

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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Kids' Baptism day. Back (L-R): Angel, Art Smith, Jesus Salgueiro. Front (L-R): Zuky, Brando and Zummy. Photo by Kipling Swehla



## HOME SWEET HOME

Project Fierce Chicago finds a home in the North Lawndale area of Chicago.

Photo by Cassandra Avenatti

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## Chef Art Smith, artist Jesus Salgueiro talk parenting, activism

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Art Smith and Jesus Salgueiro met 15 years ago, they never dreamed they'd become parents to four siblings all at once, but that's just what happened when they decided to foster Angel (12), Brando (9), Zummy (7) and Zuky (6) in February 2014.

The siblings were on the verge of being split up; however, due to Smith and Salgueiro stepping in, that didn't happen, and on June 23 of this year the couple adopted them. Prior to adopting the siblings, the couple was named "Foster Care Parents of the Year" by Arden Shore Child and Family Services, the foster care agency that placed the kids in their care. The

couple is also raising their 16-year-old Venezuelan nephew Diego Ramez.

A week after the adoption, the siblings were baptized by Monsignor Dan Mayall at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Angel Jesus, Brando Arthur, Zummy Iris and Zuky Francis also received individual engraved plaques with apostolic blessings from Pope Francis.

"Our baptism was the first same sex family baptism in Holy Name Cathedral history," said Smith.

The family currently divides their time between their Hyde Park home in Chicago (during the winter holidays and summers) and their new home in Smith's hometown of Jasper, Florida (during the school year).

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### LANA WACHOWSKI

The director took part in 'TransReelization' this past weekend.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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### GLOBAL RELATIONS

A historic UN briefing focuses on LGBTQ refugees.

Photo of Subhi Nahas from ORAM International

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### EMILY BINGHAM

Profiling a colorful ancestor in the book 'Irrepressible.'

Photo by Leslie Lyons

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
CHRISTOPH HAGEL

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
VARTAN BASSIL

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### ONCE BRITAIN, TWICE SHY

British singer Leona Lewis (left) talks about the U.S. market, her new CD and drag queens.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

### MODEL BEHAVIOR



Androgynous model Rain Dove aims to change the world through fashion.

Photo by Leona Liang

### SAFE TRAVELS

In his travel column, Jeff Guaracino provides tips for traveling safely.

### UN-'FAMILIAR' TERRITORY

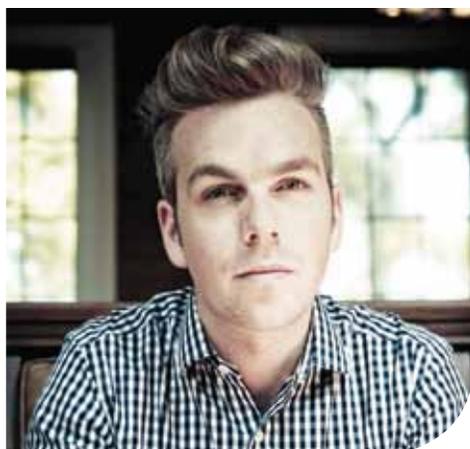
Windy City Times reviews the book Nothing Looks Familiar.

### THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Pierce Brosnan, RuPaul and Maria Bello.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

### 'HOME' ALONE



Singer-songwriter Greg Holden talks about co-writing "Home" for American Idol winner Phillip Phillips and his new album, Chase the Sun.

Photo by Myriam Santos

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# Military trans ban could end next May

The ban on transgender individuals in the U.S. military forces could end May 27, according to USA Today.

A memo the publication obtained actually discusses ending the policy and highlights some of the potential issues, including a program that would provide leaves of absences for transgender troops being treated with hormones or undergoing gender-reassignment surgery.

A repeal of the policy would affect approximately 12,000 troops.

Last month, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced a working group that would look into the logistics of such a repeal.

The American Military Partner Association (AMPA), which support LGBT military families, praised the development. AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack said in a statement, "If indeed the Pentagon targets May of next year

as the date to officially lift the ban, it will not get here soon enough. All service members and their families, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, deserve to be able to serve our nation proudly and authentically."

Kristin Beck, a transgender former Navy SEAL who is running for Congress, and Sgt. Shane Ortega, the first open transgender U.S. Army member, jointly said, "The ending of this ban gives hope to a more inclusive future. Now, we are living out the true meaning of our Constitutional creed—to honor and respect ALL gender identities of our servicemembers. Today our military has been lifted up. We move from strength, to strength in defense of the greatest country in the world."

The USA Today article is at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/25/military-transgender-ban-set-end-next-may/32345385/>.

## Virginia shooter gay, manifesto says

In a manifesto, Vester Lee Flanagan II—who shot and killed WDBJ-TV reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward on Aug. 26 before taking his own life—says he was a gay Black man. He also apparently claims he was a victim of homophobia from his co-workers, including "black men and white females," Breitbart reported.

Flanagan, additionally, reportedly left a suicide note indicating he was motivated by a "Race War." He wrote, "As for Dylann Roof? You (deleted)! You want a race war (deleted)? BRING IT THEN YOU WHITE ...(deleted)!!!"

In one part of the document, Flanagan says he has suffered racial discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying at work.



Vester Flanagan.  
Twitter photo

Many other media outlets reported that Flanagan used social media to post chilling videos showing him approach the scene, raise his gun and fire at the media employees as well as interview subject Vicki Gardner. Flanagan, who also worked at WJDBJ-TV as a reporter (under the name Bryce Williams) before being let go, has said that that Parker made racist comments and that he filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission report. He also tweeted that Ward went to human resources about him "after working with me one time!!!" The tweets were posted Aug. 19.

Gwynell Flanagan, first cousin of Vester, told The Daily Mail that "the whole family knew he was gay. We accepted him. He's not the only one in the family who's gay and, personally, I couldn't care less."

The Breitbart article is at <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/08/26/vester-l-flanagan-idd-by-va-police-as-person-of-interest-in-wdbj-double-murder/>. The Daily Mail item is at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3213494/Vester-Flanagan-s-family-reveal-knew-gay-accepted-cousin-says-praying-victims-families.html>.

## LGBT groups join call to decriminalize sex work

On Aug. 20, several LGBT-rights organizations across the country issued a joint statement in support of Amnesty International's Aug. 11 resolution supporting sex-worker human rights.

Transgender Law Center, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Center for Transgender Equality all signed off on a resolution that reads, in part, "As LGBT rights organizations in the United States, we join to applaud and support Amnesty International's recent resolution to protect the human rights of sex workers by calling for decriminalization of sex work, while simultaneously holding states accountable in preventing and combatting sex trafficking, ensuring that sex workers are protected from exploitation, and enforcing laws against the sexual exploitation of children.

"Laws criminalizing sexual exchange—whether by the seller or the buyer—impede sex workers' ability to negotiate condom use and other boundaries, and force many to work in hidden or remote places where they are more vulnerable to violence. ... And as UNAIDS and the World Health Organization have recognized, criminalization also seriously hampers efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS—efforts in which people involved in the sex trades are crucial partners."

## NIH expands research on sexual, gender health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released an administrative supplement to expand existing research to focus on sexual and gender minority (SGM) health.

This trans-NIH effort—which involves multiple institutes, centers and offices from across NIH—is intended to encourage investigation in this underrepresented, yet growing field of research. The application due date is Nov. 30.

Visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-15-329.html> for more information.

## Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



## Julian Bond: A personal tribute

It was Spring of 1965. The high hopes raised by the 1964 Civil Rights Act had been dashed by the failures encountered in implementation. Everyone agreed that these failures had one root cause: voter disenfranchisement.

Voter registration workers were being threatened, beaten up, and intimidated by local law officers and courts. Voter-rights activists James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael "Mickey" Schwerner had been brutally murdered on road 491 near Meridian, Mississippi, because of their work on voter registration. At the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, the integrated delegation of the grassroots Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) had failed to unseat the all-white delegation of the regular Mississippi Democratic Party.

Into this volatile 1965 spring of hope, fear and disappointment, I joined a group of Catholic clergy affiliated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to work on voter registration in Greenville, Mississippi. We had three objectives: 1)

culture and behavior through grassroots political activism.

Some activists wanted to turn to violence. Enter Julian Bond, SNCC co-founder and director of communications: a calm, creative, intelligent voice in troubled times.

There were essentially two main camps within SNCC: the one group supported John Lewis and Julian Bond who wanted to keep SNCC committed to the civil-rights strategy and philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.; the other group supported Stokely Carmichael who was a strong advocate of Black Power. In Spring 1965 these two camps were evenly matched. Starting in 1966, the balance of power shifted to Carmichael. Bond left his position as director of communications of SNCC in 1966. Carmichael became president of SNCC in 1967. In 1969 SNCC replaced the term 'nonviolent' with the term 'national.' SNCC became the Student National Coordinating Committee.

This change in the spirit of SNCC was personal for me. At the end of our work in Greenville, a co-worker came to me and asked me to go with him to Detroit

to take up arms to fight for civil rights. He was a close friend. I told him I could never pick up a gun for three reasons: 1) I am a coward; 2) If I were to pick up a gun, I feared I would never put it down; and 3) I was committed to the spirituality of Jesus the Christ, Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, Gandhi, the Buddha, Martin

"As the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and as the Chairman of the NAACP, Julian Bond fought for the rights of all peoples regardless of their color, ethnicity, sexual identity, or their legal status as migrants."

register voters for the upcoming local and general elections; 2) organize these voters to support the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; and 3) network for the passing of federal voting-rights legislation to overcome the complex maze of local voting regulations designed to keep Blacks and others from voting.

Our work went along surprisingly well except for a few nuisance instances of harassment. The local sheriff 'detained' me and two of my colleagues for trespassing by walking into an all-Black school to talk about voter registration. William Hodding Carter III, whose family owned the local newspaper and who later became a key player in the administration of President Jimmy Carter, came to the jail house to bail us out—actually, he got us released from all charges.

In the local elections, the regular Democrats won handsomely—and with a whole lot of votes of the new voters we had registered. This defeat fueled the already simmering anger and frustration of many civil-rights workers, especially in the ranks of SNCC, who were becoming demoralized in their efforts to change

Luther King, Jr., and now, Julian Bond. His reply: 'the next time we meet you will be at the wrong end of the gun.'

As the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and as the Chairman of the NAACP, Julian Bond fought for the rights of all peoples regardless of their color, ethnicity, sexual identity, or their legal status as migrants.

When some Black leaders and clergy opposed complete civil rights for members of the LGBTQ communities, Julian Bond advocated for marriage equality, facing down opposition even within the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. (Cfr: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian\\_Bond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Bond))

Julian Bond is my personal hero because his example helped me to remain committed to my values.

Thank you, Julian. May we continue to remember you. May your spirit continue to bless us.

Horace Julian Bond died August 15, 2015.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

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

## Writer Oliver Sacks dies at age 82

Writer and neurologist Oliver Sacks died Aug. 30 at his Manhattan home at age 82.

Sacks died at his home in Greenwich Village with longtime collaborator Kate Edgar and his own partner, Bill Hayes, at his side, CNN noted. Sacks was diagnosed with ocular melanoma almost a decade ago, and treating the cancer left him blind in one eye; however, the cancer spread to his liver.

The Oxford-educated Sacks—who shot to fame as the doctor Robin Williams played in the 1990 film *Awakenings*—revealed in February that he had terminal cancer. The movie, which Penny Marshall directed, was based on Sacks' 1973 book of the same name.

The Washington Post reported that Sacks talked about his own sexuality, saying in his memoir *On the Move* that his mother called him "an abomination" upon learning about his same-sex leanings. Sacks reflected that "[m]y mother did not mean to be cruel, to wish me dead. She was suddenly overwhelmed, I now realize, and she probably regretted her words or perhaps partitioned them off in a closeted part of her mind.

"But her words haunted me for much of my life and played a major part in inhibiting and injecting with guilt what should have been a free and joyous expression of sexuality."

The Washington Post article is at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/oliver-sacks-doctor-of-awakenings-and-poet-laureate-of-medicine-dies-at-82/2015/08/30/62ba620c-4f0c-11e5-933e-7d06c647a395\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/oliver-sacks-doctor-of-awakenings-and-poet-laureate-of-medicine-dies-at-82/2015/08/30/62ba620c-4f0c-11e5-933e-7d06c647a395_story.html). The CNN item is at <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/30/us/neurologist-oliver-sacks-dies/>.

## Catholic school changes policy

In Oregon, a Portland Catholic school has changed its hiring policies after withdrawing a counseling job offer it had given to a lesbian candidate, KGW.com reported.

St. Mary's Academy President Christina Friedhoff said in a statement, "St. Mary's is a diverse community that welcomes and includes gay and lesbian students, faculty, alumnae, parents and friends, including those that are married."

In a separate statement, New Ways Ministry Executive Director Francis DeBernardo praised the school. He said, in part, "New Ways Ministry thanks and congratulates St. Mary's Academy, Portland, Oregon, for not only reversing their decision to dismiss a counselor who they learned was a lesbian, but to adopt a non-discrimination policy which welcomes gay and lesbian employees, including those who are legally married."

DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke also issued a statement, saying, "This is an important moment for Catholics concerned about justice and equality. That St. Mary's Academy had the courage to look at their action in the light of their values, reverse it and take steps to ensure that their future policies are rooted in respect and inclusion is a wonderful model."

The original article is at <http://www.kgw.com/story/news/2015/08/26/catholic-school-rejects-hire-due--same-sex-marriage-view/32381067/>.



Subhi Nahas and US Ambassador Samantha Power address the UN Security Council. Photo from ORAM International

# Historic UN Security Council briefing focuses on LGBTQ refugees

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

As a 27-year-old man, Subhi Nahas could have spent an afternoon walking through magnificent olive orchards before taking in the flawless night sky and losing himself under the marquee of stars covering the mountain ranges that surround his hometown of Idlib in Northern Syria.

But it was 2014, his country was being torn apart by civil war and, as a gay man, Nahas was terrified to step one foot outside his house.

Two-years earlier he had been the target of a group of soldiers from Bashar Al-Assad's regime, who herded him off the bus he was riding to university, took him to a secluded house and assaulted him.

The soldiers were eventually replaced in Idlib by militants from Jabhat Al Nusra—a jihadist cell of Al-Qaida—who arrested, tortured and executed anyone they suspected of being gay.

Then, ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) came.

"It stepped up the violent attacks on suspected LGBTI people, publishing images of their exploits," Nahas would later recall. "At the executions, hundreds of townspeople, including children, cheered jubilantly as at a wedding. If a victim did not die after being hurled off a building, the townspeople stoned him to death. This was to be my fate too."

It was a story Nahas told members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Aug. 24 in New York. It was a historic moment—the first time the council has ever convened to discuss LGBTQ rights.

The issue of LGBTQ refugees forced to flee their homes in any of the over 75 countries worldwide where homosexuality is illegal or where the state sanctions brutal attacks upon them is one involving multiple levels of marginalization.

It is an internationally immense problem yet so shadowed that even raw data on the numbers of people who cross borders or are able to survive when they do is hard to come by.

Neil Grungras is the founder and executive director of the Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration (ORAM). Since 2008 and in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it has been the only international resource dedicated solely to the plight of LGBTQ refugees.

Its research, training and advocacy programs have already resulted in significant changes in the way LGBTQ refugees are treated in some countries but the problems remaining for them to tackle are monumental.

For individuals like Nahas who managed to escape from Syria in 2014 first to Lebanon and then Turkey, life is one spent in limbo.

Denied work permits or any of their new country's benefits, many turn to the sex-trade

just to be able to eat. "Most of these people don't make it out alive at the end of their ordeal," Grungras told Windy City Times.

Grungras regards his work at ORAM as a life-calling. "I spent a lot of years as a gay activist in San Francisco," he said. "Both of my parents were refugees and by the time I went to law school it was clear to me that I was going to be a refugee lawyer."

Since graduation, Grungras has spent 30 years in that role. "I started to encounter an invisible population worldwide of LGBTQ people who are too terrified to tell anybody and who are not being protected by their home country or their country of origin," he said.

Grungras stressed that the situation for an individual seeking asylum in a country like the United States or Great Britain is completely different from an LGBTQ refugee who manages to escape, for example, Uganda.

"They're not going to London, they're going to Kenya," he said. "Kenya is not a country of asylum for Ugandans. So they're not going to get permanent legal status there. Even if you do go to countries-of-transit that have a fledgling asylum system, they tend to criminalize LGBTQ people and, even if they don't, surviving is difficult and dangerous. In Turkey, murders of transgender people in 2015 haven't even been investigated."

"Death threats followed me to Turkey," Nahas

told the UN Security Council. "ISIL operatives circulated freely where I lived and it was only a matter of time before I would be found and killed."

Instead, Nahas found Grungras and his organization before ISIL could make good on their threats. Today he lives in San Francisco, working for ORAM as a representative and administrator. He is hoping to finish his college education.

Jason Heeney left Chicago for Israel in 2010. He now serves as the board president for ORAM and so joined Nahas at the UN briefing led by U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power and Chile's UN ambassador, Cristian Barros.

"This was one of our proudest moments," Heeney said. "Subhi's speech was eloquent and moving."

He added that Nahas spoke to at least 200 people representing nearly 40 countries.

It was a daunting prospect but one Nahas was impelled to confront if only for a particular right that LGBTQ people living in countries like Syria, Saudi Arabia or Iran are denied.

"Everybody says to us, 'You don't have a voice,'" Nahas told Windy City Times. "They don't recognize that we exist. There is so much prejudice and violence. People want to try to do something but the laws make it very difficult."

Moving from a deeply conservative town in Syria to one of the most openly accepting cities in the world has presented Nahas with its own challenges. "I'm still adapting," he said. "I'm used to suppressing my emotions and hiding myself. It's going to take a long time to process. I was trying to reconstruct my relationship with my family but after [giving] this speech, I know they will never try to reconnect. They are still my family but they are not going to accept that I spoke about LGBTQ rights."

"We set out to raise awareness about this issue and the role that the UN could play moving forward in helping to protect the rights of LGBTQ people," Heeney said. "This was a first step—given the probably 20 countries who pledged to support this work. I hope this level of consciousness raising will bring the issue of LGBTQ refugees to the forefront of our community's work. This is an opportunity to build a movement for a huge number of people who are not as lucky as folks in the U.S. They are stateless and fleeing for their lives."

"It's up to us an international LGBTQ community to stand next to each other and help each other do something," Nahas said. "If we do not stand as one body and defend our rights, nobody else will. Then all of this will have been in vain."

For more information about the work of ORAM, visit [ORAMInternational.org/en/](http://ORAMInternational.org/en/).

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From left: Panelists Monica James, Benji and Jaz.  
Photo by Shelby Stone

## Panel calls for account, action for murdered Black trans women

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Just as the Aug. 25 sun began to set outside the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Social Justice Initiative's Pop Up JUST Art (PUJA) center on South Halsted Street, activist Monica James read off the names of the 18 transgender women of color murdered in 2015.

James asked the more than 100 people who gathered in solidarity with the fallen to repeat each name with enough emphasis to "resonate into this universe."

"This is all we have to give to her," James said. "So that we don't have 19. It's a real war out here."

The names Papi Edwards, Lamia Beard, Ty Underwood, Yazmin Vash Payne, Taja Gabrielle DeJesus, Penny Proud, Kristina Grant Infiniti, London Chanel, Mercedes Williamson, Ashton O'Hara, Amber Monroe, India Clarke, K.C. Haggard, Shade Schuler, Kandis Capri, Elisha Walker, Tamara Dominguez and Jasmine Collins were not only echoed in Chicago but—according to Black Lives Matter strategic partner and GetEQUAL Central Regional Coordinator Elle Hearn—in 20 cities nationwide that evening and through 5.5 million Twitter followers who answered a call to action marking Black Trans Liberation Tuesday.

"We wanted to be very vocal about the ways we are all intrinsically causing the deaths of these women," Hearn told Windy City Times. "Across the country we saw cisgender men as an integral part of these actions. They made accountability statements as to how they participated in transphobia and what they can do to end that. At some of the actions, highways were shut down by folks who felt compelled to do more. Part of that was to disrupt a normalized way of living."

In Chicago, James joined a notable panel elevating and demanding conversation about the lives of Black transgender women senselessly lost while facing system-wide discrimination blithely dismissed by the mainstream media and legislators and ignored by society at large. Jason Tomkins was host for the evening, along with representatives of Black Lives Matter Chicago.

Despite her considerable talents as a writer and public speaker, Jaz—author of the Black Trans Lives + Labor booklet distributed that evening—told the audience that she has spent her young life working low-wage jobs.

"I look at myself and I see the statistic where over 50 percent of trans women of color are making an income of under \$10,000-a-year," she said. "You can't afford rent anywhere with that. I've been intermittently houseless. I've lived with men who I don't like—essentially in what we consider modern-day slavery. I'm there as a thing for his use and consumption and when he's done with me or bored with me, I'm out. So many social-service centers [are] only able to be a Band Aid on what is otherwise a gushing wound. The Black trans community is

bleeding out."

She challenged union representatives in the audience to employ 600 Black trans people by the end of 2016.

Gender non-conforming advocate Benji recalled that, from as early as the fifth grade, she wanted to be a teacher. Today she works at Walmart. "I just stay focused on showing people that there is more to life than what we see on television," she said. "The Black trans community doesn't want to feel boxed-in and not living up to our own potential to be who we want to be. Our system is black and white, and it puts a lot of strain onto our existence."

The strain on James's existence was accentuated through horrendous violence at the hands of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and most of her adult life behind bars.

"Why is accepting trans women of color such a big barrier for our society?" James demanded. "It transcends beyond labor. We know that housing is one of the biggest issues. Without housing you cannot attain anything. Without a place to stay, you cannot get a job, you cannot get your health in order. Those 18 [murdered] women were known somewhere in this world by their name, by their loved ones as a trans woman but they didn't make it to the world news. How do we get this movement further? We all know trans women who are out there on the battlefield every single day getting rejected, being snickered at, laughed at, toyed with. They are beautiful and resilient."

Hearn stated that the Black Lives Matter movement is not restricted to the nationally publicized murders of Black men, women and children at the hands of the police. "The reality is all Black lives. It has essentially become a movement for the pursuit of liberation of Black people. The co-founders have really been committed to being collaborative in a partnership of Black trans women and also making sure we are sistering those who are most directly impacted by the systems of oppression leading to the demise of Black people not just in police brutality, but in state violence."

Hearn believes the answer as to why the epidemic of attacks and murders of Black trans women has been ignored by the national media lies in respectability politics. "What happens is the media is attracted to certain demographics of people," Hearn said. "Throughout our society, Black people, trans people and women have always been an afterthought. Black trans women have been discarded as a conversation piece. We really want people to start and continue that conversation. We want them to take bold, direct action to stand up for Black trans women in their community."

For more information about Trans Liberation Tuesday, visit <http://blacklivesmatter.com> and <http://www.getequal.org/>.

To donate to the event, go to <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/black-trans-lives-labor-real-talk-real-action--2#/story>.



Keyshia Blige.  
Facebook photo by Ryan Bourque

## Aurora woman is 19th trans murder

Keyshia Blige—a Black woman who lived in Naperville, Illinois, but was killed in the city of Aurora—became the 19th known transgender woman murdered in the United States this year (Seventeen of them have been women of color).

According to media reports, Blige was shot and killed March 7 while driving with a passenger. Police believe it was a deliberate attack.

The Guardian reported that Blige was not initially identified as transgender by local media, which named her as Bryce Stiff; however, her best friend, Sasha Love, reported her actual gender identity to the publication.

The Chicago Tribune first identified Blige as a male in its early March report. In a follow-up story, the newspaper noted that Blige was a male who was "transitioning" and had begun taking hormones.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs' (NCAVP's) most recent report—Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2014 documented 20 anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2014. Of those 20 homicides, a majority (55 percent) of victims were transgender women, and half (50 percent) were transgender women of color.

The Guardian article is at <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/26/keyshia-blige-transgender-homicide-illinois>.

## Largest-ever trans study has launched

The National Center for Transgender Equality has launched the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey (USTS), the follow-up to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, in attempt to gather a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of transgender people in the United States.

The 2015 US Trans Survey is expected to be the largest, most extensive study ever undertaken of trans lives in the United States.

The USTS will cover a wide range of topics that reflect the lives and experiences of transgender people today. More specifically, the USTS will assess transgender people's experiences including in employment, housing, healthcare, HIV/AIDS, disabilities, immigration, sex work and police interactions.

Results are slated to run next spring. Visit [USTransSurvey.org](http://USTransSurvey.org).

## Trans beach party a success

The 2nd Annual Chicago Trans Pride Beach Party took place Aug. 30 at Ardmore Hollywood Beach, 5800 N. Lake Shore Dr.

Dozens of people attended, taking part in various festivities. According to a pre-event release, the event "is an independent and public gathering to celebrate the beauty, diversity and resilience of the trans community in Chicago."

Photo courtesy of Crispin Torres' Facebook page



Trans Beach Pride event.  
Facebook photo, run with permission

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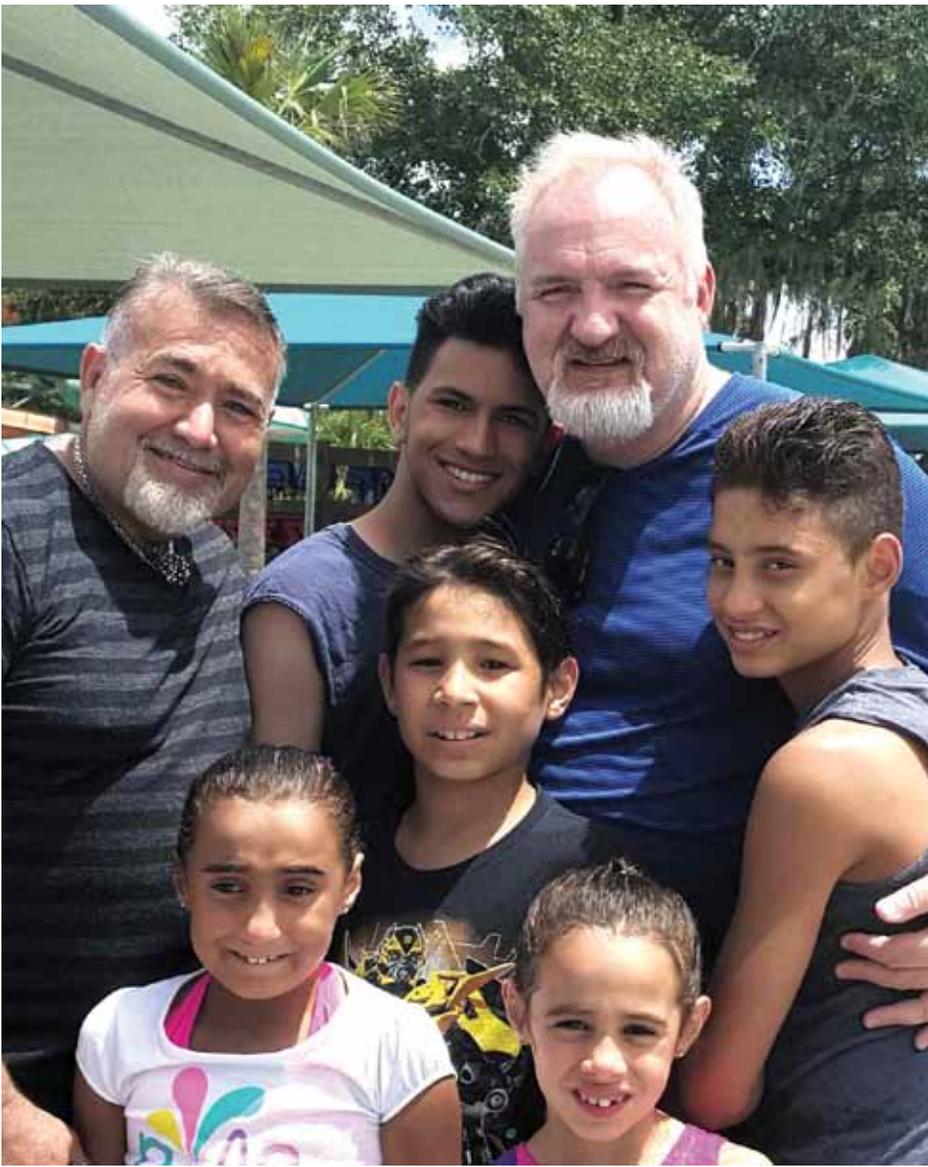
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Couple Jesus Salgueiro and Art Smith with their children and nephew Diego. Photos courtesy of the couple

## FAMILY from cover

Since becoming parents, Smith spends less time traveling for business and Salgueiro has taken on the role of stay-at-home parent. They've spent the past year and a half showering the kids with love and security, which was in short supply prior to Smith (Papi Art) and Salgueiro (Papi Jesus) becoming part of their lives.

"The biggest challenge for us is instilling manners in the kids because they didn't come from an environment where that was a priority," said Salgueiro. "They were in the foster system for five years before they came to us. They're really happy and excited to finally have a home.

"I'm looking forward to raising them here in Jasper, where they can go to school and not be treated like celebrity kids. I've been very impressed with the schools and everyone else here. They're so nice and it's rewarding to see everyone help each other. I met the Superintendent of the kids schools and the bus drivers already. It's so great to be treated like any other parent. It wasn't like that in Chicago."

"I've written award-winning cookbooks and opened restaurants, but raising kids is totally different than anything I've done career-wise," said Smith. "As a chef, I'm used to people telling me how much they love me. The kids tell me how much they love me but they don't always love everything I make. Sometimes they just want fast-food."

"Our main focus, other than teaching them manners, is are the kids happy and do they feel loved? I tell them the golden words are be kind, be polite and be brave. If you do all of these things they will get you through your life. What's great about living in my hometown for most of the year is my mom lives about a block away from our house, which is great, because the kids not only get to bond with their

grandma, which they've never had before, they also have a yard to play in and they love it."

The couple is looking to take the kids to Cuba in the near future because they have Cuban ancestry.

When asked to describe their kids, Smith and Salgueiro say that Angel is compassionate while Brando is a little man engineer. As for the girls, they say that Zummy is quiet, sweet and loves puzzles, while Zuky wears the pants in the family and loves Q&A's.

Smith explained that in terms of fun activities, the family loves to go to water parks and other kid-friendly places. They also love eating breakfast at Smith's restaurants, Table Fifty-Two and Lyfe Kitchen, as well as eating out in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.

"The kids love playing critic at my restaurants," said Smith.

Although they come from different parts of the world, Smith (who is a sixth-generation native Floridian) and Salgueiro (who hails from Cabimas, Venezuela) share a lot in common. Both men grew up in small towns and attended two-year colleges before graduating from state universities with similar degrees—Smith at Florida State University in Tallahassee with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and Salgueiro at Florida International University in Miami with a degree in Hotel Management and Tourism.

Smith always wanted to be a chef but couldn't afford to go to culinary school.

"I'm artistic and I found that I was very good at making food look pretty," said Smith. "I was a disciple of Martha Stewart and when she released her book *Entertaining* in 1980, I could reproduce everything in her book to a tee."

Salgueiro has always been an artist, having painted since he was four-years-old. However, he went to college just to please his family, because they wanted him to get a degree in something so he would have a career to fall back on.

"I did work for one year at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City but I hated it," said Salgueiro.

Currently, Smith is a partner in and/or owns 20 restaurants, including Table Fifty-Two; Art and Soul in Washington, D.C.; Southern Art & Bourbon Bar in Atlanta; and a number of other restaurants around the country. He will be opening another restaurant in South Florida sometime next spring.

Salgueiro was also in the restaurant business for a brief time, having previously co-owned a restaurant in Miami for two years.

"After I sold my share of the restaurant I opened up my art studio in Miami," said Salgueiro. "I've been a full-time artist ever since."

Most recently, Salgueiro's artwork has been featured on the hit FOX-TV show *Empire*. He's also busy creating more of his signature man-hole artwork.

The couple married in 2010 in Washington D.C.—10 years after meeting in Miami for the first time.

Smith was working as Oprah Winfrey's personal chef at the time and Salgueiro was working at a flower shop to make ends meet while also launching his art career and studio.

"Oprah had a house in Miami Beach on Fisher Island and I was buying flowers for the house for Thanksgiving," said Smith. "I went to the flower shop where Jesus worked because Maria Shriver told Oprah that it was a great flower shop, because her brother Anthony mentioned it to her, and that's how I met Jesus. I told Maria that if it wasn't for her suggestion I never would've met Jesus."

"After Art left the store, I went to the register and asked if they had his info but they didn't since the flowers were already paid for," said Salgueiro. "I talked to the sales person who worked with Art and asked him for his name, and the sales person told me, it's Art Smith and he's Oprah's chef. It took about a year for us to meet again in person.

"He urged me to meet him, even though I was sick and that's when he proposed to me. I laughed and Art said 'I'm very serious.' We went to a restaurant and talked for two hours. After that we went to my house and he stayed for two weeks. Art came into my life when I was looking to settle down, so it was like kismet."

"We sat for two hours eating pizza during our first date, which we still enjoy and celebrate with," said Smith. "This week is our five-year wedding anniversary, and we will celebrate with margherita pizza with prosciutto and arugula."

Since Jan. 2015, Smith has hosted "101 Gay Weddings" events in Miami, Atlanta and Palm Springs. However, due to the U.S. Supreme Court *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision legalizing same-sex marriage across the country, Smith is looking to take this concept to Cuba, where same-sex marriage and civil unions aren't legal. Palm Springs "101 Gay Weddings" will air on Bravo this fall.

"I'm trying to get approval from Mariela Castro [President Raul Castro's daughter] to do one in Havana, Cuba," said Smith.

Smith explained that they are moving their focus to other LGBT areas outside of marriage equality such as adoption rights for same-sex couples regardless of marital status, transgender rights and international LGBT equality.

Outside of LGBT issues, the couple is also involved in other philanthropic work, including Common Threads ([www.commonthreads.org](http://www.commonthreads.org)), which they co-founded in 2003.

"We're doing some work in the [Jasper] community because there's a lot of poverty and other challenges," said Smith. "Jesus and I have done a lot of work that's helped people in challenged neighborhoods in Chicago, so now we've taken that work to a rural setting."

**For more information on Salgueiro's artwork, visit [www.facebook.com/pages/Susej-Art/223557601001561](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Susej-Art/223557601001561); for Smith's various endeavors, visit [http://www.chefartsmith.net/chef\\_art\\_homepage/index.htm](http://www.chefartsmith.net/chef_art_homepage/index.htm).**



Art Smith with Oprah Winfrey.



Smith and Salgueiro before their wedding.



Salgueiro with finished manhole artwork.

# Project Fierce Chicago buys building in North Lawndale

BY ROSS FORMAN

It's all smiles these days at Project Fierce Chicago (PFC), but now the real work starts—and that's a good thing.

Project Fierce Chicago—which promotes itself as a grassroots collective of radical social workers, youth advocates and other community members who are working together to establish community-driven, identity-affirming housing in Chicago—announced in late August that it had purchased a four-flat building on Chicago's Southwest Side that will eventually be home to LGBTQ young people experiencing homelessness.

"I couldn't be more excited, and grateful," said Cassandra Avenatti, the founder and a leadership team member for Project Fierce Chicago. "We have worked incredibly hard for nearly three years on this project, and to have it begin to realize is so fulfilling. We have all labored as unpaid volunteers while balancing paid employment, activism and personal lives, and through everything, have challenged ourselves and each other to be accountable to our ideals, and to remain hopeful about what is possible outside of traditional non-profit systems. This is what community looks like."

Renovation on the building will begin soon and continue through the fall. The hope is to be open to residents by next winter, Avenatti said.



Project Fierce Chicago's Cassandra Avenatti.  
Photo by Angelique Smith

There are several renovation projects to tackle, including bringing down and building new, safe back porches, and kitchen and bathroom renovations.

Renovations will cost about \$75,000 to get the building prepared for residents.

"The building will have three flats of housing for LGBTQ-identified young adults experiencing homelessness and a live-in resident advocate," Avenatti said. "The garden flat will house our administrative office and an additional office available to an allied grassroots organization, at a low-cost donation."

Avenatti, 31, lives in rural Indiana, although she travels to Chicago for PFC meetings, events and engagements. She grew up in rural Indiana, and after moving to cities around the world for a few years, she moved to Chicago in 2007 and lived there for eight years. Avenatti is partnered to trans Latino tech geek and writer Asher Diaz, who works in higher education, she said.

"The purchase of this building is the culmination of more than two years of organizing, fundraising and community-building, and countless hours of work, all done by volunteers," Avenatti said. "I've been on the verge of joyful tears since we signed [for] the building. We've spent countless hours, sweat and tears on this project, and to see it come to fruition, with people [who] I deeply love and respect, is magical. The fact that we've done all of this solely with and for community, outside of systems we find problematic, is even more satisfying."

PFC raised more than \$125,000 over the past two years, largely from small, individual donations.

The building ultimately will provide transitional housing for about 10 LGBTQ-identified young adults experiencing homelessness.

"The program is designed as a longer-term transitional program, with the goal of support-

ing young folks in transition to living independently. The initial term for the program is two years, and we will have a support/accountability buddy meetings with residents monthly to help support the achievement of their stated goals," Avenatti said. "There will be private bedrooms for 8-10 young people, a room for a live-in advocate, and our administrative office in the garden apartment. We also hope to establish a productive garden in our back lot, to generate produce for the home."

Numerous individuals and organizations have contributed to the purchase of this home, Avenatti said. The PFC leadership team includes Avenatti, along with Cassandra Warren, Jacqueline Boyd, Carrie Kaufman, Tasasha Henderson and former team members Andre Perez and Katrina Sanford. "We also have had dozens of volunteers at various points that have made our progress possible, as well as hundreds of donors who've given what they can, and a few larger individual donors. We are grateful for all of this support," Avenatti said.

The building is located in the North Lawndale neighborhood, near public transportation and several community organizations. The building has been a residence for at least the past 10 years, and was foreclosed on.

"The [PFC] leadership team [is] incredibly grateful for the hard work of all our volunteers, past and present, and to the broader community for believing in our vision, and continuing to support us," Avenatti said. "The best way for folks to help ensure that we can open our doors and serve LGBTQ young people, is to consider becoming sustainers, or sustaining members, who give monthly, and help ensure our sustainability."

For more information, or to support the cause, go to <http://projectfiercechicago.org/get-involved/>.

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# viewpoints



**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN Back-to-school reflections and resources

Back-to-school time always raises mixed feelings in me. On the one hand, years of being in academia make me see September, not January, as the start of the year (or maybe it's just a Jewish thing). On the other, the lazy days of summer are giving way to school time's hectic rush, with my son's after-school activities, homework reminders, and the various other events and paperwork that public education brings in its wake.

My son is starting seventh grade, his second year in the school and seventh in the same district, so I'm not particularly stressing about his adjustment this time around—which is not to say I don't have a fairly normal amount of concern about the quality of his teachers and the kindness of his classmates. I'm sure it will all be fine, but I dislike the uncertainty.

As a lesbian mom, I also always have a little niggle in the back of my head at the start of the school year about whether my son will encounter any bias or harassment because he has two moms. I try not to dwell on that, however, but to reassure myself with three things.

First, the number of school-related resources for teachers, LGBTQ parents and the parents of LGBTQ children is growing ever larger. Two new items this year deserve special attention.

Schools In Transition: A Guide for Supporting Transgender Students in K-12 Schools, is aimed at helping administrators, teachers, and parents provide "safe and supportive school environments for transgender students." Co-authored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Gender Spectrum, the National Education Association, the American Civil Liberties

Union, and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, it discusses basic concepts, general guidelines for meeting the needs of transgender youth, specific issues impacting them, best practices, and the legal landscape. Download it free at [genderspectrum.org](http://genderspectrum.org).

Not LGBTQ-specific, but of use because of the high incidence of bullying based on real or perceived LGBTQ status, is *Bullying and The Law*, a guide by attorney Adele Kimmel of Public Justice, a national impact litigation group. Kimmel describes the options parents have, including legal action, when students are bullied, and suggests things to consider when thinking about such action. She also provides information on what parents can reasonably expect from schools in those situations, and what the options are when schools don't do enough. The guide was created for the Bully Project, an anti-bullying initiative inspired by the award-winning 2011 film *Bully*. Download it at [www.thebullyproject.com/bullying\\_the\\_law](http://www.thebullyproject.com/bullying_the_law).

Other, long-standing school resources parents should know about include:

The Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools project covers family diversity, gender stereotyping and bullying. Its website includes a section just for parents and caregivers as well for teachers and administrators, with book recommendations, ideas for building community, suggestions for productive discussions, and much more. [welcomingschools.org](http://welcomingschools.org).

Family Equality Council's Inclusive Schools page offers sample letters that parents can send to teachers to start conversations about LGBTQ inclusion; suggestions for making school forms more inclusive, and book ideas for all ages. [familyequality.org/get\\_involved/inclusive\\_schools](http://familyequality.org/get_involved/inclusive_schools)

GLSEN's Ready, Set, Respect Toolkit has tools and lesson plans for elementary school teachers, covering name-calling and bullying, family diversity, gender-role diversity, and more. [glsen.org/readysrespect](http://glsen.org/readysrespect).

GLSEN also has extensive safe-schools materials for both educators and students in higher grades, including information on its educator training program and starting gay-straight alliances, as well as research about the impact of homophobia and transphobia. Additionally, GLSEN manages a number of programs and

events to engage school communities of all grades throughout the academic year, including Ally Week, ThinkB4YouSpeak, the Day of Silence, No Name-Calling Week, and the Safe Space Kit. [glsen.org](http://glsen.org).

PFLAG's Safe Schools for All: Cultivating Respect program has similar materials (in English and Spanish) for making schools safer, reducing bullying, and providing comprehensive health education. They also offer a certification program for PFLAG members who want to assist with staff training and policy creation in local schools. [community.pflag.org/safe-schoolsforall](http://community.pflag.org/safe-schoolsforall).

The Gay-Straight Alliance Network has great materials for starting or sustaining a GSA. [gsanetwork.org](http://gsanetwork.org).

In addition to taking comfort in the resources available, I am also grateful that the school year gives us opportunities to build bridges as we work towards equity for all. For example, one new study, by Abbie Goldberg of Clark University, has shown that many adopted children, with both same- and different-sex parents, experience stigmatization in preschool. This is sobering—but also a chance for us to work with non-LGBTQ adoptive parents on solutions. In doing so, we can also find ways to be allies across the many aspects of all our varied identities.

Finally, I have faith in my son and his own sense of self-confidence and self-worth. He knows his family is as good as anyone else's, even if its structure is different from most in his school. I have to trust that he'll stand up for himself when needed and that he'll come to my spouse and me if things escalate beyond where he feels he can handle it alone. I also hope he will be an ally to those of identities different from his own, and that many of his peers will be allies to him in turn.

A new year is full of new possibilities. I'm optimistic it will be a fun and exciting one for our family. I hope it is for yours as well.

**Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.**

## letters

### Research-oriented

*Statement on NIH Efforts to Focus Research to End the AIDS Pandemic*

Extraordinary progress has been made in HIV/AIDS research over the last 34 years, transforming what was once a terrifying and almost inevitably fatal disease into a treatable disorder. People with HIV/AIDS can now experience an almost normal life expectancy if antiretrovirals are started promptly and continued for life. But the disease remains a significant public health concern, with approximately 50,000 new infections per year in the United States and two million new infections worldwide. The global human and economic costs continue to be staggering.

We are now at a critical juncture in HIV/AIDS research in which new exciting research opportunities are emerging and pointing toward the possibility of ending the pandemic. Hard fought advances in basic and clinical research are raising new hopes for the development of a successful vaccine and even a possible cure. Now more than ever, we need to focus scarce resources on research priorities that will help

end the AIDS pandemic in the shortest timeframe possible.

With that goal in mind, I have decided to implement several new processes to ensure that NIH's HIV/AIDS dollars are focused more intensively than ever on the highest priority areas of HIV/AIDS research. To help me do this, an external working group of the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR) Advisory Council in coordination with OAR scientific staff and NIH Institutes and Centers, recently developed draft guidelines for defining high priority areas of HIV/AIDS research. With this guidance, my leadership team and I have defined research priorities that are aimed specifically at translating into rapid progress in our ability to prevent and cure HIV/AIDS and end the global AIDS pandemic.

The NIH high-priority areas of HIV/AIDS research are those that:

- aim to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, including the development of safe and effective vaccines;
- develop the next generation of HIV therapies with improved safety and ease of use;
- develop a cure for HIV/AIDS;
- improve prevention or treatment of

HIV-associated comorbidities and co-infections;

—support cross-cutting areas of basic research, health disparities and training.

These new high-priority areas are consistent with the key scientific priorities outlined in the OAR Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research (<http://www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2016/pdf/FY-2016-Trans-NIH-Plan-for-HIV-Related-Research.pdf>). The guidelines also informed several new processes that NIH will be implementing and applying to all grant awards made in fiscal year 2016 to help ensure that only those research projects within the high priority HIV/AIDS scientific areas are considered for support with precious HIV/AIDS resources. These measures are described in the following NIH Guide Notice.

These steps underscore NIH's strong commitment to responsible stewardship of the resources we receive from the American people. I am confident that the measures that we are taking will advance and accelerate the worldwide efforts to end the AIDS pandemic.

*Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, National Institutes of Health*

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

# DIVERSIONS

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20

Seven Lions' chicken skins.



20

Sidetrack's 'Sync It!'



## 'Bad' is good

12

Bad Jews is one of the theater critics' picks.

Photo by Charles Osgood

### THEATER REVIEW

# Conjoined anew

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

When Porchlight Music Theatre included the critically acclaimed Broadway musical *Side Show* as part of its 2015-16 season, it was initially announced that it would be the original 1997 version and not the thoroughly revised 2014 revival edition overseen by Academy Award-winner Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*, *Chicago*). But it was *Side Show*'s book writer and lyricist, Bill Russell, who put the pressure on Porchlight to switch to the newer version.

"We worked quite a long time on this new version," Russell said, noting the regional productions of *Side Show* at La Jolla Playhouse in California and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., that led up to the musical's critically acclaimed return to Broadway. "I'm very proud of it and I really think we didn't do all that work to make it worse. I feel like it plays better and I really wanted to get it out there so this seemed like a good first step."

What hastened the switch for Porchlight was the premature closing of *Side Show* on Broadway in early 2015. Despite rave reviews, *Side Show* didn't draw in huge tourist crowds to keep it afloat. It's a fate that also befell the original Broadway production which also garnered much critical praise.

Russell cited what is known as an "ick factor" that might initially turn off general audiences when told that *Side Show* is based upon the tragic story of real-life show-biz conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton (1908-1969). Fused at the pelvis, the duo were essentially sold at birth into showbiz servitude, but their hard work and talent elevated them above the fairground freak shows to become the highest-paid touring act in vaudeville.

"It's a curious situation, because once you get the people there, they tend to love it. The Broadway revival got rave reviews and the response was positively ecstatic, but we couldn't sell enough tickets," Russell said. "Ironically, *Side Show* has done very well regionally."

Negotiating the version switch was a little dicey time-wise according to Porchlight artistic director Michael Webber, who also directs the post-Broadway premiere of the revised *Side Show*.

"It all came to a head about the same time—Bill was working with the lawyers in New York in order to solidify the rights and the licensing, but we really had our backs against the wall because we needed to start casting and getting contracts put out there," Webber said. "We were basically preparing for two different

productions just in case we didn't get the contracts for the revival, which is very, very different. For instance we needed to cast someone who could play (the famed illusionist) Harry Houdini in the new version, but if we didn't get the rights, then he would play another character in the older version."

What prompted all the *Side Show* revisions in part was the passion of Condon, who was enamored of the original version. But also a wealth of more information about the Hilton twins became known thanks to Dean Jensen's 2006 biography *The Lives and Loves of Daisy and Violet Hilton: A True Story of Conjoined Twins* and Leslie Zemeckis' 2012 film documentary *Bound by Flesh*. Condon pushed Russell and composer Henry Krieger (*Dreamgirls*) to strengthen the story and they ended up over-

hauling the whole show.

"The first version is more of a backstage story, the revival version being more of a bio-pic and more about their life story," said Russell, noting that he and Krieger didn't have as much available historical material to draw from when they initially wrote *Side Show*.

But as a nod to the fanatical fans who cherish *Side Show* in its initial form, Russell said that theater companies will have the option to license and produce either the original 1997 or the revised 2014 version through Samuel French, Inc.

"It's always been so moving to me about how much this show means to people," said Russell, adding that growing up gay and effeminate in a hyper-masculine cattle-ranching place like Black Hills, South Dakota, made him feel like "the biggest freak in the world in that environment."

"Relating to a side show attraction of conjoined twins felt absolutely that it hit home and it was not a leap for me," Russell said. "I don't see *Side Show* as a gay metaphor, although if people read it that way, I'm happy,

too. But it's bigger than that. It's a metaphor for difference in whatever way."

Porchlight Music Theatre's Chicago premiere of the revised *Side Show* plays from Friday, Sept. 11, through Sunday, Oct. 18, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Previews run through Sept. 14, with an official press opening 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15.

Previews are \$35 and opening night (with reception) is \$50; regular-run tickets are \$39-\$45. Call 773-327-5252 or visit [www.porchlightmusictheatre.org](http://www.porchlightmusictheatre.org).

## LGBTRIVIA

Three Supreme Court justices in which state lost their judicial retention races in 2010 because they were part of the unanimous 2009 ruling in favor of marriage equality?

Answer on page 22



*Side Show*.  
Photo by Brandon Dahlquist

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Jacksonian**

Playwright: Beth Henley,  
At: Profiles Theatre Main Stage,  
4139 N. Broadway  
Tickets: 773-549-1815;  
www.profiles theatre.org; \$35-\$40  
Runs through: Oct. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Beth Henley's plays have always hinted at the dark side of the rural/tribal values lingering at the cultural roots of our country's southern regions, but smug Yankee directors and audiences usually prefer to chuckle complacently at the droll antics of their hayseed cousins. This time, however, Henley does not offer them that option. The scenario proposed by her teenage narrator starts with a man wearing bloody clothes fetching ice from a motel dispensary and only gets worse after that.

Of course, a 16-year-old girl who never removes her coat, deliberately cultivates a flawed complexion and requests an antique wheelchair for Christmas might not be most reliable of witnesses, but since she is the sole survivor of that fatal December night in Jackson, Mississippi during the troubled winter of 1964, we don't have much choice. Besides, a

**The Jacksonian.**

Photo by Michael Brosilow

child threatened by her parents' imminent divorce has a right to view the world a little sideways. Anyway, her purpose is not to point fingers—the crimes committed by her villains are far less heinous than the church bombings

in nearby Meridian—but to draw us a picture of an environment like “a swamp you're living on that pulls you under.”

It's simple to ignore that pull at first. The bartender in the motel coffee shop and his

housekeeper girlfriend who conspire to send an innocent Black man to the gas chamber (“He knew the system,” shrugs the latter) are easy culprits—but then there's the wife with artistic inclinations driven to madness by her insecurities, and the dentist addicted to the pharmacopoeia of his trade, who loses his license after perpetrating an act of reckless malpractice, rather than risk following in the steps of his suicidal brother. Surrounded by such adults as these, is it any wonder that young Rosy's temperament belies her name and years?

As with Neil Simon, a few more generations of playgoers are needed to free Henley from the expectations of cartoonish grotesquery associated with her earlier work. In the meantime, Profiles Theatre director Joe Jahraus and his cast acknowledge the intimacy of their storefront quarters to keep their production's tone subdued and acting styles naturalistic—no easy accomplishment in a milieu where people say things like “She smells like broken crayons,” and others reply, “All the colors you don't want to use.” The ensemble work is impeccable, but the standout performance of the 85-minute evening is Loyola University freshman Juliana Liscio in the role of the forlorn adolescent who just might someday write about her experiences for comfortably uncomprehending strangers like us.

## THEATER REVIEW

**After Miss Julie**

Playwright: Patrick Marber, adapted from the play By August Strindberg  
At: Strawdog Theatre Company,  
3829 N. Broadway  
Tickets: 866-811-4111;  
www.strawdog.org; \$28  
Runs through: Sept. 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It was 1945 when England's Labour Party scored a victory over the Conservatives in the general election—translated for Yanks, this meant that the rich lazy aristocrats had been toppled by the poor working blokes, who soon initiated a bevy of government-welfare programs (among them, subsidized housing, unemployment compensation and healthcare). British playwright Patrick Marber sees parallels between the men and women seeking to escape their birthright at this moment in history and those in August Strindberg's 1888 Swedish shocker.

Our title character is the daughter of a peer but, tonight, instead of celebrating with Daddy's colleagues in the city, prefers to carouse with the servants on the family estate. The unease felt by the household chauffeur and cook—war-scarred John and his ex-intended, Christine—at Miss Julie's frenzied gaiety escalates after their boss's offspring invades the kitchen in flirtatious temper. As the night wears on, Julie's romantic fantasies of mingling with the commoners and John's of hobnobbing with the elite grow increasingly seductive, leading both to engage in rash actions ultimately shattering their fairy-tale illusions of liberty.

Overthrow of the established social order may not require violence, but rarely does it not involve sex. The candor permitted in 2015 allows us a more explicit view of issues only hinted at by Strindberg—the status of Julie's virginity, for example—and internationally censured when uttered by D.H. Lawrence in 1928. Marber's Julie is no hormone-driven Lady Chatterley, however, since her author is more interested in the economics of change than in its breeding habits. Julie and John's fanciful plan

**After Miss Julie.**

Photo by Chris Ocken, Ocken Photography

to elope to New York (!) begins to crumble the instant they confront the question of money—not trust-fund annuities, but ready cash—to finance their flight.

Time-travel adaptations always raise nagging questions—could Julie's untimely executed pet canary gone to an RSPCA shelter, or a Malthusian League clinic have spared her free-thinking mother? Under the insightful direction of London expat Elly Green and dialect instructor Adam Goldstein, assisted by Mike Mroch and Jamie Karas's museum-accurate scenery, Maggie Scantom's Julie transcends her persona's defensive superficiality to emerge a self-loathing nihilist in pursuit of her own destruction—a task she naturally expects somebody to do for her. John Henry Roberts, currently the go-to actor for haunted-veteran roles, delivers a likewise complex portrayal of a man trained to obey commands, even at his own peril. Finally, as played by Anita Deely (and written by Marber), the pragmatic Christine comes off as the most likely to survive in the new society to come. Never underestimate the quiet ones.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Bad Jews**, Theater Wit at Royal George Theatre, through Oct. 4. Takes sides in an epic battle over a prized family heirloom in Joshua Harmon's scathingly funny and thoughtful comedy. SCM

**The Dueling Gentlemen**, Silent Theatre at Athenaeum Theatre, through Sept. 20. Marvin Quijada and Marcus Fittanto pack a whole evening's worth of laughs, tears, violence and slapstick clowning into a single fast-paced hour, with the help of ivory-tickling Elliot Taggart. MSB

**The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**, No Stakes Theater Project at Theater Wit, through Sept. 5. Emotionally-stunted LV is an adolescent vocal prodigy who channels Garland, Piaf, Holiday, etc. and won't leave her room. Intriguing rather than satisfying, this play is very well done. JA

**Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight**, Windy City Playhouse, through Oct. 4. The sterling cast and director William Brown's funny production make Peter Ackerman's 1999 sex comedy far better than what's printed on the page. So go if you want some silly laughs tied to conflicts around sex. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Price**

Playwright: Arthur Miller  
At: TimeLine Theatre,  
615 W. Wellington Ave.  
Tickets: 773-281-8463 or  
www.timelinetheatre.com; \$38-\$51  
Runs through Nov. 22

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The instant you walk into TimeLine Theatre's production of *The Price*, you're confronted by stacks of antique furniture piled up haphazardly to the ceiling by scenic and lighting designer Brian Sidney Bembridge. And soon enough, all that left-behind excess turns out to have larger metaphorical implications in this 1968 drama that has been so lovingly and astutely revived by director Louis Contey to time with the centennial of its playwright, the late Arthur Miller.

After a savvy sound montage by designer Andrew Hansen that foreshadows the play in the memories of the characters and its current setting, the first person to swagger in is police officer Victor Franz (Bret Tuomi). At first he just seems like a security guard keeping watch over a dilapidated Manhattan pile, but it becomes very clear that Victor previously grew up amid such luxurious items.

**The Price.**

Photo by Lara Goetsch

Then the plot gets set into motion with the arrival of Victor's wife, Esther (Kymberly Melten), who insists that he get a fair price for the lot of items held onto by his family after they were wiped out by the stock market crash of 1929. Esther initially comes off as being very superficial, especially when she gets upset when Victor reveals that he'll be wearing his police uniform for their night out on the town.

The arrival of elderly antiques dealer Gregory Solomon (Mike Nussbaum, playing younger than his actual age of 91!) is the most amusing part of the play as he and Victor chit-chat all the while sizing each other up for the potential transaction. Solomon has seen it all when it comes to family bickering over dividing the estate, and he wisely waits things out once Victor's far more financially successful brother, Walter (Roderick Peeples), makes a surprise appearance near the close of Act I.

Watching this quartet hash out a price for the antiques all the while dredging out long-held assumptions and life-long grudges is great dramatic stuff. Yet it's all enhanced when put in context to our own situation of recently weathering the global financial crisis of 2008. *The Price* looks at how two brothers coped as the inheritors of a confidence-shattering financial crash and how their family loyalties drastically diverged.

By producing *The Price* now, TimeLine smartly taps into the current debates about income inequality and the value of placing one profession's worth over another. The performances are all great (save for some shaky delivery of the New York dialects from Melten). In particular, it's a wonder to watch Nussbaum hit it out of the park with a performance makes us all wish that we could be as smart, sharp and active at his age.



October Sky.

Photo from Liz Lauren and The Marriott Theatre

## THEATER REVIEW

## October Sky

Playwright: Aaron Thielen (book),

Michael Mahler (music/lyrics)

At: Marriott Theatre,

10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire

Tickets: 1-847-634-0200;

www.MarriottTheatre.com; \$50-\$55

Runs through: Oct. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This world premiere musical is based on a popular 1999 movie and, in turn, an autobiographical novel by Homer Hickam. It tells of four teenage boys—with Homer as hero—who rebel against limited expectations imposed by their elders and stifling small-town social conditions. The four are sons of coalminers in late-1950s hard-scrabble West Virginia, inspired by the “Sputnik Crisis” to become rocket scientists. Indeed, Hickam did actually make it to NASA.

It's a cliché story with bits of Billy Elliot, The Jazz Singer, Footloose and numerous other against-the-odds tales of adolescent triumph. Its character types are instantly familiar, which may benefit the show, even as much of the story is predictable, which is not a benefit. Beneficial or not, it's the story with which the musical co-authors had to work and the central question is whether or not they've turned it into anything bigger or better.

A professional colleague of mine, a fan of the movie, dissed the show at intermission, easily dismissing Michael Mahler's score. My colleague was wrong. Mahler's music often is magical and always is easy to like. It draws on

influences as varied as the Welsh choral tradition (identified with coal mining), blue grass, rockabilly and tight harmony vocals without actually imitating them. It's contemporary mainstream show music, although David Siegel's lovely orchestrations make concessions to tradition by eliminating the brass section in favor of strings, reeds, acoustic bass, banjo and mandolin, and I say bravo! Mahler's lyric are much to be admired. Although written in standard rhymed formats, his lyrics almost always sound conversational rather than overly-poetic or forced, which is admirable.

Director Rachel Rockwell handles a large ensemble well, although October Sky is not a dance show, despite Rockwell's credentials as a choreographer. Indeed, dance opportunities—or at least more elaborate musical staging—must be developed if the show expects to have a future. This world premiere also is 15 minutes too long, with too many repetitions of the conflict between Homer (a charming Nate Lewellyn, a good Welsh name) and his father (stalwart David Hess, earning sympathy in the least sympathetic role), and perhaps one rocket test too many by the four lads. Also, the intermission doesn't work. Act I ends with a mine explosion but we don't learn its consequence, which is that Homer leaves high school to replace his father in the mine.

That's where the intermission needs to be. It would require shortening Act I, and it would naturally make Act II faster.

Everyone in this show is good. Besides Lewellyn, the four cute-as-buttons teens are Ben Barker, Alex Weisman and Patrick Rooney. Veterans supplying heartfelt supporting work include Susan Moniz, Derek Hasenstab, Terry Hamilton and Johanna McKenzie Miller.

## COT gets largest single gift

Andreas Mitisek, general director of Chicago Opera Theater (COT), announced that the company has received a \$1.5-million gift from Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson.

Their gift is the single largest contribution in the company's 42-year history.

Combined with a recent, anonymous \$500,000 gift, this gift brings COT \$2M closer to meeting its goal of raising an additional \$5M in funds over five years so that the company can present a five-opera season.

## EXPO Chicago reveals special exhibitions

EXPO Chicago, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art, has announced 25 special exhibitions to be included in the fourth annual exposition Sept. 17-20 at Navy Pier.

The special exhibitions program will join 140 galleries representing 16 countries and 46 cities from around the world.

A few of the special exhibitions are Shop-Columbia, Columbia College Chicago's student and alumni art boutique; Human Rights Watch, which will showcase six photographs by world-renowned photographer Sebastiao Salgado; and Union League Club of Chicago presenting a selection of works by female artists who have shaped art in Chicago.

Visit EXPOChicago.com.

## 'Punk Punk' to run Sept. 22-Oct. 10

Nothing Without a Company will premiere the production Punk Punk—described as “a dark comedy filled with live music”—Sept. 22-Oct. 10 at Fat Cat Bar, 4840 N. Broadway.

It will feature Anna Rose Ii-Epstein, Jamie Newell and Caroline Wright.

Previews (Sept. 22-23) are \$5-10, with regular-run admission \$15-30; visit Nothing-WithoutACompany.org.



# SPOTLIGHT



The sex-positive variety show **Menage-A-Hah** returns for another stint at Mary's Attic, this time featuring standup comedy sets from Zach Peterson and Shannon Noll, burlesque striping from Stephanie Hawking, a rope-bondage demonstration from BadKitty Bondage and the chance to win prizes from The Pleasure Chest. Mary Zee and Eric Barry are the co-hosts. Menage-A-Hah plays 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, at Mary's Attic, upstairs from Hamburger Mary's at 5400 N. Clark St. Tickets are \$10; call 773-784-6969 or visit [www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago/attic](http://www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago/attic).

Photo from Mary Zee

## Play to mark 10th anniv. of Katrina

The Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St., will observe the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with The Play About My Dad.

The Play About My Dad, by Boo Killebrew, opened at New York's 595 E 59 Theatres in June 2011. It tells of the author's father—a

doctor in Gulfport, Mississippi—who stayed behind to take care of patients as the storm hit in August 2005.

Previews will be Wed, Oct. 21-Sunday, Oct. 25, with press openings Monday, Oct. 26 and Tuesday, Oct. 27. The regular run will be Oct. 30-Nov. 28.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.raventheatre.com](http://www.raventheatre.com) or 773-338-2177.

  
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Henrietta Bingham on Fourth Street, Louisville.  
Undated photo from the family collection



## BOOKS

# Uncovering the past: Emily Bingham is 'Irrepressible'

BY SARAH TOCE

Kentucky-born Moredcai author Emily Bingham discovered treasure trunks in the attic that would one day unlock a lifetime of family history only she could illustrate to the world. Her painstaking research would result in *Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham*.

Emily explained, "In 1998, 30 years after Henrietta Bingham died in New York City on the eve of the Stonewall Riots, I had a daughter and named her after this great-aunt I knew very little about—except that she had spent time in London in the 1920s and had been acquainted with some members of the Bloomsbury Group, the sexually and artistically avant-garde circle around Virginia Woolf and her sister Vanessa Bell. And that she would upset my father when he was a boy by slipping the bacon out of his BLTs when he wasn't looking. And that my grandmother, in an interview I conducted with her in the early 1990s, noted in passing that her sister-in-law Miss Henrietta was 'you know, an introvert.'"

An introvert with a colorful past, some might say.

"She was clearly a big character. I liked the strong Victorian name and the association with Etta James and felt it was worth reviving," Emily said. "My father walked into the hospital room where I was holding the tiny new Henrietta and said, 'How could you do this to a child?' Clearly there were things I had not been told everything about Henrietta. He had some harrowing tales from her later years—of addiction and dependency—but once there was a new Henrietta in the world others approached me with stories and photographs and objects, thrilled to have the chance to speak about someone they had found devastatingly fascinating. Slowly, I began to think that Henrietta deserved another moment in the limelight."

Henrietta died when Emily was just 3 years old. The mystery of her great aunt's reputation piqued her curiosity and, to this day, Emily still harbors questions. For instance, if given an hour to sit and chat with her departed, she would likely pose the following questions:

—"When you began psychoanalysis with Dr. Ernest Jones, the leading Freudian in the English speaking world, did you know that he wanted to make you transfer your desires 'from women to men,' as he wrote? Did he help you—even though you continued to love mainly women—or did your time with him leave you with a layer of shame for not 'moving beyond' what he considered neurotic behavior?"

—"You spent so much time with African-

American musicians and performers. You taught yourself the saxophone in the early 1920s when white Southern belles were not supposed to be blowing on horns. You loved the Charleston and the Black Bottom. What about jazz, blues, jug music and African-American culture appealed to you. You crossed the color line regularly and introduced many people to these artists you befriended, but whose music did you most love? Count Basie, Florence Mills, Bessie Smith? So many people were in love with you—did any of them fall under your spell, as well?"

—"Tell me about your relationship with your mother, who died in violently in a car accident (you were there) when you were 12 and how that affected your rocky but highly interdependent bond with your father, the newspaper publisher and active Democratic Party supporter, Robert Worth Bingham. He adored you, spoiled you, and wanted you to succeed him in his media empire. Why didn't you?"



Emily Bingham.  
Photo by Leslie Lyons

In lieu of these questions that shall forever go unanswered, Emily did discover quite a backstory to her great aunt's love life, which included "over 200 love letters from two men she almost married in the 1920s, Bloomsbury sculptor Stephen Tomlin and the producer/actor John Houseman," she said.

The love letters were at the bottom of a trunk in her family attic, just a few feet above her childhood bedroom, her entire life. However, noticeably missing were the love letters written between Henrietta and her lady loves, which included tennis great Helen Hull Jacobs,

actress Hope Williams and artist Dora Carrington.

"All three of these women were strong, somewhat androgynous, and achieved remarkable things professionally in a time when most women were expected to fulfill very traditional familial roles," Emily explained. "None were classically beautiful, but all had their own magnetism. They were all 'known' and willing to risk their reputations to pursue their desires."

Emily also said, "Carrington was a remarkably complex person, perhaps gender dysphoric, and Henrietta was able to give her a degree of physical pleasure (Carrington was over 30) she had never come close to. Unfortunately, the screenwriter of the 1995 biopic, *Carrington*, decided that her 'polymorphous' side was simply too complicated to include! But Henrietta slipped between her fingers, as she did with almost anyone who tried to hold on to her hard. Hope Williams, who taught Katherine Hepburn her trademark swagger, was a very private person and a supremely gifted performer—I wonder if Henrietta was too indiscreet for her. Helen was younger. She idolized Henrietta, and with her Henrietta found the most stability long term."

Progressive Henrietta was sent to Freud for an analysis of her bisexuality.

"Henrietta was 'pushed' into treatment not by her family, but by one of her first lovers and her Smith College professor, Mina Kirstein," Emily said. "Mina had decided that she needed to move away from lesbianism. Henrietta did cultivate affairs with men during this period as Dr. Jones and Mina hoped she would, but she never stopped seeing women, too. I only wish I had her perspective on the effort she put into her analysis and whether she would do it if she had the chance to start over."

Emily recalled that "Freudian analysis was very new and quite scandalous in the early 1920s. Many bookstores refused to stock Freud's writings, seeing them as obscene. Many homosexuals found in analysis a safer place to discuss things considered taboo in the wider culture—sex, desire, anger, abuse. On one hand, Freud saw homosexuality as a neurosis and an unfortunate sign of an incomplete resolution of the Oedipal stage of life. On the other hand, his theory acknowledged its existence and that all people are born bisexual."

In comparison to Emily's life, Henrietta might possibly be bored had she been alive today.

"Henrietta had a degree of allure, of magnetism, that I simply don't possess," Emily said. "It attracted men and women, though it also repelled some, my grandmother, for instance,

and a contemporary who said that Henrietta 'wasn't congenial—she liked girls and I liked boys.' I sometimes wished I had that kind of ability to draw others in, but ultimately I feel that it derived from very deep wounds, as a way to exert power when she felt so afraid, a way to seize love and passion when she feared it would never last and could be snatched from her at any moment. I feel lucky not to be operating from such hurts."

Henrietta ran as far away as she possibly could from the Emily family's media empire, while, with *Irrepressible*, Emily appears to be right in the middle of it.

"My family sold its media properties when I was in college," Emily explained. "Before that, I expected to be 'in the running' to play a large role in that world, but things changed dramatically. In many ways, this was dislocating, but as a result of the sales, I have been far freer to chart my own course than I might have been. I'm very progressive politically, but I have a strong sense of duty and would have done my best to keep the businesses afloat in what would have turned out to be highly challenging times. Henrietta was extremely loyal to her father and also ambitious, but the public role she was offered would have made her unconventional lifestyle completely impossible."

The younger members of the Emily family have responded positively to the rehashing of dirty laundry, so to speak.

"My 11-year-old son told me, 'I want to know all the Henrietta stories, and, now that she is back on our family tree, he will,' Emily shared. "That said, if my grandparents [Henrietta's little brother and his wife] were living, I'm not sure the book could have been written."

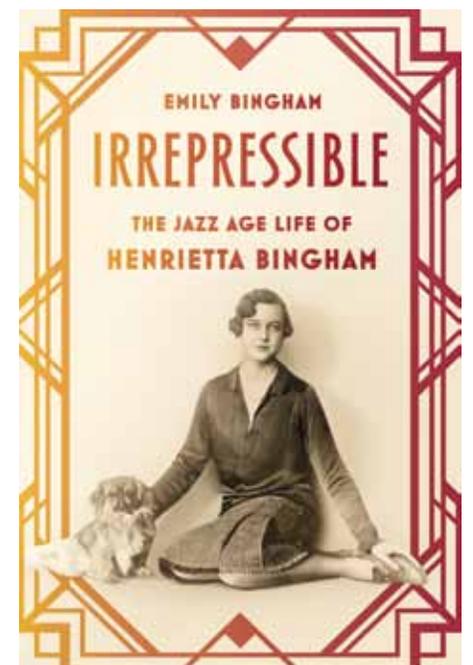
If Henrietta were alive today, Emily imagines she would very much have approved of the Supreme Court's decision to pass marriage equality nationwide.

"Oh, she would be absolutely thrilled," Emily said. "To do away with the terrible silence and secrecy about sexuality would have been a huge relief and might have saved her from great anguish and self-destructiveness."

Being that Emily uncovered quite a bit about Henrietta from trunks left in the attic, does it inspire her to leave her own trunks in the attic for future generations?

"I keep all my old diaries and many letters," Emily said. "I even save emails. God knows what will become of them. But I encourage everyone to keep a box that tells about their life and turn it over to a local or national archive. Historians need primary material like this to put together the stories of the past and the Twitter archive simply won't convey the interaction of inner and social/public life that we most need to understand to know what it felt like in other times."

**Emily Bingham is married to Stephen Reily and they share three children. The book *Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham* is available now on Amazon and other retailers.**



# TransReelization: Second annual event opens hearts, doors

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Award-winning filmmaker Lana Wachowski opened her art and the Chicago studio that forges it to more than 170 people on Aug. 29.

Those who attended the second annual TransReelization event held at Kinowerks Studio not only received an intimate tour through the boundless imagination of Wachowski and her brother Andy but three of the stars from their critically acclaimed Netflix series Sense8—Jamie Clayton, Miguel Angel Silvestre and Brian J. Smith—provided live commentary to selected scenes.

According to Chicago House Chief Development Officer James LoBianco, the red-carpet evening was expected to raise more than \$60,000 toward the organization's TransLife Center, which provides critically needed housing, a comprehensive range of support programs and resources to transgender individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS or other chronic illnesses, homelessness and poverty.

Chicago House CEO Rev. Stan J. Sloan told Windy City Times that both the present and future of the facility offer encouragement and possible expansion into independent living for its residents.

"We're part of a national HRSA [Health Resources and Services Administration] study and we are exceeding all expectations with that," he said. "One of the things we are gauging is that, just like any adult, the folks who stay

with us don't necessarily want to be in a communal environment. Are we better off giving people their own apartment and moving the subsidies out there?"

Driving the point of the TransLife Center home, among the four films painstakingly curated for the event by host committee members Karin Winslow and Mickey Mahoney was Elise—a devastating look into the life of a young trans woman of color whose dreams are contained in simply getting through the next 24 hours on the streets of Washington, D.C.

Another of the evenings films, Flying Solo—about 92-year-old World War II veteran Robina Asti who faced a further battle with the Social Security Administration (SSA) for spousal benefits as a transgender widow—struck a particular chord with the evening's recipient of the Keeping it Reel award Colonel Jennifer Pritzker.

"Greater knowledge and understanding of transgender people benefits the entire community," Pritzker said. "We would not be here now and certainly not having a ceremony like this one without people like [Asti] who won the essential victory for all of us. It is so appropriate that all she asked for was to harvest what nearly a century of life and work earned for her—a simple recognition that transgender people are just that: people."

For more information about the TransLife Center, visit [www.ChicagoHouse.org/?post\\_causes=translife-center](http://www.ChicagoHouse.org/?post_causes=translife-center).



Above (from left): Director Lana Wachowski and Sense8 stars Brian J. Smith, Jamie Clayton and Miguel Angel Silvestre. Below: Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan.

Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



Myles Brady (right) and Precious Davis on the night of the MTV VMAs. Facebook image

## Local trans residents part of MTV VMAs

Chicago transgender residents Precious Davis and Myles Brady were part of the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs).

Davis and fiancé Myles Brady were part of a transgender contingent that introduced host Miley Cyrus' newest single. Cyrus herself recently came out as pansexual.

Davis captioned one Facebook photo of her and Brady thusly: "@mrmylesbrady and I at the #vmas tonight representing the @happyhippiefdn #mylesandprecious #dreamscometrue #transisbeautiful." She also com-

mented on the night's happenings, such as when Chicago rapper Kanye West made his speech after accepting the Video Vanguard Award: "Kanye is preaching in this house and taking no prisoners! This speech is pop-culture gold."

Regarding the awards themselves, it was Taylor Swift's night, as the converted pop singer (and rapper Kendrick Lamar) won Video of the Year and Best Collaboration for "Bad Blood." She also won Best Female Video and Best Pop Video for "Blank Space." Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson won Best Male Video for "Uptown Funk."

Among those who performed and/or presented were Swift (with Nicki Minaj, at one point), Britney Spears, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Pharrell Williams, Demi Lovato, Justin Bieber and The Weeknd.

## Trans documentary's campaign launched

The Trans Oral History Project (TOHP), the oldest transgender-led organization dedicated to sharing trans stories, announced that it is launching a new documentary Web series.

America in Transition (AIT) will highlight social issues and positive role models from underrepresented trans communities across the United States.

Building relationships within and between communities is central to AIT's model. AIT Director Andre Perez started working toward AIT almost a year ago by establishing a community advisory board, recruiting media mentors and forging partnerships with more than 30 organizations around the country such as Disability Visibility, Lambda Legal, Medium, Trans Lifeline and United Latino Pride.

AIT is launching its first fundraiser ever, via an Indiegogo campaign for \$5,000 (\$10,000 stretch goal); visit <http://igg.me/at/My-TransStory>. For more, see <http://americaintransition.org/mytransstory/>.

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# MLB inclusion ambassador talks about newly out player

BY ROSS FORMAN

Billy Bean received a random text message during spring training for the 2015 baseball season from David Denson, who said he plays baseball—although was a bit short on specifics—and was hoping Bean, Major League Baseball's ambassador for inclusion, would call him back.

They talked the next day, and Bean sensed Denson was young. Denson said he played for the Milwaukee Brewers' organization and was curious if Bean was planning to talk to the team about LGBT inclusion, as he did during spring training for many teams.

Denson then, seemingly out of nowhere, said, "You and me are the same," recalled Bean, who thought the confirmation that he is gay was "very candid."

Denson, 20, of African-American and Hispanic descent, had then just recently told his parents and they were slowly OK with it; his dad struggled with the coming-out the most.

Bean told Denson that he could reach out whenever he wanted to talk, whatever time of day, be it about baseball or life in general.

That started regular text messages between the two and phone calls every week or so.

Soon, Denson told Bean that he wanted to come out publicly, yet Bean advised him to take a few days to make certain he was ready—because once you do it, that's it, Bean said.

"[Coming out] was the best decision I made, but I did it after I quit playing," said Bean, who played for three major league teams from 1987-95 before retiring. "I also told him that the greatest regret of my life is that I quit playing when I still had time to play."

Denson is just starting his professional baseball journey, a first baseman dreaming of major league stardom.

He attended Bishop Amat High School in La Puente, California, during his freshman year, and then transferred as sophomore to South Hills High School in West Covina, California, graduating in 2013. The Milwaukee Brewers selected him in the 15th round of the 2013 MLB Draft, and he played for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers of the Class-A Midwest League for most of 2014.

He began the 2015 season with Wisconsin, but struggled at the plate and was demoted to the Helena Brewers of the Rookie-level Pioneer League. With Helena, though, Denson was selected to play in the league's all-star game, where he was honored as the MiLB.com Top Star.

"David is of a different generation and very comfortable with himself, but he was apprehensive as a baseball player; he just wanted to be judged for that," said Bean, who noted that Denson even had issues balancing social media posts with baseball and personal life matters.

While still playing for Wisconsin, Bean visited him to simply watch him play, unbeknownst to the team or MLB. Bean even bought a ticket to that game with cash.

He took Denson to dinner after that game. They laughed throughout the night and just had a good time, Bean said.

When Denson was demoted to Rookie League, "that's when I for sure thought that he'd wait until the fall or next season to consider coming-out.," Bean said.

But Denson "felt very comfortable with" the Helena team, Bean said.

And one night in July Bean got a text from Denson, but not one he expected.

Denson texted Bean: "You won't believe what



David Denson.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Hudson

I just did."

He came out as gay to his team before a game.

"Someone said something to him joking around and he replied, 'You better be careful; you never know if there would be one in the room,'" who might be offended by the comment, Bean said.

Ultimately, Bean said that Denson "seemed a little relieved, very excited about" coming out. And now—after the news that Denson is gay broke in mid-August, first in a story appearing in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel—he is so happy, Bean said.

(Denson is not doing interviews for the time being, Windy City Times was told when requesting an interview with the baseball prospect. Bean, though, said he'd "be happy to introduce him when he's ready.")

Bean said that, over the past few months, Denson has asked him literally hundreds of questions. "He wants to be his best self and seems very certain [about coming out]," Bean said. "He has no hang ups about [coming out]. He just wants to go out there and [play the game]."

But now, and forever, the spotlight will shine on Denson. He is, after all, the first active player in affiliated professional baseball to reveal he is gay. Sean Conroy, a pitcher for the Sonoma Stompers of the independent Pacific Association, came out in June, becoming the first active pro baseball player to do so. Conroy's league is not affiliated with MLB.

Bean and Glenn Burke are the only two major-leaguers revealed they were gay, both coming out after retiring.

Former NBA player Jason Collins announced that he is gay after the 2013 season. Collins played 22 games for the Brooklyn Nets in 2014 before retiring. Collins was the first active player in one of the four major male team sports to reveal he is gay.

"It's a big story, and great that the Brewers and baseball overall are showing that they are supportive of a player. Whether or not David makes it to the big leagues, another player is still going to see this and hopefully see it as a positive," Bean said.

Denson, though, has a quite a long road to

play in the major leagues. "He can't be much farther away than he is," Bean said. "He's got six [minor league] levels ahead of him. He's [now] playing a notch above college baseball, but not much more."

Still, "it's another milestone" for the LGBT sports movement, Bean said.

And should Denson make it to the majors, he then becomes, "one of the most important stories of the LGBT sports movement, ever," Bean said.

Denson's coming-out came days before one of the largest LGBT sports events of the year—the annual Gay Softball World Series, run by the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), an event that dates back to 1977. The 2015 NAGAAA World Series, held in Columbus, Ohio, features more than 180 teams from across the U.S. and Canada, playing in four talent-based divisions, and fifth for players aged 50 and over.

The Chicago Menace, representing the Chi-

cago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), are the city's lone team competing in the top tiered A-Division, running through Aug. 22. Kevin Ball, 37, who lives in Andersonville and is the president of In Grape Company, is the Menace pitcher. He has played CMSA softball for eight years and also has played CMSA volleyball, dodgeball and basketball.

Ball was a Division III baseball pitcher and was one of two selected, out of 1,200, at a Colorado Rockies tryout.

Ball is straight, married.

"I thought it was great," that Denson came out, Ball said. "What was more exciting than just that he came out was, that there seems to be some growth and acceptance [for gay athletes]."

Ball said that, 20 years ago, when he was pitching in college and then in his brief stint with the Rockies' organization, he never could have envisioned a player coming out. So, Denson's coming-out "means a lot," Ball said.



2013 AIDS Run & Walk.

Photo by Melissa Wasserman

## AIDS Run & Walk Sept. 26 at Soldier Field

This year's AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, hosted by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and benefiting 35 other community organizations—known as CommunityDirect partners—on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Chicago's Soldier Field.

This year's message is "Put your foot down." In a statement, AFC President/CEO John Peller said, "We want supporters to put their foot down and make a difference in this epidemic, especially among communities most impacted by HIV."

The 35 CommunityDirect partners that will raise funds through this year's event will receive 90 percent of all money raised by their teams. Last year, the 32 CommunityDirect teams raised a combined \$270,000.

Event registration is \$40 in advance for 5K walkers, and \$50 for 5K or 10K runners. To register as an individual or as a team, or to donate to a CommunityDirect team, visit [AIDSRunWalk.org](http://AIDSRunWalk.org) or call 312-334-0946. Online registration ends Sept. 20.

## 'Race Judicata' Sept. 10

Race Judicata—the weeknight 5K run & walk that raises money for the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) Foundation—returns for its 21st year on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Attracting nearly 5,000 participants (including support from many of the city's top law firms), the after-work run/walk takes place at Roosevelt Road and Columbus Av-

enue in Grant Park. The start time is 6:30 p.m.

Through the foundation, attorneys have volunteered free legal services for the working poor since 1964.

Registration is \$39; visit [CVLS.org/judicata](http://CVLS.org/judicata).

## Chicago Sky playoff tickets on sale

Tickets to see the Chicago Sky in the 2015 WNBA playoffs are on sale.

Following a historic 2014 season in which the Sky won the Eastern Conference championship and advanced to the WNBA Finals for the first time in the team's history, Chicago has clinched its third consecutive post-season appearance, thanks to a 98-96 Chicago Sky victory over the Atlanta Dream and the Connecticut Sun's 80-66 loss to the New York Liberty on Aug. 29.

Tickets for the first round of the 2015 Sky playoffs start as low as \$19 and fans can lock in a seat for every Sky playoff game and save up to 33 percent by taking advantage of a playoff plan. Call 866-SKY-WNBA or visit [ChicagoSky.net](http://ChicagoSky.net).

## Rugby player makes history in England

A British rugby league player has become the first professional in his sport to come out as gay, Messenger Newspapers reported.

Keegan Hirst, 27, told the Sunday Mirror, "At first I couldn't even say 'I'm gay' in my head, let alone out loud. Now I feel like I'm letting out a long breath that I've held in for a long time." Hirst, a father of two, plays for the Batley Bulldogs.

Gareth Thomas was previously the only openly gay rugby player after he came out while playing for Wales rugby union side Cardiff Blues in 2009.

The article is at [http://www.messengernews-papers.co.uk/news/national/13599947.I\\_m\\_gay\\_says\\_rugby\\_league\\_s\\_Keegan\\_Hirst/](http://www.messengernews-papers.co.uk/news/national/13599947.I_m_gay_says_rugby_league_s_Keegan_Hirst/).

## Stonewall Kickball registration in effect

Stonewall Kickball, a non-profit kickball league, has launched its fall season registration.

The league will be playing on Sundays at 12-5 p.m. from Sept. 13 through Oct. 25. The league's main goal will be to help raise funds for the local non-profit Fred Says.

Registrations are per player, with no team registration fees. Visit the Stonewall Kickball-Chicago Facebook group or email [chicago@stonewallkickball.org](mailto:chicago@stonewallkickball.org).



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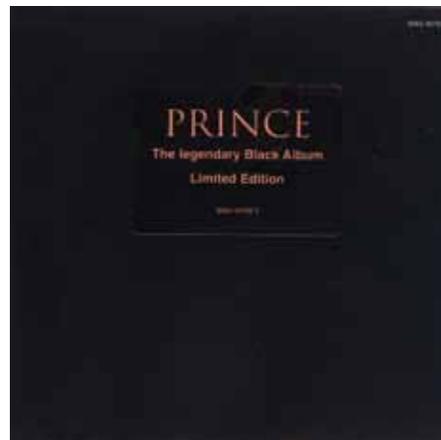
### Rihanna and the lost album saga

Recently, our beloved Rihanna tried very hard to break out of her pop shell and go with an "edgier" sound, via Kanye West, and failed. All three singles off of the planned R8 album tanked, despite the help of a Beatle, an epic Tarantino-esque video for "Bitch Better Have My Money" and a warm reception for the po-



litically relevant—but tepid—"American Oxygen." Seems like she wanted to walk the path of Beyoncé's self-titled triumph (artistic, yet accessible and well-thought-out), but fell into Bey's "4" (anti-pop to the point of bland and forgettable).

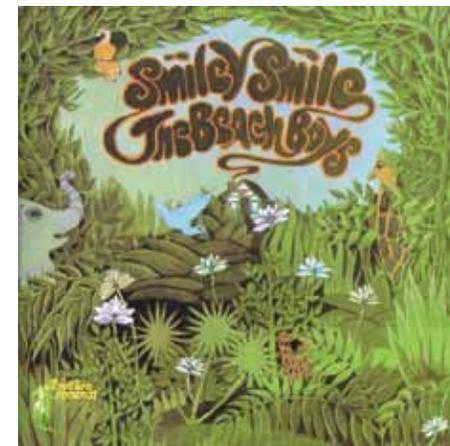
Ri's not the first artist to toss out a realized album and start over out of frustration. Prince famously recorded the dark and angry Black Album during a rough patch in his life (possibly



fueled by drug experimentation), and waited right up until the first run was pressed and ready to ship to stores before he realized it was

a mistake and replaced it with the bright and spiritual polar opposite, Lovesexy.

After the critical success and breakthrough from formula with Pet Sounds and the biggest single of their career, "Good Vibrations," the world was waiting for another masterpiece by Brian Wilson and **The Beach Boys**. Unfortunately,



massive amounts of hashish, Quaaludes and depression, plus an odd collaboration with the heady lyricist Van Dyke Parks yielded *The Smile Sessions*, a group of recordings meant to be the follow up album, *Smile*. The *Smile Sessions* rambled on for a year and had no real catchy singles and was eventually abandoned by the band, then re-recorded poorly and on-the-fly as *Smiley Smile*, one of their worst and poorest selling albums, derailing their career permanently.

**Dr. Dre** is currently very high on his billion dollar headphones, hit movie (*Straight Outta Compton*), and now long-awaited (and critically acclaimed) LP, *Compton*. But it hasn't always been "Dre Day." Three of his projects have died on the vine. *Helter Skelter*, a dream album



with Dre and Ice Cube with Snoop Dogg, was in the works but was murdered by a bad fallout with Death Row Records. Then, a similar NWA reunion met the same fate a few years after. The next decade it happened again with the follow up to *The Chronic* with fits and starts (supposedly called *Detox*), that took about 10 years, finally getting tossed aside in place of *Compton*.

Seems a shame that these, and hundreds other shelved concepts, might never see the light of day or only be released in cruddy, bootleg form, but if I've learned anything from years of research and illegal copies, some things are better left to your musical imagination and don't see the light of day for good reasons. Rihanna, we can "W8" for something better.



"Black drag queen comes in and saves all the white folk ... that doesn't happen often!"—**Billy Porter** encapsulates the plot of *Kinky Boots* during his show at the Crown & Anchor in Provincetown.

Over this column's long history, the line between celebrity and porn has been blurred beyond recognition. While prostitution and porn are not necessarily the same thing, there is an indisputable connection. Last week, the offices of the largest gay escort website, **Rentboy.com**, were raided in New York City and seven employees were arrested.

But this raid wasn't solely carried out by the NYPD. The website was being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security. Huh? Is ISIS trying to infiltrate the US through hot male hookers? Was Bin Laden the Al-Qaeda equivalent of Heidi Fleiss? Maybe they're housing a sleeper cell! The official complaint was filed by special agent Susan Ruiz, and she spends an inordinate amount of time defining terms such as twink, scat, fisting, and out rate. Here's an example: "I have learned that a sling, also known as a 'sex sling', is a device that allows two people to have sex while one is suspended." If nothing else, we've surely enriched Ruiz's education.

There's all sorts of drama happening at the **O'Donnell** home. From what we can piece together, it all started in 1997. That was when Deanna Micolety put her 2-month-old daughter Kayla up for adoption. According to Deanna, she signed the consent documents while high on drugs and under pressure of her then-husband. She also alleges that the adoptive mother knew the condition she was in. That adoptive mother was Rosie O'Donnell, and Kayla soon became Chelsea O'Donnell. In the intervening years, Chelsea has been trying to find her biological parents. Somehow she got in touch with Deanna's father last November. Since then, Deanna and Chelsea/Kayla have been in contact via text and Facebook messages. Allegedly, O'Donnell tried to stop this communication and had some heated exchanges with Deanna. One text from Rosie says, "Get any lawyers u want. It was all legal. Like it or not. Now stop." When Deanna went public with the story, Rosie's publicist said that Rosie "encouraged and supported Chelsea's desire to communicate with her birth mother."

Fast forward to last month when Rosie revealed that Chelsea had been missing for a week with her service dog. On Aug. 18, Chelsea was found with 25-year-old Steven Sheerer, a man she allegedly met on Tinder and who has a record for heroin possession. According to reports, Sheerer sent Chelsea a nude photo of himself, and since she was only 17 at the time, he was charged with third-degree distribution of obscenity to a minor and third-degree endangering the welfare of a child. Six days after the police brought her home, Chelsea turned 18 and became a legal adult. Rosie's publicist made another statement: "Chelsea made a decision when she turned 18 that she wanted to go to her birth mother. That was her choice." But it wasn't quite so placid. We hear that Rosie refused to give Chelsea her birth certificate or Social Security card and threatened to cut her off financially if she left. And yet, off she went. Deanna drove from Wisconsin to pick up Chelsea/Kayla and told reporters, "Leave my daughter out of Rosie's stuff." To be continued...

Season 18 will likely go down in history as the least successful season of *The View*. All three of the newly-hired co-hosts vanished. For a while, it looked like **Whoopi** was going to be on the show all by herself. Then **Raven-Symone** was hired. Then **Michelle Collins** was hired. Then **Candace Cameron Bure** was hired. Then **Paula Faris** was hired. For those of you keeping count, that's five co-hosts—the most the show has ever had.



Rosie O'Donnell has her own edition of *Family Matters* happening.

But Candace will also be filming the *Full House* reboot, and Paula hosts *Good Morning America* on the weekends. So they needed some fill-ins. Enter **Stacy London**, **Ana Navarro**, **Molly Sims** and **Sherri Shepherd**. Yes, Sherri Shepherd—one of the few co-hosts in the history of *The View* to actually leave of her own accord.

Then ABC announced that **Joy Behar** is back. Not only is she back—she's back as a permanent host. How did this happen? When planning for this revamped panel, the network asked both Sherri and Joy to return. Both entered into negotiations. The idea of this rotating slot appealed to Sherri, who still acts and does stand-up around the country. She was in. Joy was less than thrilled.

"They've come to me, and we couldn't make a deal," she said. "They wouldn't really negotiate well enough for me. And so I said, 'No, I'm not coming back.' I mean, if they were giving me a bigger role on the show, and giving me some power to actually make some changes and let them benefit from my expertise after being there for 16 years—but they're not going to do that, so why would I want to bang my head against the wall?" A big issue was the money—we hear Joy wanted \$3 million for the part-time gig. The network balked, and Joy walked. Then Barbara Walters went to bat for Behar. Babs was disgusted with how the show has been run since her retirement, and insisted that Joy be rehired. But wait: There's more. Because the show will now be live on Fridays, Whoopi will take that day off—and guess who will be the moderator? Joy, that's who.

I'm already looking forward to *Dancing with the Stars*—or, as I like to call it, *Dancing with a Bunch of Nobodies*. So far, we have **Chaka Khan** huffing and puffing and sweating like a pig. **Paula Deen** might be a hoot. Then there's **Nick Carter**. If nothing else, he'll get back in shape—and there are few things in this world better than Nick Carter in shape. As to **Bindi Irwin**, really? She's a celebrity? Let's just hope her partner has a pet stingray.

When our tax dollars are being used to teach the feds about slings, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We had a little bit of everything to kick off our second decade—music, dance, murder, arrests, porn and escorts. And we LOLed the whole time. You can get even more kicks at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site that will make you do more than laugh out loud. If you have a question for me, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before Chaka asks Paula Deen to try her chocolate pie. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Seven Lions

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Honestly, I wasn't quite sure what to expect from **Seven Lions** (130 S. Michigan Ave.; SevenLionsChicago.com).

Before visiting restaurants, I try to conduct research—after all, it wouldn't be right to be unprepared, I feel. However, during the course of researching, I made the mistake of stumbling across reviews on certain websites—and they were among the most widely divisive I'd seen.

Say what you will, but the bustling restaurant (renowned sommelier and former Check, Please! host Alpana Singh's second venture, after Boarding House) offers many reasons to warrant a return visit.

I started my meal with the cleverly named Grow Another Pair cocktail. The pear liqueur was certainly noticeable but wasn't overpowering. My dining companions tried the Hell or High Watermelon, a wheat beer that they genuinely liked.

The food is solidly recommended, overall. (The lunch menu isn't the most adventurous, I'll admit, with items such as tuna nicoise and Cobb salad—but what it does, it does quite well.) I fell in love with the Brussels sprout and burrata toast as well as something you don't find in a lot of restaurants: fried chicken skins (along with fried pickles). The sriracha honey mustard, thankfully, only enhances the skins without setting one's mouth on fire.

However, the magnum opus of this meal, for me, was the simplest of items: the 7L Cheeseburger. (Singh actually stopped by our table and recommended this item, adding that even putting lettuce and tomatoes on it would detract from the burger's



Fried chicken skins (above left), cheeseburger (above right) and s'mores bread pudding (below) at Seven Lions



juiciness.) It's a simple concoction—adorned with only American cheese and red onion—but the thought of sharing the burger with my cohorts only filled me with dread after I had the first bite.

The pastry/dessert menu is a bit more adventurous. The S'mores bread pudding is beyond tasty (and a close second to the cheeseburger as my favorite item). However, there are also items such as the breakfast "cereal" bowl (toffee corn puffs and vanilla-bean yogurt panna cotta), bourbon banana split and PB&C (malted milk and peanut-butter mousse, peanut butter-chocolate crunch and a malted milkshake).

In addition to the food and libations/wine, there's also the view, if you sit outside. It's situated near the Art Institute of Chicago and, because "outside" means sitting in the sidewalk area, there will be various businessmen, students and tourists to observe—and who will observe you.

I entered Seven Lions with uncertainty, but left pretty sure that I'll return soon.

[Note: Here's some trivia, in case you were wondering about the restaurant's name. The name Seven Lions factors in several components, including the more than 50 lion ornaments affixed to the façade of the building, and the fact that the restaurant is located directly across the street from Art Institute, with its two iconic lion statues.

However, the name is largely a tribute to Singh's late grandmother. "Singh" is derived from the Sanskrit word for "lion," and her grandmother referred to her seven children as her lions.]

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN  
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



**LQOKS: Wigshock  
w/Lady Bunny**

**Thursday, Sept. 3, 10 pm**

**Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.**

Chicago's homage to the legendary festival and movie, Wigstock. Featuring hair-raising LQOKS and performances from Lady Bunny (pictured), Saya Naomi, Rosemary Maybe, Betti Kyle and more. \$2 PBR, \$3 Berlin Bombs. Photo by Kirk Williamson



**DILF:  
Silver Fox w/Joey Chiappetta**

**Sat., Sept. 5, 10 pm**

**The Sofu Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.**

Celebrating daddies with a little (or a lot) of snow on the roof and those men who have a weakness for them. Host Joey Chiappetta (pictured) will be doling out Silver Fox shots and Steamworks passes to all his favorites. Facebook photo



**Miss Continental 2015**

**Semis: Sunday, Sept. 6, 6 pm**

**Finals: Monday, Sept. 7, 7 pm**

**The Vic, Belmont and Sheffield**

The highest in female impersonation decides the new titleholder at this annual Labor Day weekend pageant. Photo of Miss Continental 2014 by Hal Baim



**SIDETRACK**

'Sync It!: 2.0, Wed., Aug. 26.  
Photos by Jed Dulanias



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Wed., Sept. 2

**Genderqueer Chicago** A grassroots group that works to create safe spaces for everyone to talk about, think about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

### Thursday, Sept. 3

**Open Gym Volleyball** Every Monday and Thursday for 18 and over. All gender and experience levels welcome. Cost \$7/night or \$30/month. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

**In Conversation with Fred Hersch** Center on Halsted and Jazz Institute of Chicago for a preview of the upcoming Jazz Fest. In collaboration with ADA25 Chicago in commemoration of this year's 25th anniversary celebration of the American with Disabilities Act. Hersch will discuss his career and his HIV/AIDS advocacy. 5:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/FredHersch>

**Queer Tango** A beginner and intermediate Argentine Tango class designed specifically for the LGBTQ communities. \$15/class. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

**Chi-Town Dance Party** With Michael Maltenfort. No experience necessary. Cost is \$9/\$8 for members. 7:00pm - 9:30pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago <http://chitownsquares.org>

**Matt Yee Outrageous Adult Sing Along Show 2015** Entertainer, artist, comedian from Hawaii. Madness, tiaras and boas will be flying. 8:00pm Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret 1383 N Milwaukee Ave Chicago 773-278-1830 <http://www.mattyee.com> Tickets: <http://reservations.davenportspianobar.com/events/matt-ye/>

**Menage-A-Hah** Sex-themed variety show including stand-up comedy from Zach



### ALL THAT JAZZ Through Nov. 21

A festival honoring the late jazz great Billy Strayhorn will take place in various venues throughout the city.

Peterson (The Comedy Exposition), burlesque from Stephanie Hawking (Plan 9 Burlesque), rope bondage demonstration from BadKitty Bondage, stand-up comedy from Shannon Noll (100 Proof Comedy) 8:00pm Hamburger Mary's 5400 N Clark St., <https://www.facebook.com/menageahah>

### Friday, Sept. 4

**North Coast Music Festival at Union Park** Collaboration of independent promoters in Chicago celebrates and merges all types of genres and people. 3:00pm Union Park, 1501 W Randolph St., Chicago <http://www.flavorus.com/event/>

North-Coast-Music-Fest-2015/289559?af flky=NorthCoastMusicFestival. Through Sept. 6

**The Coyote Art Fest** Three-day fest celebrating the art of Wicker Park. \$10 6:00pm - 10:00pm Collaboration - Flat Iron Arts Building 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. 3rd Floor Chicago <http://wpbfirstfriday.org>

**Significant others, family, friends and allies of Mancavers (SOFFA) Partners, family, allies and friends of Transmen and those who attend Mancave.** Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

**One Man's Journey Through the Middle Ages** Boston-based (and former Evanston resident) writer/storyteller Judah Leblang presents a humorous look at life in middle age. 8:30pm Windy City Music's Blackbox Theatre, 5340-42 W. Lawrence [www.judahleblang.com/show](http://www.judahleblang.com/show) Tickets: [www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?tix&e=0e085e78d47165077d77eabc5d153f4d](http://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?tix&e=0e085e78d47165077d77eabc5d153f4d)

**Billy Strayhorn Festival** Citywide through Nov. 21 with panel discussions and performances of his work in many forms, coordinated by the Auditorium Theatre. 9:30pm Various locations 312-341-2310 <http://auditoriumtheatre.org>

### Saturday, Sept. 5

**Bisexual-Queer Alliance** The goal of Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago is to erase the invisibility of bisexual people within the LGBTQ community. This group is open to bisexual people and their allies. Free. For other meeting times for the Bisexual Queer Alliance, check with Center On Halsted at (773) 472-6469. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

**Poet Kit Yan Performs Queer Heartache at Chicago Fringe** Transgender, queer, Asian American poet from Hawaii, will perform Queer Heartache at the Chicago Fringe Festival. Queer Heartache is a one-person SLAM POETRY theater show about the micro-aggressive societal failures that break our queer hearts. 2:30pm CCJP Meeting Hall, 5320 W Giddings St, Chicago <http://www.queerheartache.com>

**Patchwork Drifter** by Jennifer L. Mickelson

Staged production. California-bound and down on her luck, Emmy Fox finds refuge working for shopkeeper Harriet Cooper and her two daughters. 8:00pm Akvavit Theater, Chicago, IL.

**Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ)** Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00pm - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

### Sunday, Sept. 6

**The Lighthouse Church of Chicago** Multi-ethnic and LGBT-inclusive with Pastor Jamie Frazier, 10:00am Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>

**Fashion Loves Art; a Fashion + Art Show to Benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Chicago** Collaborative fashion show and art exhibit to benefit The Ronald McDonald House of Chicago. The displayed artwork pieces will be available for silent auction at the event. 6:00pm - 10:00pm 1446 W Kinzie Ave. 8778417244 ext 703 <http://fashionlovesart.org> Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/fashion-loves-art-tickets-17492559717>

### Monday, Sept. 7

**Ballroom Dance** Get on the Floor dance company teaches ballroom, salsa and other energetic dance methods. Drop in or pre-register. \$15/class. Package discount available. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

**That's Weird, Grandma** Barrel of Monkeys is bringing its revue to audiences across the city. Barrel of Monkeys is an arts education theater ensemble that conducts creative writing workshops with 3rd through 5th grade students in underserved Chicago public schools. Tickets \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12. Show goes on through September 7 on Mondays. 8:00pm The Neo-Futurarium 5153 N Ashland Chicago 312-409-1954 Tickets: <http://www.barrelofmonkeys.org>

### Wed., Sept. 9

**DIFFA Chicago's Light The Night White Party** First-of its-kind event will attract design and business professionals to come dressed in their finest white attire to illuminate the rooftop setting and spotlight the organization's goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS. Early tickets \$50, \$65 after Aug 27. 6:30pm - 9:30pm Sterling Bay, 111 N. Canal St., Chicago Tickets: <http://www.diffachicago.org>

**Dr. John & the Nite Trippers** Dr. John is a six-time GRAMMY® Award-winning musician and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee. Tickets \$90/100/110. Open to all ages. 8:00pm - 11:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago (312) 733-WINE Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/dr-john-the-nite-trippers-9-9.html>

### Friday, Sept. 11

**Sam Kirk: Do You See Me?** Original paintings represent Kirk's visual study of youth homelessness and the role it plays in working-class communities, communities of color, and the LGBTQ community. To benefit youth homeless projects of the Pride Action Tank. 5:00pm Prairie Avenue Gallery, Keith House, 1900 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/104825039867502/>

**Formerly Known As (FKA)** Long-running Northside queer dance party moves to second Friday of each month. Welcoming space for people of all genders, representations, expressions, identities and sexualities. 10:00pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://facebook.com/FKADANCE>

**World premiere of Funnyman** George Wendt, Tim Kazurinsky, Amanda Drinkall, Steve Haggard and Rob Lindley. Through Oct. 18, 2015. 8:00pm Northlight Theatre 9501 Skokie Blvd Skokie, IL 60077 Tickets: <http://northlight.org>

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## Feminist book group turns 40

BY SKYLAR BAKER-JORDAN

In 1975, Connie Kiosse and Pat Becker decided to form a book club. The two had met four years before at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has gone on to found Feminist Voice, one of Chicago's first feminist newspapers. The paper folded two years later, but the two weren't ready to give up.

"We were looking for some ways to keep our feminist activity going," said Becker. "The book group seemed like a good idea."

Forty years later, the Chicago Women's Reading/Book Group is going strong. Past and present members, family members, and friends all met Sunday at Women and Children's First Bookstore in Andersonville to celebrate four decades of women reading work by women.

Neither Kiosse nor Becker could imagine that the group would last as long as it did. In the beginning, they questioned what would happen



**Chicago Women's Reading/Book Group.**  
Photo by Skylar Baker-Jordan

when they ran out of women writers to read. "Neither one of us could imagine the feminist explosion of women's writing. Throughout the years, it was a question we were often asked," Kiosse said. "They don't ask that anymore."

The group, which currently includes 12 members, meets once a month to discuss a book suggested by one of the members. Over the decades they've read everything from non-fiction to poetry, discussing both a book's literary merit and personal impact.

"It's almost like having season tickets to

the opera in that you would see operas you wouldn't normally go to," said Heidi Hoppe, a member for 27 years. "So you read books that you wouldn't normally select for yourself." Over the years those books have included Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles and Ayn Rand's The Fountainhead as well as works by Amy Tan, Maya Angelou and other famous feminist authors.

While the books are what brought them together, it's the relationships they've built which many members attribute to the groups longevity. "We've been through marriages, divorces, children, breakups, get togethers," said Becker. "Every meeting has books, friendship, and food. And usually a little wine."

## Black gay dads behind photo have split

The two African-American dads who cultivated a large Internet following due to their pho-

to-perfect family have split, People reported.

In a letter to their 187,000 followers that spanned six Instagram posts, Caleb Anthony, 27, revealed that he and Kordale Lewis, 26, are "no longer together."

The Atlanta couple, who have two young daughters and a son, generated a huge Web response after posting an Instagram photo of their morning hair routine with their girls, captioning the photo, "Being fathers is getting our daughters up at 5:30 am, making breakfast, getting them dressed for school and putting them on the bus by 6:30."

In an interview with Windy City Times that ran in June 2014, Lewis (while promoting his book Picture Perfect?) said, "For the past few months, my relationship with my fiance has been up and down. I think he now understands that I was traumatized [by childhood abuse]."

The original People article is at <http://www.people.com/article/hot-gay-dads-breakup>. The Windy City Times item is at <http://www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/Instagram-celebrity-looks-at-abuses-love-in-memoir-/47991.html>.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### CASTING CALL

**STRANGE BREAKUP STORIES CASTING NOW.** Relationships can be painful and messy. No matter how hard people try, sometimes, things just don't work out. More times than most, the stories behind the relationships and breakups go untold. People are left in a place that's hard to move from, emotionally, financially and physically. Wounds can last a life time and unresolved issues keep the wounds fresh, sometimes for life. Wouldn't it be nice, to get it all off your chest. Tell your story, get support and move on to something revitalizing and new. A network affiliated development company is currently casting real authentic people to tell their unique breakup stories. If you are between the ages of 21 and 45, have a unique and interesting story we, would like to hear from you. (All sexual orientations are accepted). To be considered send us the following information: Name, Age, Email, Phone, Sexual Orientation, Small paragraph explaining your story. **A producer will be review submissions and contacting cast through Sept. Tracyshow32@yahoo.com (9/2/15-1)**

### CLEANING SERVICES

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### COUNSELING

**SUPPORT/THERAPY MEN'S GROUP** There are currently two openings in an ongoing support/therapy group for gay men over the age of 40. If interested in being part of a milieu exploring what it means to be gay and middle-aged, consider joining. **Contact: [scylle.me@gmail.com](mailto:scylle.me@gmail.com). (9/26/15-1)**

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. Registration No. D15143126 on July 23, 2015 Under the Assumed Name of "Chicagoland Asbestos Inspections" with the business located at 3351 North Kenmore Avenue, Apt 3, Chicago, IL 60657. The true name(s)

and residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: G.Tucker Ryckman, 3351 North Kenmore Avenue, Apt 3, Chicago, IL 60657. (9/2/15-3)

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