhood took place before their recent explosion in visibility, Ghaziani said that the data in the book does not focus on the transgender community. However—since his passion and thirst for knowledge remains unquenched—it is possible that the future will yield such a study from the Sage Prize-winning scholar as well as a look at gayborhoods in smaller cities throughout the United States and even a comparative examination of those in European cities such as London. "I see myself as a lifelong student," Ghaziani said. "There's so much more to learn and to teach other people about this issue."

**Ghaziani will be at the Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N. Broadway, on Thursday, Aug. 28, for the launch of There Goes the Gayborhood. See <http://www.unabridgedbookstore.com/>.**



## BOOK REVIEW

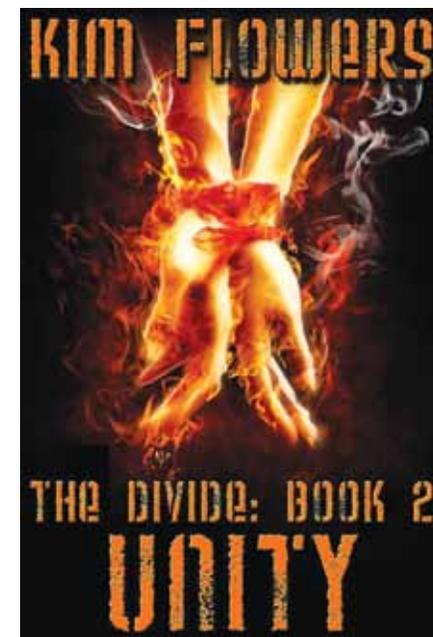
**The Divide: Book 2 Unity**  
by Kim Flowers  
\$13.50; QueerTeen Press;  
185 pages  
BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Picking up directly after the events in The Divide: Book 1 Uprising, Kim Flowers' YA sequel novel The Divide: Book 2 Unity alternates between protagonists Serenity's and Malaki's points of view as both teens, their families and friends work to bring down the Family Protection Movement and their anti-LGBT agenda.

While the first book only hints at the reasons why LGBT people are walled off into communities separate from "normal" people, in The Divide: Book 2 Unity Flowers uses the characters' love of technology and information gathering to great effect in explaining the reasons behind the Second Civil War (the books are set about 200 years into the future) and what happened after that war.

Malaki is captured by the Family Protection Movement and while in captivity she discovers that the movement has an even more sinister agenda than separating LGBT people from the rest of society. This was the most interesting situation in the story that already had a number of twists and turns for Serenity, Malaki and the rest of the members of the Human Equality Movement (HEM).

Amidst the fight to bring down the Family Protection Movement Flowers depicts two moving and poignant young adult lesbian love stories. Serenity and Dawn find their way back to each other after a series of misunderstandings, while Malaki and Akasha realize that their lifetime of friendship is blossoming into something more.



Flowers avoids the tropes that plague other lesbian stories with The Divide: Book 2 Unity and instead provides two very satisfying threads that weave throughout Serenity and Malaki's stories: their refusal to back down from a fight and the respect they are given by the adults in the HEM for their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) knowledge.

For readers who are craving a dystopian story featuring intelligent and resourceful lesbian teens who triumph over adversity, I would highly recommend this book as well as the first one in the series.

See [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-Divide-Book-1-Uprising/41529.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-Divide-Book-1-Uprising/41529.html) to read Malic White's review of Flowers' first book in the series, The Divide: Book 1 Uprising.

**Note:** Flowers is an occasional columnist for Windy City Times.



John Barrowman.

## CHICAGO COMIC CON

# John Barrowman talks 'Torchwood,' 'Arrow' and marriage equality

BY ANDREW DAVIS

John Barrowman is that rare person: the multi-talented heartthrob.

Barrowman—who was born in Scotland and raised in Joliet, Illinois—may be best known for playing omnisexual Captain Jack Harkness on Doctor Who and its popular spinoff, Torchwood, although he's fulfilling many a fan's fantasy as Malcolm Merlyn on the CW series Arrow. (This writer personally remembers him from the short-lived '90s nighttime sudser Central Park West, or C.P.W.)

However, he is also a seasoned theater actor, an accomplished singer with several albums under his belt and a writer (with one book being Hollow Earth, a fantasy/science-fiction novel for young adults he co-wrote with sister Carole).

Windy City Times caught up with Barrowman last week, talking with him about his sci-fi work, Broadway, Robin Williams and Barrowman's marriage to Scott Gill.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, John.

**John Barrowman:** Hey, Andrew. How are you?  
**WCT:** I'm doing OK. I'm processing what a lot of people are—the passing of Robin Williams. Did you meet him, by any chance?

**JB:** No; I never met him. I met his daughter once because she was, I think, the fiancée to Colin Donnell, who played my son on Arrow. I never met [Williams], but it's very sad.

**WCT:** Indeed, it is. However, you mentioned Arrow, so let's move on to that. First of all, I think the show has the best-looking cast on television.

**JB:** [Laughs] YOU said it! We're alright; we're not bad on the eyes.

The funny thing about Arrow is that I was joking with some people the other day that, even when working in theater, I was the youngest in the company. Now I'm the oldest. I'm the daddy.

**WCT:** I can empathize, believe me. Tell our readers about your character on Arrow, who has the best name.

**JB:** Malcolm Merlyn is a ruthless businessman, and he had to be because—and this is my backstory with it—he married his childhood

sweetheart, had a baby very quickly and had to build a world around him to support his family. In the process, he created one of the biggest empires that Starling City [where the show is set] had ever seen.

He wanted to rid the city of all the evil, but went about it the wrong way. He is deemed to be a bad man, but I think of him as a misunderstood hero. Little does Malcolm know that his son is best friends with the Arrow.

He is ruthless, determined and knows what he wants; if you stand in his way, you better watch out. He will knock you sideways—or he'll just kill you to get you out of the way.

**WCT:** I like ambition, but I don't know about killing someone.

**JB:** [Laughs] Remember that it's a comic-book world, so some of the things that happen are fantastic, if that makes any sense.

It's such a good show, because Oliver [The Arrow, played by Stephen Amell] is not a superhero; he's a young man who does exceptional things, and to have him do things in that fantasy world is really a great thing.

**WCT:** So how often are you asked about a Torchwood reunion?

**JB:** Every day, gosh, depending on where I am. If I'm on Twitter, there'll be 500 questions like that, right off the bat, when I sign in. It's every single day—and that's something to be really proud of. When I go to conventions, they are continuing to ask, "When is Captain Jack coming back?"

The bottom line is that it's not my decision; it's the decision of the producers. Captain Jack was a creation of Russell T Davies, Steven Moffat and Julie Gardner, and he's a BBC entity so it's up to them if they want [Captain Jack] to come back.

Personally, I think they should bring him back. I love my career and I love Arrow, but I know the popularity of the Captain Jack character. He was a groundbreaking character for many, many people who were able to watch a gay man playing an omnisexual man who didn't give a shit about what people thought about his sexuality. He changed the face of television, and I think it's sad he's not there any more.

**WCT:** I miss that show as well.

**JB:** Well, start the campaign! [Laughs] The producers of Arrow are huge fans of both Captain Jack and Doctor Who, and they said to me when they were celebrating Doctor Who's 50th anniversary that if I needed to go and do something, that was fine.

**WCT:** It's so close, but so far.

**JB:** Yep—but things move on, and we move forward. If I had sat around and waited for Captain Jack to come around, I'd be bankrupt.

**WCT:** Looking at your resume, you truly have done a lot. Going to Broadway, if you could be in any production of your choosing, what would it be?

**JB:** Well, I would do one show over again because I adored the story and its message, and I had a ball doing it every single time: La Cage [aux Folles, which Barrowman did in 2009 in London's West End]. I'd want to on a tour of the U.S. or the U.K.

The reason I won't say specifically say I'd go back on Broadway is that, for me, touring is the way you meet the public who supports you. That's why I like doing conventions; I get to meet the people who have, to put it bluntly, changed my life and made it exceptional.

I get requests from all types of people— young couples, straight men and women (not just gay men)—to do La Cage again. I would

love to.

**WCT:** So now I have two campaigns.

**JB:** [Laughs] Definitely! In fact, with La Cage, maybe I can come down in a 1940s Andrews Sisters outfit, but with a fabulous Captain Jack outfit.

**WCT:** That'd be an interesting Torchwood episode, actually.

**JB:** [Laughs] I don't think that'll happen.

**WCT:** Lastly, how are you finding married life?

**JB:** Married life is just the same as being a partner, because we've been together for 21 years. Our first "marriage" signing was when we signed our mortgage together, but the most important thing about [marriage equality] is the fact that we can and that laws are changing all over the world—and how stupid that we have to say that a law has to change to let somebody love somebody? But, the fact is that it has changed. That's why we got married—not just because we love each other but we can, and nobody else is telling us not to.

**John Barrowman will be just one of many celebrities at Wizard World Chicago Comic Con, taking place Aug. 21-24 at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont. Visit <http://www.wizardworld.com/chicago.html>.**

## Robin Williams found dead at 63

Groundbreaking comic Robin Williams, 63, was found dead of an apparent suicide, according to the Marin County Sheriff's Office.

The comic, who was fighting depression, was heralded as one of the best comics of all time by friends, colleagues and fans.

Williams was a star of stand-up, stage, TV and movies, and he was unafraid to take on a wide range of characters, including performing as a gay man in 1996's The Birdcage, opposite Nathan Lane, as the owner of a South Beach bar featuring female impersonators. For that role he received a Screen Actors Guild Award, and he and Lane were nominated for Best On-Screen Duo for the MTV Movie Awards.

He also played a cross-dressing nanny in 1993's Mrs. Doubtfire, an effort to spend time with his children. He won a Golden Globe for that performance.

He was in dozens of films, even an uncredited role in To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar.

## Iconic actress Lauren Bacall dies at 89

Actress Lauren Bacall, the husky-voiced Hollywood icon known for her sultry sensuality, died Aug. 12 at age 89.

Robbert de Klerk, co-managing partner of the Humphrey Bogart Estate, said Bacall died in New York, CNN reported. Bacall (born Betty Joan Perske) started experiencing international fame in 1944 with her first film, To Have and Have Not, which she made with future husband Humphrey Bogart. They made more films together (e.g., Key Largo) before Bogart died in 1957.

Bacall won two Tony Awards (for her roles in the Broadway musicals Applause and Woman of the Year) and an honorary Oscar; also, she was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

## Gay singer Matt Gold at J'hammer Aug. 22

As part of the Jackhammer Complex's LGBT Concert Series, openly gay singer Matt Gold will perform at the nightclub, 6406 N. Clark St., at 10 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 22.

His latest release is Let It Out. The EP was recorded in Los Angeles with Grammy-winning engineer David Bianco and world-renowned drummer Kenny Aronoff producing.

Tickets are \$10, and are available at the door on the night of the concert.

An interview Windy City Times conducted with Gold earlier this year is at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Matt-Gold-Gay-Midwestern-singer-on-covers-authenticity/46447.html>.

## Frank Lloyd Wright Trust seeks volunteers

Frank Lloyd Wright Trust volunteers present world-class historic sites and their neighborhoods to an international audience, cultivate long-lasting relationships and receive ongoing education and training on topics related to history, design and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Prospective volunteers must attend a 60-minute orientation session prior to training. An orientation session will take place Wed., Aug. 20 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park; and noon Friday, Aug. 22 at The Rookery Building, 209 S. LaSalle St., Chicago.

For more information, visit [flwright.org](http://flwright.org) and fill out an online form, or contact Volunteer Resources Manager Linda Bonifas-Guzman at 312-994-4045 or [lguzman@flwright.org](mailto:lguzman@flwright.org).

## Fashion Fest/New Orleans Fest Aug. 23-24

The Chicago Fashion Fest, celebrating its sixth year, will pair with Chicago's all-new New Orleans Festival.

The "threading" of the two events (aka Chicago Fashion Fest featuring Chicago's New Orleans Festival) takes place on Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 23-24, at Division Street and Damen Avenue in the Wicker Park neighborhood. Hours are noon-10 p.m. each day.

For Fashion Fest, there will be local designers (both established and emerging talents), neighborhood boutiques and salons as vendors; more than 20 runway shows; appearances by local and national fashion celebs; hair and makeup experts; a kids' area; and much more. For more, visit [www.ChicagoFashionFest.com](http://www.ChicagoFashionFest.com).

A \$5 gate donation benefits Lasalle II Elementary, Wells High School and A Safe Haven.



WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN  
WINDY CITY  
TIMES

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## Little Vietnam

BY MEGHAN STREIT

Authentic Vietnamese cuisine has trickled up Broadway from the Argye strip to Bryn Mawr Avenue. Earlier this year, **Little Vietnam**, a no-frills eatery serving up super-fresh versions of Vietnamese classics opened in Edgewater. You might miss the space if you're not looking for it. The small storefront is marked only by a simple vinyl banner.



From Little Vietnam. Photo by Meghan Streit

Inside, Little Vietnam is unremarkable. White walls and bright lighting make the dining room more utilitarian than relaxing. Colorful abstract art and a few traditional Vietnamese straw hats hung haphazardly on the stark walls don't do much to improve the ambiance. All that said, the food is mighty good—perhaps not outstanding enough to compensate for the ridiculously slow and disinterested service. But, I would recommend Little Vietnam for take-out or delivery.

The menu is shorter than many of the Vietnamese joints in Uptown, but all of the classics are represented. The shrimp spring rolls are a straightforward and satisfying appetizer. The meaty shrimp are nestled in lots of lettuce and herbs that add a fresh crunch to the rolls. My favorite starter was the pork wonton soup. The tender wontons are engorged with savory

minced pork, and swimming in a hot bowl of flavorful chicken broth that is brightened by subtle citrus notes and plenty of fresh cilantro. The wonton soup could easily stand on its own as a light dinner or warm lunch on cool autumn afternoons that will be upon us before we know it.

Main course offerings consist of a nice selection of pho and bahn mi, as well as a couple of rice bowls and a handful of "chef's dishes" like lemongrass chicken and braised catfish cooked in a clay pot. For \$7 a pop, the large, hot bowls of pho are a great value. The nicely seasoned broths are brimming with sliced meat, al dente rice noodles, crisp veggies and fragrant herbs. I particularly enjoyed the steak pho, with its thin strips of beef (perfect for assembling that perfect spoonful of soup that has bits of all the ingredients). Jalapeno gives the pho some flavorful heat. The beef with asparagus is also worth a try. The tenderloin is shaved thin and simmered in a light mushroom gravy. Fresh and ever so slightly cooked asparagus adds a nice lightness and crunch to the dish, which is served along with steamed jasmine rice. It's not overly seasoned, which lets the pure flavors of the meat and vegetables shine through.

Service was so slow when I visited that I didn't think I'd be able to stick around for dessert—but I'm glad I did because I found the Vietnamese yogurt to be a pleasant surprise. It comes frozen in a small jar, and is tart and creamy. A scoop of fresh-chopped strawberries lends all the sweetness the simple yogurt needs, making for a satisfying dessert that won't destroy your diet.

**Little Vietnam is at 1132 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.; call 773-944-0999 or visit [www.littlevietnam.co](http://www.littlevietnam.co).**

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.

## REAL ESTATE

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# Chicagoans celebrate gold and more at Gay Games 9

BY ROSS FORMAN

Two teams brought gold back to Chicago, and many individuals shined too as Gay Game 9, the eight-day sports and cultural extravaganza, culminated Aug. 16 in Cleveland.

The Chicago Rowing Union (CRU) captured the gold medal in the men's four with coxswain race, the club's first-ever Games gold. CRU also won gold in the women's four race, in a combined boat with member of the Pioneer Valley Pride Crew from Massachusetts.

The Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), meanwhile, captured gold in ice hockey, the team's first Games gold in club history.

"It always feels great to win gold," said Bill Moudry, CRU president. "For me, the journey is more important, [which includes] the hours of practice, honing technique, building physical and mental fitness, and gelling with teammates. It all adds up to an incredibly rewarding experience that only a sport like rowing can offer, so winning gold is just the icing on the cake."

This was CRU's second entry in the Gay Games—the first was in Chicago in 2006, the year the organization was started. "We've come a long way from the novice team we were then," Moudry said. "We have come a long way as a team, making great strides in our competitiveness."

Moudry admitted it was a mix of "confusion and disbelief at first" when the team learned it was golden. "We had just gotten off the water from [another] race when a teammate told us we had taken gold in the 4+ event, so I was pretty exhausted," he said.

CRU's gold came on a 1,500-meter race with two turns along the course, making it a challenging race for the coxswain. "They raced us two boats at a time, and then compared our times across all heats to determine the winner," Moudry said. "As with most masters' races, handicaps were factored in for each boat based on the average age of the rowers in the boat."

There were six boats in this event, and CRU's main competition was the DC Strokes, which raced in the same heat.

"The start was good, though DC had the slight edge after the first few strokes," Moudry said. "A couple hundred meters in, before the first turn, DC crossed into our lane, [which was] a fairly significant penalty. Our coxswain steered a tight course and we finished strong, a few seconds behind the DC boat. However the combination of our handicap and the penalty on DC put us solidly in first-place."

"Since ours was the first heat of the event, we had no idea where we would place until every other heat had raced and the times were finalized. The race really underscored for me the importance everyone in the boat plays, rowers and coxswain alike."

And for Moudry, the gold certainly had an extra personal meaning—he was in the same boat with his boyfriend, Matt Honaberger.

"It's fun, and convenient, to have something like rowing in common with my boyfriend. But when we are in the same boat, we are teammates first and boyfriends second," Moudry said. "Of course it's a great feeling to experience this together, but we achieved this as a team, including everyone else in the boat, and other teammates motivating us at practice and coaches challenging us work hard and improve."

Moudry and Honaberger, 36, have known each other for 10 years, have been CRU teammates for four years and were dating for about a year.

CRU brought 12 members to Cleveland, and

all members of the gold medal-winning team are gay.

Joshuah Thurbee, 38, admitted that, when he first heard CRU had won, he didn't believe it. "I wanted to [believe it], but it seemed too good to be true," he said. "Our team has worked hard and I'm proud of us as a team. I'm also proud of myself. I've only been rowing a short time. I never really considered myself an athlete. With the help of this team and our amazing coaches, I'm redefining who I am. It turns out that person is strong, athletic, and a gold medalist."

Adam Boltz, 30, also was in "disbelief" when he heard CRU was golden.

"Once it sank in that it was real, it was an emotional high that didn't stop the rest of the day," he said. "We have a tradition that you can wear a medal that you win for the rest of the day, so everywhere we went, people were so excited for us. I felt like a rock star."

Paulo Dennis Son, 43, said he was "overjoyed" with the gold. "Winning created a special bond with my crew," he said.

The CGHA captured the title in the top-tiered Men's Advanced Division, which had only two teams. The Chicagoans defeated the LA Blades 5-2 in the championship game.

"It was a great event; the host city was very hospitable [and] everything seemed to go off without a hitch," said Andrew Sobotka, 28, who is the CGHA president and plays defense. "I would have liked more hockey players [participating]. In comparison to some of the other sports it always seems like there aren't enough hockey players."

CGHA goalie Nick Lang had a "phenomenal tournament," Sobotka said.

"Winning at the Gay Games is extra special to me and the team because it was the first time at the Gay Games for most of us," Sobotka added. "There were a few times when we were taking too many penalties [during the tournament], but we managed to keep our emotions in check and play a great few games."

And the team celebrated by singing Whitney Houston songs in the locker room.

The CGHA is holding a gold-medal welcome back party on Friday, Aug. 22, at Crew Bar + Grill, 4804 N. Lawrence, Ave., 8-11p.m.

In other Gay Games 9 news, most with a Chicago tie:

—Paul Gembara captured gold in the men age 40-49 (tested) division of bodybuilding. Illinois resident Gregg Valentine placed fourth in the men age 50-59 (tested) division.

—Olympic speedskater Blake Skjellerup showed he's a star on a bicycle, too. Competing in the 18-34 male division, he won gold—and also while in Cleveland, he became engaged to Saul Carrasco. Singer Ricky Martin event tweeted congratulations on their engagement.

—Flag football drew only three teams, representing Denver, Boston and Cleveland.

—Billy VanRaaphorst, a California resident, won golf gold. He is best known as a baseball umpire who worked the College World Series this past June in Omaha, Nebraska.

—Anna Comella, 28, finished second in the triathlon (Olympic distance). She finished in 2:31:25, which was about three minutes behind the winner. Dana Litoff, 30, was third.

—Andrew Favreau, 33, finished sixth in his triathlon age-division (30-34).

—Kristine Gregory, 35, from Montgomery, Illinois, was first in the 35-39 age-group.

—The Windy City certainly was well represented in the tri male age 35-39 division. Nic King Ruley, 36, was fourth overall; Mikey Apuada, 37, was sixth; Jeremy Voigt, 37, was 12th; and Scott Damon, 36, was 14th.



Members of the gold medal-winning Chicago Rowing Union. Photo courtesy of the group

—In the male 40-44 age division, Michael Keele, 42, captured the third-place bronze, while Rob Campbell, 41, was seventh, and David Brown, 44, was 12th.

—Sam Stephenson, 45, won the silver in the 45-49 male division, while Steve Figg and Bernard Bartilad were 13th and 14th, respectively.

—Cliff Massie won the silver in the 50-54 age division, while Kevin Pope, 50, earned the

bronze. Lawrence Manuel, 50, was eighth in the division.

—In the sprint distance triathlon, Kelly Niemaszuk won gold in the 25-29 female age group.

—Tanya Lyonsford, of Aurora, finished fourth in the 45-49 tri age group.

**More photos are at [www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com](http://www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com).**

## Arizona State player comes out as gay

Arizona State senior offensive lineman Edward "Chip" Sarafin has come out as gay, USA Today reported.

He became the first active Division I college football player to come out to the public, and followed in the footsteps of St. Louis Rams linebacker Michael Sam, who came out publicly after his collegiate career at Missouri ended.

Sarafin—a 6'6", 320-pound walk-on—told the Phoenix-based gay sports magazine *Compete* of his sexual orientation in a nonchalant manner, adding he told his teammates last spring. "It was really personal for me, and it benefited my peace of mind greatly," he said in the magazine.

Sam was among those congratulating Sarafin, tweeting, "Congratulations Chip Sarafin for having the courage to be yourself. Wishing you and your teammates much success this season. #courage2014"

## Louganis helps kick off Gay Games' opening day

Greg Louganis, the first man to win two gold medals in diving in two consecutive Olympiads, headlined "The Power of Embracing Difference," a Cleveland Foundation-City Club of Cleveland special event to help kick off the 2014 Gay Games on Aug. 9.

Louganis joined Cleveland Foundation President and CEO Ronn Richard in a conversation on the power of embracing difference and diversity, and the impact of the Games on participants and the Greater Cleveland community.

Louganis' visit to Cleveland is a double anniversary for the diver who broke records and won hearts at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Thirty years ago, he trained as a member of the U.S. Olympic dive team as Busbey Natatorium at Cleveland State University. Twenty years ago, the gold medalist broke ground

when he came out publicly at Gay Games IV in New York.

Louganis also served as a special ambassador to the Gay Games and took part in the opening ceremony at Quicken Loans Arena.

The Games concluded Aug. 16.

## 'Epic Fail Challenge 5K' Aug. 23 at Soldier Field

The Epic Fail Challenge 5K—a TV-inspired event with inflatable obstacles—will make its Chicago debut Saturday, Aug. 23, at Soldier Field.

Runners will have to deal with 12 obstacles such as Foampit Frenzy, Slippery Slope, Dodgeball Duck, and Swing or Swim. The event will take place in waves from 9 a.m. until 1:45 p.m., every 15 minutes.

The minimum age to participate is 13. The registration fee is \$75-\$90; visit [EpicFail-Challenge.com](http://EpicFail-Challenge.com).

## WNBA players Griner, Johnson engaged

WNBA stars Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson are engaged, USA Today reported.

Griner proposed to Johnson and both posted it on social media, with Griner showing a photo of her on one knee with a ring in her hand in front of Johnson on her Instagram account.

Griner posted, "Last Night was a Night to Remember(.) I became the happiest person on this earth! (almost pass out but when that one word came out I came back to life) Me and my baby @missvol25 are in it for life!"

The 6'8" Griner plays for the Phoenix Mercury, while the 6'3" Johnson is a player for the Tulsa Shock. Johnson also had a photo on her Instagram account of Griner lying in bed with an engagement ring resting on her shoulder.

# CALENDAR

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TIMES** **nightspots**

## Wed., Aug. 20

**Trans Youth Resources and Advocacy Youth Drop-In Center** Every Wednesday, safe, confidential place for transgender people between the ages of 14 to 24. Meet other youth who also identify as transgender, or are questioning their gender identity. Free food, snacks and refreshments, referrals and education. 5:00pm - 7:00pm Broadway Youth Center, 615 W Wellington Ave., <http://www.genderadvocates.org/Tyra/TYRADropIn.html>

**Transgender Service in the U.S. Military, Aaron Belkin of The Palm Center** The event is free but there will be a donation request. Space is limited. RSVP to [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) 6:00pm - 8:00pm, The Keith House, 1900 S. Prairie Ave.

**All Aboard the Soul Train AIDS Legal Council** of Chicago's groooooovy summer party at Sidetrack. Continuing ALCC's mission of using the power of the law to secure health, dignity and stability for people with HIV. Tickets range from the \$50 "Dancin' Diva" level to the \$500 "Hippest Host" level, available at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-aboard-the-soul-train-tickets-12143859611> 6:00pm - 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St.

**Kate Fagan, author The Reappearing Act: Coming Out as Gay on a College Basketball Team Led by Born-Again Christians.** On the nationally ranked University of Colorado basketball team, Kate Fagan knew she was different from her teammates, most of whom were part of Colorado's Fellowship of Christian Athletes. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

**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). 11:00pm - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave Garden Level <http://pflagillinois.org>

## Thursday, Aug. 21

**National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association Convention and 10th LGBT Media Summit** The four-day assembly will begin with the LGBT Media Summit on Aug. 21, followed by two full days of programming with more than 35 workshops designed to address the needs of journalists and those in the communication industry. The convention will also include receptions, the NLGJA Student Journalism Project, the Women's Networking Dinner and numerous other networking opportunities for members. 10:00am - 10:00pm Palmer House Hilton 17 E Monroe <http://nlgja.org/convention>

**Chicago Area Naturist Sons 25th Anniversary Gala.** For more information, email [Cansmen@gmail.com](mailto:Cansmen@gmail.com) for Time:TBA Contact an organizer for location <http://www.cansguys.org/>

**Adler After Dark, Top 10 Oddities** Channel your inner David Bowie, glitter and glam, as we explore the intersections of art, science, and music. 6:30pm - 10:30pm The Adler Planetarium 1300 S Lake Shore Dr Tickets: <https://tickets.adlerplanetarium.org/WebStore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=AP&C=AAD>

**Methtacular** Steven Strafford shares his brutally honest and often comedic story of survival in the underground world of Chicago's crystal meth scene. 35 adults/\$20 students & seniors. 9:00pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. (773) 975-8150 <http://www.aboufacetheatre.com>

## Friday, Aug. 22

**20th Annual Black Harvest Film Festival** Through Aug. 28, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents the fest celebrating the stories, images, heritage, and history of the Black experience in the U.S. and around the world. Time:TBA Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org>

**Opening reception** In the back courtyard:

Nicole Hollander's series of small dioramas with live fish and delicately embroidered drawings of Marie Antoinette, Ted Harris's new lamps designed to the scale and sensibility of Las Manos Gallery, Michael McGuire's hand-colored watercolor paper and architecturally inspired images. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Las Manos Gallery, 1515 W Foster St., Chicago <http://www.LasManosGallery.blogspot.com>

**Bible Bingo & Late Nite Catechism** Bible Bingo is a comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, featuring the character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department. Now in its 21st year in Chicago. 8:00pm Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St., 312-988-9000 <http://www.latenitecatechism.info>.

**Or Chadash** Shabbat Service with the Chicagoland synagogue serving LGBT Jews, their families, friends and loved ones. Membership is open to everyone. 8:00pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd., <http://OrChadash.org>

**AfterEllen.com Meet-Up and Comedy Show in Chicago** Cocktails, conversation and comedy featuring stories from queer writers Trish Bendix (AfterEllen.com), Sarah Terez Rosenblum (AfterEllen) and Sarah Toce (The Seattle Lesbian). Plus stand-up Lianna Carrera, Rebecca V. O'Neal and Shannon Ennis. \$5 gets you in and you can stay for the Bjork Dance Party after for free. doors open at 7 pm. 8:00pm Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave.

**Matt Gold: Live in Concert** Singer/songwriter Matt Gold hails from midwestern America, but his music is quickly gaining ground worldwide. One of 2014's breakthrough musicians. Concert starts at 10 pm. Tickets \$10, available at door on the night of the show. 10:00pm - 2:00am Jackhammer 6406 N Clark St., <http://www.jackhammerchicago.com>

## Saturday, Aug. 23

**Epic Fail Challenge 5K** TV-inspired event where participants jump over, bounce across and crawl under 12 unique obstacles, face awesome thrills and crazy spills and laugh their way to an epic finish. New waves begin every 15 minutes. Supports St. Jude Red Frog Events Proton Therapy Center. The minimum age to participate is 13. 9:00am - 1:45pm Soldier Field 1410 Museum Campus Dr Tickets: <http://epicfailchallenge.com>

**Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Chicago-area GLBT Chapter** Specifically founded to meet the needs of the Chicago-



## IT'S A HISTORY TO ME

**Tuesday, Aug. 26**

**A lecture on suffragists Margarete Herz (left) and Helene Wolff will take place at Oak Park Library.**

Promo photo

area GLBT community with mood disorders or other significant psychological conditions, as well as their friends, partners, and family members. Free. No RSVP needed. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted St., <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com/>

**AFC's Anniversary Party** \$25 annual dues for single; \$40 per couple. 12:00pm - 5:00pm Contact an organizer for location <http://www.afchicago.org>

**Chicago Fashion Fest featuring Chicago's New Orleans Festival** The sixth season will shut down West Division Street to bring fashionistas, families and fest-lovers alike two days of non-stop local fashion, live music and entertainment. \$5 12:00pm - 10:00pm Division from Damen to Paulina <http://www.chicagofashionfest.com>

**Ties and Tassels Productions Presents Queerpocalypse** Queerpocalypse v3.0 is an epic battle against gender conformity through drag, camp, burlesque, circus, song & dance performances. Hosted by the talented & lovely Tamale. \$23 general admission. 9pm doors 10:00pm Mayne Stage 1328 W Morse Ave Tickets: <http://www.MayneStage>

## Sunday, Aug. 24

**2nd annual Queer Clothing Swap** Gender-queer Chicago offers the chance to trade in skirts for slacks or loafers for heels. Free. Bring at least three items of gently worn clothing, shoes or accessories. Bring your own bag. Intended for trans\* and gender-variant folks but open to all. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**John Barrowman VIP Experience** Captain Jack Harkness in the revamped Doctor Who on BBC TV and the spin off series, Torchwood. 3:00pm Donald E. Stevens Convention Center, 5555 North River Rd., Rosemont Tickets: <http://wizardworld.ticketleap.com/johnbarrowmanvip2/>

## Monday, Aug. 25

**Midwesterners march so marriage knows no borders** Chicago-based 7th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments on Indiana's and Wisconsin's marriage bans. On the eve of oral arguments, marriage supporters from Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and across the nation will rally in Chicago in support of the freedom to marry. 5:30pm Federal Plaza 50 W. Adams St. [https://secure.hoosiersunite.org/page/event/detail/hoosiersuniteformarriage/4jv5y#signup\\_error](https://secure.hoosiersunite.org/page/event/detail/hoosiersuniteformarriage/4jv5y#signup_error)

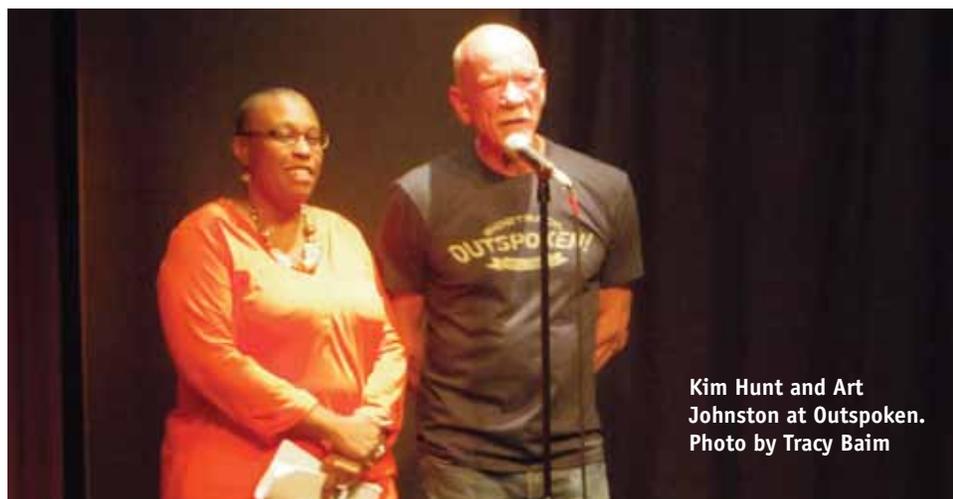
## Tuesday, Aug. 26

**Lecture on 'lesbian-like' women of 1800s-WWII** German historian Ingeborg Boxhammer lecture on the lives of suffragists Margarete Herz (1872-1947) and Helene Wolff (1871-1917), founding members of the local Women's Suffrage Association in Bonn in 1909, in which they were active together with the publicist and fighter for women's suffrage Johanna Elberskirchen (1864-1943). \$5. 6:00pm Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park, <http://www.lesbengeschichte.org>

**Affinity board meeting** For questions, contact Kim Hunt at [executivedirector@affinity95.org](mailto:executivedirector@affinity95.org). 6:30pm - 8:30pm Affinity Community Services 1424 E. 53rd St. Suite 306 <http://www.affinity95.org>

## Wed., Aug. 27

**Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Private Boat Cruise** Three-hour Chicago's First Lady cruise. Members \$80, non-members \$95 6:45pm; Corner Wacker and Michigan, Tickets: [https://secure2.chambermaster.com/directory/jsp/events/dlg/Public\\_AddReg.jsp?ccid=1829&eventid=1097](https://secure2.chambermaster.com/directory/jsp/events/dlg/Public_AddReg.jsp?ccid=1829&eventid=1097)



Kim Hunt and Art Johnston at Outspoken. Photo by Tracy Baim

## Outspoken LGBTQ storytelling series launches at Sidetrack

Kim L. Hunt and Art Johnston hosted the inaugural edition of Outspoken LGBTQ Storytelling at Sidetrack on Aug. 5.

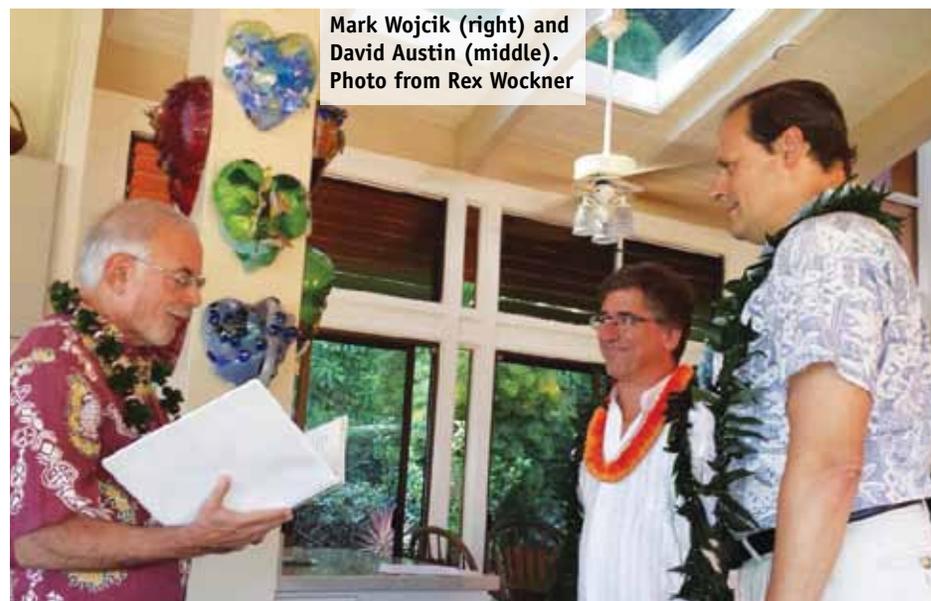
The first show featured storytellers Jim Bennett, Tracy Baim, Patrick Gill, Katie Prout, Kareem Khubchandani and Kim L. Hunt telling original personal stories.

David Fink of Acorn Theater is curating the series.

A slide show of historic Chicago and national LGBT community photos and videos entertained the crowd before speakers began.

The Outspoken series will continue the first Tuesday of every month, the next one is Sept. 2, 7-9 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

View Windy City Times video of Tracy Baim's story at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_C2zGHxAAZM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_C2zGHxAAZM). Other videos have not been posted due to permission issues.



Mark Wojcik (right) and David Austin (middle). Photo from Rex Wockner

## WEDDINGS

### Wojcik-Austin

Professor Mark E. Wojcik of The John Marshall Law School in Chicago married Professor David W. Austin of San Diego's California Western School of Law on Aug. 14, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The marriage was performed by former Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Steven Levinson. In 1993, Justice Levinson wrote the world's first decision recognizing that government had to demonstrate a compelling interest to deny marriage to same-sex couples.

Wojcik and Austin met in Japan 20 years ago when they both were attending the 10th International AIDS Conference in Yokohama. They celebrated their 20th anniversary on Aug. 6, 2014, by getting a marriage license in Hawaii, where they both had lived when Austin was a law clerk for the chief justice of Hawaii.

# BILLY MASTERS

"He's a lovely boy, but someone's got to tell him."—Lauren Bacall's quip in the wings of an AIDS benefit during Greg Louganis' less-than-inspired rendition of "I Can Do That" from A Chorus Line. RIP, Betty!

I can't say that I knew Lauren Bacall very well. But I did know her. During my years working with one of her neighbors, we'd run into each other with some regularity. At one point she said, "Call me Betty," which was her real name and the moniker her friends called her. After our mutual friend passed away, I ran into her and greeted her by saying, "Hi Betty." What I got back was a look that spoke volumes. From that point on, she was Miss Bacall, and that was actually OK. Bacall came from the time when real Hollywood existed. She earned the right to be called whatever she wanted. Trust me—no one will ever be calling Kanye's wife Miss Kardashian!

I don't recall ever having met Robin Williams. But apparently I did, since a friend unearthed a photo I took of him and Mork at some awards show. With details of his life and death slowly emerging, Fox News ran a report. Toward the end, Shepard Smith spoke of Robin's demons and said the following: "And yet, something inside you is so horrible or you're such a coward or whatever the reason that you decide that you have to end it. Robin Williams, at 63, did that today." Well, people got crazy. I find it rather ironic that someone who is a closeted public figure would call anyone a "coward." But to use such inflammatory language when talking about suicide struck a nerve. Smith later issued the following statement: "I was just wondering aloud what could have made this man want to end it all. And it reminds us that we all have responsibility as friends and neighbors to help take responsibility to prevent this from happening. To the core of my being, I regret it. It just came out of my mouth. And I'm so sorry. And to anyone and their families who see that, I am sorry." And?

Our straight ally Josh Hutcherson is continuing his good work for gay youths. As you may recall, he previously described himself as "mostly straight" when he founded the Straight But Not Narrow foundation. That group has joined forces with The Trevor Project and human I-T to launch a new campaign. Power On is collecting and refurbishing digital devices for LGBT youths in low-income and rural areas. People have until Oct. 16 to donate old laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc. To kick off the campaign, Josh donated one of his computers—wouldn't you like to grab ahold of that hard drive? For more info, go to [TheTrevorProject.org/poweron](http://TheTrevorProject.org/poweron).

Earlier this summer, Alan Cumming spent his day off from the Broadway production of Cabaret to appear in concert at the Crown & Anchor in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and donated a portion of his fee to The Trevor Project. He's an awfully busy boy. On Oct. 7, his new book, *Not My Father's Son: A Memoir*, will be released. In it, he'll talk about his complicated relationship with his emotionally and physically abusive father, and the secrets he uncovered when researching his family tree.

I must confess that I have enormous trouble keeping tabs on my pal, Brent Corrigan. With ever-changing websites and email addresses, I'd be lost if I didn't have him on speed dial. Thank heavens his new project ensures that we'll all be able to keep tabs on him. The notorious porn pup is returning to skin flicks. But unlike his more recent ventures under his own production company, he's returning to his first major studio. Corrigan just signed a long-term deal with the new Falcon Studios Group (which includes Raging Stallions and Hot House). First up will be two scenes with Sean Zeeran and Brian Bonds to be shot this week. The scene with Zeeran will debut Sept. 19 and the scene with Bonds drops Oct. 3.



Idris Elba (here in *Prometheus*) is downplaying a possible big development, Billy says. Photo by Kerry Brown

The British tabloids have been all abuzz with reports that Liam Payne of One Direction is a big fat pig. The truth of the matter is, months after being snapped walking along a beach with abs, he was photographed looking ab-free. While we'd like to think that being a gazillionaire would make you somewhat immune to such criticism, Liam's just a normal 20-year-old and, despite protestations to the contrary, this clearly struck a nerve. First, he posted a photo on Instagram with a pillow stuffed under his shirt with the caption, "I mean OH MY GOD I'm just so fat these days I think I need help! quick someone take the cookie jar." Then he posted a BMI chart and wrote the following: "Now just because I'm sick of seeing this everyday so I just want to clear up what the media do to people these days. Is it wrong to be normal? Or do I have to look like an Olympic swimmer just to get your approval into the cool kids or can I accept that the person I truly love thinks I'm the coolest kid in town anyway? Think I'll vote the second one ;) enjoy your day people." Sigh—I just lost five pounds retyping that!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Kenneth in Maine: "Have you heard the rumor about Idris Elba having a humongous penis? Is it true?"

It depends who you ask. If you ask Idris Elba, he'll say it's false! It all started when someone published a photo of him on the set of a film sporting what appeared to be a python of a penis. After days of numerous "tripod" comments, Idris Tweeted the following: "The good news is i got a shit load of followers. The bad news is, that is a mic wire." He then tweeted, "Calvin Klein called my mobile, they want me in their next campaign. Foot long john's Coming Winter 2014." What's the truth? Decide for yourself after seeing the pics at [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

When people are denying having large penises, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Like Idris Elba, we were a little long this week. But before we finish you off, let us just in a quick reminder for you to check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that never holds back. If there's something you'd like me to look into, feel free to drop a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Idris actually does hear from Calvin Klein! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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## Spurs hire NBA's first assistant coach

The world-champion San Antonio Spurs made NBA history, announcing that six-time WNBA All-Star Becky Hammon will join the team as a full-time assistant coach for the 2014-15 season, making her the first woman ever in that position, USA Today reported.

Hammon, a 16-year WNBA veteran who has played for the San Antonio Stars since 2007, will retire after the current WNBA season concludes.

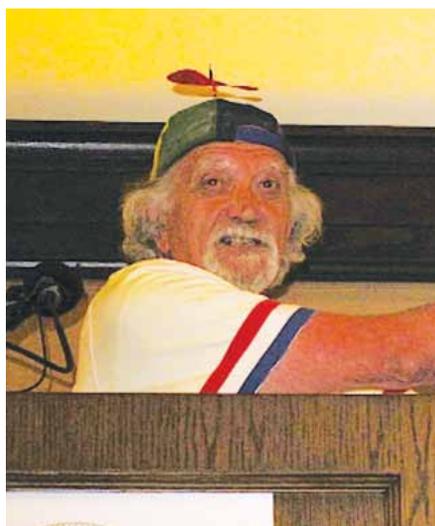
CBS Sports noted that Lisa Boyer was a "volunteer assistant coach" on John Lucas' coaching staff for the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2002. Boyer participated in the home practices and was on the side next to assistant Chuck Person for all of the Cavs' home games, but did not travel with the team.

## Gay-rights activist receives baseball award

At The Baseball Reliquary's Shrine of the Eternals Induction Day on July 20 in Pasadena, California, Chicago gay-rights activist and baseball superfan Jerry Pritikin (aka The Bleacher Preacher) received the 2014 Hilda Award.

According to Pritikin's blog, "the Hilda Award is named after the fabled fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, [who was] best known for her cowbell."

The 2014 class of inductees included Rachel Robinson (widow of Jackie Robinson), Don Zimmer and Dizzy Dean. Jerry Cohen received the 2014 Tony Salin Memorial Award.



Jerry Pritikin. Photo from Pritikin

## NBA referee weds partner

NBA referee Violet Palmer married her partner of 20 years, celebrity hairstylist Tanya Stine, Aug. 1 in Los Angeles, according to AOL.com.

Palmer broke barriers in 1997 when she became the first female to referee an NBA game, and is now the first openly gay official in the NBA.

Basketball Wives L.A. star Tanya Young Williams, the ex-wife of former NBA All-Star Jayson Williams, officiated the ceremony.



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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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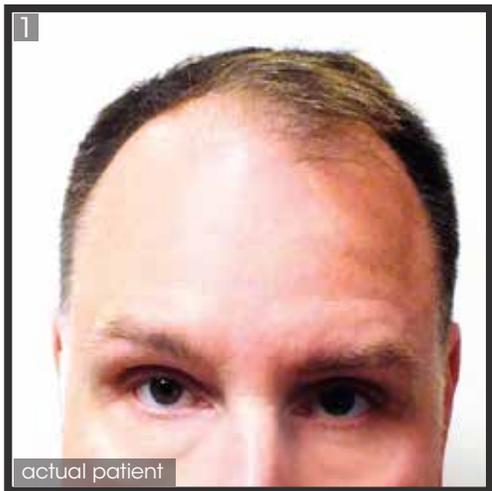


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We only offer New Technology with the ARTAS Robotic Hair Transplant System and FUE (Follicular Unit Extraction), PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) and Stem Cell Therapy

DO YOU  
STRUGGLE  
with  
HAIR LOSS?



*before*



*after*

A: 230 E. Center Dr. Ste. 102, Vernon Hills | W: [dryateshairsience.com](http://dryateshairsience.com) | P: 312.261.0872