

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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RETURN OF THE MACK

Androgynous model Mack Dihle makes waves.

Photo by Molly Adams

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION



A tale of two men and a house

Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum.
Photo courtesy of Mineral Point Archives

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It was a honeymoon journey through Wisconsin that inspired Evanston-based husband-and-wife team Rick Kinnebrew and Martha Meyer to write Ten Dollar House. Pride Films and Plays presents the Chicago-area debut of the new play this month, which is very appropriate because an earlier version of the work was previously submitted for one of the company's many LGBTQ writing competitions.

The Wisconsin town of Mineral Point (located about 50 miles southwest of Madison) sparked the imaginations of Kinnebrew and Meyer when they first learned of the late gay couple Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum. The two men had a passion for antiques and historical preservation, and ultimately helped to save the fortunes of the dying mining town during the difficult years of the Great Depression.

"We toured this house that was a 1830s mining cottage that was restored by Bob and Edgar in the 1930s," said Kinnebrew about the historic Cornish-modeled buildings now known as the Pendarvis historic site. "We were more interested in their story and how they had to be very discreet about their sexual orientation in the community."

Kinnebrew said Neal and Hellum initially planned to run a business selling antiques. Yet it was another of Neal and Hellum's creations and other circumstances which helped turn Mineral Point into an artsy tourist destination.

"We were drawn to it as a love story," said Kinnebrew, adding that he and Meyer also have friends and family members who are gay. "But it has a particular barrier. [Neal and Hellum] couldn't fully be out."

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TRANS MURDERS

Reached epidemic proportions in 2015.

Facebook photo of Lamia Beard

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LOOKING BACK

National LGBT news of 2015.

Photo of the White House bathed in rainbow light after the marriage-equality ruling by Karen Dixon

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LE SWITCH

A look at a new About Face Theatre production.

Photo of cast by Timmy Samuel/Starbelly Studios

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**Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.**

Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

GENVOYA (jen-VOY-uh) (elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

There may be new information about GENVOYA. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).**

Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take GENVOYA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** GENVOYA is not for use to treat chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). If you have HBV infection and take GENVOYA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking GENVOYA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of GENVOYA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your GENVOYA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking GENVOYA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking GENVOYA.

What is GENVOYA?

GENVOYA is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

GENVOYA contains the prescription medicines elvitegravir (VITEKTA®), cobicistat (TYBOST®), emtricitabine (EMTRIVA®) and tenofovir alafenamide. It is not known if GENVOYA is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, GENVOYA may:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

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

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

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

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to other people.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you also take a medicine that contains:

- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

Before taking GENVOYA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B infection
- have kidney or bone problems
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.

Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take GENVOYA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in GENVOYA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in GENVOYA can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Some medicines may interact with GENVOYA. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with GENVOYA.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take GENVOYA with other medicines.

How should I take GENVOYA?

- Take GENVOYA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. GENVOYA is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- GENVOYA is usually taken 1 time each day.
- Take GENVOYA with food.
- If you need to take a medicine for indigestion (antacid) that contains aluminum and magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate during treatment with GENVOYA, take it at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking GENVOYA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking GENVOYA.
- Do not miss a dose of GENVOYA.
- If you take too much GENVOYA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your GENVOYA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to GENVOYA and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?”
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking GENVOYA. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

- These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of GENVOYA.

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

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GENVOYA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about GENVOYA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.GENVOYA.com**.

Keep GENVOYA and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: November 2015

Genvoya[™]
elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets



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WINDY CITY TIMES

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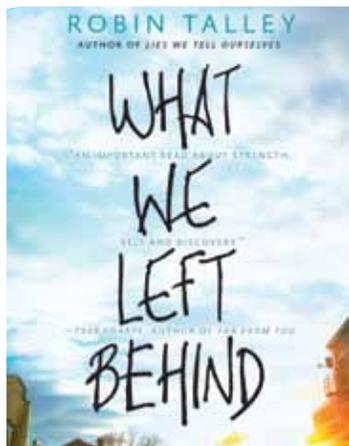
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IN REMEMBRANCE

Dirk Shafer (left) is among those LGBT individuals who passed away in 2015. Facebook photo

'BEHIND' THE SCENES



Windy City Times reviews Robin Talley's book *What We Left Behind*. Photo by Sue Hardesty

BIAS REPORT



Jason Cianciotto, in an op-ed, talks about how anti-LGBTQ discrimination can be economically destructive.

BUNDT SERIOUSLY...

Dining news includes the opening of Nothing Bundt Cakes.

SCREEN TIME

Old 37 and the gay films *Nasty Baby* and *Velociraptor* are among those in the newest Disc and That column.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Colton Haynes, Diana Ross and Jussie Smollett.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**



FRIDAY JANUARY 22

5:30 P.M. RECEPTION • 6:30 P.M. PROGRAM

Now that marriage equality is the law of the land and childrearing is more common in the LGBTQ community, are we becoming too integrated into mainstream society? How did we define ourselves as LGBTQ peoples in the past, and have those identities changed today? **Jennifer Brier** moderates a diverse panel, including **Ricardo Gamboa, Yasmin Nair, Francesca Royster, and Joseph Varisco** as they ask – and answer – these essential questions in a series of witty and fast-paced presentations followed by a debate.

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\$25 for members;
Attend all three for \$50,
\$40 members and students.

General Admission | \$20
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Ticket includes light appetizers and refreshments.



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Minneapolis gay publisher Tim Campbell dies

Gay-rights activist Tim Campbell died Dec. 26, 2015, in Houston, Texas, at the age of 76, from esophageal cancer.

Campbell was perhaps best known as the publisher of the GLC Voice newspaper in Minneapolis, which came out from 1979 through 1992. During that period, he was the go-to person in Minneapolis for the media whenever they needed a quick quote on some gay-related event.

Because Campbell was also known for a number of street theater-type gay-rights protests scattered over the years, it chagrined a few more polite gays and lesbians when he became their "voice." Campbell often remarked that he made a terrible mistake when he named his paper the GLC Voice.

Campbell was pushed into an openly gay lifestyle by the U.S. Army in 1962 when he was called to register for the draft. He checked the box for people who had "homosexual tendencies" even though he had never yet acted on them. For years thereafter, Campbell had to list "1Y" as his draft status on every application for employment he filled out. This had a chilling effect on his pursuit of highly respectable employment, so he worked in department stores and waited tables.

Campbell was asked by FREE, a University of Minnesota gay and lesbian group, to be its spokesperson with the press at a rally for equal employment for gays and lesbians. That march passed from the university campus downtown to the offices of Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in the spring of 1974. From then forward, the local press kept his phone number handy.

Campbell himself often said his most important contribution to the national drive for gay rights was some energy he put, during 1974 and 1975, into convincing the Advocate (a national gay publication), the Minneapolis and St. Paul newspapers, including the university's Minnesota Daily, the Washington Post, Dear Abby (Van Buren), and the New York Times to direct their style sheets to use "gay" or "gay and lesbian" or "lesbian and gay" instead of "homosexual." Ever since the mid 1960s, gays themselves throughout the gay-bar system and other fledgling organizations had started using "gay" for ourselves.

Campbell was also very involved in helping gays, lesbians and others to recover from alcoholism and drug addiction. He sobered up August 25, 1973, in Minneapolis. He was the founding Chair of the Lambda Sobriety Center in Minneapolis in 1981.

Campbell received his masters in French Literature from the University of Texas in 1969. He studied in Tours, France, and was theoretically working on his doctoral dissertation while teaching at the University of Minnesota, Morris Campus, from 1970 through 1972. Just last year, Campbell finally wrote up a lot of his studies about Proust and posted them on a blog called ProustByCampbell.blogspot.com.

From 1973-74, Campbell joined with Jack Baker and Mike McConnell in conducting accredited seminars in sensitivity training on gay issues for students in the Education Department. He conducted similar seminars for police officers and other professionals, including chemical dependency counselors, over the next few years. Campbell, Baker and McConnell encouraged each other in the belief that they could "change the way people see gays" by working to do so. That was the purpose of Jack and Mike's gay marriage, the first of its kind in the United States, in May, 1980.

Campbell was born Dec. 18, 1939, in Leavenworth, Kansas. He is preceded in death by both



Tim Campbell in 1985.

parents, William Patrick Campbell and Betty Jane Dusenbery Campbell, and by his sister Patricia Campbell. He is survived by brothers Bill Campbell of Roswell, Georgia; Ed Campbell of Beaumont, Texas; Mike Campbell of Beaumont, Texas; and Charlie Campbell, of Seattle; and by sisters Clarice Campbell Hebinck of Mary Esther, Florida, and Dee Ann Campbell Soileau of Beaumont, Texas.

Campbell is also preceded in death by Jerome L. Smith, who partnered with him to found the Lambda Sobriety Center in Minneapolis; and by Bruce Brockway, who partnered with him to start the Positively Gay newspaper, which became the GLC Voice newspaper.

Besides his living brothers and sisters, honorable pallbearers include Lad Sledz of Minneapolis; Vickie Judkins of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Brian Stacey of Arizona; Ed Bloomquist of Minneapolis; and Luke Coulson, Don Kelly and Philip Bowman, all of Houston.

In lieu of flowers or other memorials, persons so moved are encouraged to engage in random acts of kindness, generosity or courage.

(Note: Campbell wrote this obituary himself, with family supplying the date of death and his age at his passing.)

Counter-protest set for Jan. 17 anti-choice event

Chicagoans are gearing up to host a counter-protest to national anti-choice events this month.

The Chicago events are timed right after a "March for Life" Jan. 22, in Washington, D.C. In Chicago there is an anti-choice event Sunday, Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m. at Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams.

Among the slated speakers are Archbishop Blase Cupich of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chicago and Pastor Wilfredo De Jesus of Chicago's New Life Covenant Church.

Counterprotestors will march Jan. 17, including FURIE (Feminist Uprising against Inequality and Exploitation), which is planning on meeting at the federal courthouse, 219 S. Dearborn St., at 1 p.m. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/513884098788124/>.

T ransforming Gender

BY REBECCA JURU



Holding out for a hero

In November 2007, a young presidential candidate named Barack Obama released an op-ed to LGBT media in which he made this promise:

"I will ... place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes and a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity."

As a contributing editor for The Bilerico Project at the time it was released, like many working-class LGBT Americans I was excited to see Obama make this promise to our community, and as it did for many of us, it cemented my support for him to become our next president.

When candidate Obama did in fact become President Obama, though, things changed. While the fully Democratic-controlled Congress Obama brought with him did eventually pass the hate-crimes bill and he signed it into law, President Obama never lifted a finger to honor the promise he'd made to our community to protect our right to work.

Without Obama's promised public support, neither chamber even brought ENDA up for a vote during the 111th Congress. Democrats were trounced in the 2010 elections, and the window

ican history almost seven years ago, but they were too busy with other things to be bothered to actually vote on it.

And they wonder why it's become so much more difficult to rally the LGBT community in support of their candidates today.

Working-class LGBTs who have been around and fighting this fight as long as I have know the truth: We're not just angry, we're tired.

We're tired of Democrats de-prioritizing our interests in favor of the wish list of wealthy donors.

We're tired of self-centered so-called "progressive" politicians making promises that don't survive past the election.

We're tired of "leaders" who prioritize maximizing campaign contributions above maximizing equal rights and fair treatment for all.

We're tired of giving our time, money and attention to elected officials who forget we exist once safely elected to office for another two to six years.

We're tired of politicians who talk a good game but fold in the clutch when it's time to deliver on their election season rhetoric.

I'm a Bernie Sanders supporter. I believe he's the best choice to be our next president. At the same time, however,

I'm also a realist. I follow the polls. I know that the GOP has no one who can secure the majority of the national vote, and I know that Bernie Sanders, as good a candidate as he is, almost certainly isn't going to be able to

overcome his lack

of support among minority voters and gun control supporters to secure the nomination. I know, barring some unforeseen major disaster, Hillary Clinton can start picking out Oval Office furnishings right now.

So the question becomes not which candidate is the best choice to lead our country, but how do we ensure that President Hillary Clinton makes protecting LGBT working families against discrimination a priority for her administration, and perhaps most importantly, how do we ensure that she won't be willing to throw transgender people under the bus (again) to facilitate securing those rights exclusively for cisgender queers?

The short answer is also the most obvious: We can't. What we can do, however, is get her on the record on what she supports and for whom. We know she supports the Equality Act, but will she insist on transgender inclusion or would she be willing to trade away our rights to protect the wealthiest groups?

Getting these answers is our challenge, and the time is now. LGBT working families can't wait any longer for justice.

"We're tired of politicians who talk a good game but fold in the clutch when it's time to deliver on their election season rhetoric."

closed, perhaps for another generation or more, on full federal civil-rights protections for LGBT workers.

In 2011, trans man and former senior aide to Congressman Barney Frank, Diego Sanchez, told LGBT Weekly:

"Number one, the thing that breaks my heart the most is that we did have the votes this time. ENDA didn't come up because of two things, primarily. One is healthcare, which took so much longer, and number two is the Don't Ask, Don't Tell—the thinking that it needed to go up on the Defense Bill, and so that when it came up, it went.

"... [B]oth Congressman Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin do believe—and we know, because we counted—we believe we had the votes this last congress. And, we ran out of time. So the short answer is the calendar.

"But this time we had the votes, even with some Republican surprises to pass a fully inclusive ENDA bill."

Yes, you read that right. The Democratic Party leadership knew they had the votes they needed to protect all LGBT Americans from discrimination in the workplace for the first time in Amer-

Rebecca Juro is a nationally published freelance journalist and radio talk show host. Her work has appeared in the Huffington Post, Advocate.com, the Washington Blade, Gay City News, and The Advocate magazine, among others.



Challis Gibbs (left) and LV Jordan at their 2013 wedding.
Photo by Steve Becker

LV Jordan still seeks kidney donor

Chicagoan Elvie "LV" Jordan, a fashion designer and longtime lesbian activist, is continuing her search for a kidney donor.

Jordan and her partner Challis Gibbs were among the first same-sex couples to marry legally in Illinois, due to Gibbs' own health situation. Gibbs died a few weeks later, and soon after, Jordan became ill and now is in a search for a kidney donor.

All medical costs for donor match testing and the full procedure will be fully covered by Jordan's medical insurance.

Donors can contact the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where Jordan is on the kidney transplant list. The nurse in charge is Chanel H., 866-227-1569, use Elvie Jordan's name, the number 9/51, and the nurse's name when contacting the clinic. Rush University Medical Center is also a point of contact for donors, see <https://www.rush.edu/services/transplant-programs> and the nurse is Stephanie. Once a person receives the form, the form must be returned to complete the process.

The following appeal letter was written by Gibbs' aunt Carolee Ervin on behalf of Jordan:

"I have not lost the person dearest to my heart, but I imagine how difficult such a loss must be when the one person who could help moderate your grief is the one who is no longer there.

"Since my niece's death in 2014, LV Jordan, my niece's long-term partner and wife of two months, has struggled with kidney disease that threatens her life. She has a supportive family and many friends, but she is still grieving for the one who could best comfort her. LV's kidneys—earlier judged to be perfectly healthy—failed one month after my niece's memorial service.

"LV seemed amazingly strong and composed through my niece's pain and decline, but caring for a loved one often affects the other's health. Now she desperately needs a kidney.

"I must tell you about this remarkable couple. I recently received a copy of their first photo together, which I believe was featured in The Washington Post. The year was 1993, and they'd come with different Chicago-area friends to the March on Washington [for gay rights]. They connected immediately and never looked back.

"My niece said their photo was printed in the Post because not only were they gay, they were black and white. I said while that might be true, they also were very good-looking, which always helps get a photographer's attention. :)"

"Twenty years later, my niece and LV made

news again: they were the second same-sex couple in Illinois to be granted a marriage license. The state had earlier voted to approve same-sex marriage, but the law was not to take effect for several months. The first married gay couple also included an individual who was terminally ill. After that, the state lifted the waiting period and others were granted licenses.

"The fact that my niece and LV were opposites in other ways seemed to make for a great relationship. My niece was comical and analytical (a computer systems analyst), a super-positive woman who let very little stand in her way. LV is sweet and loving, an artist with a great sense of color and fashion. My niece was very proud of LV's talent: she makes one-of-a-kind couture knits of natural fibers. Her work can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/lvjordandesigns>.

"LV would like to get well enough to continue working, but says she has no stamina. Since April of 2014, she has been hospitalized more than six times, and undergoes dialysis three times a week. She is on the kidney transplant list.

"This summer LV got strong enough to carry out my niece's request to have her ashes spread in Canada's French River, where her family spent many fishing vacations. The owner of the Crane's Wilderness Lodge knew Challis Gibbs [my niece] and her family well, and was touched that she wanted the French River to be her final resting place.

"It's sad that couples who love and rely on each other cannot end their days at the same time, but inevitably, one must go on alone. My niece would be so proud of LV's struggle to live and work again."

Information for kidney donors: <http://www.matchingdonors.com/life/ppc.html>.

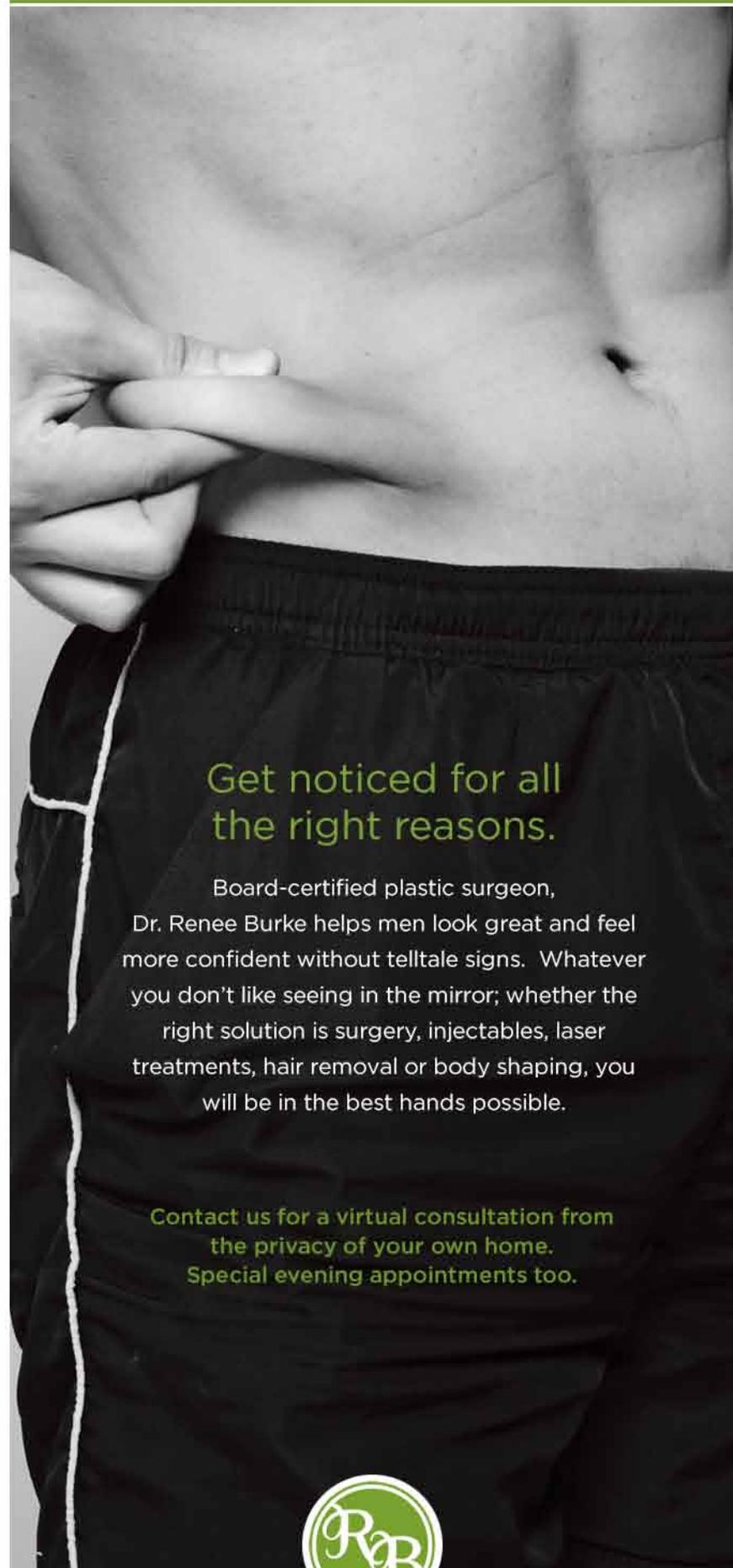
Hall of Fame seeks board members

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is now accepting applications for board members.

The organization's yearly events include the Celebrity Bowl; Pride and Joy Reception; Chicago Pride Parade; Hambingo at Hamburger Mary's; and the annual induction ceremony.

Those interested in being on the board should complete the form at <http://bit.ly/1R7E0zH>.

SOME THINGS CAN'T BE SOLVED AT THE GYM



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Board-certified plastic surgeon, Dr. Renee Burke helps men look great and feel more confident without telltale signs. Whatever you don't like seeing in the mirror; whether the right solution is surgery, injectables, laser treatments, hair removal or body shaping, you will be in the best hands possible.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back: National news

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

This year will bring news aplenty, thanks to everything from elections (local and national) and the Olympics, among other events. However, 2015 had plenty worth remembering—especially for the LGBT community.

—**With this ring:** The biggest news of the year for the community had to be the legalization of marriage equality nationwide. In June, the Supreme Court issued a sweeping decision striking down all states' same-sex marriage bans, arguing that the prohibitive laws violated the 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. In the process, plaintiff Jim Obergefell and others became national heroes (to most).

—**Losing my religion:** Religious-freedom measures were contested in several states in 2015. The most contentious battle (at least, initially) was probably in Indiana, with Gov. Mike Pence backing the measure. Later, Pence signed legislation revising the law to prevent potential discrimination.

—**You better clerk:** After the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage across the country, the national spotlight focused on Kentucky, where Rowan County clerk Kim Davis refused to let gay and lesbian couples wed. Her continued defiance led to her arrest—and her release, based on a compromise.

However, Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin made a series of executive orders in an effort to reshape state government along conservative ideological lines, including one that removes county clerks' names from marriage licenses—thereby complying with Davis' request.

—**Cait expectations:** The Kardashians became a hot topic for the LGBT demographic in 2015 in a transcendent way: Caitlyn Jenner came out as transgender, complete with a cover on *Vanity Fair* that Annie Leibovitz photographed. While Jenner has taken some criticism for her comments and for some people's perception that she represents the entire trans community (as well as the fact that she's a Republican), many commended her for bringing the issue of being trans to millions of living rooms.

Among other things, Jenner received the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage at the sports-focused ESPY Awards and headlined her own reality series, *I Am Cait*. Also, Barbara Walters named Jenner the "Most Fascinating Person of 2015" in her annual special.

—**Lives matter:** The LGBT community became engaged in the Black Lives Matter movement—and spurred people to become inventive activists and form their own campaigns, including #TransLivesMatter.

—**Michfest ends:** In August, the last edition of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (its 40th) took place. While many embraced the event, it also engendered controversy by employing a strict "womyn-born-womyn" policy.

—**Saying farewell:** Democratic U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer—a champion of LGBT rights—announced that she will not run for re-election in 2016, setting up a big money political battle for her seat in the nation's most populous state.

—**Sentenced:** A former Florida A&M University band member was sentenced to more than six years in prison for manslaughter and felony hazing in the death of a drum major, making him the first to receive prison time in the case. Dante Martin received 77 months, but prosecutors wanted nine years in the beating death of openly gay 26-year-old Robert Champion during a hazing ritual in November 2011.

(However, Champion's orientations apparently played no role in his death.)

—**New leader:** The board of directors of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) hired Glenn D. Magpantay as its new executive director. Magpantay has been with NQAPIA since the beginning, as one of the organization's founders. Since 2009, he has served as NQAPIA's co-director of development.

—**Sullivan quits:** The Daily Dish's Andrew Sullivan announced that he would "stop blogging in the near future." In a blog post, Sullivan cited health reasons, although he said the decision is not related to HIV. (Sullivan was diagnosed with the virus more than 20 years ago.) He currently is a columnist for *The Sunday Times of London*.

—**No protection:** Sam Brownback, the Republican governor of Kansas, issued an executive order to remove discrimination protections for LGBT state employees. State employees in Kansas can now legally be fired, harassed or denied a job for being gay or transgender, LGBT-rights advocates said.

—**Banning the ban:** According to a document, the Pentagon's ban on transgender troops would end May 27, 2016, under a draft timeline on repeal of the policy that affects about 12,000 troops. The memo—circulated among top personnel and medical officials—described the road map for ending the policy and highlights some of the potential issues, including a pilot program that would provide leaves of absences for transgender troops being treated with hormones or having surgery.

—**Approval:** The U.S. Army approved hormone therapy for Chelsea Manning, who was convicted of leaking national-security secrets to Wikileaks. Manning revealed her gender identity as a transgender female after being convicted and sentenced to 35 years in military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in July 2013.

—**Be like Mike:** California Congressman Mike Honda tweeted a photo of himself on Twitter in February, holding his 8-year-old transgender granddaughter, Malisa. The image went viral. "As a proud grandpa of a transgender grandchild," the eight-term Democrat wrote, "I hope she can feel safe at school without fear of being bullied."

—**Leader of the PAC:** LPAC, the country's first lesbian political action committee, announced political veteran Beth Shipp as the organization's first executive director. "As LPAC continues to grow and flourish, we are thrilled to have Beth as our first executive director," said LPAC Board Chair Laura Ricketts.

—**Money matters:** Viiv Healthcare announced the launch of a four-year, \$10 million initial investment to fuel a concerted community response to the HIV epidemic among Black men who have sex with men (MSM) in Baltimore, Maryland and Jackson, Mississippi.

—**New leader:** In Pennsylvania, the Montgomery County district attorney's office charged actor/comedian Bill Cosby, 78, with alleged aggravated indecent assault of lesbian Andrea Constand. In 2005, former Temple University employee Constand claimed he gave her pills and wine that supposedly immobilized her.

—**Couple prevails against Wal-Mart:** The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) said Wal-Mart discriminated against a lesbian employee who sought health coverage for her ailing wife and has ordered "a just resolution" for violating her civil rights. The EEOC ordered the retail giant to work with Jacqueline Cote of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who hopes the ruling will help her pay



Laura Ricketts; South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Peter Buttigieg. Ricketts photo from Sarah Kennedy; official photo of mayor

off \$100,000 in medical bills.

—**A new force:** U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), who serves as vice chair of the Equality Caucus, announced the formation of a Transgender Equality Task Force. According to a press release from Quigley's office, the task force is designed to "analyze current barriers to full legal and societal equality for transgender people, and will develop legislation and other initiatives to ensure the transgender community has equal access to the American Dream."

—**Guilty:** Lawrence Reed was found guilty of the murder of gay Clarksdale, Mississippi, mayoral candidate Marco McMillian and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Reed confessed to the 2013 murder. He didn't dispute that he killed McMillian, but claimed he acted in self-defense after saying McMillian tried to rape him.

—**I love a parade:** Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade made history March 15 as two gay and lesbian groups marched after decades of opposition that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The gay military veterans service group OutVets and the gay rights group Boston Pride were invited by the sponsoring South Boston Allied War Veterans Council to the annual celebration of military veterans and Irish heritage.

—**Hello, Larry:** Larry Kramer accepted the first-ever Larry Kramer Activism Award from Gay Men's Health Crisis at its spring gala. In part, he said, "The main difference between the Larry Kramer who helped to start Gay Men's Health Crisis in his living room in 1982 and ACT UP in 1987 and the Larry Kramer who stands before you now is that I no longer have any doubt that our government is content, via sins of omission or commission, to allow the extermination of my homosexual population to continue unabated."

—**Maya goodness:** The United States Postal Service honored the late writer, poet, actor, dancer, director, composer, lecturer and civil-rights activist Dr. Maya Angelou with a "Forever" stamp.

—**Now 10-percent gay:** After municipal elections, Chicago's 50-member City Council featured five members who are openly LGBT—an all-time high.

—**Home sweet home:** The New York State Historic Preservation Office unanimously approved the Bayard Taylor Rustin home in New York City as a state landmark. The New York State Historic Preservation Office will forward the nomination to the National Park Service for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If accepted to the National Register, it will join four (only) other LGBTQ sites on the register.

—**A rocky Cruz:** Gay New York hotelier Ian Reisner issued an online apology for hosting a party for GOP candidate Ted Cruz, saying that he was "shaken to my bones" by the public response. Establishments co-owned by Reisner

became targets of an online boycott after Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz spoke at a function that Reisner co-hosted. His numerous holdings include the Out Hotel NYC and a resort he recently acquired on Fire Island.

—**Grindr's keepers:** A 21-year-old North Dakota man said he revealed explicit messages sent to him from a Republican lawmaker on the gay-dating app Grindr because the legislator had voted against expanding LGBT rights. Dustin Smith told *The Forum* he recognized 52-year-old Republican state Rep. Randy Boehning when he appeared in the news with other lawmakers who had voted against an anti-discrimination bill in the North Dakota House. *The Forum* confirmed that "Top Man!" was indeed Boehning, who said that the "1,000-pound gorilla has been lifted" from him.

—**Controversial decision:** In a controversial ruling in Missouri, former college wrestler Michael Johnson, 23, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for allegedly infecting one sex partner with HIV and risking the infection of four others. St. Charles County Circuit Judge Jon Cunningham, who issued the sentence, told Johnson, "The main thing is the profound effect your actions have had on the victims and their families." Many HIV activists criticized the decision.

—**Donation alteration:** A lower risk was among reasons the FDA, on Dec. 21, changed its longstanding policy and recommended that blood banks begin accepting donations from gay and bisexual men—who hadn't had sex with another man for a year. Many in the LGBT community still decried the change, saying heterosexuals do not have to wait any time to donate blood.

One column pointed out that a donor must also wait 12 months after getting a tattoo, being incarcerated for more than 72 hours or traveling to areas where malaria might be found.

—**Scouts' honor:** Boy Scouts of America (BSA) President Robert Gates called for the organization to end its ban on gay adults while speaking at the organization's national business meeting in Atlanta. In late July, the BSA lifted the ban on gay adults as Scout leaders. LGBT-advocacy groups said the change didn't go far enough.

—**Dennis the menace:** It was revealed that the FBI was investigating former U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert for trying to evade bank reporting requirements and lying to federal authorities. It turned out that previously undisclosed sexual misconduct (specifically, the alleged sexual abuse of a male student back when he coached wrestling at a school) was at the root of the investigation. Hastert later pled guilty to one count of evading bank rules and one count of lying to federal investigators.

—**News you can use:** Out journalist LZ Granderson joined ABC News as a contributor.

He will continue on as a senior writer at ESPN, where he covers the NBA and serves as tennis editor.

—**It's an honor:** The U.S. Department of Labor announced that the late gay activist Frank Kameny would be inducted into its Hall of Honor, the organization's highest accolade. Fired from his job as an astronomer in the U.S. Army Map Service in 1957 because of his homosexuality, Kameny sued his way up to the Supreme Court—the first time a civil-rights claim was brought to justice on the basis of sexual orientation. Kameny, who passed away in 2011, has been widely recognized for decades of service toward LGBT equality.

—**Minter wonderland:** President Obama named people to key administrative posts, including Shannon Price Minter as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Minter is legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), a position he has held since 2000.

—**New members:** The Foundation for a National AIDS Monument announced three new members of its board of directors: actor/activist Zachary Quinto, William Morris Endeavor Board Member Mark Itkin and marketing executive Tom Whitman.

—**Charleston massacre:** LGBT organizations were among the many issuing statements following the mass shooting that took place at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, in June. The white gunman shot 10 people (with nine dying) hoping to start a race war. LGBT groups also joined the call for the removal of the Confederate flag from South Carolina's "public square"—which did take place in a public ceremony.

—**"Caged" heat:** Undocumented trans and queer leaders from across the country conducted a "die-in" in Washington, D.C., at the intersection of 16th and H St. NW (at the White House) to symbolize the deaths of LGBTQ immigrants in detention as well as those LGBTQ immigrants who have been deported back to their death. Six people were arrested at the event, called Operation "Break the Cage."

—**I'm coming out:** Peter Buttigieg, the 33-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, publicly came out as gay in an op-ed in The South Bend Tribune. He wrote that while "I'm not used to viewing this as anyone else's business ... it's clear to me that at a moment like this, being more open about it could do some good."

—**International relations:** The Harvey Milk Foundation, known around the world for its dedication to promoting equality for the LGBT community, presented its coveted Harvey Milk Medal to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This historic milestone coincided with the 70th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

—**Philadelphia freedom:** The National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration and Ceremony took place July 2-5 in Philadelphia. Jim Obergefell, Edie Windsor, Judy Shepard, Bishop Gene Robinson, Wanda Sykes and hundreds of other guests attended and/or took part in the events.

—**Episcopal equality:** Bishops of the Episcopal Church, on July 1, approved a measure authorizing clergy nationwide to perform same-sex marriages. The vote came at the denomination's general convention in Salt Lake City. Resolutions passed that day replaced "man and woman" with more gender-neutral language in traditional marriage liturgies and endorsed recent liturgies developed for same-sex couples.

—**Rent and rave:** Jeffrey Hurant, the CEO of Rentboy.com, and six others were arraigned in Brooklyn federal court after their arrest. They were charged with "conspiring to violate the Travel Act by promoting prostitution." The move spurred protests around the country, with activists comparing the arrests to the police raids on gay bars and bathhouses of the 1970s.

—**Historic ruling:** In a decision that could provide important remedies to thousands of LGBT federal workers who might face sexual orientation discrimination, the U.S. Equal Em-

ployment Opportunity Commission ruled that existing federal law prohibits employment discrimination against federal workers based on sexual orientation.

—**Tech in effect:** TransTech Social Enterprises, a creative design firm and training academy, announced a conducting of a national assessment to connect the trans community directly to employment and educational opportunities.

—**Update:** President Barack Obama, on July 30, signed an executive order updating his administration's National HIV/AIDS Strategy through the year 2020.

—**Vivid visits:** Pope Francis' visit to the United States generated many reactions for the LGBT community—but none more so than when it was revealed that he saw anti-gay Kentucky clerk Kim Davis for a few minutes. One Vatican official said there was "a sense of regret" that the pope had ever seen Davis. However, it was also revealed that the pontiff met with Yayo Grassi, a U.S.-based Argentine caterer who is gay and brought his male partner of 19 years to the meeting.

—**Placin' Dixon:** Missouri gubernatorial hopeful Sen. Bob Dixon released a statement claiming his mother—and "teenage confusion"—convinced him to live as a gay man for five years, LGBTQ Nation reported. Dixon, who has a wife and three children, emphasized his

conservative values when announcing his candidacy, claiming that child abuse led him to doubt his sexuality as a teen.

—**Houston, we have a problem:** In Houston on Nov. 3, residents rejected an equal-rights ordinance by a wide margin. Conservative opponents of the law claimed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO)—which would have incorporated sexual orientation and gender identity as well as 13 classes already under federal protection, including sex, race and religion—would allow men dressed as women, including sexual predators, to enter women's restrooms.

—**Play ball:** David Denson became the first openly gay professional league baseball player. Denson plays for the Helena Brewers, the minor league affiliate to the MLB's Milwaukee Brewers, and came out to his teammates after a teammate used a gay slur in the clubhouse.

—**Split decision:** The two African-American dads who cultivated a large Internet following due to their photo-perfect family split. 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."

—**When a Page reads you:** Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz found himself on the defensive in Iowa after his speech on

the Des Moines Register Soap Box after taking questions from actress Ellen Page, who came out in 2014 at HRC's Time to Thrive conference.

—**Marry, quite contrary:** April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse—the lesbian Michigan couple who challenged the state's same-sex adoption and marriage bans—exchanged vows Aug. 22 in Southfield. The couple initially filed Jan. 23, 2012, in federal district court, challenging Michigan's ban on adoption by same-sex couples.

—**Brutal attack:** Two Texas men faced federal hate-crime charges after they reportedly brutally raped and tortured a Black gay man over the course of three hours in 2012 in the town of Corpus Christi. KRIS-TV said that the two men attacked the victim over an unpaid \$5 debt. If convicted, the two men face life in prison.

—**Victim:** A 42-year-old gay man who ran the coffee shop at the Inland Regional Center was among the 14 victims killed in the shooting attack in San Bernardino, California, on Dec. 2. Daniel Kaufman was identified after his boyfriend, Ryan Reyes, and family spent nearly 22 hours trying to ascertain whether he was one of the persons killed or injured in the incident.

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Local passages in 2015

COMPILED BY MATT SIMONETTE

Laurie Benz, an out lesbian and feminist singer-songwriter, among other roles in the music industry, passed away peacefully in the Chicago area on Jan. 4 after a long struggle from a debilitating stroke. She was 57.

Richard Johnson, 69, a retired City of Chicago employee and pharmacist, died Jan. 6 after a long struggle with emphysema.

Christine Johnson, a former Chicagoan who played a key role in the early Women-in-Print and women-in-trades movements locally and nationally, died Jan. 23 of complications from cancer. She was 63. Johnson was a co-founder of Metis Press, publisher of lesbian-feminist literature, and a founding member of the national Women-in-Print network. As a blue-collar lesbian construction machinist, Johnson was a pioneer in opening up exclusively male, high-paying union blue-collar jobs to women and minorities, and was a board member of Chicago Women in the Trades.

Andrew Patner, a longtime Chicago critic in print, radio and television, passed away Jan. 3. He was 55. Patner was active within Chicago's fine-arts world along with its LGBT and Jewish communities. He was a commentator on WFMT radio, and his criticism appeared in Chicago Sun-Times; he wrote for Chicago Magazine, among numerous other publications, as well.

Ald. JoAnn Thompson, who led the 16th Ward, died Feb. 9 of heart failure. Thompson was involved in a re-election ght against fellow Ald. Toni Foulkes and three other candidates. Thompson was seeking a third term in the Feb. 24 election to continue representing the ward, which includes parts of Englewood, West Englewood and Back of the Yards.

Social worker Jerre Robert Donnelly died Feb. 7 at his home after a brief recurrence of cancer. He was 73.

Barbara "Robbie" Smith died Feb. 14. She was a longtime Affinity board member and managed the organization's finances for 12 years. Smith was also a founding member of Forty Plus, and was a founding member of the Affinity Trailblazers.

John F. Vorrasi died Feb. 23 after a battle with leukemia. Vorrasi co-founded the William Ferris Chorale of Chicago and served as the ensemble's Artistic Director.

Louis Beckham Snider Jr. passed away Feb. 19 in Chicago's at Brightview Care Center. Snider came out as openly gay with the Chicago Board of Education in 1979 becoming, as he put it, among the first openly gay teachers in the city. He was an art teacher at several Chicago Public Schools and retired from John Marshall Harlan High School (now Harlan Community Academy) after 25 years of service in 1995. He was also a founding and active member of ACT UP Chicago, which started in the living room of his Sheridan Park condo in 1988. ACT UP was a direct-action group founded to advocate for greater HIV/AIDS prevention and care funding.

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. Blige was shot and killed March 7 while driving with a passenger.

Civil-rights activist Rev. Willie T. Barrow—known in some circles as "The High Priestess of Protest" or "The Little Warrior"—died March 10. Barrow, 90, was chairperson emeritus for the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, an organization she helped found. Barrow had been active in numerous civil-rights causes since the '40s.

Jean V. Hardisty, 69, has passed away at her Somerville, Massachusetts, home after a recurrence of lymphoma. A critical voice in fighting the American right wing, Hardisty wrote dozens of papers and gave countless speeches on the conservative movement. She also testified in the court fight over Colorado's anti-gay Amend-

ment 2, among her other work on legislative issues.

Stan Dale Boyer died March 22 of colon cancer. He was 53 and played sports for the North End in CMSA, Chicago's largest LGBT sports league.

Activist "Ninure" Dawn Saunders, a deeply religious Chicagoan who had friends around the world through the church, passed away March 31 after a long illness. She was 61. Saunders also was active in the leather community and she was for years involved with a church service at the International Mr. Leather gathering.

Jim Oleson, 77, a longtime Chicago resident and partner of gay historian John D'Emilio, died at their home on April 4.

Army Specialist Michael Nixon died April 7 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was 27.



Kit Duffy.

Photo by Tracy Baim

Sidney Abbott, 77, a longtime New York City-based lesbian-feminist activist, died April 15 in a house fire in Southold, Suffolk County, New York. She co-authored a ground-breaking book with Barbara Love in 1971, *Sappho Was a Right-on Woman: A Liberated View of Lesbianism*.

Cardinal Francis George, the former archbishop of Chicago, died April 17 at his home, after a long battle with cancer. He was 78.

Daniel "Danny" Rodriguez—a popular go-go dancer at many clubs in and around Chicago and who was nicknamed the "Twerk Master"—died April 27 after a three-year battle with a brain tumor. He was 22.

J. Robert Caldwell, a retired director of Bureau of Dental Society Services at the American Dental Society, passed away April 4. He was 90.

Kevin Vincent Heffernan—devoted spouse of David Biele, beloved brother, uncle, and godfather, loving friend to too many and best friend of his lucky canine companion Penny—died April 25 of esophageal cancer. He was 43. Prior to retiring, he spent 10 years working for the American Medical Association in Chicago, most recently serving as its director of educational services.

Retired Chicago Public Schools teacher Alonzo D. Hayes, a U.S. Marine Corp vet, passed away May 6. He was 85.

Northwestern University Professor Emeritus Laurence Davis—a professional pianist-accompanist, longtime Bienen School of Music educator and former associate conductor/principal coach-accompanist for Lyric Opera of Chicago—died April 23 in Evanston following a brief illness. He was 86.

William B. Kelley, 72, who in 2015 was marking 50 years as a gay activist, passed away peacefully in his sleep the morning of May 17. He was part of the Mattachine Midwest chapter and wrote for and edited its newsletter. He helped organize the first national gay and lesbian conference—the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations—in 1966, co-founded the Chicago Gay Crusader newspaper, and attended the first White House

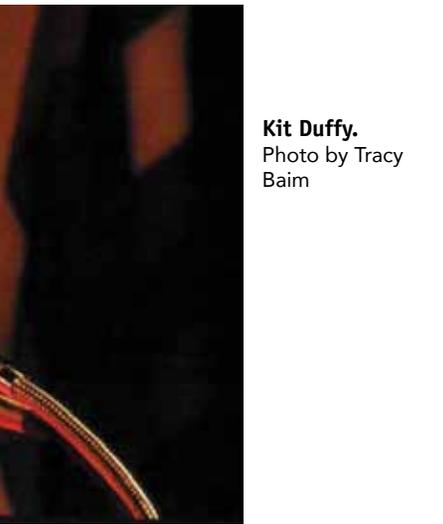
gay-rights meeting, in 1977, under the Carter administration. In Chicago, he was a critical player in numerous organizations as a founder, member and sometimes leader.

Lesbian author Nikki Rashan Jenkins, 42, died May 4 of complications from breast cancer.

James Murphy, aka Murph, passed away on May 15 after a short illness. He was 83 years old. Born and raised in Chicago, he worked for the Fannie May Candy Company in product control until he retired in 1992.

Pilsen resident Omar Alberto Valencia Hernández—a native of Bogota, Colombia who was also an artist and owner of Oxalá Fine Art—passed away on June 5. He was 58.

Dr. Leonard Hirsch—a senior policy officer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and founder of Federal GLOBE, the organization for LGBT federal employees—died of cancer June 12. He was 59. A frequent White House visitor, Hirsch was an informal adviser on LGBT policy to President Obama and his staff.



William B. Kelley.

Photo by Hal Baim

Activist/musician/educator Roger Goodman passed away June 19, after a long battle with AIDS-related illnesses. He was 68.

Fashion designer Terry Readdus passed away in June.

Former state representative and Cook County CFO Henry Woods "Woody" Bowman was killed in an auto accident July 10 in Southwest Michigan.

Earl McDonald, 80, passed away suddenly on July 31. He was a former member of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and a founding member of the NewTown Writers.

Yoshi Katsumura—the legendary and longtime chef-proprietor of Yoshi's Café, located in the heart of Chicago's Boystown neighborhood—passed away Aug. 2 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital after a lengthy battle with liver cancer. He was 65.

Joel B. Carothers, a former Chicago resident known to her friends as Joie, passed away Aug.

7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her longtime partner, Kate Winner, by her side. She was 74.

Sara Sullivan, 52, Roscoe's volunteer staff leader, died Aug. 15 following a 27-year battle with Lupus. Sullivan was active within the LGBT community for 20 years as a straight ally.

Mark Alan Palermo, a retired high school teacher and prominent member of the Presbyterian Church supporting the LGBT community, passed away Aug. 10 after a heart attack at his Chicago home. He was 62.

Richard M. "Dick" Uyvári, a longtime participant and supporter of Chicago's LGBT and AIDS organizations, died Sept. 2. He was 71. Uyvári was a critical part of the Chicago sports starting in the 1970s. Uyvári also competed in almost every Gay Games (winning a gold, a bronze, and two silver medals as bowling team captain), and helped run the bowling tournament at Gay Games VII in Chicago in 2006. Uyvári and his partner were key donors to the Gay Games in Chicago. They were also key donors to numerous gay and AIDS groups, including Center on Halsted.

MaryLu Hahn, 66, retired attorney and wife of Berwyn Ald. (3rd Ward) Margaret "Marge" Paul, died Sept. 16 following a four-year battle with breast cancer.

Counselor and former TPAN Board Member Sir Bear Abbott, 54, died Oct. 1 of a sudden heart attack at his home in Louisville, Kentucky.

Architect/Interior designer Gregory Maire passed away in October. Payson McDonnell "Bunky" Cushing, a hard-working Ralph Lauren sales associate who was a staple in Chicago social circles, passed away Oct. 13, shortly after triple-bypass surgery. He was 65.

Jon Phillips, 93, passed away Oct. 27 after a long battle with multiple illnesses. He was hired by the City of Chicago in 1954 where he worked in the planning department, a job that brought him into contact with many celebrities and dignitaries. In 2013, the play *Under a Rainbow Flag*, based on Phillips' life and written by Leo Schwartz, had its world premiere in Chicago and won the Jeff Award for Best New Work and Best Musical Production.

Edward Anson Kamin, a retired staff engineer at Ameritech, passed away in October.

Franklyn Roger Margason, 81—a Lake View resident, author and gay-press editor who formerly resided in Los Angeles—died Nov. 1 after a brief illness.

Rev. Rodney E. Reinhart—who ministered to, among others, people with HIV/AIDS—died in early November. He was 66.

Business owner and fundraiser Robert Rymer died Nov. 13 in Key West, Florida.

Rev. Rodney E. Reinhart—who ministered to, among others, people with HIV/AIDS—died in early November. He was 66.

Barbara J. "BeeJay" Hollowell, 72, passed away Nov. 24 at her home in Franklin Park. She was a professional wood finisher for many years, and then worked for the Illinois Tollway. She was also a certified alcoholism counselor and a founding member of New Town Alano Club.

Matthew David Snyder, a diehard sports fan who played about 12 years of softball in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), died suddenly on Dec. 1. He was 46.

Barbara J. "BeeJay" Hollowell, 72, passed away Nov. 24 at her home in Franklin Park. She was a professional wood finisher for many years, and then worked for the Illinois Tollway. She was also a certified alcoholism counselor and a founding member of New Town Alano Club.

Former Chicagoan Bradford H. "Brad" Stark passed away Dec. 14 in Desert Hot Springs, California, after battling a long illness. He was a longtime employee of the Internal Revenue Service.

Katherine "Kit" Duffy, 71, Chicago's first liaison to the gay community, under Mayor Harold Washington, died Dec. 22 from complications of heart surgery. Duffy remained active in Chicago politics until just weeks before her death, staying engaged in progressive Democratic electoral and activist efforts.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Transgender murders increased in 2015

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

For the U.S. transgender community, 2015 marked a year of progress.

However, it was also a year in which there was an increase in the reported number of transgender women (most being individuals of color) who were murdered. Below is a list of the more than 20 trans women whose lives ended untimely—and violently. The list is courtesy of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP).

—**Papi Edwards**, a Black transgender woman, was shot to death at the Fern Valley Motel in Louisville, Kentucky on Jan. 9. An alleged suspect, Henry Richard Gleaves, has been arrested and charged with her murder.

—**Lamia Beard**, a Black transgender woman, was found shot to death on Jan. 17 in Norfolk, Virginia.

—**Ty Underwood**, a Black transgender woman, was shot to death Jan. 26 in Tyler, Texas, after a woman called 911 to say a car had hit a telephone pole and that her children had heard gunshots. Her loved ones are speaking out, saying that they believe this was a hate crime.

—**Jessie Hernandez**, a 17-year-old gender non-conforming Latin@, was killed by police in Denver, Colorado on Jan. 26 under suspicious circumstances.

—**Yazmin Vash Payne**, a Black transgender woman, was discovered fatally stabbed to death Jan. 31 at the scene of a house fire in the Van Nuys district of Los Angeles. Payne's boyfriend, Ezekiel Dear, has been arrested and

booked for suspicion of murder in connection with her death.

—**Taja Gabrielle de Jesus**, a Latin@ transgender woman, was discovered stabbed to death on a stairwell in San Francisco's Bayview District Feb. 1.

—**Penny Proud**, a Black transgender woman, was found fatally shot Feb. 10 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

—**Kristina Gomez Reinwald**, a Latin@ transgender woman, was found unresponsive in her home in Miami on Feb. 15, and her death is being investigated as a homicide.

—**Keyshia Blige**, a Black transgender woman, was shot and killed while driving with a



Keyshia Blige. Facebook photo

passenger in Aurora, Illinois, on March 7. Police believe it was not a random attack. Her death also came to light late due to media outlets and law-enforcement agencies misgendering and misnaming of the victims.

—**London Chanel**, a Black transgender woman, was stabbed to death in Philadelphia on May 8. The culprit was her roommate's boyfriend.

—**Mercedes Williamson**, a transgender woman, was found stabbed to death and buried in a wooded field in George County, Mississippi on May 30. Josh Brandon Vallum, who reportedly told his father about committing the homicide, has been arrested.

—**India Clarke**, a Black transgender woman, was found beaten to death on July 21 in a park area of the University Area Community Center in Tampa, Florida.

—**K.C. Haggard** was stabbed to death in the street by an individual in a car in front of multiple witnesses in Fresno, California, on July 23.

—**Amber Monroe**, a Black transgender woman, who was shot to death in Detroit, Michigan, on Aug. 8

—**Ms. Shade Schuler**, a Black transgender woman, was killed in Dallas, Texas on July 29.

—The body of **Ashton O'Hara**, a Black transgender/gender-nonconforming person, whose body was found July 14 in Detroit, Michigan.

—**Kandis Capri**, a Black transgender woman, was found shot to death in Phoenix, Arizona, on Aug. 11.

—**Elisha Walker**, 20, a Black transgender woman, was found in a shallow grave in August outside Smithfield, North Carolina. She had not been seen by family or friends since October 2014 and her vehicle was found a month later. Detectives have charged Angel Arias with her murder and for larceny.

—**Tamara Dominguez**, a Latin@ transgender woman in Kansas City, Missouri, was run over multiple times in a side street. Her body was found Aug. 15.

—**Jasmine Collins**, a Black transgender woman was killed in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 23. Her death came to light late due to media outlets and law enforcement agencies misgendering and misnaming of the victims.

—**Kiesha Jenkins**, a 22-year-old Black transgender woman, was physically attacked and then shot to death Oct. 6 by a group of 5 or 6 men in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Kiesha Jenkins. Screen shot

—**Zella Ziona**, a transgender woman of color, was killed in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on Oct. 15. According to local media, much of which has been misgendering and misnaming the victim, Zella Ziona was shot to death, possibly following an altercation, in what police are describing as a non-random attack.

Note: There are two other homicides of transgender or gender non-conforming individuals in 2015 in which a clear motive has not been established or a bias-motive is not apparent: Brian Golec and Maya Hall.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back: World news

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

—**The voters speak:** A third-gender candidate made history by winning the mayoral elections in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh Municipal Corporation by defeating the nearest rival from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Madhu Kinnar, who contested as an Independent candidate, won the election by 4,537 votes against BJP's Mahaveer Guruji.

—**Mexican marriage:** Fernando Arias Amparo and Victor Aguirre Espinoza exchanged vows, ending nearly two years of legal wrangling to become the first gay couple to marry in Baja California, Mexico. The couple, together 10 years, married during an impromptu wedding outside the City Hall of the state's capital of Mexicali.

—**Being frank:** Speaking in the Philippines, Pope Francis made one of his strongest calls against movements to recognize same-sex unions as marriage. "The family is also threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage," the pope said Jan. 16, hours after warning that Philippine society was "tempted by confusing presentations of sexuality, marriage and the family."

—**Executions:** Islamic State (ISIS) militants reportedly killed several men (and even a 15-year-old boy) for being gay—including stoning one to death who survived a push off a building.

—**Irish eyes are smiling:** In Ireland, former Fianna Fail minister Pat Carey has revealed he is gay—and said he was inspired to come out by Health Minister Leo Varadkar, who also recently came out about his sexuality. Carey, a 67-year old former Gaeltacht minister, said he "didn't have the courage" to speak about the issue previously.

—**Intern affairs:** One of the stars of one of Russia's biggest sitcoms has come out as gay. Odin Biron stars in the Russian version of *Scrubs*, titled *Interny* (Interns), in which he plays a U.S. exchange student at a Russian hospital. The actor—who is originally from Minnesota and who is dating a Kazakhstani director—said he wanted to do his best "to make this count" by coming out.

—**Out of fashion:** In an interview with the Italian magazine *Panorama*, designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana of Dolce & Gabbana made some statements about same-sex families that caused a firestorm of controversy—including that babies born through in vitro fertilization are "children of chemistry, synthetic children. Uteruses for rent, semen chosen from a catalog." Many celebrities (e.g., Elton John) and non-celebrities angrily responded, causing Dolce to eventually apologize.

—**Rejected:** France's openly gay pick to become its next ambassador to the Holy See met with Pope Francis—only to be reportedly told he was unacceptable for the job. Laurent Stefanini met with Pope Francis for a 15-minute audience, and was told that France's legalization of same-sex marriage in 2013 was part of the reason he could not accept him into the Vatican's diplomatic community. Stefanini was previously a deputy ambassador to Vatican City from 2001 to 2005.

—**Airing it out:** The out gay leader of airline Qantas—one of Australia's biggest and most iconic companies—said advocating for marriage equality helps support its diverse workforce, and also appeals to a broad customer base. At a business leaders function that the Australian Marriage Equality campaign organized, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said, "At Qantas,

we call ourselves 'the spirit of Australia' and see ourselves as representing our community. ... As a gay man running the biggest iconic brand in the country, I believe Australia is a meritocracy. I don't know many countries in the world where you would say that happening—the national airline, this iconic Australian brand. ... I'm Irish, and I'm gay, and I run this company."

—**Lux life:** Xavier Bettel, Luxembourg's first openly gay prime minister, married partner Gauthier Destenay in May. They had been in a civil union since 2010.



Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel.
Facebook photo

—**Hate speech:** In a speech about the nation's youth, the president of Gambia threatened to "slit the throats" of gay people living in the country. President Yahya Jammeh, who seized power in a military coup in 1994, made the threat apparently in response to Western leaders who have criticized the nation's regressive attitude to homosexuality. The dictator made the comments during a nationwide agricultural tour—one of a long line of shockingly anti-gay comments.

—**Murders in El Salvador:** A transgender woman who was a prominent activist in El Salvador was killed May 31. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in a press release, cited local media reports that indicated Francela Mendez Rodriguez was murdered by a group of unknown assailants while visiting the home of a friend, Consuela Flores Martinez, who was also killed. Mendez Rodriguez, 29, had been a board member of Colectivo Alejandria, a Salvadoran trans advocacy group, since it was founded in 2010.

—**Nightmare in Jerusalem:** Yishai Shlissel—an Orthodox Jew who stabbed marchers at a Jerusalem gay-pride parade a decade ago—launched another knife attack at the same type of parade in the same city on July 30, stabbing and killing one person while wounding five others. In court, he said, "The pride parade must be stopped in order for the soul of Shira Banki to ascend to heaven."

—**Swiss miss:** Swiss soccer star Ramona Bachmann has revealed she is a lesbian. The 24-year-old has revealed she was in a committed relationship with Camille Lara, a 21-year-old student based in Sweden. The news has been welcomed by the mayor of Zurich, Corin Maunch—herself an out lesbian.

—**Conversion aversion:** Ontario, Canada, has prohibited "conversion therapy"—attempting to change one's sexual orientation



Tamara Adrian promotional mural.
Twitter photo

from gay to heterosexual—for children younger than 18. The province's Bill 77 received royal assent June 4, the day the Legislative Assembly approved it on its third reading. The Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Act amends the province's Health Insurance Act and the Regulated Health Professions Act of 1991.

—**Hate report:** the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) launched, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the 10th edition of its annual report on State-Sponsored Homophobia, a world survey of laws: criminalization, protection and recognition of same-sex love.

—**No urge to merge:** It was revealed that the potential merger in 2022 of the long-running Gay Games and the relatively new World Outgames had at least one staunch opponent: Jessica Waddell Lewinstein, the daughter of Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell. She said, "I think the merger will ultimately diminish the experience that the Gay Games has successfully offered over the course of the last 30-plus years. The Gay Games have always revolved around sports, and I, along with many others, firmly believe that this new merger will detract from that."

—**Luck of the Irish:** Marriage equality became legal in Ireland after legislation passed by popular vote went into effect in November. More than 62 percent of the people voted in favor of the measure.

—**Recognition:** In a historic ruling, the European Court on Human Rights decreed that all signatories to the European Convention of Human Rights—including countries like Turkey and Russia, where discrimination and violence against LGBT people has recently made headlines—should recognize same-sex partnerships. This ruling could impact 47 countries and 800 million people.

—**Pro-trans move:** In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, new regulations aimed to curb abuse of the transgender population within the state's 52 penitentiaries. Advocates hailed the rules that ban discrimination against Rio state's approximately 600 transgender prisoners and protect their gender identities while behind bars.

—**Daley news:** Openly gay British diver Tom Daley (now engaged to screenwriter Dustin Lance Black) expressed his "massive relief" at qualifying for the 2016 Olympics by easing into the 10-meter platform final at the World Aquatics Championships in Kazan.

—**Venezuelan victory:** Venezuela elected Tamara Adrian as the first openly transgender member of its National Assembly, in a vote that took place Dec. 6. She is a member of Popular Will, a left-leaning party, and will represent the capital city, Caracas. She is reportedly the first trans person elected to such a high office anywhere in the Americas.

—**Part of history:** Richard Blanco, a gay Cuban-American poet who took part in President Obama's second inauguration, was part of a ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba where the American flag was raised. Blanco recited a new poem during the ceremony that marked the official reopening of the U.S. embassy along Havana's oceanfront promenade that overlooks the Florida straits.

—**Hirst in line:** Keegan Hirst, a British rugby league player, was the first professional in his sport to come out as gay. Hirst 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.

—**State of sorrow:** In a historic first, the United Nations Security Council was briefed on the plight of LGBT people in territories in Iraq and Syria under the control of the so-called Islamic State. Among other things, Subhi Nahas—who was able to flee Syria via Lebanon and Turkey, eventually reaching the United States—gave testimony of examples of ISIS violence: "At the executions, hundreds of townspeople—including children—cheered jubilantly, as at a wedding."

—**Crown royal:** Queen Elizabeth II, 89, became the longest-ever reigning British monarch (being on the throne for almost 64 years)—and has passed 22 LGBT rights into law. Just a few of the legal developments that have occurred since Elizabeth has ruled are the passing of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the repeal of Section 28 and same-sex marriage being legalized in England, Scotland and Wales.

—**The vein event:** Argentina lifted a 15-year-old ban that prevents gay and bisexual men from donating blood. France (with a policy that mirror the United States) adopted a policy in which men who have sex with men in France will be able to donate blood if they have not had sex with another man for 12 months.

—**Isle be there:** The chief minister of the Isle of Man opened about his sexuality as discussions begin about same-sex marriage. Manx Chief Minister Allan Bell told the *Guardian*, "People know that I'm gay. I've never made a secret of it, but no one has ever asked me."

—**Justin time:** Canada got a new prime minister, and he has a familiar last name. Justin Trudeau, 43—the eldest son of former Prime Minister of Canada Pierre Trudeau (1919–2000) and Margaret Trudeau—became the country's new prime minister after his Liberal Party won a majority of Parliament's 338 seats. It's been said that Trudeau's win will ease tensions with the United States, and the party is a staunch supporter of what it calls "LGBTQ2 rights."

NATIONAL from page 11

—**Deaths in Virginia:** In a manifesto, Vester Lee Flanagan II—who shot and killed WDBJ7-TV reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward on Aug. 26 before taking his own life—said 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.” 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.

—**Protecting:** The California State Assembly passed two bills—authored by Sen. Mark Leno, with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), Equality California and Transgender Law Center co-sponsoring—protecting transgender people who work for companies doing business with state agencies and transgender children in the foster-care system.

—**Taking over:** Dozens of #TransLivesMatter activists took over the stage at the U.S. Conference on AIDS in Washington, D.C., to draw attention to HIV-positive trans women and men as well as gender-nonconforming people. Spokeswoman Bamby Salcedo—a Latina trans woman, activist, and subject of the documentary TransVisible—grabbed the microphone during the unexpected protest at the lunchtime plenary, and spoke for 20 minutes.

—**Going Shkreli up:** Martin Shkreli resigned as the CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals amid allegations of securities fraud. Shkreli became “the most hated man on the Internet” in September when he acquired the rights to decades-old AIDS drug Daraprim and unapologetically hiked the price from \$13.50 to \$750 a pill overnight. Shkreli has pled not guilty to the charges and was released on \$5 million bond.

—**Stepping down:** In a move that delighted Democrats (and some Republicans), John Boehner stepped down from being speaker of the house. Boehner made several anti-LGBT moves during his tenure, including stating his

opposition to ENDA (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

—**Guv story:** New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced executive action intended to protect transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment and other areas. He also received the final blueprint regarding a plan to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York state by the end of 2020.

—**Pretty as a picture:** Sylvia Rivera became the first transgender person in the National Portrait Gallery’s collection. Among other things, Rivera was there in 1969 at the turning point of the modern LGBT struggle for equal rights, when patrons of the Stonewall Inn violently rebuffed a police raid. Politicized by this experience, Rivera campaigned with the Gay Activist Alliance in urging the city to enact a nondiscrimination ordinance.

—**Crime time:** Former gay-porn star Jarec Wentworth (aka Teofil Brank) was sentenced to nearly six years behind bars after being found guilty of extorting tech tycoon/Republican millionaire Donald Burns for more than \$1.5 million.

—**Union action:** The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), on Nov. 5, passed a resolution calling on synagogues to embrace transgender individuals. The resolution, which passed in a voice vote at the URJ’s biennial conference in Orlando, Florida, gave specific suggestions as to how transgender persons could be welcomed, including having cultural training for staff, making gender-neutral restrooms available, and presenting sermons about transgender issues.

—**A new day:** Salt Lake City, Utah, officially got its first new openly LGBT mayor. A final vote count done Nov. 17 showed that lesbian Jackie Biskupski defeated incumbent Mayor Ralph Becker.

—**Tragedy in the military:** A new study from the American Psychological Association said that far more military men are being raped by other men and experience other sexual traumas than is reported by the Pentagon because of



Caitlyn Jenner.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



Marco McMillan.

the stigma attached to such assaults. The Rand Corp., which conducted the most recent Pentagon sexual-assault survey in 2014, found that about 12,000 men reported being assaulted.

—**Tragedy in the military, part two:** New documents connected to the 1992 gay-bashing murder of U.S. Navy serviceman Allen Schindler were revealed. Among the revelations were that the Naval Investigative Service questioned Schindler’s acquaintances in the service; and that the Navy closely monitored the gay media’s coverage of the investigation and trial, paying particular attention to stories in San Francisco’s Bay Area Reporter, Chicago’s Windy City Times and San Diego’s Update.

—**Remembering Leelah:** Remembering transgender teen Leelah Alcorn—who took her life along a stretch of Interstate 71 near Kings Mill, Ohio in 2014—her friends and supporters teamed to participate in the state’s Adopt-a-Highway program, placing a sign reading “In memory of Leelah Alcorn” along the highway where Alcorn’s body was found.

—**School daze:** A Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, elementary school canceled a reading and discussion about the book I am Jazz—about a transgender girl—after an anti-gay organization, the Liberty Counsel, threatened a federal lawsuit.

—**Closing:** The New York-based pro-LGBT organization Empire State Pride Agenda announced plans to conclude major operations in 2016 citing more than 100 legislative and policy victories over 25 years. The organization said it will identify aspects of its policy work to continue at other groups, and will maintain its political action committee to stay involved in election politics.

—**Turning 60:** The GLBT Historical Society marked the 60th anniversary of the Daughters of Bilitis—the first lesbian organization in the United States—with a reception at San Francisco’s GLBT History Museum on Dec. 13. The guest of honor was Phyllis Lyon, 91—the one surviving co-founder.



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Mack Dihle.
Photo by Alissa Pagels

Mack Dihle: A model citizen

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

"Women can be handsome too." That's Mack Dihle's response when people address her as "sir" as she walks into the women's restroom. This confusion is usually a compliment because she knows she is succeeding as a male model.

On the runway, the Chicago-resident, identifies as an androgynous genderqueer/unisex fashion model, but outside of the fashion realm, Dihle calls herself "a gay pretty boi butch woman." While she confuses many people at first glance, she never gets offended for the mistaken gender identity.

"It just affirms I'm doing androgynous fashion justice and appealing to a large spectrum," Dihle said. "My goal is to appeal as a handsome human to the masses of all people, no matter their gender presentation or sexual attraction/preference."

Dihle is originally from the metro Detroit area and was raised in a Catholic, Republican household. She later graduated from Central Michigan University on a trumpet scholarship. In 2005, she made the move to the rural Hinckley-Big Rock, Illinois, working as an instrumental band director, teaching fifth through 12th grades.

A year later, she said she came to terms with her sexuality. Acting on this, Dihle decided to leave her successful year of teaching, to move to Chicago to be closer to the relatively loud and proud gay community. Coincidentally, Gay Games 2006 was hosted the same week as her drastic move to the city's North Side. A then-newly found lesbian friend convinced her to participate.

"During that incredible blurr of a rainbow week, I had a 23rd birthday, shaved my head, kissed some really cute girls for the first time and took home two bronze Gay Game medals in soccer and karate sparring," said Dihle. "My whole world also changed when I saw the Lakeside Pride Marching Band during opening ceremonies."

In 2008, Dihle became a police officer. Her partner, comedian and creator of Brass Chuckles Comedy Tamale Sepp, calls her "America's Next Cop Model." As if that were not colorful enough, the couple perform a fire-eating act, transferring fire through a kiss, at the show held at the Uptown Underground. They also take their talent to the Fireball Masquerade in Madison, Wis. With all that jazz, Dihle also continues to play the trumpet in the Chicago blues scene.

Dihle ventured into modeling a little over a year ago. Just for kicks, she participated in the "What is Butch" Twitter campaign, which asked people to tweet a picture, showing their version of butch. Dihle, donned what she described as a "causal dapper/rockabilly leather butch look." That tweeted picture went viral and she was immediately invited to be featured on the website DapperQ. In September 2014, she flew out to Los Angeles to do the photo shoot. Shortly after, she made her debut on runways in New York City.

"I never sought out to be a 'male model,' specifically; it's just what some fashion designers choose to model me as," said Dihle, who cites Elliott Sailors as her inspiration.

Most recently, Dihle has walked the runway for Montreal fashion designer Karen Quirion of KQK during New York Fashion Week. Added to her list of fashionable appearances, Dihle is currently working with Chicago-based designer Jenny Urban of Dapper and Urban as a clothing ambassador for the bowties and working with local lesbian high-fashion photographers Alissa Pagels and Maria Alejos for some upcoming projects.

Dihle classifies herself a "true leather boi." As a motorcyclist, she never leaves the house without her leather jacket, black leather gloves and black leather-tipped combat boots. When she is not at work, her style consists of a short-sleeve, collared shirt that allows her arm tattoo sleeves to show, a chain wallet and a handmade leather belt tie from Andersonville Galleria.

"I love wearing locally-based Chicago clothing and supporting small business owners," Dihle emphasizes.

Dihle's mission in male modeling goes deeper than the local items she wears. Her main goal is connecting with younger women who feel they don't fit into a certain identity or gender expression.

"[My mission is] to appeal to a wide spectrum of male-identified and also masculine non-gender identified people," said Dihle who aspires to be a role model within the LGBT community. "Breaking down the outdated strict gender binaries of fashion. I've finally reached a point where I refuse to ever wear a dress again or wear anything that makes me feel uncomfortable and not myself."

"Before queer fashion and male modeling, I felt very ugly in the world," Dihle explained. "I looked hideous in a dress or anything feminine. I didn't identify and look like women in magazines, TV and movies. Men dismissed me and

women saw me as this tomboy that refused to wear makeup and dresses, but still wants to be called a girl. Life didn't feel fair at all, just for being myself. It felt like a crime or sin wearing men's clothing, sneaking over to the men's section at the store. That is slowly changing with the queer fashion world becoming bigger and bigger. The rise in technology and social media has been a blessing for reaching out and building our queer community of beautiful diverse people."

Dihle specifically mentions concern for young individuals who turn to harmful substances and activities in order to cope with not fitting in. Dihle, who is drug-free, said, she is here to make sure they know they are beautiful and valuable as unique individuals.

"I want women and men to wear whatever makes them feel amazing when they step out into the world each day, regardless of what gender they identify as," she said.

Dihle reveals the female male modeling community is huge and "extremely and beautifully diverse in shape, size, age and race with the commonality [of] presenting as masculine."

"Tomboys, women, transman, non-gendered people are finding a place in the fashion community," Dihle said. "I highly encourage people new to queer fashion to checkout the clothing designers: Sharpe Suiting, Saint Harridan, Hautebutch, KQK, Jag & Co., Sir New York, Boihood, Stuzo Clothing, just to name a few. That's where you'll find the best hidden secrets of an amazing community of masculine presenting women, genderqueers and trans-identified individuals."

For more information on Mack Dihle, visit <http://www.mackdihle.com/>.

WORLD from page 14

—**Court news:** A Philippine court convicted U.S. Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton for the death of transgender Filipina woman Jennifer Laude. Pemberton's lawyers told local media that he admitted to choking her in a nearby hotel room after discovering she was transgender, but claimed she was alive, though unconscious, when he left her. Because Pemberton was convicted of homicide instead of murder, his sentence will be six to 12 years instead of 40.

—**PrEP:** France became the first country outside the United States to approve the use of PrEP for those most at risk of transmission of HIV. Health Minister Marisol Touraine announced that fully reimbursable PrEP would be available from mid-December on the national health system.

—**Bar none:** Terrorist Salah Abdeslam—who was on the lam since the attacks in Paris—was a regular in gay bars in Brussels, Belgium, where he lived. However, in an interview with the Sunday Times, a bartender at one of those clubs reveals the staff assumed he was a hustler. Earlier, authorities indicated they believed Abdeslam was trolling the bars to find easy targets or steal passports.

—**Hops to it:** British brewery BrewDog has launched what has been called the world's first "non-binary, transgender beer." The beer, named No Label, is created with hops that have "changed sex," according to the company's promotional materials.

Read the entire world roundup online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

AFC praises Congress' budget

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has praised Congress' budget deal, noting that the governmental body "made several noteworthy bipartisan commitments in their support for domestic HIV/AIDS programming," according to its website.

Among the aspects of funds that AFC lauded are:

—Ensuring integrity of all aspects of Ryan White funding with no cuts or consolidation;

—Restoring proposed cuts to Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) and the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI);

—Funding increases to hepatitis C (HCV) prevention, Housing Opportunities for People Living With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) and MAI; and

—New language that supports the use of federal funds for syringe exchange activities that do not involve the actual purchase of syringes.

AFC also stated that many of these initiative support the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Updated to 2020 (<https://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/overview/>). However, noting the continuing state-budget impasse, AFC is asking state legislators to pass a positive budget that the federal dollars can complement.

Creating Change Jan. 20-24

Thousands of LGBT individuals are expected at the 2016 Creating Change Conference, slated to take place Jan. 20-24 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

The National LGBTQ Task Force sponsors and organizes the event, promoted on its website as "the pre-eminent political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBTQ social justice movement."

Among the items scheduled are Day Long Institutes, trainings in the Academy for Leadership and Action and a special programming segment called "Practice Spirit, Do Justice" for faith leaders and organizers. There will also be approximately 250 workshops and caucus sessions, four keynote plenary ses-

sions, worshipful gatherings, film screenings, meetings, receptions, social events and other networking opportunities.

Registration fees range from free to \$450, depending on an attendee's age, when one chooses to register, and whether an attendee seeks financial support to attend.

See CreatingChange.org.

Cosby criminal case involves lesbian

In Pennsylvania, the Montgomery County district attorney's office charged Bill Cosby, 78, with alleged aggravated indecent assault of lesbian Andrea Constand.

Cosby's attorneys said in a statement that the charge was "filed 12 years after the alleged incident and coming on the heels of a hotly contested election for this county's DA during which this case was made the focal point," ABC News noted.

In 2005, former Temple University employee Constand claimed that after she and Cosby became friends, he invited her to his home in Pennsylvania, where he made multiple sexual advances over time. Once, he allegedly gave her pills and wine that supposedly immobilized her.

Constand, who sued Cosby for sexual assault but settled with the comedian the following year, filed subsequent papers blasting Cosby's "narcissistic view of the world," according to TheWrap. The papers say despite the comedian's claims that he could read women, he didn't realize that Constand is a lesbian.

Cosby has been accused by dozens of women of sexual misconduct; many of them came forward in the past year. Recently, he countersued several of the women, alleging defamation.

After court, Cosby headed to the Cheltenham Police Department, where his mugshot was taken and he was processed; he was released on \$1 million bail. If convicted, he could get up to 10 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine.

Constand now works as a registered massage therapist in Toronto, Canada, according to Advocate.com.



in the LIFE

Nico

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS BY MARISA KM AND
ERIK MICHAEL KOMMER

Nico's first job, at 16, was as a welder and driving tractors on his grandfather's ranch.

Ten years later, Nico still has a multiple current gigs on his resume.

And drag is prominent.

"I have too many [funny] stories [to pick a favorite], but the one [that others] might tell is, I was drunk-talking to a trash can and ballroom dancing with it," Nico said, laughing. "My first-ever paid drag gig was [at] this little dive gay bar that didn't have liquor, so I went next door to the punk bar to get shots."

Every Monday nowadays, Nico and Trannika Rex host Crash Landing at Berlin, with 20 amateur drag queens/club kids/bi queens/drag kings and more are competing in three rounds for a grand prize.

Most Saturdays, Nico is at Berlin for the Drag Matinee, hosted by Trannika Rex. On Sundays, Nico is at Smart Bar and on Thursdays, Nico hosts at Debonair Social Club for a new wave night.

"It's always hard to explain [my job] because



I feel like I don't know what I'm doing half of the time," Nico said. "I guess I'm being decor for a party or an event. I make friends with everyone in the room and [am] the clown at an adult party.

"I used to hate drag shows when I first started going out in Orlando; I just didn't get them and I was bored. I've always worn makeup

since I was 16 and when I started going out I was more androgynous. Then one day I saw [drag sensation] Detox and I was like, that's rad as hell, that's what kind of queen; I want to be just some acid trip beauty queen clown."

And Nico's career goal is, well, pretty straight forward: "take over the universe," he said, laughing.

The best part of his job is meeting people and the shots of liquor, he said. The worst part is, well, there is none, other than the stress factor.

"I've always wanted to be a makeup artist; drag come much later in life," Nico said.

Nico also this year worked at a Neverland (NVRLND) party, alongside Kim Chi, Shea Coulee and others. "It's great working with the Neverland crew; they make me feel like a superstar," he said.

- **Age**
26
- **Neighborhood**
Boystown
- **Hometown**
Originally from Cocoa Beach, Florida; has lived in Chicago for about 18 months.
- **Orientation**
Queer
- **Job title**
Makeup artist at Sephora
- **Dream vacation spot:**
"Anywhere,
- really; I love the adventure."
- **Favorite drink**
"Whiskey soda with bitters, or free drinks from cuties"
- **Favorite TV shows**
Battlestar Galactica and Sliders
- **Favorite movies**
Earth Girls Are Easy and Velvet Goldmine
- **Little-known fact**
"Sometimes I shower with a palm tree I brought here from Florida."



LGBTRIVIA
This Ugandan LGBT activist and teacher has been called "Uganda's first openly gay man." He was murdered in 2011, sparking international outrage.
Answer on page 23

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**Carolyn
GAGE**

The seven temptations of Cosby accuser Andrea Constand

What does it take to confront a rich and powerful alleged rapist?

It would be easy to think of Andrea Constand as a kind of Wonder Woman who is trying to bring Bill Cosby to justice with her Lariat of Truth.

That's just it. It would be easy. Easy to believe that heroines are born that way, that they have an extra chromosome for courage or fearlessness.

I think of a quotation by Albert Einstein: "It's not that I'm so smart; it's just that I stay with problems longer."

What if Andrea Constand was not Wonder Woman? What if she just stayed with the problem longer?

Let's look at the temptations she faced, temptations that face any victim who attempts to confront her perpetrator. Constand didn't always meet them successfully. Sometimes she wavered, hesitated, fumbled, backed away ... but she always—eventually—came back, and when she did, she came back stronger, with more support, and with greater clarity.

So here are the Seven Temptations of Andrea Constand:

1. The temptation to believe it never happened, to doubt one's perceptions, to blame oneself

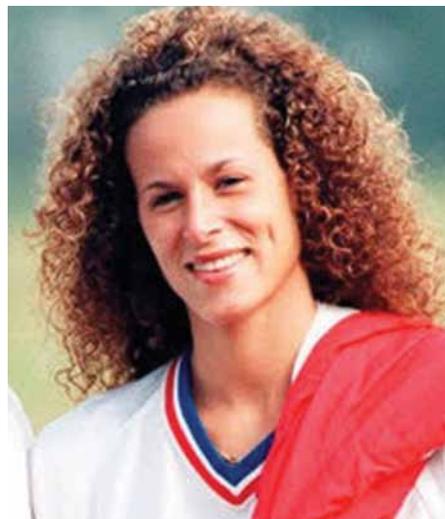
Cosby was not a new acquaintance, nor was he a date. Constand had known him for two years, since 2002 when she came to work at Temple University as the director of operations for the women's basketball program. Cosby, a member of the Temple Athletics Hall of Fame, was a frequent fundraiser and honored guest. In his 60s, he had positioned himself as a mentor to her, inviting her to dinner parties, and then to private dinners, at his home outside of Philadelphia. He would talk to her about basketball, her career, and spiritual beliefs. He met her family and cultivated a relationship with them. He had groomed her patiently for victimization.

The night of the alleged rape, Cosby invited her over to "offer her assistance in her pursuit of a different career." She testified that he gave her three pills, claiming they were herbal supplements for stress. He insisted that she take all three.

Constand said she was drugged. Her memory of the incident was impaired, filled with blackouts and vague impressions, and she experienced enormous disorientation when she recovered consciousness. She remembered waking up on a couch at four in the morning, her clothing in disarray and Cosby standing over her in a bathrobe. Confused and mortified, her initial response was a kneejerk, socially conditioned one: She expressed embarrassment over her disheveled state. He gave her a muffin and took her home.

2. The temptation to get on with one's life, to distance oneself from the episode, to attempt to normalize the situation and/or relations with the rapist

Four months later, she left her job and career, moved back home to Canada, and began studying to become a massage therapist. She stayed in contact with Cosby, and, several months after returning home, she took her parents to see



Andrea Constand.
PR photo

his show at a casino in Ontario.

3. The temptation not to tell anyone

Constand did not tell anyone for a year. This is not uncommon. She was in survival mode, in flight. What eventually brought her back to the incident was the emphasis in her massage classes on a code of ethics around touch.

In January 2005, Constand finally broke her silence and told her mother. Immediately after that, she reported the rape to the authorities where she lived. They passed the case on to the police in Pennsylvania.

4. The temptation to accept an apology as sufficient

Three days after the report to the police, Cosby and his people began to call her. Constand and her mother stated repeatedly that all they wanted was an apology. Even Cosby admitted this. According to the filing, he told the police that she had not asked for money, "but had only asked him to apologize to Plaintiff and her mother, which he did."

He apologized several times. On the phone, not in writing.

5. The temptation to accept money in lieu of accountability

Offers of money are standard ploys for predators with resources, especially when the victim is not wealthy. Cosby called Constand's mother and offered to set up an "educational trust" for Constand to attend graduate school, provided she could prove to him that she was maintaining a grade point average of 3.0. He later admitted he had done this for another accuser.

Constand turned it down.

6. The temptation to give up when the police refuse to file charges

The district attorney, declining to file charges, stated, "I think that factors such as failure to disclose in a timely manner and contacts with the alleged perpetrator after the event are factors that weigh toward Mr. Cosby. ... Much exists in this investigation that could be used to portray persons on both sides of the issue in a less-than-flattering light."

Constand's actions were consistent with choices made by trauma survivors in the immediate aftermath, but juries and judges are rarely trauma literate, and it is easy for victims to feel ashamed for not being better plaintiffs. At this point, many victims give up, and Constand might have done that, except that Cosby began a campaign to discredit her as an extortioner.

After offering Constand an apology and money, Cosby and his reps went to the tabloids with a story about how Constand's mother had demanded money from him even before Constand had contacted the police. Cosby insisted that the relationship had been consensual. As a second and then third woman came forward with similar stories of being drugged and raped by Cosby, he gave a personal interview to *The National Enquirer*, in exchange for them killing

the story of the third woman. In the interview, he described Constand in such specific detail there could be no question about her identity.

Six days after the *Enquirer* story, Constand filed a civil suit in federal court—under her own name, her anonymity already having been compromised by Cosby's interview. She accused Cosby of "battery, assault, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, defamation/defamation per se, and false light/invasion of privacy." Because of all the publicity—much of it propagated by Cosby himself—10 other victims contacted Constand's legal team to offer corroborating testimony.

Constand's team requested a protective order to shield the identity of these women from the press. This was not unusual. What was unusual was that the Cosby team also moved for a protective order that would seal not only his testimony, but that of his accusers. This move caught the attention of the Associated Press. What was Cosby attempting to hide? The AP made two separate attempts to force open the court records, and Constand sided with them.

7. The temptation to say "enough," to tell yourself that you've gotten everything that you're going to get, to let it go short of full accountability

Cosby settled with the usual terms: Neither party is ever allowed to discuss the case or to disclose the amount of the settlement.

But Cosby continued to defame Constand. When even more women began to come forward, Cosby's website posted a statement in clear violation of the settlement agreement, that "decade-old, discredited allegations against Mr. Cosby have resurfaced. The fact they are being repeated does not make them true."

Immediately, Constand forced him to publish a retraction, which he did: "The statement released by Mr. Cosby's attorney over the weekend was not intended to refer in any way to Andrea Constand."

And, finally, as the AP continued to push for disclosure of the court records of her civil suit, a federal judge ordered the deposition unsealed. He stated that Cosby, in posturing for years as a "public moralist," had forfeited his right to privacy. The world could read for itself Cosby's admission that he had obtained nine prescriptions for Quaaludes to be given to women with whom he wanted to have sex.

Constand then urged the unsealing of all of the testimony from that trial, and there are several civil suits pending, and the criminal investigation. It's all over for Cosby. He may even go to prison.

All because Constand just stayed with the problem longer.

Note: On Dec. 30, 2015, Cosby was charged with aggravated indecent assault of Constand by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office in Norristown, Pennsylvania. This came one month before the 12-year statute of limitations for the case would run out.

In July 2015, Constand's attorneys filed a motion denying the accusation that Constand had violated a confidentiality agreement. The motion contained this statement that let the whole world know that the woman who is finally bringing Cosby to justice is lesbian: "As defendant [Cosby] admits in his deposition, despite his talent for interpreting female reactions to him, he did not realize Plaintiff was gay until the police told him."

About the author: Carolyn Gage is a playwright, performer, director and activist. The author of nine books on lesbian theater and 65 plays, musicals and one-woman shows, she specializes in non-traditional roles for women, especially those reclaiming famous lesbians whose stories have been distorted or erased from history. Her most recent musical, *Babe! An Olympian Musical* is available at www.carolyngage.com.

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Andre De Shields and Georgia Engel star in *Gotta Dance*.

Photo by Matthew Murphy

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

The commitment to 'Le Switch'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

New York producer Doug Nevin was so impressed by the 2011 drama *The Homosexuals*, by About Face Theatre Artistic Associate Philip Dawkins, that he commissioned a new play from the Chicago playwright. Five years later, About Face Theatre presents Dawkins' world premiere romantic comedy *Le Switch* in association with Nevin.

"We had talked about the next issue, because *The Homosexuals* was very much about [one gay Midwestern guy's journey through the years] 2000 to 2010," Dawkins said. "We questioned what the next story was for the LGBTQIA community beyond 2010 and we started thinking about marriage equality."

Even though same-sex marriage in America

only existed piecemeal at the time depending on individual states, Dawkins felt the tide was turning toward nationwide legalization. With the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality, Dawkins is glad that he steered *Le Switch* in that direction.

"I picked a romantic comedy in the age of marriage equality," Dawkins said. "What happens when the things that were always kept from you due to changes in society are now available and how does that affect you?"

Le Switch centers on a commitment-shy New Yorker named David (Stephen Cone, a filmmaker and original cast member of *The Homosexuals*) who is thrown for a loop by "wedding fever" among his gay friends. David's grieving activist roommate, Frank (Mitchell Fain), is a complication. So is David's unexpectedly head-over-

heels-in-love heterosexual twin sister Sarah, played by Elizabeth Ledo, who was another original cast member of *The Homosexuals*.

Romantic entanglements ensue when David follows his best friend, Zachary (La Shawn Banks), to Montreal for a bachelor party. David soon falls for the young Quebecois florist Benoît (Collin Quinn Rice) and must navigate the different commitment landscape with marriage as a real possibility.

"In terms of a relationship, how do you hang onto your personal identity where you're part of a community that gets accepted into a larger community?" said Dawkins talking about recent changes in American queer identity. "The play takes place very specifically in locations that are hugely proud of their independence, but are also part of a larger thing that causes friction around those environments."

Along with language and age differences, Dawkins points out that the romance between David and Benoît is affected by the relative newness of marriage equality in America compared to Canada, where it has been legal in all its provinces since 2005.

Though Nevin helped to bring aboard New York director Stephen Brackett to helm *Le*

Switch for About Face Theater (Brackett's most prominent credit is Jonathan Tolins' acclaimed 2013 off-Broadway comedy *Buyer and Cellar*), Dawkins said he had ultimate casting approval. In addition to having Stephen Cone playing David, Dawkins is especially happy to have lesbian actress Elizabeth Ledo aboard to play Sarah for their third world premiere together. Ledo recently appeared in Dawkins' new transgender play *Charm* for Northlight Theatre in Steppenwolf Theatre's Garage space.

"I will always do a Philip Dawkins play if he wants me to because I know there's going to be value in it and I know it's going to be something exciting and I'm going to learn something from it," Ledo said. "I'm always happy to give my energy and artistry to his work."

Nonetheless, Ledo isn't averse to comically goading Dawkins to write a leading role for her in the future after taking on all the supporting ones she's played so far. Ledo joked that she and Dawkins tried to work out how his play *The Homosexuals* would have played out if it featured a cast of lesbians instead.

Ledo also says that *Le Switch* is personally resonating for her. Ever since marriage equality became legal nationwide in America, Ledo and her long-time partner have been repeatedly pressured to tie the knot.

"What we have now isn't broke," said Ledo, happy that marriage is an option now but maybe not one that fits for her and her partner at the moment. "It's something I'm very aware of, so I really appreciate what Philip is exploring in this and I know we've talked a lot about because we happened to be friends rather than just as artists and I know we've both talked a lot about why do we need to get married? I love being a part of this dialogue."

About Face Theatre's world-premiere production of Philip Dawkins' *Le Switch* plays from Friday, Jan. 15, through Sunday, Feb. 21, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Preview performances run through Thursday, Jan. 21, with an official press opening 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.

Call 773-404-7336 or visit www.about-face-theatre.org.

'Menagerie' Jan. 22-March 6

Hans Fleischmann reimagines his conception of Tennessee Williams' classic drama in a new *The Hypocrites* production of *The Glass Menagerie* Jan 22-March 6 at The Den Theatre, 1329 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The cast will include Fleischmann as Tom, Joanne Dubach as Laura, Donna McGough as Amanda and Zach Wegner as The Gentleman Caller.

Admission is \$15 (students)-\$36; visit The-Hypocrites.com.

From left: La Shawn Banks, Elizabeth Ledo, Stephen Cone, Collin Quinn Rice and Mitchell Fain.
Photo by Timmy Samuel/Starbelly Studios



THEATER REVIEW

Gotta Dance

Book: Bob Martin and Chad Beguelin;
Lyrics: Nell Benjamin; **Score:** Matthew Sklar and Marvin Hamlisch
At: Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000 or www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$40-\$102
Runs through Jan. 17

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

If pressed to do a two-sentence pitch about the Broadway-aimed musical *Gotta Dance*, mine would be: It's a mix of *A Chorus Line* and *Follies* as a diverse (and starry) group of auditioning seniors reveal why they want to be a part of a 60-and-older dance team during halftime at a NBA basketball game. Then think *The Full Monty* as we get to know the seniors and root for them so they can overcome their reluctance to dance hip-hop in the big finale, which really sounds more like disco.

Notice that my pitch didn't mention Dori Bernstein's 2008 film documentary *Gotta Dance*, which inspired the show. Although many musicals nowadays rely on recognizable properties in other mediums to attract audiences, *Gotta Dance* isn't a household name so it plays like an original.

Yet you do have to wonder how the late composer Marvin Hamlisch might have felt about *Gotta Dance* director/choreographer Jerry Mitchell blatantly stealing Michael Bennett's staging ideas from *A Chorus Line* like the revolving mirrors, auditioning dancers messing up moves and cruel elimination tactics all in the first scene. But since the *A Chorus Line* composer was writing music for *Gotta Dance* before he died in 2012, it's a safe bet that



Gotta Dance.
 Photo by
 Matthew
 Murphy

Hamlisch would have laughed along with the audiences who catch the homage. (Elf composer Matthew Sklar was brought aboard to complete the score with lyricist Nell Benjamin.)

And unlike *Follies*, where some characters look back on their misspent youth with regret and bitterness, *Gotta Dance* is much more a rah-rah pep talk to goad seniors to break out of their comfort zones and to look to the future since they still have so much to offer. Call this blue-hair pandering, but *Gotta Dance* smartly acknowledges how seniors are living longer and how ageism strikes ever earlier in our youth-obsessed culture (especially in the case of the

dance-team coach Tara, capably played by Haven Burton).

Much of what makes much of *Gotta Dance* work are the many skilled pros of TV and stage who know how to work both the snappy comic banter and pathos of Bob Martin and Chad Beguelin's book. Georgia Engel is a delight throughout as the hip-hop loving elementary-school teacher Dorothy/Dottie, while Stefanie Powers and Nancy Ticotin both amaze with their respective dramatic and dancing skills as Joanne and Camilla.

Andre de Shields also is an expert showman throughout, even if his dramatic reason for

dancing is revealed so late in the game in a convoluted bit of comic banter. (Since there are so many characters, their individual reasons for dancing are gradually revealed instead of presented upfront.)

Although there is a countdown to performance day to build tension, there are so many stories in *Gotta Dance* that it sometimes loses dramatic flow. But I'm inclined to be forgiving, since the characters are such delightful company to be with so you don't mind all the fun and touching senior moments.

THEATER REVIEW

Dynamic Divas

Playwright: Jackie Taylor
At: Black Ensemble Theatre, 4450 N. Clark St.
Tickets: 773-769-4451;
www.blackensemble.org; \$55-\$65
Runs through: Jan. 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

After our brains and cardiorespiratory functions have absorbed the news that those four fine women sitting in a room that looks like a cross between a television talk-show studio and the bridge of the starship *Enterprise* are Roberta Flack, Gladys Knight, Nancy Wilson and Aretha Franklin, only *then* do we begin to wonder what brings these luminaries together.

There's the money, of course—a can't-refuse sum for one night's work—but also the curiosity factor. The producer, you see, is an eccentric gazillionaire named Mister Maurice who wants to stage the ultimate All-Star Diva Concert, featuring not only the greatest living female vocalists, but a few holographically reproduced goddesses from the realm of the departed as well. ("With enough money, anything is possible!" he reminds us.)

Pay no attention to the man behind the screen, children. The sole purpose of this dazzle-eyed wizard whose mercurial demeanor makes Willy Wonka sound like Obi-Wan Kenobi is to impose a structure on the evening's agenda. His two keypad-twiddling assistants are there to supply hip-hop cameos and eye candy while providing rest breaks for the squad of golden-piped prime donne, a task shared by Robert Reddick's muscular stage band, sport-

ing extra brass and woodwinds for this assignment. Oh, and don't forget the 200-voice chorus shouting harmonies from their seats in the house. (You never noticed the balcony until now, did you?)

So what's on the program of the showcase promised us by Black Ensemble at last summer's Men of Soul? From the early days of divadom come museum-accurate impressions of Billie Holliday, Dinah Washington and Nina Simone, along with the reigning royals' breakout hits. No-shows Lena Horne, Dionne Warwick, Patti LaBelle and Tina Turner are acknowledged in simulated archival footage, and even Beyonce drops by to open a conversation on what distinguishes a "capital-D" diva from an undeniably talented, but not yet immortal, pop-music icon.

Ultimately, though, the take-away is not in the titles—why quibble over who's the "queen"

and who's the "empress" of soul?—but the additional resonance brought by the quartet of Rhonda Preston, Rashada Dawan, Melanie McCullough and Shari Addison to such potentially cloying ballads as "I've Never Been to Me" when choreographed as mentorly advice from the surviving elders to their acolytes; or a flashback duet by Donny Hathaway and a younger Roberta Flack to lend fresh intensity to the too-often lullabyish "Killing Me Softly" before "Rock Steady" provides us with a rallying anthem into a new year fraught with challenge and uncertainty.

THEATER REVIEW

House Party, 1923: Obsession

Playwright: Bill Meincke
At: The Annoyance, 851 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-697-9693;
www.theannoyance.com; \$15
Runs through: Feb. 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

From 1991 to 2005, an ensemble called The Free Associates affirmed, not only the existence of an audience well-versed in classic fiction, but the willingness of those bibliophiles to return, night after night, to see a fully improvised long-form play referencing such literary icons as Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill and the sisters Bronte. Playwright Bill Meincke takes the do-it-yourself concept a step further—right over the fourth wall, in fact—by inviting our participation in a fantasy of flaming youth and the "Lost Generation."

As the show's title indicates, the year is 1923, and we are guests at a summer party on the estate of multimillionaire R. Thomas Cooper. Since nobody appears to recognize the host, the revelers introduce themselves to us and to one another. For example, an affable young man reveals that he is Francis, a writer who has just published his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*. We also meet his wife, Zelda, along with a gruff war veteran given to enigmatic aphorisms, curious neighbor/stalker Theresa Buchanan, a sharp-tongued dowager addressed as Aunt Margaret and several other vaguely familiar personalities.

If your sole encounter with F. Scott Fitzgerald or Ernest Hemingway in the last four decades is the CliffsNotes and/or SparkNotes versions, be assured that this is not a quiz and that while a working knowledge of *The Great Gatsby* or *The Sun Also Rises* is helpful, it is not necessary to the evening's agenda. The themes shaping the progress of the festivities are hardly unique to any specific era—adulterous obsessions, wealth accumulated by dubious means, moral dissonance engendered by a recent war and the subsequent

breakdown of traditional social values, all fueled by copious consumption of illegal liquor.

This style of interactive storytelling normally relies heavily on rehearsed personnel propelling spectators through the action with platoon-sergeant efficiency, but such crowd control is harder to pull off in a small room seating only a few dozen spectators, rendering first-time playgoers slow to comprehend the production's framing concept and their part therein. Fortunately, Meincke and director Susan Glynn have kept the scripted portion of their scenario brief (clocking in at a little under an hour on opening night) to allow for expansion as jazz-age bookworms and Roaring-Twenties mavens grow more comfortable with immersion in that razzle-dazzle risk-taking epoch preceding the onset of the Great Depression. Oh, and for those unaccustomed to mingling with strangers, there's always Parker Callahan's score of vintage voodoo ditties. Charleston, anyone?

CRITICS' PICKS



Fallen Angels, Remy Bumpo Theatre Company at Greenhouse Theater Center, through Jan. 10. Annabel Armour's unflappable domestic servant steals the show in Noel Coward's comedy of upper-class matrons thrown into hissy by the prospect of a reunion with their pre-marital fling. MSB

Good for Otto, Gift Theatre, returning from Jan. 14 to Feb. 7. Both profound and invigorating, David Rabe's world premiere looks at two community mental health workers and their patients struggling with parental abandonment. JA

Incident at Vichy, Redtwist Theatre, through Jan. 10. The ensemble of actors in Redtwist's tiny space soon has us wondering about our own vulnerability. MSB

Million Dollar Quartet, Apollo Theatre, through Jan. 17. Time is running out to catch "Chicago's longest-running Broadway musical," a better-than-average jukebox show that features a super-talented ensemble who play their own instruments while portraying the likes of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

BOOK REVIEW

Drama High: The Incredible True Story...

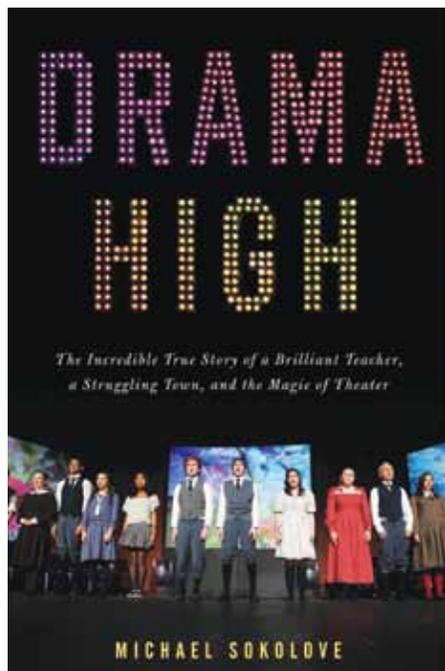
by Michael Sokolove
\$27.95; Riverhead Books; 352 pages
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Sometimes, you just don't feel like yourself. Lately, for instance, you've been acting differently and people have noticed. You wear outfits you wouldn't normally wear and you say the oddest things. It's almost like you're possessed by another person. Such is the life of an actor in a play: to do it right, to convince an audience, you have to become someone you're not. You know the pressure can be enormous, so read *Drama High* by Michael Sokolove, then imagine performing with New York theatre executives in the audience.

Like most schools, Harry S Truman High School in Levittown, Pennsylvania, had its budget slashed last year. Gone are extravaganzas, extracurriculars, and extraneous activities. But teacher Lou Volpe's theatre classes survived the cuts, just like they had for some forty years.

Volpe hadn't intended on becoming Truman High's drama teacher; in fact, before he was hired, he'd had zero experience with theatre. None at all. But, as he did many other times (and like many other teachers), he threw himself into making Truman's students into a first-class troupe.

Michael Sokolove, one of Volpe's students back in the 1970s, remembered the way Volpe had of finding one special, latent talent that each of his students had, and highlighting it. Volpe urged his students, stood up for them, supported them, and expanded their horizons, making them want more from life. Sokolove re-



membered spaghetti suppers at Volpe's house, and never wanting to disappoint his teacher.

But he also remembered the town in which Truman High sat. Once a subdivision of the future, Levittown was the kind of place people moved away from, and hard times only made it worse.

Still, Volpe and his drama students made their school proud through first-class, competition-winning, Broadway-quality plays—but not of the *Arsenic and Old Lace* ilk. No, Volpe liked to push his students to the edge of their comfort zones, asking them to sing and act in ways they didn't think they could, making them become people they didn't think they'd ever be—both personally, and on-stage.

And in doing so, Volpe changed their lives.

Like any good actor, "Drama High" plays several roles.

For adults, it's definitely a book of nostalgia. Like many people, author Michael Sokolove



SPOTLIGHT



If you missed GayCo's 2015 comedy revue **Fifty States of Gay**, there's still one final chance to see it. Chicago's longest-running LGBTQ sketch comedy troupe invades the "heteronormative" suburbs to revive *Fifty States of Gay* with its humor involving puppetry, lesbian break-ups and regional reactions to nationwide marriage equality. *Fifty States of Gay* plays one show only at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 847-577-2121 or visit www.gayco.com or www.metropolisarts.com. Photo courtesy of GayCo

moved away from Levittown, and his trip back is filled with wistfulness and eagerness to see how time alters old memories.

For students—especially those who are struggling or who harbor a secret love of theater—and for their parents, Volpe's story offers strength and an urge to commit to one's heart. His students spurned sports in favor of stage and in turn, he supported their dreams and nurtured their talents. Some of his former students, in fact, have become Emmy winners, en-

tainment executives, and Broadway actors.

Despite that it occasionally shows a tone of despair, it's hard not to cheer when you've got this story in your hands. I loved it, and I think that if you're a Broadway fan, an actor, or a parent of either, you'll sing the praises of *Drama High*, too.

Want more? Look for *Filled with Glee: The Unauthorized Glee Companion* by Leah Wilson; or *Glee: The Beginning: An Original Novel* by Sophia Lowell.

Add some sparkle to your holiday season with this "wildly literate, wildly funny, wildly stylish comedy!" —THE HUFFINGTON POST

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Nate Burger, photo by Bill Buntingham

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Looking back: Entertainment news

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

—**Roller-coaster:** Michael Sam, who became the first openly gay man drafted into the NFL in spring 2014, got engaged to his boyfriend, Vito Cammisano. However, they apparently ended that engagement in a year that saw him sign with Canadian Football League team the Montreal Alouettes—and later leave that squad, citing mental-health concerns. Sam also competed on TV's *Dancing with the Stars*, although he was eliminated early.

—**Golden victories:** Amazon's groundbreaking TV series *Transparent* snagged two awards at the 2015 Golden Globe Awards, which aired on NBC Jan. 11. Some of the other winners included out actor Matt Bomer (for his role in Larry Kramer's '80s-set AIDS work *The Normal Heart*), Kevin Spacey (*House of Cards*), Julianne Moore (for her role in the feature film *Still Alice*) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (Best Motion Picture—Musical or Comedy).

—**Choice selections:** Ellen DeGeneres was named Favorite Daytime Host, and the prison

series *Orange Is the New Black* was tabbed Favorite Dramedy during the People's Choice Awards, which aired Jan. 7 on CBS. *The Big Bang Theory*, which stars out actor Jim Parsons, won multiple honors. Also, *Glee*'s Chris Colfer won for Favorite Comedic TV Actor, over such nominees as Parsons and Jesse Tyler Ferguson (*Modern Family*).

—**Sheen reveals:** In November, actor Charlie Sheen revealed to Today's Matt Lauer that he is HIV-positive, having been diagnosed about four years earlier. He said he manages his condition with a triple cocktail of antiretroviral drugs, and said that it was impossible that he could have infected any of his partners.

—**"Empire" strikes:** Out director Lee Daniels struck gold with the Fox show *Empire*—his first-ever TV endeavor. The first season of the show featured tight storylines, a gay son (played by Jussie Smollett, who eventually came out publicly himself) and the irrepressible Cookie Lyon, played by Taraji P. Henson.

—**Crime time:** One ceremony that didn't take place in 2015 was the OUTMusic Awards, which honors LGBT+ artists. According to its website, the organization "had to abruptly postpone our production of the 9th OUTMusic Awards due to the fact that our organization is the victim of Financial Fraud Crime."

—**"Orange" you glad?:** The Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black* won twice at the Screen Actors Guild Awards—once for best comedy ensemble also for actress Uzo Aduba (who portrays "Crazy Eyes") winning best female actor in a comedy series. In addition, Mark Ruffalo won for best male actor in a television movie

focus on her family. It was a difficult year for O'Donnell, who reported teen daughter Chelsea missing in August—only to have it revealed that she was found with a 25-year-old man named Steven M. Sheerer, whom she had met on the dating app Tinder. After she turned 18, Chelsea chose to go live with her birth mother.

—**Laverne's leaps:** Laverne Cox—who already made history in becoming the first openly transgender performer to earn an acting Emmy nomination for her breakout role on Netflix's *Orange Is the New Black*—was slated to be the first transgender series regular character on broadcast TV played by a transgender actor. Cox was scheduled to play Cameron Wirth, a transgender Ivy League-educated attorney, on the CBS pilot *Doubt*. (She even got her very own ice-cream flavor, *Chocolate Orange Is the New Black*, in 2015.)

—**Moore and more:** The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held the 87th Academy Awards Feb. 22. Chicagoan Graham Moore won for Best Adapted Screenplay for the movie *The Imitation Game*, which depicts the life of the late gay British codebreaker Alan Turing.

Also, Best Supporting Actress winner Patricia Arquette spoke about equality for women, and Chicago rapper/actor Common—who won an Oscar with singer John Legend for Best Original Song for "Glory," from the film *Selma*—said, "[The Edmund Pettus Bridge] was once a landmark of a divided nation but now is the symbol for change. The spirit of this bridge transcends race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and social status." Host Neil Patrick Harris received mixed reviews.

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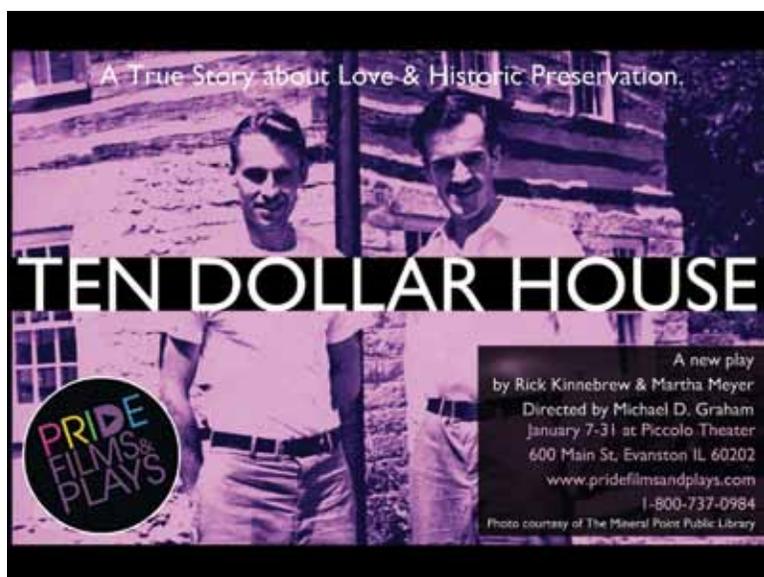


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PRIDE FILMS & PLAYS



Matt Bomer (left) and Mark Ruffalo in HBO's *The Normal Heart*.
Photo by Jojo Whilden/HBO

or miniseries for his role in Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*.

—**A Grey day:** Eighty-two-year-old Broadway and movie veteran Joel Grey officially came out as a gay man. Grey was married for 24 years and has raised two children: actress Jennifer Grey (of *Dirty Dancing* fame) and chef James. However, Grey told People, "I don't like labels, but if you have to put a label on it, I'm a gay man."

—**Brit by bit:** Out British singer Sam Smith was the star of the 57th Annual Grammy Awards, held Feb. 8. He snagged four awards, including record and song of the year for his anthemic "Stay With Me." Additionally, the late Joan Rivers awarded the Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album for *Diary of a Mad Diva* in a ceremony prior to the awards.

—**"Hello," there:** Speaking of British crooners, you had to live under a rock not to know of Adele's newest CD, *25*. The album (spurred by its lead single, "Hello") smashed all sorts of sales records, selling 3.38 million units in its first week of release—and was the only reason Taylor Swift didn't have the best-selling CD for a second consecutive year.

—**A different "View":** Rosie O'Donnell left the daytime talk show *The View* for the second time—this time after just five months—to

—**The Queen plays Bessie:** Queen Latifah portrayed bisexual blues singer (complete with nude scene) in the HBO movie *Bessie*. Co-starring Mo'Nique as blues legend Ma Rainey, Latifah earned raves for her acting.

—**Kerry good:** GLAAD honored Golden Globe- and Emmy-nominated actress Kerry Washington at the 26th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles at the Beverly Hilton. Washington received GLAAD's Vanguard Award; previous Vanguard Award honorees include Jennifer Lopez, Kristin Chenoweth, Charlize Theron, Elizabeth Taylor, Antonio Banderas, Drew Barrymore, Janet Jackson and Sharon Stone.

—**Weir and now:** Figure-skating commentator Johnny Weir's sometimes-contentious divorce from Victor Voronov was finalized in early 2015. Despite his bitter divorce from Weir, Voronov is headed back down the aisle, having fallen for 20-year-old ice dancer Joti Polizoakis.

—**It's easy for me to say I'm sorry:** Out British actor Russell Tovey (HBO's now-cancelled *Looking*) apologized for comments he made about effeminate gay men. Tovey initially told *The Guardian*, in part, "Where I felt like I had to toughen up. If I'd have been able to relax,



Joseph Anderson (Left) and Scott Patrick Sawa in Pride Films and Plays' Chicago-area premiere of *Ten Dollar House*.

Photo courtesy of Pride Films and Plays

HISTORIC from cover

Meyer and Kinnebrew started doing more extensive research to dramatize the many decades that Neal and Hellum lived in Mineral Point for an initial screenplay called *The Bachelors*. Kinnebrew said that since Neal was such a pack rat, there were plenty of materials and documents to peruse.

Luckily, gay author and historian Will Fellows had already extensively written about Neal and Hellum for his 2004 book *A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture*. Fellows made many of his materials available to Kinnebrew and Meyer, including an audio interview conducted with Hellum when he was in his 90s. "We loved hearing his voice," Kinnebrew said. "He had all this wisdom and perspective. It was also poignant because it connected with the idea of all the rich culture had come from gay men throughout history."

Pride Films and Plays ensemble member Tom Chiola has been attached to *Ten Dollar House* through its many previous iterations and readings. Chiola plays the role of William Gundry, an older gentleman who takes Bob Neal under his wing and tries to impart his knowledge of living a coded life as a "confirmed bachelor" in a small town.

"Back then you needed to be much more circumspect about your private life," said Chiola, mentioning how Gundry suggests to Bob that he travel to big cities for gay assignments. "Bob Neal, however, was not willing to accept that as constricts that were being placed on him and Edgar. They were much more of 'hiding

in plain sight."

Though *Ten Dollar House* made its official world premiere debut last year at Broom Street Theater in Madison, Kinnebrew said the script has been thoroughly revised for the Pride Films and Plays production. Kinnebrew credits director Michael D. Graham for helping to steer the play's many rewrites, and his wife for keeping him honest with the characterizations so he's not just writing jokes to make audiences laugh.

Another important aspect to *Ten Dollar House* for Chiola is the notion of sharing gay American history to audiences.

"My joy in doing this is that we are able to tell a story based upon real people's lives—about Midwestern gay folks who had an impact on where they lived and didn't have to move to a major metropolitan area to live their lives that they found fulfilling," Chiola said. "These are the kind of stories that define, tell and fill in the history of our people."

Pride Films and Plays' Chicago-area premiere of *Ten Dollar House* plays from Thursday, Jan. 7, through Sunday, Jan. 31, at Piccolo Theatre at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Previews are 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Jan. 7 and 8, with an official press opening 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9. Regular run performances are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays. Preview performances are \$15. Regular run performances are \$22-\$27. Discounts available to seniors and students at select performances. Call 800-737-0984 or visit www.pridefilmsandplays.com.

Natalie Cole dies at 65

Singer Natalie Cole—the daughter of music great Nat King Cole who became a recording star in her own right—has died at age 65. She died of congestive heart failure related to ongoing health issues, CBS News confirmed.

Cole is perhaps best known for her 1991 multiple Grammy winner *Unforgettable ... with Love*, an album in which she duets with her father. Other hits included "Sophisticated Lady," "This Will Be," "Our Love," "Mr. Melody" and "Pink Cadillac."

She revealed in 2008 that she had been diagnosed with hepatitis C—the result of her drug use in the 1970s and '80s, and her kidneys had failed after she went through treatment. The following year, Cole underwent a successful kidney transplant.

The CBS article is at <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/natalie-cole-dead-at-65/>.

Gallery to host sexual-assault exhibit

The Awakenings Foundation—the home of the only known collection of rape-survivor

artwork—has announced its first curated exhibit, "Graphic Relief," which will feature international comic book, graphic novel and zine media artists who deal with the topic of street harassment.

There is an open call for art until January 2016 and all artists are welcome to submit, regardless of survivor identity, as long as works speak to the topic.

The Awakenings Foundation exists to help survivors of sexual assault heal through the creative arts. This exhibit will open up our mission to a wider community of artists and patrons by tackling the epidemic of street harassment and catcalling, which has been thrust into a spotlight in recent digital and social media.

Email Laura Kinter at laura@awakeningsfoundation.net.

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KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The Revenant; Joy; The Hateful Eight

Near the beginning of **The Revenant**—set in 1823 in the uncharted winter wilds of Montana and South Dakota—guide Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is briefly separated from his party of trappers and hunters. During the separation, Glass is the victim of a vicious bear attack and inexplicably survives. Straggling back into camp, group leader John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy, marble-mouthed as usual) leaves Glass for dead rather than be burdened with him, burying Glass in a shallow grave for good measure. But Glass survives that, too, and slowly—at times, literally crawling—treks his way through the frozen woods and icy waters surrounding him in a quest for revenge: Fitzgerald has also murdered Glass' son in cold blood.

The film, which is based in fact, captures nature in all its exquisite, frosty beauty. (It was shot by legendary cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki mostly in Canada.) Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Birdman; Amores Perros) insisted no green screen be used and the gorgeous landscapes are, indeed, breathtaking to behold.

But this visual feast, unfortunately, is in service to a story that pummels not only its leading character into submission but the audience, too. Worse, as Glass goes from one physical challenge to the next, we don't get anything resembling the emotional complexity these man against nature stories cry out for. Glass dreams about his murdered wife and son but mostly he hangs in there—even taking up residence inside the carcass of a dead horse at one point for shelter against the deep freeze (taking a page from *The Empire Strikes Back*). And we hang in there—barely, too.

DiCaprio is said to have gone to frigid hell and back, physically challenging himself at the behest of his eager director and for his strenuous efforts; he is reaping some of the best notices of his career. But his work here, in what amounts to little more than a field day for testosterone junkies, is light years from his fully fleshed-out performances in myriad other films stretching all the way back to *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* Should DiCaprio go on to win the Oscar for *The Revenant*, it will be an award for endurance rather than acting.

Of related interest: **The Hateful Eight**, the latest from writer-director Quentin Tarantino, is a three-hour western opus focused on a group of disparate characters snowbound during a blizzard in the Old West. The film is described as a Sergio Leone, blood-spattered variation on the classic Agatha Christie murder mystery *And Then There Were None*.

Shot on 70mm, the film is being presented in widescreen format in the classic road-show style, complete with intermission. Kurt Russell, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tim Roth, Bruce Dern and Demian Bichir co-star. The Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., is screening the movie in 70mm in a specially installed 40 foot screen specially installed for the engagement. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/hateful-eight>

'Joy' to the world

"I love when the ordinary meets the extraordinary," Bradley Cooper (as QVC exec Neil Warren) enthuses to Jennifer Lawrence as **Joy**, a frazzled single mother-turned-inventor, when

Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper in *Joy*.
Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox



they meet for the first time. It has taken a lot for *Joy*—and the audience—to get to this hallowed moment in writer-director David O. Russell's comic biopic of Miracle Mop creator Joy Mangano. Up to that point, we have witnessed an intermittently delightful Cinderella meets Queen for a Day story.

Joy's eccentric family—a modern-day version of the crazy Kirbys in *You Can't Take It With You*—have helped power the first half of Russell's rather uneven movie. But once *Joy's* invention—and the machinations surrounding it—come into play, the movie veers away from those delightful goofballs and loses its focus. And when you have Robert DeNiro, Isabella Rossellini, Diane Ladd, Virginia Madsen and Edgar Ramirez playing those wackos, you want to stay with them. Although it meanders away from those lovely eccentrics for the most part, Lawrence, collaborating with Russell for the third time, turns in her usual exemplary work. While *Joy* never quite lives up to its title, it has enough of Lawrence to make it seem so.

Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films opening in Chicago on Jan. 8 and 15.

Anomalisa (1/8)—It's a stop-motion animated dramedy for adults about a man who works in customer service but finds himself unable to connect with others in his personal life. It's from writer Charlie Kaufman (*Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) and based on his play, co-directed with Duke Johnson. David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason-Leigh and Tom Noonan provide the voices.

The Forest (1/8)—It's a supernatural horror thriller about a young U.S. woman (Natalie Dormer) who travels to Japan to investigate the unexpected death of her twin sister. Her search leads her to an infamous forest at the base of Mount Fuji filled with the angry and tormented souls of the dead who prey on the living.

Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict (1/8)—Lisa Immordino Vreeland follows her documentary *Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel*—about her style maven grandmother-in-law—with this portrait of the renowned heiress and modern-art champion (Jackson Pollack, Alexander Calder, Marcel Duchamp, etc.) whose collection was housed in her renowned Venetian palazzo. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/peggy-guggenheim-art-addict>

The Revenant (1/8)—See details above.

Sympathy, Said the Shark (1/11 only)—This psychological thriller is told, Rashomon-style, from the perspective of the three principals: a young couple and their estranged friend, who bursts in on them late one night during a rainstorm, bloodied and insisting someone is

out to kill him. Director Devin Lawrence and filmmakers will be in attendance at this Chicago premiere at Facets Cinematheque, 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. <http://www.facets.org/cinematheque/films/jan2016/sympathy.php>

The Benefactor (1/15)—Richard Gere stars (and apparently chews the scenery) in this melodrama about a disgraced Philadelphia philanthropist who emerges from a self-imposed exile, after friends are killed in an accident, and attaches himself to the pregnant daughter (Dakota Fanning) of the friend and her new

husband (Theo James). The Chicago premiere will take place exclusively at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.. <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/thebenefactor>

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (1/15)—An action thriller from blockbuster specialist Michael Bay, it's the story of a half-dozen special security officers defending the Libyan consulate from an attack by Islamic militants. John Krasinski heads a cast of up-and-coming heartthrobs, and the movie's based on a true story.

'Transfluent' series through Jan. 9

Transfluent—a public engagement that incorporates visual, performative and conversational expression—will take place at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., through Jan. 9.

Two art exhibitions—"Pearly Foam" and "Trisha Shattuck: Machinations of a Monk"—are being held concurrently at Center on Halsted and David Weinberg Photography, 300 W. Superior St.

Visit CenterOnHalsted.org and www.d-weinberg.com/pearly-foam-programming.

Carol Burnett adds show

Iconic comedian Carol Burnett has announced a second show to play the Chicago Theatre on May 19 in addition to the previously announced show on May 20, according to *The Chicago Tribune*.

The performance draws from the openings of her hit variety series *The Carol Burnett Show*, with Burnett taking questions from the audience throughout the performance.

Visit TheChicagoTheatre.com or call 800-745-3000.

Sinfonietta MLK Jr. shows Jan. 17-18

The Chicago Sinfonietta, with Music Director Mei-Ann Chen leading, continues its 2015-2016 season with its "Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

The shows will take place Sunday, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. at Wentz Concert Hall of North Central College, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville; and Monday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Chicago's Orchestra Hall of Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave.

Part of this year's program includes Richard Smallwood's "Anthem of Praise" followed by

Conni Ellisor and five-time Grammy-winning artist Victor Wooten's "The Bass Whisperer," featuring Wooten on bass.

Single tickets range from \$18-\$60 for concerts at Symphony Center and \$48-\$60 for concerts at Wentz Concert Hall, with special \$10 pricing available for students at both concerts. Call 312-284-1554 or visit ChicagoSinfonietta.org.

Roscoe's gets 'Lyftie Award'

Ride-sharing service Lyft has bestowed awards upon the most requested drop-off destinations in several cities across the United States, including Chicago.

According to RedEye, Boystown club Roscoe's took the Lyftie Award for the most-visited bar.

Other award recipients include Big Star (most-visited restaurant), Wrigley Field (event space), Union Station (transit stop), Pequod's Pizza (deep-dish pizza spot) and frozen-yogurt chain TCBY (trending destination).

The article is at <http://www.redeyechicago.com/news/redeye-lyftie-awards-show-most-popular-chicago-destinations-20151228-story.html>.

Adele at United Center in July

Adele will return to North America for her first tour in five years.

The North American tour dates begin July 5 in St. Paul, Minnesota, at Xcel Energy Center and run through Nov. 15 in Mexico City at Palacio de los Deportes.

She will perform at Chicago's United Center on July 10, 11 and 13. Some of the other cities on the tour include Denver, Phoenix, Boston, Toronto and Nashville.

All tickets are at live.adele.com/north-america/.

REVIEW from page 22

prance around, sing in the street, I might be a different person now. I thank my dad for that, for not allowing me to go down that path." In a series of tweets, Tovey apologized: "I surrender. You got me. I'm sat baffled and saddened that a misfired inarticulate quote of mine has branded me worst gay ever."

—**Going Gaga:** Lady Gaga turned heads in 2015—by getting a make-under and impressing people with talent. Her pared-down, 50th-anniversary tribute to The Sound of Music—for which she hit Julie Andrews' high notes—garnered universal praise. In addition, she received raves for her lead role in the TV series American Horror Story: Hotel.

—**"Block" and roll:** A new trans-focused television series, New Girls on the Block, premiered on the Discovery Life Channel. The show set out to follow a group of friends from Kansas City, Missouri, showcasing some of their past struggles with gender identity and how they navigate daily struggles and successes now.

—**A Grand gesture:** Out singer Steve Grand's CD, All American Boy, debuted at number three on the Billboard Independent Albums Chart and number 27 on the Billboard Top 200 chart. Fueled by donations from nearly 5,000 fans, Grand raised more than \$325,000 in what became the third most funded music project in Kickstarter history.

—**Remembering Rock:** Thirty years after actor Rock Hudson's death from AIDS-related causes on Oct. 2, 1985, at age 59, Lee Garlington, Doris Day and others who knew Hudson closely shared memories of him with People.com. "He was a sweetheart. I adored him," said Garlington, 77, a retired stockbroker who said he dated Hudson from 1962 to 1965. Hudson never had to ask him to keep their relationship a secret. "He assumed I would and I did," Garlington said. "He wasn't paranoid."

—**A Griner offense:** It was a rough year for six-foot-eight lesbian WNBA star Brittney Griner. She and then-fiancee Glory Johnson, another WNBA athlete, were arrested on charges of assault and disorderly conduct on April 22. They were married May 9—but then, on June 4, Griner and Johnson announced that Johnson was pregnant. However, the following day, Griner filed for an annulment of the marriage, citing fraud and duress, saying she had no biological link to the baby.

—**Show(s) and tell:** The 2015-16 television season appeared to be the season of openly gay creator Greg Berlanti, who oversaw at least six primetime network shows, TheWrap noted. Berlanti ran Blindspot, Supergirl, DC's Legends of Tomorrow, Mysteries of Laura (the Debra Messing show that will see its second season), Arrow and The Flash.

—**(In)action Jackson:** Janet Jackson celebrated her 49th birthday by revealing to fans that she would end their seven-year wait for music by releasing a new album (Unbreakable) and embarking on a world tour in 2015. While she performed some shows, she recently postponed the remainder of the tour to undergo surgery.

—**"Twilight" zone:** Kristen Stewart's mother reportedly confirmed that the Twilight actress had a romance with her personal assistant, Alicia Cargile. "I've met Kristen's new girlfriend, I like her. What's not to accept? She's a lovely girl," Jules Stewart told Britain's Sunday Mirror. While there have been rumblings about Stewart and Cargile before, the elder Stewart's comments were the first official confirmation that the two are dating.

—**Trouble man:** Gay actor John Barrowman (Doctor Who; Torchwood; Arrow) was again in trouble with the trans community after using an anti-trans slur and then telling those who were offended to "lighten up." The situation first started in October 2014, when the Scottish-American entertainer posted a video online in which he used the word "tranny-tastic."

—**Movie kind of love:** LGBT movies excelled in 2015 unlike in any other year, some contested. Among the high-quality films men-



Janet Jackson released a CD and went on a tour—which is now postponed.

tioned were Carol, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara; The Danish Girl, a trans-centered film featuring Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander; and Freeheld, a true-life story with Julianne Moore and Ellen Page. However, other films—such as Stonewall—stirred controversy because of its alleged "whitewashing" of actual history.

—**Renner takes it all:** In Playboy, actor Jeremy Renner said he doesn't care if people think he's gay. In a new interview with Playboy's Stephen Rebello, The Hurt Locker star addresses questions about his sexuality, saying, "Fucking say whatever the hell you want about me." Renner did, however, take exception to the implication that being gay is, in and of itself, a negative quality.

—**On video:** As Wolfe Video celebrated its 30th-anniversary year, the company made a donation to the June Mazer Lesbian Archives—depositing a complete DVD library of every lesbian film Wolfe released since 1985.

—**Mack daddy:** Pro boxer Yusuf Mack came out as gay. Mack—a 35-year-old father of 10—first made headlines when he claimed was drugged and had absolutely no recollection of ever filming a hardcore gay-skin flick.

—**Samantha's sorrow:** British singer Samantha Fox—best known for the pop smash "Touch Me (I Want Your Body)"—lost her longtime partner and manager Myra Stratton, who died after battling with cancer. Fox's Twitter page stated that Stratton was her partner and manager for the last 16 years.

—**A Hardy bargain:** Actor Tom Hardy—who was promoting his film Legend at the Toronto International Film Festival—shut down a reporter from LGBT news outlet Daily Xtra when asked if it's "hard for celebrities to talk to media about their sexuality." "What on earth are you on about?," Hardy responded. "I don't find it difficult for celebrities to talk about their sexuality," Hardy said. "Are you asking me about my sexuality?" The awkward exchange came to a head when the reporter answered "Sure," and the actor asked, "Why?" "Thank you," Hardy said while cutting off the reporter.

—**Diversity:** If the 67th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, held Sept. 20 in Los Angeles, weren't known for anything else, it may be recognized for its diversity—especially with African-American women: Viola Davis (How to Get Away with Murder), Uzo Aduba (Orange Is the New Black) and Regina King (American Crime) all won. Victorious LGBT individuals and LGBT-themed projects included HBO's Olive Kitteridge, Transparent director Jill Soloway and actor Jeffrey Tambor.

—**Model behavior:** Self-described "sexually fluid" contestant Nyle DiMarco became America's Next Top Model first-ever deaf winner. He was also the show's final winner as well, as it was the show's last cycle.

—**Taylor-made:** Actress Holland Taylor—who played Alan and Charlie Harper's (Charlie Sheen and Jon Cryer's) bisexual mother on the TV show Two and a Half Men—revealed in a recent radio interview that she is in a relationship with a woman, and has been dating women for quite some time. Later, it was

steppenwolf

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"Basically, you work all night long while I just stand around and giggle like a 12-year-old schoolgirl."—Anderson Cooper to Kathy Griffin at the end of their New Year's Eve coverage for CNN. Truer words were never spoken.

For the ninth year in a row, Kathy Griffin spent four and a half hours on live TV shocking Anderson Cooper. The night began with Kathy demanding special lighting, saying it would help Anderson, too: "You're gonna look like a dumb model and I'm gonna look like Rula Lenska!" Obviously, this was not only geared toward my readers, but also former V05 users who helped destroy the ozone!

Aside from giving Anderson a spray tan, the best parts were when the couple talked about hot guys. When Kathy asked who his "hall pass" is, Anderson confessed that his first big crush was when he saw my dear friend Robbie Benson in One on One. Later, he was quite nervous when Gus Kenworthy came on stage. Kathy gave the openly gay skier a kiss on the lips. When Gus turned to Anderson, the newsman demurred and said he'd kiss him on the cheek off-camera. BOO!

Anderson expressed conflicting emotions whenever he sees Nick Jonas. They do a kinda "bro hug" by bumping shoulders, which Coop finds "deeply unsatisfying. Of course, I want like a lingering hug." Kathy said that Andy didn't even know who Jonas was a couple of years ago: "He doesn't know who any actors are until they bulk up." As if on cue, a Nick Jonas song started playing on the street, and Anderson spun around like a top, hoping to see Nick live onstage. He then said he just likes his music, adding, "And he is a really good actor." Cue Kathy's eye-roll!

It's become a tradition for me to talk about the Kennedy Center Honors each year, but since Caroline Bouvier Kennedy Auchincloss Radziwill Onassis Schlossberg has been in Japan, it's really lost some of its luster. Leave it to Aretha Franklin to give us something to write about. When the curtain opened, there was nothing onstage except for a Grand piano. And then, Aretha comes strolling out in a full-length fur coat. Did she just walk in from the street? And why was she carrying her purse? Although it looked like a tasteful clutch, it was bulging like it contained some buffalo wings or perhaps a half-eaten burger! Alas, after losing so much weight, Auntie Re's put it all back on—and then some. Clearly, Franklin has no gay friends, because I can't think of anyone who would have OK'd that dress, which was revealed when she shrugged the fur from her ample shoulders. I have one rule of thumb: When both your weight and age begin with the number 7, don't wear a sleeveless dress—especially if you're gonna lift your enormous hocks in praise. That said, she really sounded great—better than she has in eons.

This summer, SiriusXM abruptly fired Derek and Romaine, the very popular co-hosts on OutQ. Since then, the pair has been privately plotting a return to the airwaves. Now, you can listen to Derek and Romaine every weekday at 5-7 p.m. ET on their own website, which has the catchy name of DerekAndRomaine.com. You can listen on your computer, tablets, mobile devices—pretty much anything except two tin cans and some string (or, alas, SiriusXM). The way I understand it—and bear in mind I didn't read all the fine print—you can sign up for a two-day free trial subscription. After that, there are various pricing levels to continue to listen live, on demand, via downloads, etc. It's structured eerily like the wildly popular BillyMasters.com—except no celebrity penises (well, maybe from Romaine).

And now, a case surrounding the murder of



Will Zac Efron bare all in Dirty Grandpa?

a wealthy Texas man and his heir apparent—a gay-porn star! The porn star in question is Mario Romo, whose real name is David Meza but who worked on SeanCody.com as Francisco. (I'm gonna call him David.) David met Jake Merendino in 2013 in Houston and the relationship soon became "romantic." Last year, the 52-year-old Jake retired and decided to buy a condo in Mexico. According to the FBI, Jake and David went to Mexico for Jake to close escrow in April. Since the condo wasn't ready yet, they stayed at a hotel in San Diego.

A day later, they moved to a hotel closer to the Mexican property. That night, David allegedly left the hotel around 10:30 p.m. At 1 a.m., Jake told the security guard he had to help a friend who was stranded. At around 3 a.m., his body was found in a ravine five miles away. While David claims to know nothing about the murder, he did admit that he and his girlfriend planned to rob Jake at the exact spot where the body was discovered! But, wait—there's more. Days after Jake's death, David produced a handwritten note dated Dec. 21, 2014 that was allegedly written by Jake and naming David as his sole heir. And what was the note written on? A notepad from the San Diego hotel Jake and David stayed at!

Our first "Ask Billy" question of the year comes from Kevin in Aventura, Florida: "You've written so much about Zac Efron in Dirty Grandpa. Is it ever coming out? Will his penis make the final cut?"

Dirty Grandpa is scheduled to be released Jan. 22. As for Zac's penis, it's a curious thing. On one hand, we're told that Zac's manhood was encased in a "cock sock" or a flesh-colored brief for the nude scenes. On the other hand, we were just sent some footage that shows parts of his penis completely exposed. While it is cut, I cannot confirm it will make final cut of the film. But it can be found on BillyMasters.com.

When Zac is showing almost as much skin as Aretha, it's definitely time to end yet another column. There's one little tidbit I didn't tell you—for Christmas, Zac's mom sent him a box of penis pasta. Maybe she knows something we don't. You can find all that and more on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that will never leave you al dente. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I introduce Anderson to Robbie Benson! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



TOUCHE

Fuzzy memories from NYE Blackout party. Photos by Kirk Williamson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Analogue

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Analogue (2523 N. Milwaukee Ave.; AnalogueChicago.com) is part of the burgeoning Logan Square restaurant movement—and a compelling reason why more people should check out that area of Chicago.

This restaurant is deceptive—in a good way. A recent lunchtime visit revealed a relatively simple, relaxed site with Southern fare that's simultaneously straightforward, traditional (although with the occasional twist) and more complex than you might think.

There's nothing fancy about the decor (refreshing); you'll find wide spaces, tables and seats/booths. Analogue, according to Alfredo Nogueira (in his first executive-chef post), was originally conceived as a bar. However, it has grown to be much more than that.

Speaking of the bar aspect, my dining partner and I decided to try two traditional drinks: I had a very tasty Hurricane while she opted for a nice, but heady, Sazerac (Old Overholt Rye, Demerara, Herbsainte and Peychaud's).

However, the food has definitely taken attention away from the drinks. Lunch options are divided into po boys/sandwiches, dishes and daily specials. The po boys are variations such as roast beef, fried oyster and hot sausage. The shrimp po boy and fried-chicken sandwich were more than tasty, but my favorite turned out to be one that I thought some might pooh-pooh because of its name: the mushroom debris po boy. The French fry-stuffed concoction confirms that Nogueira said: It's a vegetarian sandwich that tastes like a non-vegetarian one.

Dishes include a gumbo that managed to do the near-impossible: (temporarily) make me a fan

of okra. (Nogueira told me that these vegetables are the toughest item for him to procure, and he regularly gets them at Nichols Farm & Orchard.) The biscuits—which come with habanero jelly and butter (“to tame the jelly,” as our server told us)—are incredibly flaky and delicious. Other lunchtime dishes include beet salad, smoked fish dip (with hot sauce) and fried boudin (Cajun sausage made from pork shoulder, pork liver and rice, fried and served with house mustard).

There are also lunch-tray specials that are basically the best cafeteria food you never had. The day we went featured roast chicken and rice. (Other specials, depending on the day, are red beans and rice with sausage; meat loaf; and fried catfish.) If there was any doubt Nogueira knows his way around a grill, they were erased with this item that was even better the next day when I had leftovers.

The two-year-old Analogue has the best Cajun food I've tasted in a while—and, in a more general sense, the best Southern fare since I initially tried Lincoln Square restaurant Luella's Southern Kitchen. I'll definitely have to return here for brunch and dinner.



Gumbo (left) and roast chicken at Analogue. Photo by Andrew Davis



SCOT'S

A new year, a new brunch. Photos by Kirk Williamson



NEVERLAND

Pure as the driven snow at the Purity Ball, Wed., December 30. Photos by Jerry Nunn

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



ChiGAYgo:
New Year, New Night!

Thu., Jan. 7, 10 pm

Laugh Factory Chicago,
3175 N. Broadway St.

Ring in the New Year with Chicago's funniest gay and gay-friendly comics. Featuring Reena Calm, Peter Kim, Gwen La Roka, Joseph William Reese, Carma Nibarger, Shannon Noll and host Scott Duff.



Cruisin'

Sat., Jan. 9, 11 pm

Jackhammer,
6406 N. Clark St.

Same sleazy retro sound, all new tracks. DJ Moose spins '70s disco, '80s gay-bar HiNRG, synth, and '90s house. Love the sounds of last year's sets? Same feel, but with a different twist.



Fabitat: Dollywood

Wed., Jan. 13, 10 pm

Double Door's Door No. 3,
1551 N. Damen Ave.

A night devoted to "Backwoods Barbie" herself. Performances by Sara Andrews, Krissy Feetface, Curlene Ribbon, Joan Waters and host Lucy Stoole. DJs Adam El and Ldy Prblms.

WINDY CITY TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 6

Free HIV/AIDS testing at Affinity Community Services Affinity is a social justice organization that focuses on health and wellness, leadership development, and community building for Black lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women and LGBTQ youth of African descent in the Chicago metropolitan area. 1:00pm - 3:00pm Affinity Community Services 1424 E. 53rd St. Suite 306, Chicago 773-324-0377 <http://www.affinity95.org>

Brass Chuckles Comedy: Comedy that Kicks Ass Hosted by Tamale Rocks. Each Wednesday comedians performing stand-up and improv based on a nightly "Performer Challenge." After the mainstage show, there is an open-mic opportunity where anything is fair game. \$10 9:00pm Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway

Thursday, Jan. 7

Author reading Unbecoming, by Rebecca Sherm. Book set outside Paris, a woman's web of deception unravels as two partners in crime are paroled. Echoes Alfred Hitchcock and Patricia Highsmith. 3:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Chi-Town Squares Dance Party With Michael Maltenfort. Bring a friend or three 7:00pm - 9:30pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago <http://www.chitown-squares.org>

15th anniversary Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival Largest festival of its kind in the world, attracting over 1,000 artists, including GayCo annually. Through Jan. 17. All-fest passes \$115 before Dec. 31. Day passes \$37-\$57. 8:00pm Stage 773 1225 W Belmont Chicago 773-327-5252 Tickets: <http://www.ChicagoSketchfest.com>

BOWLED OVER
Saturday, Jan. 9

Affinity's annual Burning Bowl will take place at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Friday, Jan. 8

Surviving the Times, a show by Sam Kirk An exhibition on homelessness and survival sex in the LGBTQ community. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Bible Bingo: An Act of Charity in Two Acts Trade a good re-gift for a free ticket. Items will be donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Chicago, who operate St. Mary's Home. Bible Bingo is a comedy written by Vicki Quade about the Catholic culture

of fundraising and bingo. 6:00pm Royal George Theatre 1641 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.nuns4fun.com>

Queer Genre Fiction Discussion Group Discussion of The Vast Fields of Ordinary by Nick Burd. Free. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.amazon.com/Vast-Fields-Ordinary-Nick-Burd/dp/014241820X>

50 States of Gay in the 'burbs for one night only Best-of scenes from GayCo's fall revue featuring eight of the 50 states, bonded to some oldies from GayCo's almost two decades. \$25 GayCo's fall revue featured a random state of the USA each week, so whether you missed one show or all eight, you are sure to see something new from as west as Hawaii to as east as Massachusetts. 8:00pm Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell, Arlington Heights 847-577-2121

Saturday, Jan. 9

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. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-qlbt-chicago.com>

Burning Bowl 2016 Theme: Passing the Torch. Speaker Kim Hunt. Reception follows. 1:00pm - 3:00pm St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 5700 W. Midway Park, Chicago 773-324-0377

"Storycise" With Dot Kane A demo that combines storytelling, dance, yoga, comedy, and exercise for children. Free and perfect for ages 3 to 7. 3:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/storycise-dot-kane>

How to Lose Your Virginity Eye-opening and irreverent documentary explores why female virginity is still so valued. Presented by Dyke Delicious 7:00pm Chicago Filmmakers 5243 N Clark Chicago Tickets: <http://chicagofilmmakers.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=820040>

Catie Curtis and Maia Sharp Veteran singer/songwriters in the folk scene 7:30pm Evanston SPACE 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, IL 60202 <http://evanstonSPACE.com>

Sunday, Jan. 10

Strut Your Stuff Couple contest Couples (friends, family, lovers, spouses) will strut out to music and be judged on style, presentation and strut. Prize \$100. vitasvoice.msn.com. Facebook LeZInColor group. 1:00pm - 6:00pm The Grand Ballroom, 6351 S. Cottage Grove St., Chicago 608-213-1200

Wed., Jan. 13

Author reading Poor Your Soul by Mira Ptacin. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-mira-ptacin-poor-your-soul>

Thursday, Jan. 14

Former Governor Pat Quinn reception for Equality Illinois PAC Reception supports election of pro-equality public officials. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Hubbard Inn, 110 W. Hubbard, Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/join-pat-quinn-in-supporting-pro-equality-candidates-tickets-20078486293>

Bi Discussion Group Chicago Bisexual / Queer Community meeting every other Thursday to chat about community, upcoming bisexual events, bisexual concerns. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Book Launch Party The Lightkeepers, by Abby Geni 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/book-launch-party-lightkeepers-abby-geni>

Friday, Jan. 15

Bi-Trans-Queer Book Discussion Group Discussion of The Enchantments of Flesh and Spirit by Storm Constantine. Free. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago

Author reading Dare to Dissappoint: Growing Up in Turkey by Ozge Samanci 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-ozge-samanci-dare-disappoint-growing-turkey>

About Face Theatre to present Le Switch Marriage equality comes to the U.S. and commitment-shy David finds himself unsure how to react to the nation's wedding fever. With AFT Artistic Associates Mitchell Fain and Elizabeth Ledo with LaShawn Banks, Stephen Cone and Collin Quinn Rice. 7:30pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago 773-404-7336 Tickets: <http://www.aboutface theatre.org>

Wed., Jan. 20

28th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change Day Long Racial Justice Institute opens the nation's premier annual organizing and skills-building LGBTQ conference. Close to 5,000 LGBTQ community leaders and activists from across the country are expected to attend. Through Jan. 24. 9:00am - 6:30am Chicago Hilton and Towers 720 S Michigan Ave Chicago <https://www.creatingchange.org> Tickets: <https://www.creatingchange.org/registration/register-for-conference/>

Author reading Queer Rock Love: a Family Memoir by Paige Schilt 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-paige-schilt-queer-rock-love-family-memoir>



Sam Kirk.

Sam Kirk show
Jan. 8 at Center

Artist Sam Kirk will have a reception for her "Surviving the Times" exhibition on Friday, Jan. 8, 6-9 p.m., at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The exhibition will run through Feb. 24, according to her website, IAmSamKirk.com. The website also states that the works aim "to drive awareness and action around the issues of sex trafficking and survival sex [a]ffecting youth in the LGBTQ community." A portion of the sales profit from all sales will benefit the center's youth program.

Auto show has
new website, app

The Chicago Auto Show has an all-new website and will launch an accompanying smartphone app in January designed to enhance the attendee experience and bring the nation's largest auto show to life across the globe.

The 2016 version of ChicagoAutoShow.com will have, among other things, historical videos and social-media integration that is purportedly smoother than in years past.

The website's "Vehicles on Display" section adds real-time inventory from Chicagoland's new-car dealers, provided by DriveChicago.com. This allows site visitors to sift through more than 40,000 new cars directly on ChicagoAutoShow.com as they are browsing their favorite vehicles.

The show's updated app is designed to be a digital companion for the attendee, allowing them to request more information and get instant updates on the daily schedule, among other things.

The 2016 public show will be Feb. 13-21, 2016, at McCormick Place.

Travel/adventure
show Jan. 23-24

The 2016 Chicago Travel & Adventure Show returns to the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd, Rosemont, on Jan. 23-24.

The line-up of featured speakers on the 1,000 seat Travel & Adventure Theater stage includes European travel authority Rick Steves, host of PBS' Rick Steves' Europe; CBS travel editor Peter Greenberg; Frommer's Guide editor Pauline Frommer; family travel expert and TV host Colleen Kelly; travel deals expert Johnny Jet; and travel author Allan Karl.

Returning to the show is the popular Taste of Travel Stage, where noted chefs including Table Fifty-Two's Art Smith, Big Hatt Gourmet's Craig Bell and many others will offer cooking dem-

onstrations and delectable samples of global cuisine.

There will also be hundreds of booths offering information and special discounts on U.S. and international destinations.

For more information and for tickets (\$16-\$25), visit travelshows.com/shows/chicago.

'Cabaret' casting
announced

As part of Roundabout Theatre Company's 50th-anniversary season, Broadway in Chicago and Roundabout Theatre Company have announced casting for the national tour of Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall's Tony-winning Cabaret.

Randy Harrison—best known for his por-

trayal of Justin in the Showtime drama Queer as Folk—will step into the role of the Emcee while Andrea Goss, a veteran of Roundabout's Cabaret on Broadway, will return to the role of Sally Bowles.

Joining them are Shannon Cochran (August: Osage County) as Fraulein Schneider, Alison Ewing (Cabaret/Broadway,) as Fraulein Kost, Mark Nelson (Picasso at the Lapin Agile) as Herr Schultz, Ned Noyes (You Can't Take It With You) as Ernst Ludwig and Lee Aaron Rosen (The Normal Heart) as Clifford Bradshaw.

Cabaret will run at Broadway in Chicago's newly named The PrivateBank Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St., during Feb. 9-21. Tickets are \$25-\$98; call 800-775-2000, visit Ticketmaster.com or stop by the box office.

REVIEW from page 25

revealed that she was in a relationship with actress Sarah Paulson (American Horror Story; movie Django Unchained).

—**I get a kick out of you:** Lesbian soccer athlete Abby Wambach played her last match Dec. 16 in a friendly against China. Wambach, 35, finished with 255 international caps, a record 184 international goals, a World Cup title (in 2015) and two Olympic gold medals.

—**"Family" affair:** Modern Family actor Reid Ewing (who was in the news recently regarding his open letter regarding body dysmorphia) has come out as gay. Responding to a Good Morning America report featuring a young man named Eugene Bata who opened up about his battle with body dysmorphia, Ewing tweeted that he thought Bata was hot. When another Twitter user asked Ewing if he outed himself, the actor replied, "I was never in."

—**Hanks a lot:** At OutFest, two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks was recognized for his groundbreaking performance 22 years ago in the film Philadelphia, as fellow actor Aaron Eckhart presented him with the Outfest Legacy

Awards' Trailblazer Award.

—**She came in like a wrecking ball:** Singer Miley Cyrus certainly made her presence known, doing everything from releasing a new CD to coming out as pansexual to promoting the Happy Hippie Foundation, which focuses on youth experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ youth and other vulnerable populations. She was honored for her work with the LGBTQ community at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's 46th Anniversary Gala—and licked a signed white grand piano as part of her acceptance speech.

—**Esteemed:** Out composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim as well as iconic singers Barbra Streisand and Gloria Estefan (along with husband Emilio Sr.) were among 17 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

—**Not the best time:** NBC cancelled the live variety show Best Time Ever With Neil Patrick Harris after one season. The hour-long show—adapted from the British variety series Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway—was hosted and executive produced by Harris, and featured a mix of stunts, taped segments, Harris-orchestrated pranks and celebrity guest appearances.

Lesbian couple in Amtrak film

Amtrak has created a two part mini-documentary on LGBT couple Aisha and Danielle Moodie-Mills.

Aisha and Danielle Moodie-Mills made a huge splash a few years ago when they became the first same-sex couple marriage to be featured on Essence.com. Since then, the two have joined forces to fight for LGBT marriage rights all over the United States, including their home area of Washington, D.C.

Danielle is the creator of BLIS.FM's show "Politini" and CEO of Politini Media; Aisha is president/CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute, and is an OUT100 honoree.

The Moodie-Millses are at <https://youtu.be/0bL8HRa018Y>.



Aisha and Danelle Moodie-Mills.
Wedding pic by Craig Paulson Photography

Monthly gatherings for LGBTQ APIs

Christ Church of Chicago (Tri-C) and Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago (i2i) are sponsoring a monthly gathering for LGBTQ Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) as well as their family members.

The meetings take place on the fourth Sunday of each month, 3-5 pm., at Tri-C, 6047 N. Rockwell Ave.

The sponsors said they would like to "create a space where people can share stories, information and resources, discuss [as well as] provide support to one another."

Email Chicagoi2i@yahoo.com or pastor@christchurchchicago.net.

Dancemakers wants proposals

Chicago Dancemakers Forum (CDF) has announced its annual call for proposals for its Lab Artist Awards in 2016.

Through \$15,000 cash awards complemented by a full year of mentorship and professional development, CDF supports choreographers as they explore and develop new work.

Visit <http://chicagodancemakers.submittable.com> to access and submit the online form.

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